



# GIANTS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS

2022-2023

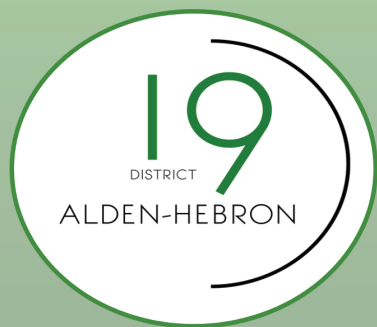


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From the Desk of  
the  
Superintendent



Superintendent  
Tiffany Elswick

## COMMUNITY NEWS



**You Are Invited!**

### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL CORN ROAST**

All families, staff, & community are invited to kick off the 2022-2023 school year with our annual community corn roast!

***Please join us for an evening of FUN!***

Everyone who attends will receive FREE ADMISSION to the football and volleyball game.

🌽 **Friday** 🌽 **Aug. 19th** 🌽 **4:30 PM - 7:00 PM** 🌽



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

The District 19 Board of Education meets monthly (every third Wednesday) at the elementary building @ 7pm. Links to meeting agendas, minutes, dates and more can be found on the District 19 website.

## IMPORTANT DATES

August 16- Open House

August 17- First Day of Student Attendance

August 19- Community Corn Roast

September 5- Holiday (Labor Day)

September 16- Homecoming



815.648.2442



9604 Illinois St. Hebron, IL 60034

# FACILITIES PLANNING

**Board of Education concludes long-range facilities planning; considers approximate \$15.5 million project for the November 2022 ballot.**

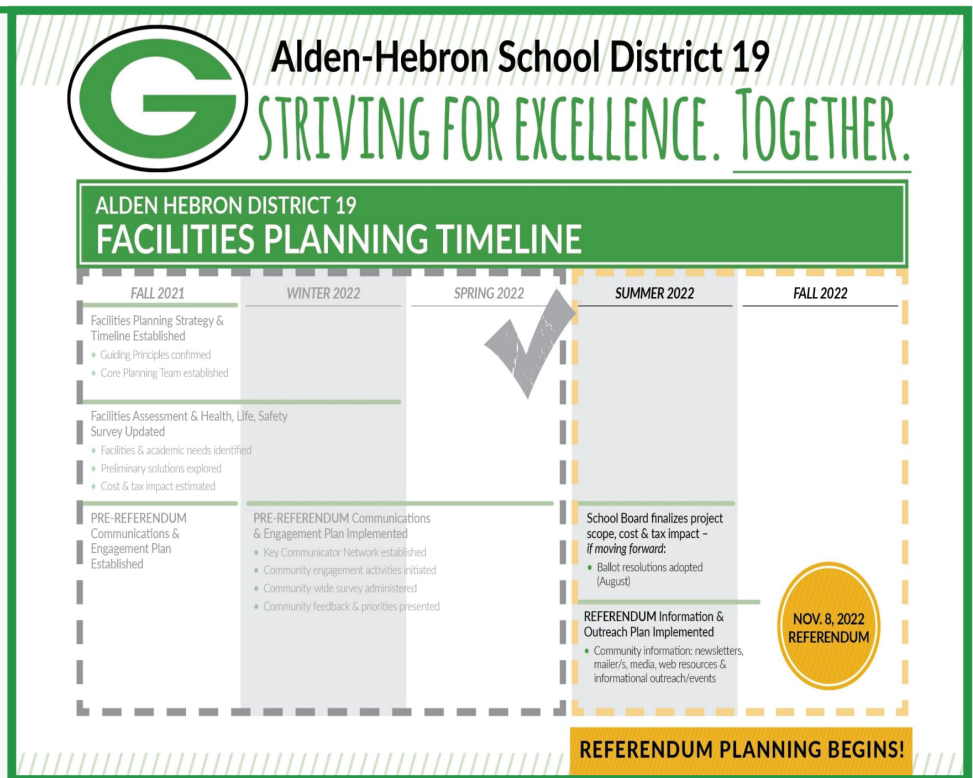
The AH19 Board of Education resumed long-range facilities planning in fall 2021 with a focus to resolve critical concerns at the district's century-old Middle/High School. At the direction of the Board, administrators worked with architects, engineers, and school planners to assess facilities, develop a comprehensive list of capital maintenance and educational needs, and explore the cost and tax impacts for a range of solutions. Options to address critical infrastructure, accessibility (ADA), safety & security, and learning environments were studied. The preliminary cost range for potential solutions, including the construction of a new Middle/High School, were estimated at \$7 million to \$49 million.

The district's planning efforts concluded with a formal presentation of community engagement work and feedback on June 15, 2022. This report provides objective data to guide the Board's final evaluation of the long-range capital maintenance plan and opportunity to address a portion of the \$32 million of identified needs for existing schools. "The need for practical solutions with a conservative lens on cost was confirmed through our community work and by the Board as they debated possible solutions. Their work recognizes broad interest to invest in schools and to the best of our ability, preserve district assets," stated Superintendent, Tiffany Elswick.

Following the comprehensive facilities planning process, and significant effort to engage the community in the work, the Board will finalize a recommendation by early August. If a facilities project is approved by a majority of the Board, ballot resolutions will be adopted - allowing for a community vote in the November 2022 general election. "The final recommendation will be defined by input from our community and will align with our shared values and common concern to preserve the opportunities afforded to our children and community through our schools," stated school board member, Brandon Berg.

The district is working in tandem to develop a comprehensive information and outreach plan to inform the community of the recommendation for project scope, cost, and estimated tax impacts. Information will be provided late summer following Board action to finalize a plan and approve ballot resolutions.

[www.alden-hebron.org](http://www.alden-hebron.org)



**To learn more about community engagement activities and outcomes noted on the Facilities Planning Timeline, visit [alden-hebron.org](http://alden-hebron.org):**

- Strategic Facilities Plan Development (October 2021)
- Facilities Assessment & Option Development - Board Workshops (March - June 2022)
- Staff Workshop (January 2022)
- Community Listening Sessions (February 2022)
- Community Workshop (April 2022)
- Community Survey & Feedback Presentation (June 2022)

# FEEDBACK MATTERS.

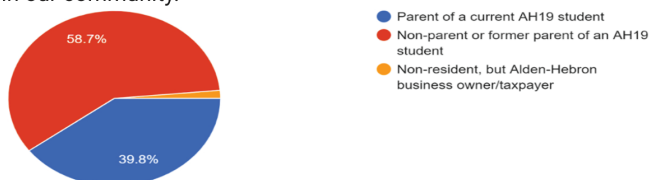
Community survey provides key data to Board:



Thank you to all community members who participated in the spring 2022 Community Survey. Your input informed the refinement of projects and further clarified priorities for facilities improvements and funding level support. Total survey participation reflected a 38% increase over 2019.

## KEY FACTS:

Nearly **60%** of all respondents were “non-parents or former parents,” suggesting strong engagement from the non-parent, majority base in our community.



## FUNDING SUPPORT:

**59%** of resident respondents support a \$15.4 million project; nearly **44%** support up to a \$19.9 million project; and **25%** support up to a \$24.5 million project.



## NEXT STEPS:

- Board finalizes project scope and approves ballot resolutions
- Information & Outreach Plan developed
- Information sharing and outreach begins with all-resident mailing of the Referendum Fact Sheet and key dates for community presentations (early September – November)

## TOP PRIORITIES for facilities improvements include:



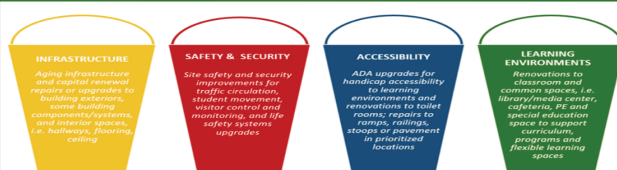
#1 Infrastructure upgrades including mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems; roof repairs/replacements, and repairs to the building envelope

#2 Safety & security improvements to provide controlled access/entry and improvements to fire & alarm safety systems

#3 Classroom & core learning space improvements to provide safe access to power, improved lighting and upgraded science/lab space

#4 Accessibility & ADA upgrades to allow access through the secured main entrance, access to all learning/common spaces and 2nd floor of the building, and restrooms

### Facilities Assessment | Categories of Need



Projects identified in the Facilities Assessment and considered for the November referendum include repairs and upgrades addressing four key categories of need.

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact Superintendent Elswick at [telswick@ah19.org](mailto:telswick@ah19.org) or 815.648.2442



ALDEN-HEBRON SCHOOL DISTRICT 19

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK PRESENTATION  
(Pre-Referendum Facilities Planning)  
June 15, 2022

To learn more, visit [alden-hebron.org](http://alden-hebron.org)

(click on the **FACILITIES PLANNING** tab).



# ELEMENTARY NEWS

## Small School, Giant Dreams



My first year at Alden-Hebron Elementary School was a dream come true. I am very happy to announce that our very own "Dream Team" as I call them (our staff) is returning with some very welcome editions. This year we welcome Mr. Mason Vetter in 2nd grade (alongside Miss Taugner) who has two years experience teaching 3rd grade in Freeport, Illinois. We also welcome first year teacher Jessica Newton (with Mrs. Walters) who just graduated from Illinois State University. The decision was made to split Kindergarten into two full sections this year, so we welcomed Paula Young to teach with Mrs. Fallon in the other section. Paula has 17 years experience and taught at Alden-Hebron before having children of her own. Elizabeth Stroh comes to us from Wisconsin-Whitewater to teach art this year. Last but definitely not least, the search for a social worker is over! Brittany Schultz accepted the position even though there was stiff competition for her services. Brittany comes with a wealth of experience from the Arizona public schools and we are lucky to have her. The Dream Team is complete!

Year two will have many exciting changes, but we are also moving forward with what has been working well for us. Monthly family nights will continue led by our fantastic PTO! We have an amazing RTI system that has been designed to catch students up and fill in those gaps the pandemic created that will continue. We are also very proud of the hard work our students and staff put in with growth mindset this year, and it's not going away. Next year we are adding a 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Student Council led by second year teachers, Miss Prus and Miss Foster. We also have a new Instructional Coach, Mrs. Colleen Geils who will be helping to lead the effort of teacher collaboration and data driven decision making. From the research I have done, collective teacher efficacy (teachers working together fed by the evidence of their impact) is the greatest single action a school can take to ensure building growth. We are so excited to see this in action and see our school become a true Professional Learning Community (PLC)!

Thank you so much for your support through my first year here as a principal. They say it takes a village, and I say we have a great one at Alden-Hebron! We can not achieve our goals here at the elementary school without your support. Have a great summer!



**Mr. Eric Slocum**  
**Elementary School Principal**

Email: [eslocum@ah19.org](mailto:eslocum@ah19.org)  
Phone: 815-648-2442 Ext. 1527



# A GIANT WELCOME TO:



**Aaron T. Butler**  
**Principal**  
**Middle School/High School**

*abutler@ah19.org*  
*815.648.1676*

Greetings Alden-Hebron Families and Faculty,

With great excitement, I am writing this letter to you as the newly appointed middle and high school principal of the Alden-Hebron School District. I am excited and honored to share my passion for student learning with the Alden-Hebron learning community. I have heard so many wonderful things already, so I can't wait to work side by side with all of you to empower students in reaching their potential for being lifelong learners.

Who am I ... I fell in love with the impact that an educator has on students when I was a teenager, thanks to one of my teachers who was also my coach. My first seven years of teaching were in a Junior/ Senior High gymnasium and classroom teaching physical education and health. Following my time in the classroom, I have spent the past thirteen years as an assistant principal in high schools and most recently in a middle school. In every school I have worked with, I have taken great pleasure in inspiring students to have a voice and empowering students and staff to take action in developing their creative thinking to improve the world around them.

My educational background includes a bachelor's degree from Saint Joseph's College in secondary education and a Master's Degree from Concordia University in educational leadership. For the past five years, I have been working intentionally in building my own capacity in the area of curriculum and instruction. Focusing on the development of curriculum and the implementation of best practices in instruction has allowed me to help support students and staff in their own learning.

When I think of my leadership, I think of service. As the Principal, I will think of our learning community when making decisions. I will think of how I SERVE... Students and the Entire Learning Community.

I look forward to meeting everyone and beginning our partnership in developing a passion for learning and focusing on what the learning community needs!!

Sincerely,  
 Aaron T. Butler  
 Principal Middle School/High School

*My Professional  
 Vision...*

*I am excited to  
 continue the great  
 work already  
 happening in the  
 Alden-Hebron School  
 District.*



*I am a strong  
 believer in service. It  
 is often said that  
 when we seek to  
 find out what is  
 missing from our  
 lives, we find it to  
 be; service to  
 others.*

*I am fortunate to  
 have a career where  
 I am able to give  
 unwavering support  
 and problem solve  
 through  
 collaboration to  
 make decisions  
 based on what is  
 best for the  
 students in our  
 learning community.*





# CONGRATULATIONS GIANTS!



## 8TH GRADE

**Congratulations to the Alden-Hebron Middle School  
8th Grade students who are moving up to high school!**



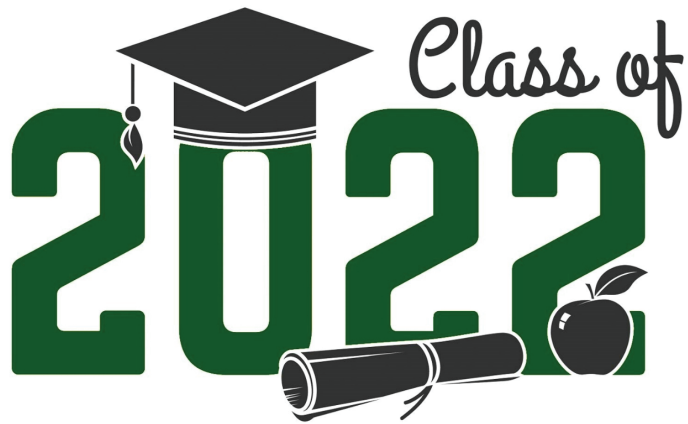
## 5TH GRADE



**Congratulations to  
the Alden-Hebron  
5th Grade  
students who are  
moving up to  
middle school!**



# CONGRATULATIONS



**Congratulations to the Alden-Hebron District 19 graduates who are well on their way towards a bright future! We recognize your accomplishments, appreciate your resilience, and are proud to have been part of your educational journey.**







# DISTRICT 19 SPOTLIGHT



## MEMORIAL DAY ★ 2022 ★



*On the occasion of  
Memorial Day,  
let us remember and honor  
the sacrifices of the  
hundreds of men and  
women who gave their lives  
for our great country.*

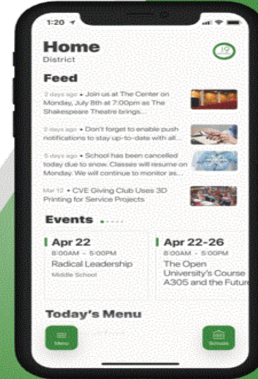




# OUR MOBILE APP HAS BEEN UPDATED!

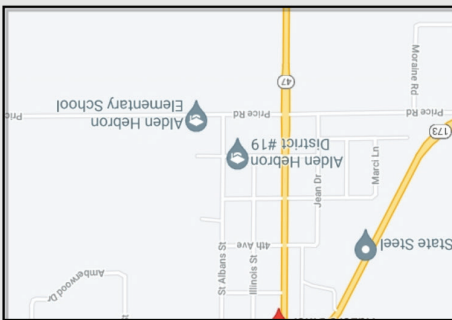
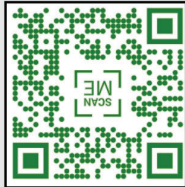
It's everything Alden-Hebron,  
**in your pocket.**

Documents · Events · Staff Directory · Alerts · News



Catch up with the latest student stories, events, and news updates. It's everything Alden-Hebron, in your pocket. If you haven't already, download the app today. As a note, this new update does not require you to re-download the app - it updates automatically, so long as you choose to have your apps update automatically.

Alden-Hebron District 19  
11915 Price Rd  
Hebron, IL 60034  
Phone: (815) 648-2442



Alden-Hebron School District 19, in partnership with our community, will educate and inspire our students to reach their individual potential enabling them to be responsible members of society.

**Our Mission Statement**



**Alden-Hebron School District 19**  
**STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE. TOGETHER.**

