

Option 2 Solution: Build a New High School.

Estimated cost: \$177.3 million

The District is recommending Option 2 as the best long-term plan for the following reasons:

- ✓ It saves more money over the long term (fewer buildings to maintain and operate).
- ✓ The middle school site is currently too small to support programming, especially if we move fifth-grade students to that school.
- ✓ All students across the District will benefit because they will have additional classroom space.
- ✓ It creates more equitable academic opportunities between schools.

In April 2024, the district reached out to area landowners with property that may be a good fit for future school building(s) and district facility planning. Interested properties will be reviewed by the district in partnership with consultants and engineers. We anticipate possible purchase of land as early as Summer 2024 or into early Fall 2024.

A new high school would include:

- ✓ Capacity to serve up to 1,100 students in grades 9-12
- ✓ Classrooms and labs for Career & Tech Ed and Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) courses
- ✓ Flexible spaces for student performances and collaboration
- ✓ An 800-seat performing arts center
- ✓ A four-court gym and fitness area for students and community use. The extra gym spaces are intended to prevent practices from running late into the evenings and also increase opportunities for community use. Additional gymnastics space is also included which would benefit the school and city programs.
- ✓ The new high school gym would include a running track available for community use.
- ✓ Proper separation of pedestrians and vehicle/bus traffic and additional parking
- ✓ Energy-efficient systems and natural lighting
- ✓ Practice fields and track
- ✓ Robert Kupper Learning Center programs would be added to the new High School Building.
 - Close and seek to sell the Robert Kupper Learning Center building

Other projects in this option include:

- ✓ Repurpose the current high school into the middle school for grades 5th-8th. Minor classroom renovations would be made to the current high school to accommodate this move.
- ✓ The current middle school would be used as the “in town” elementary school enrolling students in grades 1st – 4th. **Outlying schools would maintain their student enrollments in grades 4K- 4th grade.**
 - Close and seek to sell Lemonweir Elementary School building
 - Close and seek to sell Miller Elementary School building
 - Close and seek to sell Tomah Area Montessori School building
 - Close and seek to sell the District Office building
- ✓ The current middle school would also be the site for the District Office and a possible Day Care Center.
- ✓ La Grange Elementary School would serve as the district early childhood site, along with “in town” four-year-old kindergarten (4K) classrooms, five-year-old kindergarten (5K) classrooms, and the Tomah Area Montessori School program.
- ✓ **Outlying schools would maintain their student enrollments in grades 4K- 4th grade.**

By consolidating facilities (closing and selling the 5 buildings noted above), the District could avoid spending about \$14 million in operational and maintenance costs over the next 10 years.