

WEST FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FACILITY PLANNING 2.0



FALL 2024 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES

Stakeholders will be asked to share their level of support for each of the projects the School Board is still considering for inclusion in a future bond referendum. This data will be shared with the Board at their November workshop.

New Elementary - \$41.3 Million

- A new elementary school somewhere south of the interstate will provide space for up to 552 learners. The district is projected to need this space in the next 6-10 years
- The district owns land off 64th Avenue South, north of Heritage Middle School; the elementary school would likely be built on that property.

Completion of Heritage Middle School - \$22.6 Million

- In an effort to balance the total cost of the 2018 package with enrollment projections at that time, the district only requested funds for a middle school that would house 900 learners, knowing that we would eventually need the district's standard middle school capacity of 1,200 learners.
- Heritage is expected to exceed its current capacity by the fall of 2027, so completing the building will provide necessary instructional space and supporting auxiliary spaces for middle school learners in the Hawks feeder system.

Completion of Horace High School - \$36 Million

- In an effort to balance the total cost of the 2018 package with enrollment projections at that time, the district only requested funds for a high school that would house 1,050 learners, knowing that we would eventually need the district's standard high school capacity of 1,550 learners.
- Horace High School is expected to exceed its current capacity by the fall of 2027, so completing the building will provide necessary instructional space and supporting auxiliary spaces for high school learners in the Hawks feeder system.

Expansion of Early Childhood Special Education Services

- The learner population in ECSE has grown nearly 200% in the last decade. On average, the learner population doubles throughout the school year, as learners can begin attending as soon as they turn 3 years old.
- Right now, the only location for these services is on the Clayton Lodoen campus near Main Ave, which means the district transports their youngest and most vulnerable learners a significant distance each day.
- While a location has not been finalized, the expansion would be constructed in the southern half of the district. This could look like a new facility or an expansion of current district property(ies).

OPTIONS

- Expanding One Elementary School - \$9.2 Million
 - A southside district elementary school will be expanded by approximately 35% (8 classrooms) to provide space for Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services. While a location hasn't been finalized, strong consideration would be given to adding onto Meadowlark Elementary.
- Expanding Two Elementary Schools- \$18.67 Million
 - Two southside district elementary schools would be expanded by approximately 35% each (16 classrooms total) to provide space for ECSE services. While a location hasn't been finalized, strong consideration would be given to adding onto Meadowlark and Aurora Elementary Schools.
- Building a New School – \$18.7 Million
 - The district would acquire land to build a separate facility to house ECSE services for the southern half of the district. The new facility would have 16 classrooms. The cost noted does not include the price of land.

Renovations & Expansion of South Elementary - \$17.85 Million

- The renovation and expansion of South Elementary will align it with the standards in place at other district elementary sites, ensuring the building remains viable in its existing location for the next 40 years. A renovation would be less expensive for taxpayers compared to building a new building.

Safety & Security Upgrades - \$2.55 Million

- Video Surveillance - \$350,000: Funds would add ~60 cameras and move or re-aim another ~60 to address gaps in coverage that currently exist. Some of the most common locations needing to be addressed are stairwells and playgrounds. Every school in the district was evaluated to identify gaps, and every school will benefit from these funds.
- Improved Fire Suppression - \$1.4 Million: Many of our schools were constructed at a time when full building sprinkler systems were not required. Through previous large renovation projects, WFPS has been able to add sprinkler systems to all but three sites: Westside, Eastwood, and South Elementary.
- Interior Lockdown Doors - \$800,000: Funds would add doors in some locations, replace doors and/or hardware in others, and connect/electrify all identified doors to the existing lockdown button. When pressed, the button would then automatically close and lock all exterior doors and these new interior doors at key “pinch points” like academic wings or pods. Heritage MS, Horace HS, and Meadowlark Elementary were built with this feature; all other schools would need to be renovated.

Special Education Improvements - \$2.7 Million

- To provide equitable access across the district to meet learners’ individualized needs, many schools require the addition of systemic environmental changes like:
- Individual learning spaces (current solution of using furniture to create small spaces fails to keep educators and learners safe)
- Proximal Bathrooms (provide adequate ADA access and reduce staffing required to cover bathrooming when not close to special education programming)
- De-escalation space (support continuation of learning and safety of learners)
- Impacted Schools: Aurora, Berger, Freedom, Harwood, Horace, Independence, Legacy, Osgood, South, Westside, Willow Park, Deer Creek, Eastwood, Brooks Harbor, HMS, CMS, LMS, WFHS, Transition, CHS

Restroom Improvements - \$4.95 Million

- This project would provide funding to renovate one set of restrooms at each elementary and middle school and two sets at each high school. The renovations would entail transitioning from multiple stalls within one larger room to single stalls that exit into an open, shared handwashing station. These renovations will provide safe and secure restroom facilities for all learners.
- Impacted Schools: Aurora, Berger, Freedom, Legacy, Brooks Harbor, Deer Creek, Lodoen, Freedom, Independence, Willow Park, CMS, LMS, SHS, WFHS

Veterans Memorial Arena Expansion - \$5 Million

- In collaboration with the West Fargo Youth Hockey Association and the West Fargo Park District, the district would help to fund a \$20 million expansion project at the Veterans Memorial Arena.
- The expansion project includes an additional sheet of ice and locker rooms
- The district’s contribution would guarantee priority access to one sheet of ice per high school.

High School Multipurpose Rooms - \$3.35 Million

- The addition of multipurpose rooms at West Fargo HS and Horace HS would provide a -needed space for activities that are too large for standard classrooms, but too small for event spaces like theatres or gymnasiums that are scheduled during the academic day.
- Example utilizations include combined classes, career speakers and job fairs, activities and team meetings, training and collaboration, testing, dual credit registration, outside presentations, conferences and district meetings, staff meetings and professional development, instructional activities, community and district events, and student advisory meetings.

Elementary Renovations - \$2.2 Million

- The funds would ensure that all elementary schools have equitable spaces for things like art, music, health, and conference rooms.
- Impacted Schools: Eastwood, Berger, South, Westside, Osgood

Inclusive Playground at Early Childhood Center - \$550,000

- All learners serviced at the Early Childhood Center are on an IEP, which makes this an ideal location to construct an inclusive playground. Inclusive playgrounds are universally designed, sensory-rich environments that enable all children to develop, physically, socially, and emotionally.

The cost includes both the surface and equipment.

Acquisition of Land - \$5 Million

- Upon completion of the FM Diversion, the district is anticipating growth on the north end of the district. Purchasing land now will position the district to have a better selection of land parcels, as well as not pay a premium for newly flood-protected land once the diversion is complete.