



Information Sheet

BCSD Facilities Discussion

Bettendorf
Community
School District

January 2018 Updated 1-22-18

The Bettendorf Board of Education is considering options and priorities for future facilities projects.

Link to information on the BCSD Facilities Discussion @ www.bettendorf.k12.ia.us

Current Projects

The district is in the process of building a new 3-section school at Grant Wood Elementary and working through the renovation of the high school's HVAC and mechanical systems.

Facilities Assessment

In preparation for planning for additional future projects, the board had facilities assessment conducted for seven of the district's facilities: Bettendorf High School, Bettendorf Middle School, Edison Academy, Herbert Hoover Elementary School, Mark Twain Elementary School, Paul Norton Elementary School, and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. The work included analysis of the interior and exteriors of the buildings as well as mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection systems as well as parking lots and sidewalks. Potential costs of the improvements and priorities were also identified. The analysis found that the buildings "bones" are in good shape but, the buildings do have infrastructure needs. The facilities assessments recommended total \$22.9M.

[View the Aug. 21 board report](#)

School Facilities Requests – Future-Ready Improvements

In addition, principals identified projects they felt their schools needed to meet safety and educational needs, "future-ready improvements." Each principal prioritized their school list with the top 3 or 4 projects they would like completed more immediately. Costs estimates were developed for the future ready improvements at a total of \$20.9M. [Future Ready Lists and Priorities in Nov. 6 Board Presentation](#)

Board Request for Administrators to Prioritize Projects

At the November 6 board meeting, directors asked the district administration to prioritize the proposed list of future-ready improvements. In the administrative discussion, directors and principals identified the Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson elementary schools and the Edison Academy as number one priorities. They recommended the consolidation of Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson into a new school at a neutral site (not using either property for the location). Paul Norton and Herbert Hoover renovations as priority number 2. Bettendorf High School and Bettendorf Middle School Projects as number 3. [Link to Administration's Recommendation](#) | [Link to Jan. 8 Board Presentation](#) & [Handouts](#)

The district administration discussion and recommendation included the superintendent and eight district directors as well as ten principals/school administrators.

BCSD Administrators’ Project Prioritization

RANK	FACILITY	PROJECT	ESTIMATED BUDGET
1	New 3-Section School	New Location (Neutral in MT/TJ Boundary) - Replace MT & TJ	\$14M
1	Thomas Edison Academy	Move to New Location and Sell Property	
2	Paul Norton Elementary	(1) Secure Entrance Renovation	\$925K
2	Paul Norton Elementary	(2) Existing Gym/Commons Remodel	\$900K
2	Paul Norton Elementary	(3) Music Room Addition	\$650K
2	Herbert Hoover Elementary	(1) Secure Entry Renovation/Expansion	\$550K
2	Herbert Hoover Elementary	(2) Renovate Gym (No Kitchen Upgrades)	\$350K
3	Bettendorf High School	(1) Fitness Center Addition	\$1.5M
3	Bettendorf High School	(2) Auxiliary Gym Addition	\$2.5M
3	Bettendorf High School	(3) Wrestling Gym Addition	\$2.5M
3	Bettendorf High School	(4) Pool Improvements	\$4.2M
3	Bettendorf Middle School	(1) Science Room Addition	\$860K
3	Bettendorf Middle School	(2) STEAM Room Addition	\$650K
3	Bettendorf Middle School	(3) Music Room Addition	\$650K

Why Consolidate MT & TJ into A New School?

The administrators believe the money spent updating aged facilities and infrastructure with limited classroom space would be better spent on the construction of a new school built to the current and future needs of our students. The initial cost analysis for updates to infrastructure and future ready improvements for the two elementary schools came in at \$9.6M. Based on estimates for the new Grant Wood Elementary School currently under constitution, administrators estimated a new school could be constructed at a similar price of \$14M.

Benefits to this plan include:

Academics

- Spaces for exploratory and collaborative learning (flexible spaces).
- Facility that meets future ready standards.
- The ability to achieve all education needs with the least disruption to students while gaining a building that will have twice the life expectancy of a renovated building.
- Functional/productive/best use of professional time through the PLC process.
- 3-section buildings with multiple programs offer better opportunities for student learning in a larger neighborhood setting.
- Collaboration for students with multiple classes within a grade level.
- Specials (PE, music, art) have better connections with multi-section buildings.
- Individual class sizes are maintained.

Financial

- Aligns with the recent Board of Education position of building a new elementary school focused on the needs of our current and future students instead of investing significant money into aging infrastructure with limited extended life and flexibility for learning.
- Facility Improvements at MT & TJ: \$9.6 million ([Handout C](#)).
- New 3-Section Building: \$14 million (Based on new GW).
- Less upkeep costs as compared to continual improvements on older buildings over time.
- Using 2016 numbers, a building and grounds maintains savings of between \$25,000 (compared to Paul Norton, size) and \$35,000 (compared to Neil Armstrong, age).
- Fewer staff needed and shared between buildings. (Nurses, counselors, administrator, etc. Same teaching power).

Community

- Common areas for meetings, and other community events.
- Common sense use of community dollars.

Staffing

- Combining 2 and 1 sections will give teachers opportunities to develop and collaborate instead of 1 section building being in isolation. More intensive vertical planning.
- Cost savings for the staff positions and travel time no longer needed.

Other Benefits for Students, Staff, Families, & Community

- Facilities that continue to provide outstanding safety and security to our students, staff and visitors.
- Facilities that embrace innovation and student equity to ensure our schools will be ready for the opportunities and challenges of education in the future.
- Modern facilities that will attract families and new businesses to the city of Bettendorf and the Bettendorf Community School District.

Where Would the New School be Located?

No decision has been made about the location of a new school. There are two locations within the enrollment areas of Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson with potential space for a new 3-section school: Edgewood Park and McManus (Rocket) Park. Other locations including the existing sites could be a consideration. Soil borings are being taken at Edgewood and the district's property adjacent to the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

What Would Happen with the Current TJ & MT Sites?

If a decision is made to consolidate the two schools to a new school, the administrative team recommends that the board make an assurance to the community that the current Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson buildings will not remain standing empty and engage in immediate planning efforts to repurpose or sell the properties for a positive community investment.

Potential district use as: regional CTE (Career & Technical Education) academy, Edison Academy, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) center, etc.

The district could also work collaboratively with City of Bettendorf to creatively and purposefully repurpose or sell district grounds (TJ & MT) to add value to neighborhoods. I.e., city park and rec use or new housing development.

What Happens Next?

The administration recommendation was presented to the directors and the public at the Jan. 8 board meeting. Directors held a special board meeting on Jan. 16 to further discuss the recommendation with the administrators and gather community questions. Answers to the January public questions will be shared and posted on the district website by Friday, January 26. **The Bettendorf Board of Education is hosting a board work session on Saturday, Feb. 3 at Herbert Hoover Elementary from 8 am – 12 pm for discussion of the recommendation with the board facilities and finance committees.** The board may schedule additional work sessions. The board may approve the district administration plan or develop a different plan.

The administrative recommendation is that the board approves a decision that a facilities plan no earlier than the February 5, 2018 regular board meeting and no later than the March 5, 2018 regular board meeting. [Link to Board Meeting Minutes & Audio](#)

More Information

Please follow the district's facility work by visiting the district Facilities Plan webpage at <http://bettendorf.k12.ia.us/our-district/facilities-plan> or find the link near the top district website at www.bettendorf.k12.ia.us

Comments

If you have comments about the recommendation or the work of the board regarding facilities, please email cmiller@bettendorf.k12.ia.us.