

WCA Facilities Update

The Facility and Survey Informational meetings scheduled for December have been completed the West Central Area Schools. Attendance was fantastic and I was pleased with the number of comments and questions that were asked. I thank all those who attended and especially appreciate the passionate feelings expressed for WCA education.

I want to reiterate that the purpose of the meetings was to accomplish three goals. First, to explain the facility related work our WCA Board members have been doing over the last couple years; secondly, to explain how the Board arrived at options for the survey and finally, explain and answer questions related to the WCA facilities survey and facility condition.

In their discussions, Board members talked about WCA schools' positive reputation, a desire to improve opportunities for current and future students, a commitment to pursue projects that will last well into the future, and ultimately select an option that over time will be the most fiscally responsible for the current and future residents of WCA.

The Board used "School Perceptions" to assist with the development and distribution of the survey and School Perceptions is scheduled to provide a summary report to the Board on January 6, 2020. School Perceptions provided expert guidance related to components, language and format of the survey. The biggest hurdle for the Board during survey development was to reduce the number of elementary facility options considered to two options for the survey.

The primary reasons for selecting the two elementary options provided in the survey were to fully address educational inadequacies and facility deficiencies with a fiscally responsible solution. Academically, adequate and appropriately sized spaces in a supportive physical environment are needed for our current and future students to reach their full potential. From a fiscal perspective, the potential for an extremely low bond rate will result in low interest payments and delaying projects will only result in higher future construction costs. A significant investment is needed to improve academic space and address facility deficiencies and rather than delay the inevitable, now seems to be the most opportunistic time to take action.

Board members recognize the significance facility and program decisions will have upon the District and they believe a survey will help to clarify the direction they need to go. On behalf of the WCA Board of Education, thank you for attending the community meetings and participating in the discussions. The District website and facebook page have copies of articles previously printed in the Grand County Herald, two versions of the PowerPoint presented at the community meetings and a list of questions asked at the meetings with responses. If you have not completed a survey yet, the Board and I would like you to do so. Thank you for your interest in WCA education and your past support of our WCA students and the District. Please see the School Perceptions message provided below.

Community Survey on School District Facility Needs Open Through December 23

All West Central Area School District residents should have received a community survey in their mail within the last week asking for their input on how to address the district's elementary school needs as well as other facility projects at the secondary school.

"Our schools play an important role in our community," shares first year Superintendent Dale Hogue. "As we set priorities for the future it's important that every member of our community has the opportunity to have a voice in that process. We encourage everyone to participate."

Residents who haven't seen their survey or need an additional access code for other adults in the household can call the District Office at (320) 528-7300.