



A Community of Learners

Informational Memo - Recalibration of District Initiatives

TO: School Board

FROM: Superintendent Dr. Trisha Kocanda

June 11, 2020

Overview & Background

At the May 19, 2020, School Board meeting, the Board discussed recalibrating major initiatives in light of the pandemic. After that meeting, the School Board hosted a facility subcommittee and held a work session. This memo provides a summary of how the District is reprioritizing its initiatives while continuing to move forward in critical work. A community communication plan will follow to ensure we keep everyone informed.

Initiative Priorities

Facility Needs & Priorities: While facility needs remain urgent, the School Board is postponing referendum planning and targeting a community vote in March 2022 versus April 2021. [The 3-year prioritized facility plan](#), addressing required health/life safety, lead mitigation in the water, and urgent ADA needs at Crow Island, is being implemented in [summer 2020](#), 2021, and 2022. The total investment in the 3-year plan is estimated at \$14.1M (as of 6/2020).

Rationale:

- Priority attention needs to be placed on our urgent health, teaching and learning planning for the 2020-21 school year. Referendum planning requires a great deal of time, effort, and resources that would distract too greatly from this work.
- The financial impact of the pandemic will affect our community. We need

time to better understand the financial stress this will put on taxpayers as well on District revenues.

- Facility priorities and needs will be influenced by the pandemic. It is anticipated facility design, as it relates to health and safety, will involve new standards.
- Ability to convene community members in meaningful ways to involve, educate, and inform is limited due to pandemic safety guidelines. This will hinder the ability for the District to truly partner with the community for a referendum.

Financial Priorities & Planning: The District is examining the potential financial impact of the pandemic. An initial look at the impact was shared with the School Board at the May 26, 2020, work session. The FY21 Budget also includes COVID-19 related costs.

Key Points:

- Key components of COVID-19 costs include:
 - Engaging an environmentalist to guide us in our plans, and oversee any major needs along the way in the event of an outbreak
 - Engagement of a partner in the event of a need for COVID-19 active case cleaning.
 - Supplies and materials such as PPE, wayfinding, etc.
 - Staffing to address custodial and additional health related needs.
 - Modified technology needs.
 - Compensating staff for summer lesson planning and technology training.
- Due to the timing of property taxes, levies, and County processes, the anticipated low CPI will not impact the District's revenues until FY23.

Additional information that will come in over the summer will dictate additional needs such as busing, food service, operational guidance from ISBE and IDPH and will result in modification to the Tentative Budget that will be presented in August.

Strategic Planning: While designing a new 3-5 year strategic plan is desired, the [School Board is postponing the collaborative process that began this spring with our community.](#) We are planning to resume the comprehensive process in January 2021. As an interim step, the core group of Portrait Design team members will periodically meet this fall to refine the Profile of a Graduate. The School Board will identify streamlined annual goals for the 2020-2021 school year by August 2020.

Rationale:

- Priority attention needs to be placed on our urgent health, teaching and learning planning for the 2020-21 school year. Strategic planning requires involvement of staff, parents, students, and administration. The attention required for school-year planning during a pandemic will likely detract from key stakeholders' abilities to invest the needed time and focus on long-term planning and visioning.
- The long-term impact of the pandemic on our local, national, and global society is not yet known. Education is experiencing its own innovation and re-norming. Postponing strategic planning until January 2021 will afford the District time to examine these impacts and allow for District goals and priorities to be responsive and timely.
- A June 2021 targeted completion date will allow us to align the initiation of the next plan with the start of a school year. This timing will allow for more effective launch of the plan at the start of a school year with strategic alignment of initiatives and resources.