

USD 220 PRESS RELEASE

Unified School District #220 - Ashland-Englewood Public Schools

Capital Campaign & Facility Improvements

It is with much excitement and anticipation that I write to update our patrons in the Ashland-Englewood School District.

A brief look back to the beginning of the project during the 2016-2017 school year, USD 220 contracted with Johnson Controls to conduct a facility needs study which involved a review of both the structural and mechanical needs at the Jr-Sr High School and Elementary School. At the conclusion of the study, USD 220 was presented with several options and needs of the district. The total projected cost for all projects totaled \$2,708,547. With costs exceeding expectations, the board requested further data to identify where to begin. With the additional information, the board narrowed the scope of the project based on building usage, the age of equipment, and identifying the greatest need. Ultimately, this led to the current facility upgrades being conducted at the Jr-Sr High School. These upgrades include replacing the original boiler system (1962) in the building with a new heating and air conditioning system (VRF or Variable Refrigerant Flow System). This will, for the first time provide the district with a building that has central heat/air conditioning in all the classrooms, library, cafeteria, shop, and gym. The second project accompanying the boiler replacement includes installation of high-efficiency windows and replacing all of the original outside panels.

To fund the project, USD 220 was fortunate to receive a \$1,728,724 loan at 0% interest for 15-years. Additionally, USD 220 has begun a capital campaign project to raise funds to bridge the gap between the project cost and secured funding. To date, USD 220 has raised \$158,725 through direct donations and pledges from 32 different individuals, families, and/or organizations. The district is still looking to secure an additional \$86,988 to cover the projected cost gap. In addition to the individual donations, USD 220 has been in contact with the Ashland Community Foundation, Clark County Commission, Clark County Sheriff's Office, and has written several other grants to fund the project. Our latest efforts include writing a tax credit application in order to raise additional funds for facility improvements. Many of these requests are still pending consideration and/or approval.

The project continues today, with the installation of the new VRF units in the classrooms, hallways, and throughout the building. The new windows and panels will soon be next. USD 220 will continue its commitment to maintaining and improving our structural foundation including, buildings, operating systems, technology, and transportation needs, as best we can, with the funds we currently generate through state funding and our local option budget. However, it is vital to continue to raise funds through our capital campaign in order to keep our Capital Outlay mill rate at its current level.

The importance of these upgrades cannot be overemphasized. As a small, rural, and agricultural community and school, we must continue to move forward and look towards the utilization of

Mr. Jamie Wetig, Ed.S.
Superintendent

our facilities beyond the scope of the classroom. Looking back to March 6th, 2017, we transformed our building from a school to an emergency shelter during the Starbuck Fire. We housed over 100 firefighters during this tragic event and provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner for our emergency workers, volunteers, and many community members. We became a central hub for donations and services. Afterward, we hosted several community meetings pertaining to the fire as well as the annual all-faiths service. Our small school is not just a place for students, it is a vital component of the community.

Ultimately, we are responsible for being good stewards of our facilities and resources on behalf of the community to ensure we can provide for the future educational needs of our students and community.

Please consider giving a tax-deductible donation to our USD 220 Capital Improvement Campaign. You can contact the school, 620-635-2220 or send an email to, jwetig@usd220.net for further information.

Thank you,
Mr. Jamie Wetig, Ed.S.
Superintendent of USD 220

Proposed Replacement Windows & Panels



VRF Units in Classroom



Mr. Jamie Wetig, Ed.S.
Superintendent