

Message from the District Administrator
Dr. Ann Buechel Haack

Ladies and Gentlemen—Start Your Engines! While this can be heard in Elkhart Lake throughout the spring and summer if the wind is blowing the right way from our southern neighbor, Road America, it's an appropriate slogan for the mode the district has been in since the passage of the referendum in November.

We've started our engines and have been steadily working on getting the plans ready for not only the construction/renovation projects that were included in the referendum proposal, but also a few additions that will both further enhance the work being done and also check off a few more projects on the district's long-term "project to do" list. While the preparation is already happening as we work with our architect, Geoffrey Bray, and project management team from Jos. Schmitt Construction, Eric Williams and Steve Schmitt, the actual work will begin the second week of June. Students finish school on Friday, June 7 and the teachers' last day is Monday, June 10. In order to have the projects completed by the start of the school year, demolition/abatement of flooring begins on Tuesday, June 11. While this will involve a lot of coordination with staff, students and the construction team, we're excited for the projects to begin. A summary of the projects and enhancements follow:

Performing Arts Auditorium Renovation (Referendum Project): To become ADA compliant, the slope of the auditorium flooring will be modified which involves removal/abatement of the existing flooring, cutting the concrete foundation to get the desired slope and adding polish to these new concrete floors. With this new floor design, additional seating will be created. New fully-padded seats will be added to the auditorium, carpeting will be installed in the aisles and the stage flooring will be updated to have a "wood insert." Sound boards will be added, the lights will be changed to LED with dimmers, a projector and new curtains will be installed and the divider wall between the auditorium and the cafeteria will be replaced. An enhancement that will be added to this project is the installation of motorized auditorium lighting panels which will allow access without having to use scaffolding, ladders, etc. While constructing a catwalk to serve this purpose was investigated, it was decided to go the route of the motorized lighting panels instead as it serves the same purpose but at a much more economical price.

Main Floor Renovations/Enhancements/Improvements (General Budget Funding): As abatement needs to be done in the auditorium, included in the summer construction project removing/abating the existing floor flooring and then having new updated tile installed. We had done the lower level last year and to the main level this year and the upper level in the summer of 2020. This would include all areas of the main level: band room, art room, auditorium, cafeteria, hallway, senior lounge and various other rooms: offices, teachers' lounge, etc.

Along with the tile removal, the current trophy case will be removed and an updated case will be installed in its place. A further enhancement will be the "creation" of a school store, in what

was formerly the original ticket booth/small office area adjacent to the main office. The original 1968 curtain that separated the cafeteria from the hallway will be updated with a folding wall.

FCS (Culinary Arts) Classroom/Lab Stations (Referendum Project): This space has been redesigned to provide for a teacher demonstration area, 6 updated lab areas and additional storage. New cabinetry, ceilings, flooring, appliances, fixtures, sink piping and additional power sources will be installed. This renovation will allow for an updated learning environment with flexibility and storage to accommodate the wide array of courses and instruction that occurs with the FCS (Family & Consumer Science) area.

Football/Soccer Athletic Field (Referendum Project): Currently site engineering is underway for the installation of the new lighting and the layout for the installation of the concrete walkway to provide ADA access to the new bleachers. After further review by Curt Krupp, of Meurmann Engineering, the Board approved the recommendation to go with HID lighting with the ability to convert to LED at a later date if the need should arise. Currently with the usage and location of the field, HID (High Intensity Discharge) lighting very well suits our needs and at a more economical price. With our current amount of use, the return on the LED lighting would not justify the additional cost for installation. Instead, these funds will be redirected to upgrade from asphalt to a concrete pathway and install updated fencing. A new power panel, underground wiring to the poles, and new properly sized wiring to the existing press box will be installed. The new bleachers will improve safety and address the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) as ramps will make them accessible to disabled persons and wheelchair seating will be provided.

Concession Stand/Storage Garage Construction (General Budget Funding): With the renovation/construction of the new agri-science wing this past summer, we will no longer be able to access the area we were using for a concession stand during the past years as this is now our robotics area. As a result, we looked at updating the former concession stand/storage garage but after a thorough review, it was determined that the costs would not be justified as much of the foundation is rotten due to the water drainage issues in that area. Even if replaced, unless the building was raised, the water issues would continue to exist. As a result, the decision was made to construct a new concession stand/storage garage in that area—but at a level where the water won't cause issues with the construction. This will be a basic design to fit our needs, but will have electrical and water service. The current design also allows for the addition of bathrooms to be added to the south side in the future if a need for these is determined at a later time.

As indicated above, the costs are covered from either the referendum funds specifically earmarked for these projects or from the general budget revenue flexibility which allowed for maintenance/technology projects. A 5-year loan for \$800,000 will be secured from the State Trust Fund Loan Program. These payments were included in the referendum planning with the loan being paid in full at the conclusion of the referendum period again making us a debt-free district. The remaining project costs will be split from funds remaining in the 2018-19 general fund budget and those which were allocated for maintenance/technology projects in the 2019-

20 general fund budget. Again, we want to thank the district residents for their overwhelming support of the November 2019 referendum, as without which, none of these projects would be possible. Your continued support of the District is very much appreciated by the Board, the administration, the staff and the students!

As always, if you have any questions and/or concerns about these projects or other happenings at ELGSD, don't hesitate to give me a call or stop in—my door is always open!

Now, let the race begin to get the projects done before September 2019! Currently we're on track—let's hope it stays that way!