



Board of Education Column

By Jim Johnson, Board of Education

Planning Committee Update

I truly believe for all of us that are part of the Fargo Public Schools family, we start each workday thinking about how best to serve the students that arrive at our doors each morning. While our primary focus will always be our current students, we also need to make sure we are well prepared to serve the students that will arrive at our doors for years to come.

One of the roles of the Board's Planning Committee is to work with our administration to determine our short-term and long-term facility needs and make appropriate recommendations to the Board for their consideration. As a growing district, we need to carefully plan for bringing new facilities online as the need arises and renovate/update those in our current inventory as they age.

Our community continues to see most of the new residential growth in the south end of our District. As the student population continues to increase in the south end of town, our short-term solutions have been and most likely will continue to be making boundary shifts until the need exists for a new building. We are now at the point where we need to address our long-term facility needs. Both Discovery and Davies are nearing capacity, and we now need to begin the planning to bring our next set of secondary buildings online.

The Board recently entered into a land purchase agreement to secure the site for our fourth comprehensive high school. There are no immediate plans to build on this site, as it will be several years before our student numbers dictate the need to build. This property is located on the west side of I-29 and is adjacent to the Fargo Parks Sports Complex that is being built. The Board also approved the selection of an architectural firm and a construction management firm to begin the design and ultimate construction of our next middle school. This school will be located on our property just to the east of the Davies football/track field. When this school initially opens its doors, it will serve eighth grade students from Discovery and ninth grade students from Davies. Once the fourth comprehensive high school is brought online it will serve as the middle school grades six through eight.

By thoughtfully planning ahead we should be well prepared to serve the students of Fargo Public schools for many years to come!

