

Superintendent's Message

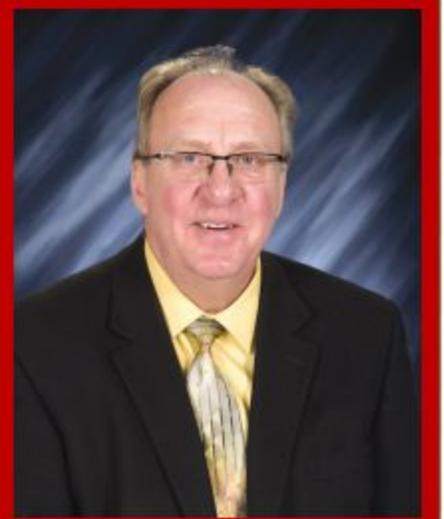
The West Central Area Board of Education began intently discussing District facility needs during the 2017-2018 school year. In addition to mechanical and structural inefficiencies, they also discussed how education and programs may be limited by physical spaces program opportunities.

The Board contracted with Unesco, a company specializing in facility assessment and planning, to conduct a facility assessment that began early in 2018. Results of the assessments of North Elementary, South Elementary, and the Middle School/High School were communicated to the Board in three separate reports during the spring and summer of 2018. Unesco also provided cost projections that ranged from renovation only to new construction and program enhancement.

The WCA Board sought input from community members and groups to assist in discussing facility options and needs of the District. Based on an extensive amount of information and consideration, the Board has identified two primary solutions for consideration to address facility needs at North Elementary and South Elementary. Through a survey to be distributed in early December of this year, the Board is seeking community input in anticipation of a Building Bond referendum to be held May 12, 2020.

The survey will have two options for elementary spaces. Option #1 actually consists of two parts. Part one includes renovation of the 1966 addition, demolition of sections constructed in the 1950s, and new construction adjacent to the 1966 portion of the existing North Elementary. The second part Option #1 is the construction of a new South Elementary. Option #2 of the survey is for a new PK-4 elementary building to be constructed adjacent to the Middle School/High School in Barrett.

In addition to questions related to elementary location, the December survey will measure support for Secondary School projects to enhance the opportunities for WCA Students and community members.



**New WCA
Superintendent
Dale Hogle**

There are five community meetings scheduled to provide more information and to answer community member questions. Each meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

December 2 – Secondary School in Barrett

December 5 – Hoffman Community Center

December 9 – North Elementary School in Elbow Lake

December 11 – South Elementary School in Kensington

December 12 – Wendell Community Center

The Board and I value community input and we look forward to a high level of attendance at each of the public meetings.