



DECORAH

Community School District

LEARNING - THRIVING - CREATING OUR LEGACY

In the past 20 years, the Decorah Community School District has built a middle school and renovated the high school and Carrie Lee Elementary School. It's now time to turn our attention to the youngest students in our district.

Our community will consider three ballot measures this fall that, if approved by voters on September 10 and November 5, will result in the construction of a new facility to replace John Cline Elementary and West Side Early Childhood Center.

Since 2012, the DCSD Board of Education, administration, architects, engineers, and others have examined these facilities and explored options for renovation or replacement of John Cline and West Side. The consensus is that investing funds in these schools is not a practical or cost-effective option for providing elementary students, teachers, and staff with a 21st century learning environment.



Scan the QR code or visit www.decorahcsdfuture.org for more information.

The Board of Education has actively studied the needs of John Cline Elementary School and West Side Early Childhood Center since 2012.

2012

July 16: Board tours JCE with a focus on climate control systems.

Aug. 13: Discussion of JCE, WSE, and new facility options.

2013

May 13: Elementary facility assessment completed by StruXture Architects. Four facility options presented to the board.

Nov. 11: Board discussed holding public meetings, conferring with shareholders.

2014

Jan. 13: Shareholders Elementary Facilities Committee presented three options to the board: Update mechanical and electrical systems (\$3 million estimate) at both schools, remodel buildings (\$9 million), or construct a new school (\$13 million).

April 28: City and School District workshop held. Parties discuss possible collaboration for a new facility.

June 9: The board directs former Supt. Mike Haluska to contact StruXture Architects to proceed with new facility.

2015

Oct. 12: Discussion of JCE's air handling system and the high cost for replacing it. The board invited KCL Engineering to a future meeting.

Nov. 9: Discussion of JCE and WSE climate control systems. StruXture Architects estimate the cost for air conditioning to be \$730,000.

Dec. 14: Discussion of JCE, WSE, and utilizing IASB for an assessment.

2016

Jan. 20: During a discussion of JCE and WSE, the board stated that the facility issue is "emotional and complicated," and scheduled a tour and timeline for the North Winneshiek facility.

Feb. 17: Discussion of the North Winneshiek facility occurs and the board's consensus is to proceed with a new facility. A survey was distributed for JCE and WSE faculty and staff.

March 14: Shareholders recommend that the board pursue construction of a new elementary school.

Aug. 15: The board discusses the City of Decorah's decision not sell property to the district. New locations will be explored.

Oct. 10: Possible sites were reviewed with no alternative options settled upon due to various infrastructure challenges.

2023

Jan. 9: Elementary facilities discussion leads the board to schedule a Jan. 23 work session with the City of Decorah to discuss locations for a new school.

Jan. 23: Board members meet with the Decorah City Council and hear a presentation of the North Alley District Master Plan by Bolton & Menk. The firm recommends a downtown school location.

Oct. 2: The board approves the purchase of land owned by the City of Decorah for \$1.97 million. The parcel is west of the JCE campus on the Heivly Island.