



July 14, 2019

Dear Northeastern Local School District Community,

When voters approved a bond issue on May 8, 2018, to construct new schools in the Northeastern Local School District, it was the first step of an exciting opportunity for the future of our community. As your Board of Education and District Administration, we value the investment you have made in our schools through this initiative and are committed to protecting that investment.

Last week, the district received the first cost estimates on designs for the PK-12th grade Northeastern facility that will be located in South Vienna. The Board of Education met in a special work session the afternoon of Friday, July 12, to review the estimates with representatives from the Ohio School Facilities Commission, our architects, and our construction manager at-risk. Although these are initial estimates that are subject to extensive review and revision in the weeks to come, the current estimate is over the budget set for the project. At this time, we are postponing the July 18 community meeting while we work diligently to align the project to the budget we have set.

The values of our community are clear - the new schools must be built within our means and fit the budget we created with the state, which is contributing \$41 million to the project. We're committed to upholding that value and have already begun discussions with our partners in this project - the state's Ohio School Facilities Commission and our architects and construction manager at-risk - to address the discrepancy between our budget and the estimate.

While the current designs are not extravagant, we believe that there are areas where we can realize savings. We are taking a comprehensive look at these plans to make necessary adjustments in the design and to accommodate rising construction costs.

This process is full of difficult decisions, but the prospect of new schools for the children of our community is no less exciting today than it was on May 8, 2018. Our commitment to you is that we will make the most of the generous investment you've made in our community with an emphasis on safe learning environments that support the educational needs of NELSD students for years to come. Addressing these budget issues is the top priority for your Board of Education and Administration.

We will continue to keep the community updated about this process and anticipate sharing more information in mid-August about the facilities project. We look forward to continuing to work together to build our bright future and to the day this community celebrates what we accomplished together.

If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of the Board of Education or to Superintendent Dr. John Kronour (johnkronour@nelsd.org; 937-325-7615).

Sincerely,

The Northeastern Local School District Board of Education

President Jill Parker; Vice President Joel Augustus; Members Dr. John Crankshaw, Steve Schwitzgable, and Jeff Yinger

Superintendent Dr. John Kronour

Treasurer Dale Miller