



From the Superintendent:

District Building Planning

When I was hired as Ida's superintendent, I asked the school board if I could use the first 6 months to get my feet wet and learn about the district from the inside out before we resumed work on the building project. They were totally supportive.

In January, after reading the Long Term Facility Study from 2018-19, and all reports and minutes from various meetings, I made separate appointments with Kohler Architects, Kingscott Architects, Clark Construction and Plante Moran. My goal: to learn what work each had completed in preparation for the two building proposals made to our community in 2018. In these discussions, several additional options emerged that could be considered. The consensus in each discussion was we needed more information to determine which option would be the best for Ida Public Schools and the community.

Outcome from this fact finding stage: At the February general meeting, the Ida School Board approved an In-depth Facility Study for a 10-year Capital Plan.

As superintendent, entrusted by the school board, I am the lead for this study. I scheduled a preliminary walkthrough with our building and grounds team, relevant Ida and ISD staff, Kohler Architects (structural emphasis), Kingscott Architect (curriculum emphasis), Clark Construction and Plante Moran. We have begun a process to determine the physical needs of each building and the current and projected curriculum needs that require physical infrastructures. From this data, that will include estimates based on current market conditions, I will move forward with teams that will help advise and decide the best option for our district and community based on need and fiscal responsibility.

What is the difference between the facility study from 2018 – 2019, which is posted on our website, and this In-depth Facility Study for a 10 – year Capital Plan? The first facility study, of 2018-2019, provides general information for each building's needs. The current study of 2020 will add onto it and include a more comprehensive in-depth physical assessment of each building, per our request, and will also include current and projected curriculum infrastructure needs and costs. The first study of 2018- 2019 did not include curriculum infrastructure needs and was not an in-depth study. Estimates of cost will be performed by Clark construction using current market conditions. These estimates will be used to determine a proposal of whether we need to build or renovate what is existing. The ten year projection will determine if we can do the work over ten years using our general budget with the monies delegated to capital improvements or if we need a sinking fund or a bond. If a sinking fund or bond is needed, the earliest this would be on a ballot would be November of 2021. We did not have enough information from the 2018- 2019 facility study to make this determination, and we need to be diligent and patient with our fact finding.

I am excited for Ida in learning what we need and the best way to pursue it. I am asking all of you who had an opinion on the past proposals to try to clear your minds and be open to what the in-depth facility study will tell us. We all want what is best for our students, Ida Schools and our community. Let us work together to determine what that is. We will do our best to provide the most accurate information and figures.