



WORKING TOGETHER – with Hornet Pride!

May 12, 2026

Dear New Lothrop Community,

As we continue toward the conclusion of another successful school year, I wanted to take a moment to provide an update on two important initiatives that will help shape the future of New Lothrop Area Public Schools.

Strategic Planning Process

Recently, our Strategic Planning Committee met for a full-day retreat focused on establishing a long-term vision for the district. The committee included a diverse group of stakeholders representing staff, students, parents, community members, administration, and the Board of Education. Throughout the day, participants engaged in meaningful discussions centered around the development of a district mission, vision, core beliefs, and strategic targets that will guide our work over the next 3–5 years.

The conversations throughout the retreat were thoughtful, collaborative, and focused on what is best for our students and schools. The plan is currently still in draft form and undergoing final revisions before being reviewed by our District Improvement Team and presented to the Board of Education in June for formal approval.

There is a great deal of excitement surrounding this work and the opportunities it creates for our district moving forward. This strategic plan will help provide clarity, direction, and alignment as we continue striving toward our future goals and building upon the strengths of New Lothrop Area Public Schools.

Pre-Bond Planning Process

In addition to strategic planning, the district has also officially begun the pre-bond planning process by securing a partnership with RC Hendrick as our construction manager. The pre-bond process is an important first step in evaluating the district's long-term infrastructure and capital improvement needs. This work will include a comprehensive assessment of our facilities, transportation, technology, safety, and overall operational needs.

As part of this process, stakeholder input and community feedback will be critical. The district and RC Hendrick will work together to provide opportunities for staff, families, students, and community members to share feedback regarding district needs, priorities, and future improvements. This process is designed to ensure that any future recommendations reflect the values and priorities of our community.

At this time, discussions are centered around the possibility of a zero-mill increase bond that could potentially go before voters sometime in 2027. A zero-mill increase bond means the district could pursue facility and infrastructure improvements without increasing the current debt millage rate for taxpayers. While there is still significant planning and community engagement ahead, this process allows us to begin evaluating needs and considering long-term improvements in a fiscally responsible manner.

Over the coming months, there will be multiple opportunities for community involvement and feedback as this work progresses. We will continue to communicate updates and provide more information about those opportunities as we move forward in the process.

While we are all focused on finishing this school year strong and getting ready to celebrate the graduating Class of 2026, we must also continue to maintain the “windshield view” and look ahead to the future. Both the strategic planning process and pre-bond planning work represent important investments in the long-term success of our students, staff, schools, and community. Together, we have an opportunity to build upon the strong foundation of our district while creating a shared vision that supports our students and community for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support, trust, and commitment to New Lothrop Area Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Jay Lerner
Superintendent
New Lothrop Area Public Schools

