



## Bismarck Public Schools

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DA: October 2011  
TO: Parents/Guardians  
FR: Tamara Uselman, Superintendent

**Our community is growing and changing.** This year, Bismarck Public Schools saw 200 additional students register for classes than the previous year. That's more students than are currently enrolled in some of our smaller schools.

At this critical time, the Bismarck School Board has hired a top national consulting firm to do a **Facilities Master Plan and assessment of all of our school buildings.** DLR/J2 will explore:

- Physical condition & lifespan of school buildings.
- Efficiency (*number of students to run a school efficiently and effectively*).
- Location of existing schools and potential boundary changes.
- Possibly changing the present grade configuration to K-5 to alleviate crowding at elementary schools, OR creating kindergarten centers so elementary schools are Gr. 1-6.
- Maybe moving 9<sup>th</sup> graders into high schools and possibly building another senior high.
- Building new schools, adding to existing schools, and/or closing or reusing some schools.

**Here is the timetable for this important work: (SEE SCHEDULE ON THE BACK!)**

Sept.	School Board decides the scope of the project with the consultant.
Oct-Nov.	Physical plant assessment of each school.
Late Nov.	1 <sup>st</sup> school meeting to explain the process to parents/community.
Dec. 12	Present solutions/options to the School Board.
Early Jan.	2 <sup>nd</sup> school meeting to get input on options/solutions from parents/community.
Late Jan.	3 <sup>rd</sup> & final school meeting with parents/community on revised options/solutions.
Feb. 13	Present recommendations to the School Board for consideration and adoption.
March	School Board budget talks begin.

All parents and local residents are welcome to attend these school meetings. Some parents will specifically be asked to make a commitment to attend to ensure all schools are represented.

We want you in the loop! Please follow this important facilities planning process online at [www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org), through school newsletters, via local news media, or by watching School Board meetings live at 5:15 pm on Cable Channel 2 on Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Nov. 28, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Jan. 17\*, Jan. 23, Feb. 13, Feb. 27, Mar. 12, & Mar. 26. (\* Jan. 17 is a special board meeting; additional meetings may be added if needed.)

Thank you for your interest in the BPS master facilities planning process that may change the shape of our school district for years to come!

<b>Parent Meetings</b>	<b>WHO/WHAT</b>	<b>DAY/DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
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**Elementary #1:** *BECEP, Centennial, Miller, Pr. Rose, Sunrise, Moses, Riverside, & W-Moore.*

Consultants discuss process/gather input		<b>Tue., Nov. 29</b>	5:30-6:45 pm	at Simle
Consultants discuss options/gather input		<b>Tue., Jan. 10</b>	5:30-6:45 pm	at Horizon
Consultants share recommendations & gather final input before take to School Bd.		<b>Mon., Jan. 30</b>	5:30-6:45 pm	at Horizon

**Elementary #2:** *Murphy, Roosevelt, Pioneer, Grimsrud, Highland Acres, Northridge, Myhre, Saxvik, & Solheim.*

Consultants discuss process/gather input		<b>Tue., Nov. 29</b>	7:00-8:15 pm	at Simle
Consultants discuss options/gather input		<b>Tue., Jan. 10</b>	7:00-8:15 pm	at Horizon
Consultants share recommendations & gather final input before take to School Bd.		<b>Mon., Jan. 30</b>	7:00-8:15 pm	at Horizon

**Secondary only:** *Horizon, Simle, Wachter, BHS, CHS, SCHS, & Career Academy.*

Consultants discuss process/gather input		<b>Mon., Nov. 28</b>	7:00-8:15 pm	at Simle
Consultants discuss options/gather input		<b>Mon., Jan. 9</b>	7:00-8:15 pm	at Horizon
Consultants share recommendations & gather final input before take to School Bd.		<b>Tue., Jan. 31</b>	7:00-8:15 pm	at Horizon

**Directions:**

Simle Middle School is located in NE Bismarck near Hillside Park, 1215 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

On-street parking is available around the school, as well as the NE parking lot.

Horizon Middle School is located in NW Bismarck off Washington St., 500 Ash Coulee Dr.

Parking is available in front of the school or near the gym on the east side.

**NOTE:**

While the meetings will concentrate on the schools listed above, they are PUBLIC MEETINGS, and any member of the community is invited to participate: non-parents, senior citizens, business leaders, parents of preschoolers, etc. School Board members and district administrators will be in attendance, as well.

**BPS STAFF:**

There will be 2 separate meetings for Bismarck Public School employees on Monday, Dec. 12 at 3:30-4:30 pm OR from 7-8 pm, both at Horizon.

**Questions:**

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Darin Scherr, Director of Facilities and Transportation, 701-323-4500, or [darin\\_scherr@bismarckschools.org](mailto:darin_scherr@bismarckschools.org). Meeting information will also be posted at [www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org).