



## LAKWOOD LOCAL SCHOOLS

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### **Lakewood Passes Resolution for Construction Projects at Jackson Intermediate and Lakewood Middle Schools**

On Monday, March 14, 2022, the Lakewood Local Board of Education voted to approve two separate resolutions concerning construction projects at Jackson Intermediate School and Lakewood Middle School. The District says that the projected completion for these projects is prior to the 2022-2023 school year.

The first resolution concerns a project at Jackson Intermediate stemming from an effort to decommission the Hebron Elementary building, as announced to the community by District Superintendent Mark Gleichauf in the Fall.

“We have attempted to pass the bond issue for a new elementary school for several years now, but we have not gained enough community support to be successful,” said Gleichauf. “Given this, and the ongoing challenges in the Hebron Elementary building, our Board of Education has determined the best way forward is to move all students and staff from Hebron Elementary to the Jackson Intermediate campus and decommission the Hebron building over the next couple of years.”

The Jackson Intermediate resolution concerns construction of a corridor between Jackson A and the Annex to allow students to move from building to building for bathrooms, lunch, specials classes, the office, and clinic safely and without being exposed to the elements. Starting with the 2022-23 school year, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades will be housed in Jackson A. For the 2023-24 school year, Hebron Elementary students (grades K through 2<sup>nd</sup>, and staff) will move into Jackson B, meaning that within two years, District students in preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be together at one campus.

“By making this move, all Lakewood students would be housed on our Lancer Road campus in buildings that meet ADA standards, have effective heating and cooling, and have improved instructional space,” added Gleichauf.

The second resolution concerns a construction project to convert the current Lakewood Middle School (LMS) Auditorium into four discrete classroom spaces, music personnel office spaces, music practice spaces, and a single hallway.

“We've been looking forward to this project for a number of years. The current auditorium space is manageable but a dedicated band/choir room will give our students a more structured environment to learn music,” said Derek Shell, Middle School Band Director and Assistant High School Band Director. “I know that the kids (as well as I) are looking forward to having a ‘real,’ climate-controlled band room. The performing arts are strong at Lakewood, and this project will help us ensure that our tradition of excellence continues into the future.”

The current auditorium is underutilized and is rarely used as a performance auditorium. The reconstruction of the area will create a LMS band room, a LMS choir room, and the equivalent of two other classroom spaces. There will be accordion doors between some of these spaces allowing larger group space for professional development, future Board of Education Meetings, community meetings, and more.

Gleichenhauf stated, “This has been a capital improvement project that the District has been considering for more than five years. The District has long term plans for the current middle school, so these upgrades will be utilized for the foreseeable future. Additionally, it provides some additional classroom spaces in the event the District enrollment grows due to economic development factors in the region.”

The District will pay for these projects with capital outlay and capital improvement dollars. These funds can only be used for these purposes and not general fund expenses, such as salaries.

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