

To the Editor:

The Red Lodge School District and staff continuously strive for improvement and pursue new ideas to challenge our students and meet the ever-changing demands of society. One of our major goals is to ensure that our students are prepared for college, career, and life. While continuing to emphasize advanced placement and dual credit opportunities in the core academic areas, the Red Lodge School District seeks to expand its career technical curricular opportunities so that we may provide our students with the critical hands-on skills necessary for success in today and tomorrow's workforce.

With this said, the current high school facility does not adequately allow us to cover our career readiness programs of industrial arts, (automotive, construction trades, etc.) business, agriculture, and family consumer science curriculum(s). The campus also lacks sufficient parking to host our larger events.

The Red Lodge High School District is planning to run a high school bond election on May 5, 2020 for the construction of a career center aimed at expanding career readiness programs with a module based, metal fabrication, and construction trades shop, among others. The career center will include Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) classrooms designed for multiple use, allowing for cross-curricular instruction. These additions will provide more hands-on training not only for our students, but also for adults in the community seeking adult educational opportunities.

Adult education programming goals at the career center and high school campus will focus more on certificate programs (Basic Carpentry, Certified Nurse Assistant, ServSafe, Dental Assistant, etc.). Adult education currently offered at the K-8 building will still remain as there are many valuable programs already in place which enhance the community's interest in a variety of non-trade experiences.

The bond election will also call for an overhaul and upgrade of the track and field complex. This renovation will provide a venue with more multiuse components for both school and community use. The multiuse complex will allow for additional track meets, youth soccer practices/tournaments, high school practices/ games, track availability for community walking/running use, and special events, among others. It would potentially bring many visitors to Red Lodge while also supporting programs for our youth, students, and community members.

We are hopeful the opportunities provided with these additions will continue to elevate the bar for education and to establish Red Lodge as a leader of innovation across the state. We have been generously supported by our community over the years, and we are appreciative of the continued support as we move forward preparing our students for college, career, and life. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school at 446-2110 ext. 210.

John Fitzgerald  
Superintendent – Red Lodge School District #1