



From the Superintendent

We are excited to welcome students, families, alumni and community members back this fall as we kick off the 2019-20 school year. Please join us for one of the many happenings as we honor our legacy and courageously build our future!

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent

FOLLOW DR. K



/DRK_ISD624

ISD624.ORG

Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

Flip book to see
Community Services &
Recreation Catalog

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Building Our Future

The White Bear Lake Area School Board unanimously voted in favor of placing a bond referendum question to address building needs across the district on the November 5 ballot.

The decision was based on a nearly year-long facilities planning process that included a 90-member Planning Committee composed of parents, staff and community members.

The comprehensive facilities plan addresses needs district-wide:

- Accommodates projected enrollment growth
- Provides safe, secure & healthy learning environments for all students through investments in our aging facilities and infrastructure
- Increases opportunities for students by creating a single unified grade 9-12 high school
- Creates flexibly-designed learning spaces to support student-centered instruction

Continued on District News page II.



Building Our Future *Continued from front page.*

The Nov. 5 referendum will request voter approval of bonds to fund the following Comprehensive Facilities Plan construction projects that address building needs across the district:

- 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.

In addition, building-specific changes, which are primarily driven by enrollment growth and classroom needs, would include:

- 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.

"This comprehensive plan allows us to accommodate projected enrollment growth and provide safe, secure and healthy learning environments for all students through investments in our aging facilities and infrastructure," said Superintendent Wayne Kazmierczak. "It will allow us to increase opportunities for students through a single 9-12 high school experience and create flexibly-designed learning spaces to support all of our learners through student-centered instruction."

The district projects more than 2,000 new students will enroll during the next ten years due to housing growth, which is 25% higher than current capacity. This is on top of more than 7% growth since 2010.

If the bond does not pass, the projected enrollment growth would lead to overcrowded schools, higher class sizes, and insufficient space for educational and community programs. Critical safety, security and maintenance needs would not be addressed, and learning spaces would not receive updates to support student-centered instruction. Additionally, the current split-campus high school experience would continue.

"It is critical that we address this now," said Board Member Ellen Fahey. "If we put this off, we won't be ready for the kids that are coming. Building costs are not going to stay stagnant, so waiting to address the problem will increase the price tag down the road."

If approved by the community in November, the tax impact for \$326 million in bond funding would be about \$23 per month for the average homeowner (\$275,000 value home).

"Thank you to the Facilities Planning Committee, which did a tremendous amount of research and work to develop a proposal that accommodates enrollments and programs over the next 10 years, aligns with our Strategic Plan and is financially sustainable," said School Board Chair Donald Mullin. "The Committee has delivered a plan that honors our legacy and courageously builds our future."

More information about the building bond referendum can be found at www.isd624.org/Bond2019



Learn more about the bond referendum

ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS

- » 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 24
District Center
4855 Bloom Ave
White Bear Lake
- » 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 2
Hugo Elementary
14895 Francesca Ave N
Hugo
- » 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 3
Vadnais Heights Elem
3645 Centerville Rd
Vadnais Heights

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- » www.isd624.org/Bond2019

CONTACT US

- » By email:
Bond2019@isd624.org
- » By phone:
Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak,
Superintendent
651-407-7563



12 facts every voter should know

On November 5, residents will vote whether to approve a bond referendum for school needs.

1. On Nov. 5, voters will be asked to approve a bond referendum.

The bond referendum would support a facilities plan that:

- Accommodates projected enrollment growth
- Provides safe, secure & healthy learning environments for all students through investments in our aging facilities and infrastructure
- Increases opportunities for students by creating a single unified grade 9-12 high school
- Creates flexibly-designed learning spaces to support student-centered instruction

2. A successful bond referendum would impact **all** of our buildings and students.

A successful bond referendum would allow the district to implement a comprehensive facilities plan that encompasses all district buildings and addresses questions that have been asked in the community for decades.

3. The comprehensive plan resulted from community conversations.

The Facilities Plan is the result of a nearly year-long facilities planning process that included a 90-member Facilities Planning Committee composed of parents, staff and community members.

4. The average age of district buildings is 50 years.

The oldest building was built in 1918 and the newest building was built in 2006.

5. A successful bond referendum would address students' needs for years to come.

If voters approve the bond referendum on November 5, the district facilities would accommodate the Strategic Plan, projected enrollment growth, safety and security improvements, aging facilities and deferred maintenance needs, and the future of educational programming.

6. Failure to approve the bond referendum would result in unmet needs.

If the bond does not pass, projected enrollment growth would lead to overcrowded schools, higher class sizes, and insufficient space for educational and community programs. Critical safety, security and maintenance needs would not be addressed. The current split-campus high school experience would continue. Learning spaces would not receive updates to support student-centered instruction.

7. Passage of the bond referendum would increase opportunities for students.

The district would be able to maintain smaller class sizes and program space availability with building additions. Safety, security and maintenance needs would be addressed. More of our high school students would be able to better access robust course options including college and career offerings, make connections with each other and staff members, and benefit from personalized and flexible learning experiences.

8. ISD 624 is a good steward of the community's investment.

ISD 624 routinely makes budget reductions and finds innovative solutions to live within its means.

- The district has a AA bond rating, which we have received from Standard and Poor's every year the district has applied since 2010.
- Our district received excellence in financial reporting awards from both the Assn. of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Assn. for 19 consecutive years.

9. Now is the time for investment.

Due to smart fiscal management and old debt being paid off, this comprehensive district-wide plan can be accomplished with a \$326 million bond referendum, which results in a tax impact of about \$23 per month for the average homeowner. A tax calculator tool is available at the district's website, www.isd624.org/Bond2019.

10. The Facilities Committee discussed various HS options such as:

- keep the status quo of a split high school, complete extensive renovations to both buildings

- expand North Campus to become the district's single unified 9-12 high school, move current Sunrise Park Middle School to South Campus location

- build a brand new high school, leave remaining district buildings as-is

HS student benefits:

- better access to comprehensive course offerings, including college & career pathway options
- fewer transitions for students during critical adolescent developmental stages
- maintained consistent, longer-lasting staff and student relationships

11. The high school plan would work with existing district property.

A single unified grade 9-12 high school could be built on the existing property already owned by the district.

The district would consider purchasing neighboring homes from interested sellers if expansion made sense. The Board will not use eminent domain.

12. The future is bright.

- The district's student enrollment numbers are strong, with continued residential growth projected in the next decade.
- The district's new Strategic Plan is guiding the work of our district and schools, prioritizing student agency and access, engagement and support, and respect of diversity of people and ideas.

School Board Meetings

Aug 26.....Work-Study Mtng
 Sept 9.....Regular Mtng
 Sept 23....Work-Study Mtng
 Oct 14.....Regular Mtng
 Oct 28....Work-Study Mtng
 Nov 11.....Regular Mtng
 Nov 25....Work-Study Mtng

- » All Board meetings take place in the Community Room 112 at District Center (4855 Bloom Ave).
 - Regular meetings begin at 7 p.m.
 - Work-Study meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
- » Agendas, Board Packets, Minutes, Highlights and Video links are posted on the District's website as they become available.
- » Regular School Board meetings are re-broadcast on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area the week of a regular business meeting:
 - Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.
 - Thursdays at 10 a.m.

2019 District 624 School Board



DON MULLIN, Chair
don.mullin@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/21



KIM CHAPMAN, Vice-Chair
kim.chapman@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/21



SCOTT WILSON, Treasurer
scott.wilson@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/19



ELLEN FAHEY, Clerk
ellen.fahey@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/19



DEB BELOYED
deb.beloyed@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/21

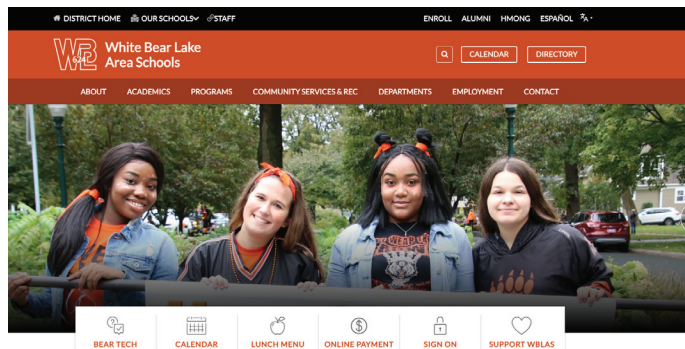


JESSICA ELLISON
jessica.ellison@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/21

GENERAL SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS:
schoolboard@isd624.org

2019-20 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

- Madison Carroll, Gr 12, WBLAHS-South, Representative
- Jennifer Adams, Gr 11, WBLAHS-South, Alternate Representative



Welcome to
 White Bear Lake Area Schools

Website redesign

The district launched a redesigned website last spring. Along with a new look, the redesigned district and school sites now offer a calendar feature, upgraded search functionality, news and social media feeds, and translated pages. A single sign-on feature also helps families to access all the necessary district applications from one portal.

District Awards

» PUBLICATION AWARDS

The District recently received awards of Excellence, Merit and Honorable Mention from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) for various publications, social media engagement efforts, and videos.

» FINANCE AWARDS

ISD 624 recently received Excellence in Financial Reporting awards from the Assn of School Business Officials (ASBO) and Govt Finance Officers Assn (GFOA), the highest forms of recognition given in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. ISD 624 has received the awards for 19 consecutive years. The District has received a bond rating of AA from Standard and Poor's every year the District has applied since 2010.

District-wide Hires

Oneka Principal

Lori Mosser is now serving in the role as principal of Oneka Elementary after former principal Teresa Dahlem's retirement from the position. Mosser has served for the last two years as the dean of students at the district's Central Middle School.

Central Middle School Principal

Cathryn Peterson is the new Central Middle School Principal, a position vacated when Principal Tim Schochenmaier became superintendent at Central Public Schools (Norwood Young America, Minn.). Peterson has served as the Assistant Principal at Robbinsdale Middle School for four years. Previously, she served in academic leadership roles of teaching and learning specialist, instructional coach, and Response to Intervention coordinator.

Director of Innovation and Technology

Steve Asper is the new Director of Technology and Innovation. He has served as the district's Technology Support Member since 2013 and has been involved in multiple district initiatives. Prior to working in White Bear, he served in technology-related roles at St. Paul Public Schools and Frost Lake Magnet School. He was a third grade teacher at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School and also led academic programs at Concordia Language Villages.

Principal on Special Assignment

Dr. Alison Gillespie, WBLAHS - North Campus Principal, will serve as a principal on special assignment during the 2019-20 academic year. Her duties will include oversight of the district's equity work, new principal mentorship, and serving as the internal facilitator of the Strategic Plan. She also will focus on high school program discussions and support the WBLAHS-North Campus administrative team.

WBLAHS - North Campus Interim Principal

Current associate principal Angela Nelson will serve as the interim principal of White Bear Lake Area High School - North Campus for the 2019-20 academic year. Nelson came to White Bear in 2014 from Forest Lake Area Schools, where she served as a high school dean and social studies teacher.

Student Support Services Coordinator

John Larson recently began as a Student Support Services Coordinator, with duties supporting schools district-wide. He has been the Director of Student Services for the past five years at Nova Classical Academy, starting his career in the New Richmond School District as a special education teacher and Department Lead.

Student Support Services Coordinator

Jill Tessman is a Student Support Services Coordinator, providing support to families on homelessness, mental well-being and social work. She was most recently the Dean of Students/Student and Family Advocate Lead in the Spring Lake Park School District. Previously, she was a Mental Health Program Coordinator and Social Worker at the county level.



- » **PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS** Students have rich opportunities to explore and develop their talents in the arts. Our students consistently receive state and national-level honors in visual arts. Our strong theatre, choir, band and orchestra programs continue to grow.
- » **AVID** Our students benefit from a rigorous, expanding Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Students collaborate, engage in inquiry, and learn college-level reading, writing and study strategies.
- » **COLLEGE & CAREER** Students have college credit opportunities in 40+ courses. Our grads earned credits totaling \$2.69 mil. at U of M tuition rates last year. Career Pathways also prepare students for their futures.

Senior Publications

Call 651-653-3121 to request printed copies of Senior Program resources:



White Bear Area Guide to Senior Housing



White Bear Area Guide to Senior Transportation



Community donations have made it possible for the District to distribute a limited number of backpacks and school supplies to families who are in need. District families who would like to inquire about receiving donated school supplies should contact their child's school for additional information.



Parent Calendar

Early Childhood Screening - Screen at 3

Early Childhood Screening is required by the state of Minnesota for all children prior to entering kindergarten.

The best age at which to screen is age three. The White Bear Lake Area School District provides this screening at no charge.



- Screening can ensure school success
- If health or developmental concerns are identified, educational services are available
- It is fun and provides parents/guardians with valuable information regarding child development

Register online at <https://whitebear.ce.eleyo.com> or 651-653-3100

Early Childhood Screening takes place at:
Normandy Park Education Center
2482 East County Road F
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Activities Calendar

The 2019-20 Activities Calendar will be mailed to all district families prior to the end of August.

Community members who would like a copy of the publication may pick one up at District Center (4855 Bloom Avenue, WBL) or call the Superintendent's Office at 651-407-7563 to request one be mailed after that time.

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. The application can be picked up at District Center (4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake) and the Senior Center (2484 East Cty Rd F, White Bear Lake).



WE ARE HIRING!

Find employment opportunities at www.isd624.org.

- Substitute Teachers
- Extended Day staff
- Bus drivers
- Nutrition Services staff
- Paras
- MORE!



4855 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

651-407-7500
isd624.org



Digital Backpack

The Community Services Department distributes electronic flyers on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Flyers include announcements from the school district, as well as local organizations that offer opportunities for youth.

Those who wish to request distribution of a flyer should email the files to Director Tim Maurer at tim.maurer@isd624.org.



Our Beliefs

- Each person has innate value.
- Service nurtures both community and self.
- Everyone has the power to design their own future.
- Respect for diversity is strength.
- Integrity is fundamental to relationships.
- Each person has unrealized potential.
- Communities with shared goals have unlimited potential.
- We are stewards of the earth.
- Learning enriches one's quality of life.
- Everyone has a right to a safe and respectful environment.
- Challenge leads to innovation and growth.
- All people deserve unconditional love.

Born to Be a Bear!

We're looking for photos of little ones in their "Born to be a Bear" onesies!

Email photos to communications@isd624.org and you may find your little one featured in a District publication!



Stay Connected

• E-NEWSLETTER

The Community e-Newsletter is sent out each week, with alternating text and video editions. The text editions cover student and staff successes, school and Community Education offerings, and School Board proceedings. Those who wish to be added to the Community e-Newsletter list may contact us at communications@isd624.org.

• COMMUNITY CHANNEL

Watch us on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area to receive District information and updates. School Board meetings are broadcast after regular business meetings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m.

• STAY SOCIAL

Join White Bear Lake Area Schools' social media circles - Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for daily 624 Fact posts and *The Week in 62.4 Seconds* video share-outs. Find links on the District's website.

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Coffee with Dr. K

Community members have been invited to stop by throughout the 2019-20 academic year for an informal chat with Superintendent Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee or tea at the Downtown White Bear Lake Caribou Coffee:

- 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Sept. 26
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. on March 3
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Oct. 23
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on May 5
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. on January 9



Monthly Staff and Community Mental Well-Being Series

District staff and families are invited to attend monthly presentations focused on mental well-being. The events are free and open to community members.

All events begin at 7 p.m. at District Center (4855 Bloom Avenue, WBL).

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| SEPT. 26 | SUICIDE IDENTIFICATION, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
by Tony DelPercio, Bradshaw Funeral and Cremation Services |
| OCT. 10 | UNDERSTANDING EATING DISORDERS
by Emily Program & Jillian Lampert, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., L.D., F.A.E.D. |
| NOV. 21 | ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES & RELATIONAL TRAUMA: WHAT IT IS, HOW TO IDENTIFY IT AND HOW TO HEAL FROM IT
by Family Resource Recovery Experts (FRrē) |

Bond Referendum Public Meetings

- » 7 p.m. on Sept. 24 at District Center
4855 Bloom Ave, WBL
- » 7 p.m. on Oct. 2 at Hugo Elem
14895 Francesca Ave N, Hugo
- » 7 p.m. on Oct. 3 at Vadnais Heights Elem
3645 Centerville Rd, Vadnais Heights

www.isd624.org/Bond2019



Important Dates

- » **AUGUST 26**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **SEPTEMBER 3**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (GR. 6-12+)
- » **SEPTEMBER 4**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (GR. 1-5)
- » **SEPTEMBER 5**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (KINDERGARTEN)
- » **SEPTEMBER 9**
FIRST DAY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS
- » **SEPTEMBER 9**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **SEPTEMBER 17**
SENIOR CENTER OPEN HOUSE
9-11 a.m. at Normandy Park Education Center
- » **SEPTEMBER 23**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **SEPTEMBER 23-28**
HOMECOMING WEEK
9/23 - Coronation
9/27 - Parade, Football Game
9/28 - All School Reunion, Run
- » **OCTOBER 14**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **OCTOBER 28**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **NOVEMBER 5**
ELECTION DAY
District-related ballot items:
- Building Bond Referendum
- School Board Member Election



White Bear Lake Area Schools

Leading minds to learning, hearts to compassion, and lives to community service.

Serving the communities of Birchwood, Gem Lake, Hugo, Lino Lakes, Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, and White Bear Township.



OUR MISSION

The mission of the White Bear Lake Area School District, the community at the forefront of educational excellence, honoring our legacy and courageously building the future, is to ensure each student realizes their unique talents and abilities, and makes meaningful contributions with local and global impact through a vital system distinguished by:

- Students who design and create their own future
- Diversity of people and ideas
- Safe, nurturing and inspiring environments
- Exceptional staff and families committed to student success
- Abundant and engaged community partners