

# BEAR'S UPDATE

Summer 2019



## Connect with us

Stay informed about White Bear Lake Area Schools' happenings on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Also, check out the district's redesigned website that launched this spring and offers great features that include, but are not limited to: building calendars that offer a subscribe feature, website content that fits the screen of the device you're using, and robust and site-specific search functionality.

## Cone with Dr. K

Community members are invited to stop by and chat with White Bear Lake Area Schools Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak over an ice cream treat from 2-3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13 at Cup and Cone (2126 4th Street, White Bear Lake).

There is no set agenda, so please feel free to order a treat from the server and find Dr. K at a reserved table to join the conversation!

## FREE Senior Activity Pass

Senior community members (age 65+) who live in the District are invited to participate in the Senior Activities Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities. Find the application on the District's website, [www.isd624.org](http://www.isd624.org), or call the Superintendent's Office at 651-407-7563 to request one via mail.



## Superintendent's Message

Thank you to our community for a wonderful 2018-19 school year. Your support of our students and staff members is greatly appreciated. Please enjoy reading through these important district updates!

*Continued on reverse.*

## Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

**ISD624.ORG**

## Graduations

Class of 2019 graduates throughout the district were recently cheered on by families, friends and staff members as they received their diplomas. Congratulations, graduates!



## Applauding retirees

Families and staff members recently gathered to honor retirees at the White Bear Lake Area School District 2019 Retirement Recognition Dinner. The School Board honored the retirees for their almost 1100 years of service that they have spent positively contributing to the White Bear community.



## Find us at Marketfest!

Our school principals, district administrators and Board members look forward to having terrific conversations with community members at Marketfest this summer.

Please be sure to stop by the district's booth Thursdays through July 25 in Downtown White Bear Lake to receive a free pencil and Bear Paw temporary tattoo.

Also, watch for other district-related booths and scheduled entertainment in the fun Downtown White Bear Lake summertime tradition.



## Save the Date - All-School Reunion

A multi-generation alumni committee is currently planning an All-School Reunion, intended for former students, staff members and all community members. The celebration will take place on the weekend of Homecoming 2019 - Saturday, Sept. 28 - with activities such as a pancake breakfast, an alumni car show, tours of District Center and the dedication of the Washington School Bell. WBLAHS Homecoming events that will take place that weekend as well are the Homecoming parade and football game on Friday evening and the Homecoming BearPower 6.24K Family Fun Run/Walk on Saturday. Official details will be announced by the Alumni Association as they are finalized, but community members are invited to mark their calendars to attend!

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## Superintendent's Message Cont.

While students are away at summer break, work will continue to happen in the district to position us all to move forward together.

One of the areas we'll be working on will be continuing the conversation about the Facilities Planning process that began last fall with a 90-member Facilities Planning Committee due to our projected enrollment growth and visionary Strategic Plan. Discussions about the plan continue, and the School Board will decide over the summer whether to put a bond referendum on the ballot in November.

We invite you to stay informed about the process. The Facilities Planning page of the district's website, at [www.isd624.org/about/facilities-planning](http://www.isd624.org/about/facilities-planning), will continue to house the most current and accurate information, including a recently-added FAQ area.

Have a terrific summer, and Go Bears!

Wayne A. Kazmierczak, Ph.D.,  
Superintendent

## Facilities Planning FAQ

### How was the plan built?

A Facility Planning Committee, composed of parents, staff and community members, worked through the 2018-19 academic year to study the district's current facilities, enrollment, and educational goals. The committee focused on the areas of learning spaces, community spaces, and physical conditions and built a long-range facilities master plan that was presented to the School Board in April of 2019.

### How would the plan be implemented?

In order for the recommended set of projects to become a reality, it would require district residents to approve bond funding through a referendum that could be held in November. The School Board will be deciding whether to move forward with a bond funding request during their June and July Board meetings.

### What is a simple explanation of the plan?

The plan is comprehensive in nature, creating a domino-effect of solutions to meet the broad needs identified by the committee.

A summary of the committee's recommendations consists of updates across the district, including:

- district-wide additions and renovations to accommodate projected enrollment growth,
- safety and security improvements and deferred maintenance projects at all district facilities,
- district-wide classroom and building updates to create flexible learning spaces.

The recommendation also includes plans for specific building changes to meet student enrollment and academic needs:

- a new K-5 elementary school being built in Hugo,
- converting Oneka from grades 2-5 to a K-5 elementary and Hugo Elementary from grades K-1 to a northern Early Childhood location,
- the current grades 9-10 North Campus receiving an addition to become the district's grade 9-12 high school,

- Sunrise Park Middle School moving to the current grades 11-12 South Campus location,
- the current Sunrise Park Middle School site becoming the site for various community programs including the Senior Center and Early Childhood programs currently housed at Normandy Park, the Transition Education Center currently located in leased space in Hugo, and the district office,
- Central Middle School expanding to take over the current District Center building.

The sequencing built into the plan makes it complex but comprehensive, while it touches each of our buildings in some way.

### Rumor vs. Reality

#### *Is it true District Center would be torn down?*

No. Due to the cost and the historical significance of the building, the current board and district administration have not accepted the portion of the committee's plan that discussed Central Middle School (including the current district office space) being replaced at some point in the future.

#### *Does the District plan to buy property bordering North Campus?*

If the district would move forward with an addition to North Campus, the construction could occur without expanding the site. However, the site would best serve students if it expands over time. The district may be interested in working with neighboring homeowners to work out amicable arrangements to purchase properties as they become available. We would follow a process and time line that accommodates each interested owner. The School Board has said it is not interested in exercising eminent domain.

### Where can I find additional information?

Complete information can be found at [www.isd624.org/about/facilities-planning](http://www.isd624.org/about/facilities-planning) or by clicking "Facilities Planning" at [www.isd624.org](http://www.isd624.org).