

**1. What has changed from the March 2017 Referendum?**

The March 2017 referendum received support of 53% of the voters, a strong majority but just short of the 60% required to pass. The School Board has since listened carefully to the Community and Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Feedback from the last referendum indicated the need for changes to the Plan, so meetings were held with District teaching staff and the Citizen's Advisory Committee to prioritize our needs and reduce costs. Music classrooms and ROTC will remain in their existing spaces, which adequately serve those programs.

The new plan has been reduced in cost by over \$1 million and still provides space for:

- Performances and community events
- Teaching technical theater skills such as sound, video, and choreography
- Connection of our facilities for safety/security.

After hearing support for the new Plan, reduced costs, additional funding from private donations, and continued availability of 2% interest rates through the State loan program, the School Board voted unanimously to call for a referendum vote on October 2, 2018.

**2. How will the High School Addition benefit the community?**

- a. The addition is designed to have its own entrance separate from that of the school, allowing it to operate independently outside of school hours. This will give local groups the chance to utilize the space for other activities, performances, recitals, business gatherings, etc. that are not affiliated with the school district.

**3. What will the addition be used for other than the arts?**

- a. The addition is being designed as a multi-use space to remedy many growing pains of the district.
  - i. Allows for cross learning with other classes, i.e. shop, technology, production, etc.
  - ii. Provides a gallery space for school and community use
  - iii. Community Orchestra, Elks community band, martial arts, dance, etc.

**4. How do the arts enhance a student's education and overall development?**

- a. Plenty of research has supported the role of arts education in providing a comprehensive education. Let's take a closer look at how exactly the arts affect a student's ability to learn and develop:

Learning to read music and understand concepts like time, rhythm, and pitch have a direct effect on a child's ability to comprehend math skills. One study showed math scores of music students surpassed those of their non-musical classmates. Students from low socio-economic backgrounds were twice as likely to excel in math if they had musical education. Studying the lyrics of music can teach students about syllabification, phonics, vocabulary, imagery, history, myths, folktales, geography, and culture. Studies show there is a direct correlation between continued involvement in theater and success in math and

reading. Non-native English speakers may learn the language more quickly with the use of music. Thematic learning helps children learn in a safe, enjoyable, student-centered environment.

Students who take the time to master a musical instrument learn about hard work, practice, and discipline. While performing in a group - like an orchestra, band, or choir - students learn to work together, appreciate teamwork, strive for a common goal, and develop negotiation skills. Cultural awareness is achieved through every form of arts education.

Arts education has always been important to those who value creativity. Now, as new evidence continues to emerge, more and more people are realizing its importance - especially when it plays such a crucial role in a well-rounded educational experience. What if the next Mozart is sitting in your classroom right now?

**5. What are the safety and security benefits of the High School addition?**

We live in a time where safety and security of our students needs to be addressed. This plan will provide an ADA compliant (handicap accessible) connection between two of our buildings. This connection enables us to better control public access by locking doors during the school day, and allowing access only through entrances that are controlled electronically. This addition also keeps students within the facility when travelling between class periods, enabling staff and security measures to be most effective.

**6. How many DL public school students would currently utilize the High School addition?**

- a. The Devils Lake Public School District currently educates 1,002 students grades 5-12 and 665 of these students are enrolled in a performing arts class. That is a 66% usage rate without considering the other 713 students in K-5 who would also benefit from use of this facility. Currently the elementary classes are performing one collective concert/ performance rather than splitting up by grade, and this facility would allow grade level performances.
- b. The need for the additional space continues to grow as our class sizes grow, and this is the utilization by just the schools and not including any outside use expected by the community. This does not take into account the 120 St. Joseph's Elementary School Students that will eventually transition to the DLPS facilities.

**7. Why do you need an addition when LRSC has an auditorium?**

- a. The LRSC auditorium is currently used for large performances, however we are required to work around their usage schedule and limited availability. With the current class sizes, practice and performance schedules, and cross curricular learning, the LRSC auditorium is not a long-term solution to our educational needs.
- b. There is a need for the elementary schools to have a designated performance space. Currently our elementary students do not have a space for performances.

**8. What is the additional cost for operations and personnel for the school district?**

- a. Utility costs are estimated to increase by \$25,000/year based on the additional square footage. The district has more than adequately budgeted for utilities the past several years and this cost can be absorbed with the current budget level.

The school district will gain some efficiency in staffing (custodial staff not having to continuously set up and tear down for many events) with the addition of this facility. The addition of 28,500 sq. ft. of building space will require an increase to the custodial staff of ½ FTE at a cost of approximately \$20,000/year, and the district's general funds are strong enough to handle this additional cost.

**9. How many years to pay off the loan?**

The loan is for 20 years, the maximum time allowed by the Century Code. The School District is financing for 20 years to keep the local tax impact minimal, but the loan can be paid off early without penalty.

**10. What if construction costs are different than planned?**

Current construction costs are lower than we have seen in the last 3-5 years and are very competitive. If bids are more than the estimated costs, the School Board will reduce the project scope and costs to keep costs at or below the amount estimated for the voters.

**11. Will the project be up for public bid?**

Yes, our Construction Manager has been hired through a competitive bid process, and all construction work will be legally advertised and competitively bid. The work will be packaged to enable local contractors to participate in the fullest extent possible.

After final design is approved and satisfactory bids have been received, the Construction Manager will provide a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the project. 100% of savings under the Guaranteed Maximum Price will be returned to the School District at the completion of the project.

**12. What is the timeline for the Project?**

With Voter approval on October 2, 2018 the project will proceed as follows:

Design/Engineering/Permitting	Fall/Winter, 2018/19
Competitive Bidding	Spring, 2019
Construction	Summer, 2019 through Winter 2019/20
Welcome Community to New Facility	Spring, 2020

**13. When and where will voting take place?**

Voting will take place on October 2, 2018 from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

- Central Middle School 325 7<sup>th</sup> St NE
- DL High School 1601 College Drive N
- Minnie H Kindergarten Center 210 College Drive S
- Prairie View Elementary 200 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- Sweetwater Elementary 1304 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE

**14. Will early voting and absentee ballots be available?**

Absentee voting applications can be obtained at Devils Lake Public School District Office Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are due to the School Business Manager by 4:00 p.m., October 1, 2018 or postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m., October 1, 2018.

**15. Who is eligible to vote?**

To vote in the election, you must be:

- A US citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A legal resident of the Devils Lake Public School District for at least 30 days preceding the election.
- Valid identification will be required and could include a driver's license, non-driver's identification card, tribal government issued identification card, or student identification certificate.

**16. How much will you pay for DLHS addition?**

I just looked up Jane Doe's TAXABLE VALUATION on <http://www.co.ramsey.nd.us/property-tax-statement-search>

Type in the LAST name, looked at the statement for TAXABLE VALUATION- Jane had a taxable valuation of \$5,211 in 2017

Jane's taxable valuation (found UNDERNEATH the true and full value figure) \$5,211 x 9.99/1000= \$52/year for the DLHS Addition or just \$4/month

I did Jane's brother's house and it's \$180/year \$15/month

Please use the taxable valuation and NOT the value of your home!

**17. How can I find out more information? How can I get involved?**

**1) Communication Committee Members**

**2) School Board Members**

- President: [Lee Ann Johnston](#) (701) 662-5018
- Vice President: [Cory Meyer](#) (701) 665-3194
- Member: [Jeff Frith](#) (701) 662-7344
- Member: [Jason Hodous](#) (701) 662-7324
- Member: [Steve Halldorson](#) (701) 662-8310

**3) Superintendent of Schools**

Mr. Scott Privratsky, 701-662-7640, [scott.privratsky@dlschools.org](mailto:scott.privratsky@dlschools.org)

**4) The Devils Lake Public School Website, [www.devils-lake.k12.nd.us](http://www.devils-lake.k12.nd.us)**

**5) Facebook, Devils Lake Public School Development Fund**

<http://www.co.ramsey.nd.us/property-tax-statement-search>

2017 RAMSEY COUNTY REAL ESTATE TAX STATEMENT

Parcel Number: [REDACTED] Jurisdiction: DEVILS LAKE CITY

Statement No: 11,171

Physical Location: [REDACTED]  
 Sec: [REDACTED] Twp: [REDACTED]

3903000100 Rng: [REDACTED]  
 Acres: [REDACTED]

2017 TAX BREAKDOWN  
 Net consolidated tax 1,598.63  
 Plus: Special assessments 105.75  
 Total tax due 1,704.38  
 Less: 5% discount, if paid by Feb.15th 79.93

Statement Name: [REDACTED]

Amount due by Feb.15th 1,624.45

Legal Description: [REDACTED]

Or pay in 2 installments (with no discount)  
 Payment 1: Pay by Mar.1st 905.07  
 Payment 2: Pay by Oct.15th 799.31

Legislative tax relief (3-year comparison):  
 2015 2016 2017

2017

Legislative tax relief 633.62 687.89 835.22

Special assessments:  
 SPC# AMOUNT DESCRIPTION  
 390.10 105.75

Tax distribution (3-year comparison):  
 True and full value 85,100 92,700 115,800  
 \* Taxable value \* 3,830 4,172 5,211  
 Less: Homestead credit  
 Disabled Veteran credit  
 Net taxable value-> 3,830 4,172 5,211

5,211

Use taxable value number

\$5,211 x 9.99/1000 = \$52/year or \$4/month