



## Midland CSD

### Press Release:

### Facilities Improvements for the District

Eagles,

I want to take a moment to share some incredibly exciting news, while also seeking your help in sharing information and giving feedback. One of my goals entering this school year was to develop a district facilities committee to garner feedback on the current needs and desires for the facilities of the district. This group would then work to assist in providing feedback on the development of a 5-10 year facility plan for our district to work to accomplish. Our initial meetings took place at the end of September and early October. There we discussed a lot of our current and future needs, wants, and desires. In these meetings, things became clear that we have some significant needs and that our wants and desires are things that we need to make happen for the safety and development of our current and future Eagle students.

Some of the most pressing needs are with our elementary building in Oxford Junction. We currently have outgrown the building and do not have adequate space to serve the students that attend there on a daily basis. Some specific needs within this building are to have all of our bathrooms be ADA compliant, to have adequate spacing to serve our growing special education and early childhood population and to have designated classroom spaces for Art and Music as these spaces are in shared areas such as the library. Our needs at the secondary revolve around spacing as well. We are currently short at minimum two classroom spaces and use classroom space out of our learning center to accommodate.

As we look into the future and more of our wants, we would love to be able to get a Midland CSD Track and Field to keep our student athletes safe in preparing for competition, use for PE and community activities, and to have the ability to host our own track meets and youth track events. This would be in addition to looking at ways we can expand our Career and Technical classes with more spacing for things like ag science, building and trades, and potentially diesel tech courses through the building of a greenhouse, additional classroom spaces, and a new bus barn.

As we have collected feedback on these needs, wants, and desires we have begun work on building this 5-10 year plan with some of that work starting as soon as possible. Through discussions with our school board, we have started the process of taking steps to begin a remodel project at the elementary in Oxford Junction. This project would include adding additional classroom spaces, a music and art room, updating the entire facility, adding a new secure entrance and office area, increasing security measures, and adding shower facilities in addition to ensuring our bathrooms and classrooms are more accessible, student friendly and ADA compliant.

This will not only benefit our current elementary students but will greatly benefit future generations of Eagle students and will allow us to serve more students, and especially better serve our students who have special needs. It will also allow us to restructure programming and offer more to our students like 5th grade band. As the needs of our students have continued to evolve and grow, this remodel will allow us to best meet their needs and meet the needs of other incoming students.



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When a remodel was originally considered for the elementary, the scope of the project was a lot less than what we are currently looking at. This rendering was done 4 years ago and our needs within the building and district have changed to a significant degree since then. As time has gone on though, not only have we seen our needs change, but costs to build and remodel have also increased and show no signs of slowing down meaning that the longer we wait as a district to address some of these issues, the more it is going to ultimately cost.

Times are tough right now and we know that the moment we start talking about building and bonding that our communities' ears are going to perk up and concerns are going to be raised. This is where I need to pay tremendous kudos to our School Business Official Megan Frankfurt. She has helped ensure that our district is remaining in a sound financial position to the point of even paying forward on our previous bonds and by refinancing when possible to save our tax base as much as possible. Taking these measures has allowed us to be in a position where while we would need to bond to start to work on our 5-10 year facilities improvement plan, we can do so while remaining **100% tax neutral**. This means **taxes do not go up at all**, and that we will actually still be able to pay off any new bond by the time the previous bonds were set to be paid off. The plan will then be to continue to pay ahead as possible and continue to remain as fiscally responsible as possible with newer updated facilities and saving our tax base money in the end.

One example of how this project will save our taxpayers money is in our delivery of education to our students with special needs. As these needs have continued to grow and increase, the spacing, equipment, and resources needed to serve our students have increased as well. If we cannot serve a resident student and have to send them to another district that can, the district still has to pay for all of that student's servicing in addition to transportation costs, etc. It is likely that in these situations the district could lose around \$100,000+ for one student, and this would increase our special education deficit and then increase the burden on our tax payers. We want to ensure that we can keep all students in the district to the best of our ability and ensure that they are in the safest and most learning productive environment possible.

As we begin our planning phases and start to work through the process our goal is to look at a special election on March 7, 2023 for a bond vote. We know there is a lot of work to do between now and then with getting as much information and education out as possible. We know there are going to be a lot of questions and I encourage you to email or call me or stop in with any of those. My plan is to begin to release videos on a bi-weekly to weekly basis for the time being with any updates or question answers and then as things pick up, I will work to get more information and videos out. The first one will be coming out at the end of this week!

It is an incredibly exciting time to be an Eagle. I cannot thank our board enough for supporting this effort as we start to really focus on continuing to develop and improve our facilities.

Take care and Go Eagles!  
Superintendent Bonjour  
cbonjour@midland.k12.ia.us