



KAUKAUNA
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1701 Cty Rd CE • Kaukauna, WI 54130 • (920)766-6100

March 5, 2024

Dear Kaukauna Area School District Community,

In recent weeks, our district embarked on a journey of dialogue and collaboration, engaging in meaningful conversations about the future of education in our community. These discussions, which were attended by over 200 Kaukauna Area School District residents, focused on long-range facilities planning, and the feedback that was gathered during these sessions has been critical in shaping our collective vision and charting a course forward that reflects the values and aspirations of our community.

Through these community conversations, several key themes emerged, highlighting the priorities and concerns that resonate deeply within our community:

1. Enhancing Elementary Grade Configurations: Our community expressed clear support for adding grades 4K and 5K to Victor Haen Elementary School as a first step to improve our elementary grade configuration. Community members emphasized the importance of developing strong school communities by creating grade level configurations that limit the number of transitions students experience in their elementary years and developing a plan that allows for long term relationships to be formed between students, staff, and families. Additionally, considerations such as reducing traffic congestion and minimizing bus commute times have been underscored as essential aspects of any elementary grade level reconfiguration plan.

2. Meeting our Community's Child Care Needs: Community members have expressed a strong desire to expand the level of child care services offered by the District. Accessibility and convenience are key factors, with many advocating for the development of on-site child care services and the establishment of a birth-to-school-age child care center.

3. Evaluating Middle School Facilities: Feedback indicates that the current River View Middle School facility falls short of meeting the long-term needs of our students. While there is interest in potentially repurposing the existing facility in order to maintain

the historical significance of the River View building in Kaukauna, community consensus leaned towards exploring the construction of a new middle school on District-owned land.

4. Timing and Phasing of Facility Plans: There is broad agreement on the need to address all of the district's facility needs that were discussed during the community conversations, with some advocating for a November 2024 referendum to maintain tax consistency. However, opinions vary regarding whether to pursue a comprehensive or phased approach. Ultimately, the community felt that the cost of the various options will be the driving factor, as we seek to develop a plan that benefits each school within our district and addresses open enrollment challenges.

As we reflect on the insights gleaned from these conversations, it is evident that our Kaukauna community is united in its commitment to providing exceptional educational opportunities for our students. By working together, we can develop a long-range facility plan that embodies our shared values and aspirations.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to engage with our community, seeking input and feedback as we navigate the path ahead. Together, we have the power to shape the future of education in Kaukauna, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our great Kaukauna schools.

Sincerely,

Mike Slowinski
Superintendent
Kaukauna Area School District