

Valley City Public Schools



October 2022

THE STATE OF OUR SCHOOL FACILITIES AND PROPOSING TO ADDRESS FACILITY PRIORITIES IN THE NEXT 3 SCHOOL YEARS

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE PLAN

The school district conducted a capital maintenance study in October 2021 and identified the recommended priorities and estimated costs for each school building in the next 10 years. The plan was completed by Consolidated Construction Company and included itemized costs by categories, schools, and years (critical, 2-5 years, and 5-10 years).

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING

The school district currently has access to an estimated \$3 million dollars of ESSER (COVID) Funds that will need to be spent by September 2024. In addition, the school district will be increasing the building fund from 12 mills to 20 mills. An increase in this levy to 20 mills will generate a total of \$869,042 in the building fund during the 2022-2023 school year. This increase will generate \$379,042 of new tax dollars, breaking down to taxpayers at an estimated \$40 per \$100,000 Property or \$.40 per acre based upon tax evaluations in July 2022. Our current obligations (payment on CTE Addition and Hanna Field) in the building fund is at \$145,340.00. The current balance in the building fund as of June 30, 2022 is \$965,412.86.

THE PRIORITIES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

The school board has identified these priorities for the school district after reviewing the capital maintenance plan, gathering feedback from school employees and stakeholders, and matching priorities with the availability of funds.

- Improving the security at our schools by changing the location of our school offices and controlling the access of visitors into the schools. **(Safety and Security)**
- Upgrading the HVAC systems to provide stable temperatures, improved air quality, and better control of the systems. **(HVAC Systems- Heating and Cooling)**
- Fix the roofs to ensure that moisture does not leak into our schools **(Roofing)**
- Removing all harmful materials such as asbestos and mold **(Health)**
- Replacing oldest plumbing to avoid paying for future damages due to leaks **(Plumbing)**
- Upgrading electrical systems to improve the efficiency of our systems, improve lighting, and ensure that our system can handle HVAC upgrades **(Electrical)**
- Improve the appearances of our schools both inside and outside by fixing cracks in the walls, changing doors, replacing flooring and ceiling tiles, and adding a fresh coat of paint. **(General)**

AN APPROACH TO CONSIDER FACILITIES AND STAFF COST-SAVINGS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The school district has considered several options to accomplish cost-savings in the next three years. First, by moving the district office into the high school, the district will eliminate energy and maintenance costs at the current district office (estimated \$50,000 annual costs). In addition, the consolidation of offices will lead to a decrease in staffing costs by reducing two administrative assistant positions (estimated

\$100,000 annual savings). A new central office will also support the change in administration positions at the junior/senior high school. Beginning in 2023-2024, we will move to a principal/assistant principal model for grades 7-12 and this change will create an additional estimated savings of \$40,000. Secondly, the school district will make every effort to complete construction projects below \$200,000 using school employees hired as construction workers for the next two years. For all projects above \$200,000, the school district will prioritize using local contractors following the required design, bid, and build process. In summary, the school district believes it can accomplish significant added cost-savings in the next three years by consolidating offices and hiring district construction workers for projects below \$200,000.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND QUESTIONS

The school district will continue to follow North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) and all building laws while addressing the priorities of our school facilities in the next three years. The school district will rely upon local contractors and experienced professionals to ensure that the construction is completed following any and all laws, rules, codes, etc. An opinion of the NDCC addressing architect and bid thresholds may be necessary for the school district.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR PLAN

The school district will continue to communicate, seek feedback, and provide updated information to the stakeholders and taxpayers of the Valley City Public School District throughout this proposed facility plan. Leading up to the proposal of this plan, the district relied upon the feedback provided by stakeholders during four public meetings in the 2021-2022 school year. The feedback from these meetings helped provide the necessary information to the school board that allowed them to match available school district funds with the priorities of our school facilities.