



Board of Education Column

By Greg Clark, Board of Education Planning Committee Chair

Planning Committee Update

The Fargo Board of Education's Planning Committee exists to make sure the Board has all the information it needs to make decisions regarding its resources and physical assets. In addition to overseeing the district's budget, one of the main focuses of the Planning Committee is to work with our administration to develop and update our long-range financial and facilities plans.

This school year, the Committee will continue to be heavily involved in the implementation of the newly adopted long-range facilities plan, which was approved by the Board on June 11, 2024. The process to arrive at the new long-range facilities plan was a monumental undertaking that took nearly a year to complete and involved many studies, surveys, steering committee meetings, and community input sessions. However, creating a plan is just the beginning. Now we must put that plan into practice, which will take a lot of effort and will again require gathering input from the community throughout the year.

So far this year, the Committee has done three things related to the long-range facilities plan. First, we discussed the need for educational specifications and design standards. The Committee agreed on the importance of this work and approved proceeding with a Request for Proposals. Second, we looked at financial modeling for the district's long-term outlook and our ability to proceed with each of the three phases of the long-range facilities plan. I'm happy to report that the district's finances are healthy enough that we would only need to utilize a bond referendum for the first phase. Third, we met with consultants regarding a pre-bond referendum study. This study, which will survey and engage with community stakeholders, is an essential component of the long-range facility planning process.

While we are confident the plan itself was developed with major involvement and support from the community, we must continue this close partnership as we explore the possibility of a bond referendum.

