

Facilities Study Update:

The school district has also been working with Apex Facility Solutions the past year and a half to complete a comprehensive facilities assessment. The purpose of the study was to develop a master facility plan to reduce the district's operating costs, strategically address aging infrastructure, and improve the learning environment.

Preliminary meetings were held with staff and various community members to identify deficiencies with regard to buildings, grounds, and facility use. Following these small group discussions, a diverse group representing the demographics of the Madelia community was asked to provide additional feedback regarding their thoughts on several options for future planning in the district. These included necessary projects to bring the bathrooms, locker rooms, elevator, and educational spaces up to code and address the recommended classroom sizes per the Minnesota Department of Education. They also discussed the prospect of a remodel with addition and a new middle/high school.

After receiving the approximate cost of the hypothetical remodel plus addition or a new build, it became evident that the community could not absorb such a high tax impact. Therefore, the community group did not move forward with a recommendation to the Board of Education to begin the preliminary steps for a referendum.

At this time, the district is looking for other creative means for outside funding sources to reduce the local tax impact on any project we proceed with in the future.

The Apex reports are available for the community to review on the school website under the district tab.