



***Why is a new Grant Elementary School needed? Why not just renovate it?**

Grant Elementary is 110 years old. That makes it the second oldest building in our District. It requires a lot of annual maintenance and upkeep and significant additions would need to be made to house merged populations from two schools. When you compare costs, it actually saves us money in the long run to build a new building.

***Why repurpose Lincoln Elementary School? Why does this elementary need to close? Why can't it be another one?**

Repurposing Lincoln for an expanded Montessori program is more cost-effective than building new in this case. There is not space at Horace Mann to grow and merging Lincoln into Grant makes this possible.

***Why does Montessori need its own space?**

Right now, Montessori is actually housed in a relatively small space within Horace Mann Middle School. That puts elementary-aged children in with middle schoolers. Allowing the school to move into a repurposed Lincoln Elementary would not only give it its own space, but allow it room to grow.

***What kind of upgrades will be made to the elementary and middle schools?**

All of our elementary and middle schools will get upgrades. Those upgrades address security needs, and some involve additions to address enrollment. For instance, John Muir would get an addition, along with Stettin, just to name a couple.

***Why is traffic flow a concern at some schools like John Muir?**

John Muir is located along Highway 52 Parkway, a very busy street. Not only can it be difficult to get in and out of the school by car, but it can also get really congested during certain times of the day. That certainly creates safety issues. Hawthorn Hills is actually located in a cul de sac. There's one way into the school, traffic-wise, and one way out.

***Why do cafeterias and gyms need to be separated?**

By separating gyms and cafeterias, student learning only benefits. Right now, gym schedules are dictated by breakfast and lunch needs. Separating the two would allow more flexibility in scheduling.

***What will be done to the high schools?**

With this plan, Wausau East and West High Schools will receive safety and security upgrades, technology updates, and infrastructure repairs. Wausau West High School projects include updates to office and pupil services spaces. Because an Academy Model has been proposed at the High Schools to enhance curriculum and provide students the necessary job skills for school-to-employment opportunities, many of the possible remodeling and additions have been put on hold to further study this and determine final needs.

***Why is it so important to have full pupil service teams? What happens if we don't?**

Full pupil service teams in each of our schools allow us to best serve the social and emotional needs of our students. Those teams include a guidance counselor, a school psychologist, a social worker, a behavioral intervention specialist, and a health aide. That team would make sure every student in our District has access to the same kind of education.

***With a referendum this size, how are my taxes not going up?**

-Debt is expiring, prepayment of previous debt has been paid down and a large community tax base, along with proper planning and budgeting, allows these improvements to be funded without a tax increase.

***How will this referendum benefit my students? What about teachers and staff?**

-This referendum is designed to allow the District to optimize its resources, which is part of the strategic plan. Every item in the referendum is designed to support a variety of teaching and learning methods. It also provides safe, healthy, and efficient learning environments.

***Why not wait until the pandemic is over to go to referendum?**

-Now is the time. Facility needs will not go away, but they will cost more if put off. If we wait until April, the cost of this referendum will only go up, which could mean an increase in your taxes. Right now, your taxes are not affected at all, and having a community vote during a Presidential Election is the best time to make sure everyone's voice is heard.