



410 South Commercial Street · Neenah, WI 54956 · Tel: (920) 751-6800 · Fax: (920) 751-6809

Dear Neenah Joint School District Community,

I am excited to have this opportunity to bring forth a summary of our committee work over the past year. As you may recall, in December of 2016 the Board of Education approved an administrative recommendation to hire Bray Architects to assist in creating a summary of the current state of our buildings. Additionally, they were charged with helping to provide information related to improvements and possible changes related to our current facilities.

Some of our community members and even some staff members might be wondering why we engaged in this study. The concern began many years ago as we had conversations about budget allocations. When I was first hired in 2009, our District was allocating \$458,100 for capital improvements. To provide some perspective, we allocated about 0.57% of our budget in this area. That same amount was spent for five of the previous six years. This level of funding was not going to favorably position the District in meeting the facility needs. Fast forward to this year, we are now spending approximately \$2.1 million, or 2.25% of our operating budget. Although we have made gains, we continue to have a structural deficit.

As many people know, I survey our parents and staff at the end of each year. The feedback I have received about the need for facility improvements has continued to grow. This past year, more comments than ever were related to the need to upgrade our facilities. I feel that this study is an example of our efforts to make a responsible and needed decision to address the concerns expressed not only in past surveys, but also in many communications I have had with students, staff and community members.

In our work as a committee, we recognized the importance of our conversation related to learning and performance spaces. As we know, education has and must continue to evolve, shifting away from the Industrial-Age Era and moving toward supporting our students toward a learning environment that can take place anywhere and at any time, by anyone. This means providing flexible spaces and flexible scheduling in a 24/7 learning environment. In this process, suggestions will be brought forward for further discussion and review.

I am proud to share that we have an amazing staff that continues to provide the best instruction possible within the constraints of our current facilities. They go above and beyond in making great things happen. That stated, we have a need for upgrades in all of our buildings. Please consider attending the following listening sessions:

February 15: Overview of current building information, survey results, and developed values

February 28: Overview of Grade configurations and recommendation

March 19: Review of costs and recommendation

April 5: Discussion of next steps

All of the meetings will be held in the auditorium at Shattuck Middle School at 600 Elm Street, Neenah, and will begin at 5 p.m. A recap of each meeting will be posted the following day on the Neenah Joint School District website. If you cannot attend one of our meetings, you can still provide feedback by emailing my assistant, Diane Haug at [dhaug@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:dhaug@neenah.k12.wi.us).

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary B. Pfeiffer, District Administrator