



Next Community Engagement Session Planned for New Neenah High School Project

Residents are invited to participate in a virtual community engagement session on Wednesday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. to review the updated site plans, floor plans, and initial exterior renderings of the new Neenah High School that will open in the fall of 2023.

The meeting will consist of a presentation and the opportunity for participants to offer feedback related to the designs. Bray Architects continues to lead the design work in collaboration with six subcommittees consisting of District teachers and staff, students and community members. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2021.

[Click here for a link to the virtual session*](#)

* The link will be live starting at 6 p.m.

New Neenah High School Goes Geothermal

The Board of Education recently approved the use of a geothermal mechanical system to provide the new high school with heat and air conditioning.

While the geothermal system has a greater initial cost, the lower annual operating expenses are expected to result in a payback of approximately 15 years. Geothermal systems also have lower maintenance costs and result in decreased carbon emissions.

Subcommittee Updates

Activities, Athletics and Recreation
The site layout for outdoor athletic fields is being developed to optimize space for competition and practice areas. Recently, the Board supported adding another gym to create a 4-station auxiliary gym to complement the 2-station competition gym. This will provide even more flexibility not only at the new high school, but District-wide.

New Neenah High School
The members of this subcommittee have advanced in the development of the classrooms, collaboration spaces, office areas, and shared resource spaces throughout the design. User group meetings provided important information in determining how the curriculum will be delivered in the new high school.

Operations
The Operations team has been working with the mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers the past few months to create efficient systems throughout the building. The group will be involved with the design of the geothermal systems for the new building. It has been reviewing the overall site development and are beginning to discuss exterior and interior building materials.

Performing Arts
The Performing Arts team has worked with experts related to theatrical lighting, rigging and audiovisual. This group has also been discussing safe storage for instruments and how the new spaces will translate into student practice and performance.

Sustainability
The Sustainability team has been studying how the site resources can enhance the educational experience at the new school. The group has explored the use of the existing forest and natural resources, as well as creating walking paths on the property. It has also discussed the importance of natural light in the new high school and the systems necessary for maximizing efficiencies. The geothermal project will continue to be part of future discussions.

Technology
The Technology subcommittee has continued to meet regularly and it has expanded its presence in other subcommittees as well. This shift was made knowing technology is integrated throughout the building and the entire campus. This innovative team is working to ensure the site is technology ready not only when the building opens, but to ensure adaptability in the future.

New Neenah High School COMING 2023

Below are the current versions of the new Neenah High School site plan, floor plans, and project renderings. Our vision is to create hands-on, flexible learning environments and student-centered collaboration spaces for the needs of today and well into the future. The design will allow students, teachers and community partners to collaborate in preparing students for college, technical college, or entering career pathways.

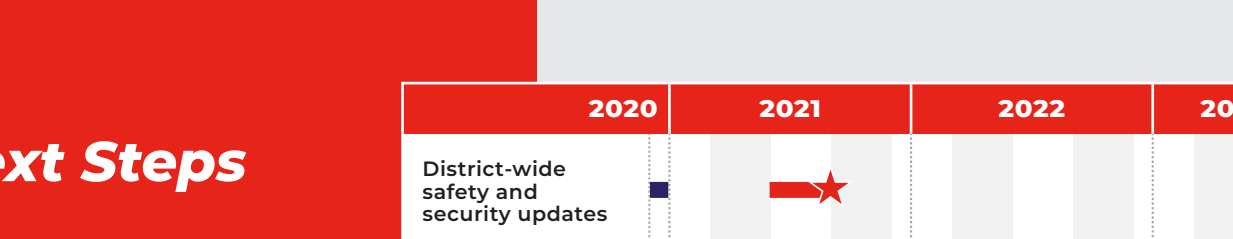
Please join us on December 9 to learn more about the new Neenah High School!



Elementary Restructuring for the Start of the 2023-24 School Year

With fifth graders moving to the intermediate school (north end of current high school), the elementary program will consist of students from five-year-old kindergarten through fourth grade. This will result in approximately 20 fewer classes and about 500 fewer students across the District's nine elementary buildings. Additionally, with sixth graders moving to the intermediate school, Horace Mann School will be available and considered in future elementary planning.

The Board of Education held a brainstorming session this summer related to the elementary program and facilities. That activity led to the creation of a committee consisting of administrators, teachers, staff members, parents and community members. The group began meeting in October and is charged with developing a recommendation for the elementary program. The group's initial work has been devoted largely to discussions about curriculum and instruction, building capacity, building use and school attendance boundaries. The committee plans to bring an initial recommendation to the Board in the summer of 2021.



Next Steps

What will happen between now and spring?

- Finalize elementary school ADA and safety and security plans for summer 2021 construction
- Continued design and engineering progress on new Neenah High School
- Finalize engineering of new Neenah High School site

	2020	2021	2022	2023
District-wide safety and security updates	■	→★		
New high school	■	■	■	★
Renovate existing high school to intermediate and middle school		■	■	→★
Ongoing District-wide capital improvements and ADA updates (funded through District operational budget)	■	■	■	★

■ Design ■ Construction ■ Bidding
▨ Design & Construction ★ Completion