



# Grinnell-Newburg School District

## BOND INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

### #wearegrinnell

#### Dear Grinnell-Newburg Families:

The Grinnell-Newburg Community School District has spent the last two years listening to community desires about educational programming for the Grinnell's students. On September 11, 2018 the district is hosting a bond election. The information provided below is to provide further clarity as to why the district is asking the community to vote twice to approve the concept plan project. The concept plan includes renovation to the existing high school to provide spaces for career and college readiness as well as to upgrade the HVAC systems from eight separate systems to one system for better efficiency. The district will completely gut the middle school to provide a storm shelter, safe and secure entry way, natural lighting, and update new systems such as HVAC, electrical, intercom, and plumbing that are old and outdated. The final project is to build a Pre K-5 elementary school. The passage of a bond referendum vote will ensure that we meet the needs of our students for many years to come by extending the life of our school facilities while providing better efficiencies that will ultimately save the community dollars.

These keys areas provide further clarification as expressed by our community as desired outcomes:

- Ensure essential College and Career ready programs that will have our students job ready.
- Instruct students to meet their specialized needs for those who have learning challenges or are gifted.
- Increase instructional time for students.
- Protect our kids, parents, staff & community members by providing safety and security inside and outside of our buildings.
- Address system failures specifically HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and many more crumbling systems.



**College/Career  
Ready**



**Specialized  
Instruction**



**Safety and  
Security**



**System  
Upgrades**



### College/Career Ready

Our community wants Career Technical Educational Programs for our students. In order to achieve this desire, we need to have the right kind of career training in the right spaces for students. Modern upgrades, good schools, programs and increased graduation rates attract new families to live in Grinnell. We need to ensure that families choose our District vs. nearby towns who already have completed updates to their schools. College and Career ready students who have the opportunity to experience a vibrant program will meet the needs of our local businesses and students well into the future. Our goal is to encourage students to live and work right here in Grinnell upon completion of CTE or College programs.



### Specialized Instruction

Currently the district fails to meet many of the American Disability Act (ADA) compliance for students with special needs. Our outdated HVAC equipment is disruptive during class instruction and effects students ability to hear or learn. Currently, our school's special education programs and gifted programs are splintered and services should be housed under one roof for elementary students to meet their needs. This will enable the district to reduce transitions and increase instruction time as they will be able to access specialized instructors. Based upon our community engagement sessions last summer, we learned that the community desired learning spaces that foster collaboration, project based experiences and outdoor learning. The feedback provided was the driving force to our current plan. The community expects that spaces mirror workplaces they will find today.



### Safety and Security

We must protect our students. Society demands safe, secure entry ways and security doors. A system that will protect our kids, parents, staff and community members. It is imperative that we provide safe and separate drop-off and pick up areas for parents and buses. We will provide storm shelters at each site. Currently, the district does not have storm shelters in our schools.



### System Upgrades

We face unfixable, unsafe and unaffordable systems. Our systems have exceeded their expected life due to our heroic maintenance team. It would be a waste of tax dollars to invest in old systems and no longer a true or long-term solution. Currently the district does not have enough dollars in reserves to fix all systems in five buildings. By reducing our facilities to three we will be able to provide efficient systems and save taxpayer dollars. This effort will enable us to hire more staff to meet the needs of our students in areas such as career and college readiness.

## The Plan

- Renovate the current high school to have a new HVAC system and college and career adequate spaces.
- Completely gut the middle school to be a 6-8 school facility. Currently the HVAC at the middle school is 40 years old. It has exceeded two lifetimes due to our amazing building and grounds team. Upgrade electrical and plumbing systems. Provide a separate parent drop off and bus pick up areas to reduce congestion. Include a storm shelter and communication intercom system that functions. Include natural lighting features and ensure that our police and fire departments can communicate to personnel outside of the school facility. Currently due to the structure they can not.
- Build a new PreK-5 Elementary School to provide more instructional time with new systems that are efficient, safe and secure to protect our students.



This plan will serve our community for the long term. *This plan is different from the plan in 2015.*

Please stay informed and attend an informational meeting. **Information meetings will be held at the Drake Library:**

### JULY

Monday, July 30  
10:00-11:00 AM  
(SEED meeting)

### AUGUST

Saturday, August 11  
10:00-11:00 AM  
Monday, August 13  
2:00-3:00 PM  
Thursday, August 23  
6:00-7:00 PM  
Friday, August 31  
1:00-2:00 PM

### SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 5  
7:00-8:00 PM  
Monday, September 10  
12:00-1:00 PM