

School District of Ashland

Press Release

October 20, 2015

For immediate release

Call the superintendent, Dr. Keith Hilts, with questions at 682-7080.

### **School Board Gets an Update on the District's Facility Study**

The School District of Ashland's facility study is progressing as planned. The District is completing a thorough review of all aspects of its operations and educational practices. On October 12, 2015, John Powers with Applied Insights North, presented information regarding the current and future student enrollments for the Ashland Public Schools. The information was reviewed by the School Board and district administration. Applied Insights North has worked with many school districts to help them better understand the current and future issues that impact student enrollment. Gaining a better understanding of enrollment trends and the local and state economic issues that impact our school district is an important step in the overall process in making the best decisions for our district and community.

Outlined here are the key points outlined through the demographic study:

- The enrollment in Ashland Public schools is predicted to remain fairly flat for the next decade or more.
- It is unknown what impact, if any, the three charter schools in grades 3-12 might have on student enrollment.

On that same day, Greg Repensky, an Educational Consultant with FJJ, shared the results of the Educational Adequacy assessment of the district he had conducted.

What is Educational Adequacy? Educational Adequacy is a complete analysis of a school building focusing on how our facilities stack up to today's 21<sup>st</sup> century education standards for teaching and learning. 18 different categories were analyzed. Items such as classroom size, security, technology, science classrooms, parent and bus drop off are just a few examples of items that were analyzed for each of the 5 district educational facilities.

These categories are based upon current district use, Department of Education guidelines, anticipated future needs and most importantly input from our Ashland educational staff.

While much of our district is in great shape and meet or exceed guidelines, here are a couple of the key points from the study for us to consider addressing.

### ***Marengo Elementary School***

- Marengo Valley currently has several multi-use spaces including the cafeteria, music and art areas. We may look at adding space for specialized purposes.

### ***Lake Superior Primary and Intermediate Elementary Schools***

- There is interest in adding learning space at the elementary schools and in moving to 1:1 learning technology.

### ***Ashland Middle School***

- Expanding class space and storage and looking at the suitability of our career and technical education spaces.

### ***Ashland High School***

- There is interest in enhancing the interior space at the high school, adding a field house and possibly 1:1 learning technology.

Please view the entire Demographic Assessment results and the Educational Adequacy Assessment results as well as other information on the district webpage at [www.Ashlandschoolslongrangeplan.com](http://www.Ashlandschoolslongrangeplan.com)

As we evaluate this data and much more through this planning process, it continues to give us a much better picture of what actions we need to take for Ashland Schools to continue to strive for *Excellence in Education*.

We are close to wrapping up both our community ‘listening sessions’ and a facility needs assessment of our facilities. We will hold another open invitation session for all interested community members on October 28 at 6pm in the Ashland District Office at 2000 Beaser Avenue. We look forward to sharing this information with you. In addition, we are looking for community members interested in serving on our community task force as we continue our long range planning process. So please let me know if you are interested in serving. As always, please contact me any time via phone call (682-7080) or e-mail (khilts@sdak12.net) and I will address your questions and concerns.