

School District of New Berlin to Seek Community Input on Facilities Projects *Phone & Online Survey to be conducted in September*

New Berlin, Wis. – The School District of New Berlin (SDNB) Board of Education has approved an \$18 million Long-range Facilities Plan to address facility needs. Projects are being funded with the District's operating budget, fund balance, and borrowed funds through the energy efficiency revenue limit exemption (Act 32).

There are approximately \$22 million in identified projects that do not have a funding source. The Board of Education will be asking the community how it feels about those projects in order to continue the planning process.

"As a Board and administration we have first prioritized projects that support safety, academics and energy efficiency," said Board President Dave Maxey. "Additional projects will certainly enhance our school district facilities, but we need to know how the community feels about them."

Projects already approved in the plan include all SDNB schools receiving:

- Upgrades to security (doors, security cameras & monitoring devices, remodeled front offices to better control visitor access)
- Renovations to increase energy efficiency for long-term cost savings
- Necessary code-related and ADA accessibility updates
- General interior and exterior maintenance and upkeep

While projects will be completed at all schools, New Berlin Eisenhower will receive the most updates. Many of these renovations are occurring over the summer and include:

- New HVAC system to promote a quality learning environment
- Science and Project Lead the Way room remodeling/updates
- Locker room remodeling/updates
- Replaced PA system throughout the school
- New auditorium seating for safety purposes
- Updates to bathrooms
- Additional student learning and professional collaboration space

Currently there are more than \$22 million of identified projects that have no funding source. Patron Insight, a research company that specializes in working with school districts on facilities planning, will be asking New Berlin taxpayers their opinions on unfunded projects. Some items they may be asked to weigh in on include:

- Installing air conditioning at Poplar Creek Elementary
- Installing air conditioning at Orchard Lane Elementary
- HVAC upgrades at New Berlin West
- Replacement of exterior doors at New Berlin West
- Replacing the pool at Eisenhower
- Adding gym space at Eisenhower

Board of Education members will review questions prior to the survey being conducted. Approximately 400 registered voters in the School District of New Berlin will be called in September on their landline or cell phone as part of the study. The same telephone survey will be available online for any member of the community to complete.

"Data will inform our next steps in the planning process," said Maxey. "We need to know if the community values the projects we have identified for our schools, and if it would be willing to support them."

Chief Finance & Operations Officer Roger Dickson emphasized that the study's intent is to provide information to the Board for planning. "This study will produce one data point the Board may use in considering whether or not it should consider asking the community to support additional facilities projects."