



To our Panther teachers, staff, families, and community members:

The holiday season is upon us, and even in these challenging times, there's much to be thankful for in our district – starting with you. We have come a long way this year, and I appreciate your continued support.

I want to share an update regarding school facility planning. On Nov. 30, board members reflected on the Nov. 3 referendum, which lost by 112 votes, and discussed the possibility of going back to voters in spring of 2021.

As we decide how to move forward, the school board is keeping these considerations in mind:

1. Students and staff need buildings that support today's education.
2. Area employers need graduates ready to meet the demands of the modern workforce.
3. Local taxpayers deserve the best value for their dollars, and interest rates are currently very low.

Last year, our district began an important community conversation about the long-term needs of our students and our schools. We're still engaged in that discussion, and as I talk with and listen to residents, it's obvious that people care about our district's future. We want to keep the conversation going and build on that momentum.

The school board could propose a referendum to voters in April or May of 2021, and will make a final decision in December or January. In the meantime, I'd welcome any feedback or questions you have. Please share your thoughts by contacting me at 218-237-6501 or lbagstad@parkrapids.k12.mn.us.

Thank you,

Lance Bagstad
Superintendent