

## **Bismarck Schools to review facility needs**

*By Tamara Uselman, Superintendent*

The community is growing and changing. This year, Bismarck Public Schools saw 200 additional students register for classes than the previous year. That's more students than are currently enrolled in some of the district's smaller schools.

At this critical time, the Bismarck School Board has hired a top national consulting firm to do a **School Facilities Master Plan and assessment of public school buildings**. DLR/J2 will study:

- Physical condition & lifespan.
- Efficiency (*number of students to run a school efficiently and effectively*).
- Location of existing schools and potential boundary changes.
- Changing our present grade configuration to K-5 to alleviate crowding at elementary schools, OR creating kindergarten centers and having elementary schools for grades 1-6.
- Moving 9<sup>th</sup> graders into the high schools and possibly building another senior high.
- Building new schools, adding to existing schools, and/or closing or reusing some schools.

Here is the timetable for this important work:

Oct-Nov.	Physical plant assessment
Nov.-Jan.	Consultants get public input; see meeting schedule below.
Feb.	Consultants present recommendations to the School Board to consider/adopt.
March	School Board budget talks begin.

Consultants explain the facilities master planning process & get input on community priorities:

Mon., Nov. 28	7:00-8:15 pm	at Simle	(focus on middle & high schools)
Tue., Nov. 29	5:30-6:45 pm	at Simle	(focus on elementary schools)
Tue., Nov. 29	7:00-8:15 pm	at Simle	(repeat session; focus on elementary)

Consultants share options that address issues and priorities & gather input on options:

Mon., Jan. 9	7:00-8:15 pm	at Horizon	(focus on middle & high schools)
Tue., Jan. 10	5:30-6:45 pm	at Horizon	(focus on elementary schools)
Tue., Jan. 10	7:00-8:15 pm	at Horizon	(repeat session; focus on elementary)

Consultants share a draft of final recommendations to get further input:

Mon., Jan. 30	5:30-6:45 pm	at Horizon	(focus on K-12 recommendations)
Mon., Jan. 30	7:00-8:15 pm	at Horizon	(repeat session; focus on K-12)
Tue., Jan. 31	7:00-8:15 pm	at Horizon	(repeat session; focus on K-12)

Please follow this important facilities planning process online at [www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org), through school newsletters, via local news media, or by watching School Board meetings on Cable Channel 2. Thank you for your interest in the BPS master facilities planning process that may change the shape of our school district for years to come!