

Update on the Long Range Facilities Plan



The LRFP is On Budget and On Schedule to Meet the Goals Defined by the Community

The LRFP is well on its way to improving education opportunities for students throughout the District. The budget currently is on pace to meet the \$296 million level approved three years ago by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). When the plan is completed, students, parents, teachers and the community will benefit from:

- Reduced operating costs for our schools
- Modernized facilities
- Placing schools where students will live
- Equity throughout the district
- Ensuring stability for 20+ years

A Favorable Economy Allowed the District to Provide More Value for Students and Taxpayers

In the three years since the plan was first approved, teachers and other residents have continued to work with the District to improve the LRFP. Based on recommendations from citizens, MDE, board members, teachers, parents and local governments, the plan has been modified to achieve the following:

- Enact boundary changes between Denfeld and East
- Place STCs at high school sites
- Create additional space for Level 3, special education and early childhood programming
- Mitigate environmental concerns
- Meet the Board's standards for educational adequacy
- Improve facility safety
- Upgrade multipurpose community spaces

Thanks to a favorable economic climate for construction work and sound management of contracts, the District has made these changes with no overall impact on the project budget. The scope of work has only been reduced at two sites: Old Central and the Transportation Building.

LRFP Tax Impact Lower Than Projected in June 2007

The estimated property tax impact to District residents was an initial \$9.22 monthly increase for an average valued home with \$3.00 annual increases each year for the length of the project. Due to lower-than-expected interest rates and growing tax capacity in this region, the overall tax impact is lower than projected.

MDE Approved Levy:	\$9.22/month and increase of \$3/year on average home <i>Last year the district levied <u>less</u> than the \$3 increase.</i>
Current Status:	<u>Overall School District Tax Impact Is Favorable:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pay 2008 School District Tax \$421.68* ▪ Pay 2009 School District Tax \$419.46* ▪ Pay 2010 School District Tax \$415.29* <i>*Before Homestead Credit</i>

The School Board Has Options

Due to lower-than-expected interest rates and growing tax capacity, \$39.5 million over 20 years remains in MDE-approved levy authority. Options include:

1. Keep the levy at its current level
2. Pay down debt faster, provide funds for teachers and programs sooner.
3. Fund additional construction work on schools, HOCHS, Transportation Building.
4. Reduce future school district taxes.
5. A combination of the above.