

ADA-BORUP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 2854
604 West Thorpe Avenue
Ada, Minnesota 56510



High School: 218-784-5300 / Elementary: 218-784-5303

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"The mission of the Ada-Borup School District is to educate and prepare all students for a successful tomorrow through academics, activities, arts and attitude."

The Ada-Borup School Board is holding a special election on November 5th. The purpose of this election is to vote on a new school building bond. The Ada-Borup School Board and Administration had been looking at the long term needs of the school building for quite some time. After multiple meetings with staff, consultants and other invested individuals the school board has come up with a tentative plan and a special election is needed for the plan to move forward.

Safety was a major concern with the configuration of the current school buildings. This project has a major emphasis on student safety. A secure front entrance is a one of the major components of the project. When anyone needs to enter the school, during school hours, after being allowed in, they would only have immediate access to the new district office. After checking in, they would then be redirected to either the elementary or the secondary wing of the building. Both wings would be accessible from the district office.

The current drop off zone was also a concern, as it is also the service delivery area. The new building would have a special service delivery area and would be completely out of the way from the student drop off zone. The student drop off zone would also be renovated and safer.

Currently staff members do not have the ability to get in any door of the building when they are outside. There may be times when safety is a concern and staff and students need to get back into the building immediately. This project would provide door access controls at all exterior doors where staff would have the ability to enter the building.

The Elementary wing of the school is also in need of expansion and remodeling of current spaces. This project will allow for four additional classrooms to be built off the elementary wing. These rooms would potentially be used for a third section of specific classes, specialty classroom space, and special education space.

The project will also remodel the current Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten area. Two classroom would be similar in size, and there would be a specific area for all students and parents to enter, rather than using the hallways for locker space.

The current elementary office area will also receive a remodel as special education rooms need to be remodeled. There is also the need for additional staff space to accommodate the increase in staff members.

The major component of this project is the addition of a large multi-purpose space. There are many factors that go into the need for this additional space. Currently we have classes that do not receive enough physical education class time during the school day, because we do not have the space. Students need physical education; not only for their physical needs, but to also help stay focused in other educational areas as well. During the winter months, indoor recess happens more often than we would like. Along with phy-ed students need recess to be able to burn off energy and help them remain focused for the remainder of the day. With indoor recess, we currently are lacking the space to allow students to accomplish this. A new multi-purpose facility would allow students to get that needed time and space for recess.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ada-Borup Board of Education
Dena Bishop – Janna Engel – Nancy Merkens
Gretchen Rockstad – Blair Stoltman – Mick Thompson

The current lunchroom is also becoming very crowded. The district would like to explore moving some lunch periods back into the current elementary gym to help with the overcrowding. The only way this could be accomplished would be if there was additional multi-purpose space available during the school day.

Additional multi-purpose space would also be a benefit to many other school and community groups. Currently groups find it very difficult to be able to use the main or elementary gym after hours or on weekends as there are many activities taking place. Additional space would help with this issue and provide more opportunities for these groups to find the space they need.

All of the previously mentioned areas would be covered by the bond voted on in the special election. The school will be contributing funds to help with some of the new addition and renovation costs. There are additional areas of need the school will be contributing funds for. With the current district office moving, the school would cover any costs needed for equipment or renovations for the existing district office area. The current plan would be to use the area for our new intervention program and for small group breakout space. The school is also looking at ways to add breakout space to the current media center to provide students with additional areas for small group learning. The school would also be responsible for any costs needed to help move lunch into the current elementary gymnasium.

The total proposed cost of the new addition and renovation is \$9,978,694. The school is asking voters to approve a \$9,000,000 bond. The school would utilize a \$500,000 safety grant from the state, and then be responsible for the remaining costs.

The Ag to school credit is very important to our district. With around 85% of our net tax capacity being agricultural land, we receive a large portion of our funding from our agricultural community. Before the credit, the bond would have had an impact of \$3.46 per acre valued at \$3500. The credit is currently at 40% and will increase to 70% by 2023. In 2023 the total tax impact on the same \$3500 value per acre, will be \$0.97. What this means for our district is over \$5.2 Million of this project will be paid for by the State of Minnesota rather than with local taxpayer funds. There will be a tax impact calculator available soon on the school website.

We understand that asking you to vote to raise your taxes is difficult, but we are asking you to put students and their current needs first. We are trying to provide the best learning environment for all students and setting them up to succeed now and into the future. The school appreciates the time and effort that our community puts forth for the school. We are asking you to help us continue to be the top school district in the area and to help us grow into the future. We will be setting up community meetings, and will be getting those dates out shortly. There will also be school leaders attending other community group meetings to go over the project and answer questions you may have. If anyone has any questions or comments at the moment, please contact Aaron Cook, acook@ada.k12.mn.us

Thank you
Aaron Cook