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## **East Troy Schools Sends Facility Needs Letter to Parents**

EAST TROY, Wis. — The East Troy Community School District sent a letter to parents today informing them of the district's facility needs and the process that will be used to address the needs.

The letter is included below in its entirety.

Dear Parents,

In a January board meeting, the East Troy Community School Board voted unanimously to engage the community in an effort to find a sustainable solution to address the district's various facility needs.

As noted by our ad-hoc facilities committee in November of 2011, the East Troy Community School District has numerous facility needs that must be addressed (approximately \$41 million). Therefore, the question was not whether these needs should be addressed, but rather the order in which this needed to be done.

The categories of importance that the committee wanted to address were as follows: efficiency, community relations, safety and security, long-term vision, fiscal responsibility, 21<sup>st</sup>-C. learning spaces and practices, and space for art programs. The following were considered some of the core areas within these categories:

**Efficiency** – Consolidating facilities, maximizing classroom utilization, avoiding unnecessary duplication, maximizing staff, and updating facilities with new mechanics

**Community Relations** – Inviting and welcoming present families as well as families outside of East Troy

**Safety and Security** – Ensuring that all buildings have a plan for making infrastructure safe and secure

**Long-term Vision** – Ensuring that facility plans demonstrate the ability to be changed/expanded/reconfigured to align with the school's long-term vision while also allowing flexibility

**Fiscal Responsibility** – Meeting the most needs at the most reasonable price

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Spaces and Practices** – Incorporating larger classrooms and/or dedicated spaces to ensure personalized learning for each and every child that will support independent, small-group, and whole-group work, as well as collaboration amongst students, project-based learning with dirty and clean areas, and the use of digital media, mobile furnishings, etc.

**Space for Art Programs** – Securing an auditorium for both school and community use

While the district has done an outstanding job of maintaining its facilities, the age of some of our school facilities and the need to update our learning spaces mean that these facilities must undergo renovation for the district to function effectively from an efficiency and effectiveness perspective.

That being said, what are the ages of our current buildings and *some* of the specific challenges/needs?

Chester Byrnes (1939, 1951, and 1987) {current configuration – District Central Office/transitioned Early

Childhood, 4k, and 5k students to Doubek prior to the 2010–2011 school year}

- ADA issues – No elevator access to second floor, no ADA-accessible entryways, no ADA toilets or water fountains
- Electrical issues – Old wiring, panels by water sources, old PA system, insufficient electrical service to rooms and hallways, no surge protection at panels, no blueprints, etc.
- Plumbing – Sewer issues, venting for plumbing resulting in gurgling in sinks, limited hot water to administration area, rust-colored water coming from galvanized pipe area, leaks attributed to lack of dielectric fittings, old toilets (higher water consumption), unsuitable height of toilets, drinking fountains should be replaced, above-ground waste and vent piping in the 1938 and 1951 sections are problem leak areas and should be replaced, urinal sensors do not sense smaller students, etc.
- HVAC – Oversized boiler with no redundancy, 1939 additional steam coils and univents are originals, condensate tank leaks, only three offices throughout the entire building have air conditioning, use pneumatics for heating control systems (Prairie View, Middle School, and High School use digital control), June Air furnace is inefficient and parts are becoming harder to find, no blueprints, etc.
- Parquet flooring in gymnasium and classrooms is bulging and popping
- Fire alarm system is old
- Student drop-off and pick-up issues
- Asbestos
- Classrooms have no wireless Internet access, ceiling-mounted projectors, or smartboards
- Cabinetry needs to be replaced
- Furnishings need to be updated to ensure mobility and adaptability to 21<sup>st</sup>-C. learning spaces
- Attractiveness of building needs to be enhanced to retain students and attract families outside of East Troy

Doubek (1951, 1954, and 1969) {current configuration – Early Childhood, 4k, 5k, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade/ transitioned 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to Prairie View prior to the 2010–2011 school year}

- Plumbing – Sections of existing building fed by galvanized piping due to age of building (it can be assumed that there is corrosion), current water heaters do not have a water circulation system and pump, sump pump appears to be near the end of its life cycle, toilets and urinals are original from 1969 section and are not water-conserving, urinal sensors do not sense smaller students, galvanized steel water distribution piping should be replaced with new piping, kitchen water heater should be replaced and sized for the total kitchen load, etc.
- HVAC – Existing boiler plant has no reserve or backup capability and is in fair condition, boiler pilot system no longer to code, single-circulation pump (no redundancy), multi-zone unit currently providing heat and ventilation to the 1951 and 1955 sections of the building is original and in poor condition, supply ductwork contains asbestos insulation, no air conditioning in building, lavatories in 1951 section do not have forced air exchange, air-handling equipment serving 1969 addition is original and both systems are nearing life expectancy, existing building control system is pneumatic and in poor condition (Prairie View, Middle School, and High School

use digital control), return air is currently handled through the corridor space (while code compliant at the time of construction, this is no longer allowed, and any renovation would need to revise the existing return air construction, replace the existing gas-fired furnace heating and ventilating system serving the 1951 and 1954 sections, etc.)

- Electrical – Distribution system is circa 1969 and in poor condition, approximately five panels have exceeded their useful lifespan and have limited space for expansion, limited power provided to classrooms, electrical panels need surge protection, some electrical conduit pipes have too many wires, etc.
- Gymnasium/Cafeteria is inadequately sized and lacks a proper kitchen, cafeteria storage, physical education storage, etc.
- Not all classrooms have sinks
- Nurse's office lacks sinks/toilets
- Office size is inadequate
- Many classrooms are too small to support reasonable class sizes and, more importantly, to support personalized learning environments that promote quality educational practices—project-based learning, stations/centers, individual to small-group to large-group learning areas, technology, storage space, etc.
- Special education spaces have been improvised from space intended for other uses
- Drop-off and pick-up concerns
- In the library, shelving serves as half-walls outlining the space, making noise travel an issue and instruction in the library a challenge
- Furnishings need to be updated to ensure mobility and adaptability to 21<sup>st</sup>-C. learning spaces
- Attractiveness of building needs to be enhanced to retain students and attract families outside of East Troy

Prairie View (1999) {current configuration – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades}

- Electrical – Additional surge protection, generator for IT systems, LED classroom and hallway lighting, and LED lighting for parking lot need to be installed
- Storage – General lack of storage affects all disciplines/departments and needs to be addressed
- Drop-off and pick-up concerns need to be addressed
- Furnishings need to be updated to ensure mobility and adaptability to 21<sup>st</sup>-C. learning spaces

Middle School (1970 and 1993) {current configuration – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades}

- Plumbing – Grease interceptor in kitchen needs to be installed per code requirement
- Electrical – Additional surge protection, lighting control points on EMS, LED classroom and hallway lighting, LED lighting in parking lot, additional circuits in classrooms and hallways, etc. need to be installed
- HVAC – Boiler needs to be replaced by two smaller units for redundancy, redundant boiler circulation pumps need to be added, and building air flow must be balanced
- Update instructional learning space for robotics, Family and Consumer Education, and Technical Education space (Tech. Ed.) to support evolving curriculum and student safety

- Furnishings need to be updated to ensure mobility and adaptability to 21<sup>st</sup>-C. learning spaces
- Relocation of main office to have secured walk-in entrance
- Asbestos needs to be removed
- Lockers in hallways and locker rooms must be replaced
- Camera system needs to be installed
- Restrooms and locker rooms need to be remodeled/upgraded
- PA system needs to be upgraded
- Sound, lighting, lighting control, and projection system in large gathering area need to be upgraded
- Gymnasium bleachers need to be replaced
- Drop-off and pick-up concerns need to be addressed

High School (1958, 1964, 1970, 1985, and 1999) {current configurations – 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades}

- Plumbing – Grease interceptor in kitchen needs to be installed per code requirements, lavatory plumbing fixtures need to be replaced/retrofitted
- Electrical – Additional surge protection, lighting control points on EMS, LED lighting for classrooms and hallways, and LED lighting for parking lot need to be installed
- HVAC – Older AHUs and EMS system need to be replaced
- Drop-off and pick-up concerns need to be addressed
- General lack of storage affects all disciplines/departments and needs to be addressed
- Gymnasium bleachers in Gym #1 need to be replaced
- One secure entrance/exit needs to be established during the school day, with high school administrative offices being centralized
- Health room needs to be renovated to ensure privacy
- Appropriate/adequate space for band and choir rehearsals and instrument storage should be provided
- Acoustics within band and choir rooms needs to be improved
- An appropriate space for performances and presentations that has proper lighting and sound, seating, digital media, storage, etc. needs to be provided
- Weight room requires renovations to ensure student safety with larger participant numbers
- Entire tech. ed. space needs to be renovated to support evolving curriculum and student safety. Updates needed to support clean and dirty learning spaces. In addition, appropriate equipment to support programming and coursework should be provided
- Many classrooms are too small to support reasonable class sizes and, more importantly, personalized learning environments that promote quality educational practices—project-based learning, stations/centers, individual to small-group to large-group learning areas, technology, storage space, etc.
- Furnishings should be updated to ensure mobility and adaptability for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning spaces

As East Troy Community School District continues to work toward providing a personalized learning environment

that meets the needs of each learner and learning style, we realize that our methods, practices, beliefs, curriculum, and programming must evolve. We, therefore, recognize the importance of adapting our facilities to current and future educational needs that will assist us with providing this learning environment, demonstrating fiscal responsibility through efficiency and cost avoidance, and continuing to represent the importance of education to families both within and outside of our community.

Please continue to visit the East Troy Community School District webpage at [www.eastroy.k12.wi.us](http://www.eastroy.k12.wi.us) to learn more about our school district and how we continue to move toward ensuring a year to a year plus of learning growth for every child each year. Lastly, please visit <http://www.eastroy.k12.wi.us/referendum> over the next several months as we continue to update our information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher G. Hibner  
District Administrator

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