

Board to consider bond issue to meet facility challenges

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At the November 18th board meeting, the USD 329 school board will consider a bond issue that will have a major impact on the district.

"It's been a long, thought out process that started with BOE discussions regarding aging facilities that were taking a lot of budget money," superintendent Brad Starnes said. "It was hard to budget for and we didn't have the budget money to solve the problem."

Currently USD 329 is operating with five different buildings for Kindergarten through 12th grade that are spread throughout three towns. These facilities have been in the district for many years and are in need of some maintenance concerning issues such as leaking roofs and HVAC work.

"The district wants to fiscally invest as much money as possible into our students," Starnes said. "If we're having to invest big money into facilities that takes money away from investing money into our students, but you can't provide a good learning environment if the roofs continue leaking and the heaters aren't working."

HTK Architectural evaluated buildings last year and came up with a list of plans regarding possible renovations and other facility options to present to the Board of Education.

A building committee of district employees and community members was tasked with going through the proposed plans and selecting the best options. This committee landed on option number 11.

Option 11 consists of many big building changes for USD 329. These changes include closing Maple Hill Elementary and Paxico Middle School and moving Alma Elementary students. Grades Pre-K through 6 will move to the existing Junior High building in Paxico which would be rebuilt to accommodate the changes. Grades 7-8 would move to WHS.

Other changes anticipated in the new building plan include the elimination of all modular buildings in the district and resurfacing of both the high school gym floor and the gym floor at the existing junior high building.

"By providing the community with accurate factual information they can see we have problems and can help the district in how they'd like to see those problems solved," Starnes said.

The Board will vote Monday evening whether to move forward with Plan 11 and the bond. If the motion passes, the Board will have a number of steps to complete in order to stage the Special Bond Election April 7.

"When you own a vehicle and it's giving you some trouble, do you trade it and get a new/different one or do you continue fixing it until it dies," Starnes said.

"Do you put good money into deteriorating buildings? What is the most effective way to provide our students the best possible educational experience in preparing them to be successful beyond Wabaunsee Schools?"

EDITORIAL

End of second breakfast frustrates some students

As of Monday, Second Breakfast is no longer available.

There are a few reasons behind the change, principal Jan Hutley explained. "I just think it's unnecessary since we already have a first breakfast in the morning."

Initial theories for the change revolved around students being tardy to class after getting second breakfast, but this is not the case. Hutley explained that she has no intentions of bringing second breakfast back, but will alter first breakfast to make it more accessible to students. These changes include making first breakfast open

longer along and adding more a la carte options that give students the chance to buy them in the morning and eat them whenever they want throughout the day.

While second breakfast seems unnecessary to someone like Mrs. Hutley, there are many students who utilize it on a regular basis. Junior Reagan Kelley said "I think it should stay, I'm upset. I use second breakfast because I am always hungry after weights." Kelley also raised the concern of a la

carte items being more expensive than standard breakfast items. If there is no issue with tardies or any other problem that is caused

by second breakfast, what is the purpose in removing it?

Media tech Whitney Lynch gave us the usual numbers for first and second breakfast. On average, 9-12 students eat first breakfast, while 4-5 eat second breakfast. That doesn't include some students who only get a drink or an a la carte item. More students rely on it occasion-

ally, but not necessarily every day.

We understand that second breakfast was difficult to time without AB in the morning, but it was still a better choice than the vending machines which have poor and expensive options, while also being far away from most classes.

While this change is not huge, it will still impact the students that did use it, none of which were consulted about the effects of the change prior to initiating it. In the future we hope to see more student involvement in decisions that affect our daily routine.

The editorial is the opinion of the Charger staff. Send letters to the editor to whscharger@gmail.com.

VETERANS DAY

Former students, parent reflect on military service

In honor of Veterans Day, the Charger spoke with former students and community members about the challenges and benefits of military service.

NATALEE KATES, IAN CARROLL FACE CHALLENGES IN RAISING YOUNG FAMILY

All careers can put pressure on a young family, but when your job is serving the country, you don't have a choice when duty calls.

2017 graduate Natalee Kates has been married to 2014 graduate Navy Petty officer second class Ian Carroll for two years. Together they have a little boy named Easton who is about to turn one.

"The hardest thing now isn't so much that he is gone, but that he's missing a lot when it comes to Easton," Kates says, "He didn't get to see Easton crawl, hear his first words, his first steps and he will miss his first birthday."

Kates and Carroll live in Virginia Beach, 19 hours away from home, which makes it harder to travel just for fun. With their son being so young, flying is its own hardship.

"The biggest challenge is the uncertainty of everything. You can never plan for anything because something is bound to come up and change everything," Kates

said.

Ian is deployed for about three months and is currently underway right now doing IT work. He has two more of these at the end of November and beginning of December. There will be more of the short stints out at sea next year as well.

"There's never been a big or glamorous "special moment" where I went "this is all worth it". He has a job to do and we roll with the punches," Kates said. — Laurel Barber

ANGIE BARBER REFLECTS ON TIME IN NAVY

Always wanting to give credit for others work before she gives it to herself is the perfect way to describe Angie Barber. Even when she was asked to do an interview she thought of other people who she seemed more worthy than her, but still felt very honored to share her story.

Barber, the mother of WHS graduates Alissa and Luke and senior Laurel, served in the United States Navy for four years after just turning 20.



Ian Carroll, Natalee Kates and their son Easton



Angie Barber

"I decided to serve because I wanted to go to college, and being in the Navy helped pay for it," Barber said.

When Barber was in the military women were not allowed in

combat, so she had to be on a repair ship. Barber said that women were only allowed to be on repair ships or on land and that they couldn't be anywhere with combat in the area.

While in the Navy, Barber went overseas several times. Most of what she did was a WESTPAC, which is a type of deployment where a unit goes to multiple locations in a specific area. Barber was gone on a WESTPAC for six months and traveled to the Middle East.

Even though Barber wasn't allowed in combat, she was still prepared for anything to happen.

"When we were in the Middle East because there was a threat on the United States we had to walk around with our masks all the time, so if there was an attack on us we would be prepared," Barber said.

Being in the military is hard, especially when you are away from your family. Barber felt that during her four years, but also said she experienced multiple things she never thought she would.

"I got to see things I never imagined. I went to Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia," Barber said, "I saw all of the different cultures."

— Kaytlyn Meseke

AES book club installs little library

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The residents of Alma have another place to find books.

AES third grade teacher Emily Hess and the Alma Elementary Book Club decided to build a Little Library. It is located on Ohio St. between the parking lot and the high school.

"We live in an area where books are hard to access without transportation," Hess said. It offers a few more choices than what there is at the public library. Hess hopes the Little Library will help build community and show that we place value on literacy.

The first Little Library was made in 2009 by Todd Bol in Hudson, Wisconsin. Currently there is over 90,000 registered Little Libraries

and many more unregistered ones. Little Libraries are located in 91 different countries worldwide.

The cost was minimal due to the fact that Sara Alderman's parents built the Little Library and Hess painted it. Overall it cost around \$250 to install. According to Hess, the benefits of it outweigh the cost.

Hess encourages anyone to bring books to the Library for all ages. The goal is to get enough books to have a stash of them so they can be rotated.

Books for all ages are currently available from "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" and picture books to Stephen King and James Patterson.

If the library is full, readers can take the books to the Alma Elementary School office. They can also donate money to Emily Hess to buy books for the Little Library.



3rd-5th grade Book Club: Front: Conrad Cassell, Sasha Willier Middle: Tate Wenderott, Leah Alderman, J.C. Whitaker, Hadley Hajny, Graham Castillo, Maddux Weishaar, Leityn Bolinder, Hannah Ringel Back: Emily Hess, Stephanie Tharman