

WEST CENTRAL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

⇒ Why was the master planning process initiated?

The West Central School District is blessed with steady and manageable growth. And, as detailed in the master planning document, the Hartford Elementary, Humboldt Elementary, Middle School and High School are operating at functional capacity. We are full. It is a fundamental duty of the board to plan and prepare for future growth.

⇒ Who performed the master plan?

The master plan was conducted, completed and submitted by CO-OP Architecture.

⇒ What was included in the master planning process?

The master planning process involved multiple visits, interviews and input sessions from a variety of sources. Hartford Elementary staff, Humboldt Elementary staff, Middle School staff, High School staff, administrative staff, two board members, co-curricular staff, maintenance staff, custodial staff, food service staff and transportation staff each were included in “user groups”. Each group was asked to look critically at and respond to current conditions, identify needs, strengths and areas of improvement. Each of those categories were then ranked in regard to importance and possible incorporation into the final master plan recommendation. CO-OP also reviewed our mechanical and electrical systems.

⇒ When was the master planning process performed?

The master planning process began in the spring of 2021 and finished with a final recommendation in February of 2022.

⇒ What was the final recommendation?

It is important to specify that the final master plan document is simply a recommendation. Also of note is that this is a recommendation of an architectural firm with years of experience and expertise serving school districts and communities through the building and design process.

The final recommendation of CO-OP Architecture includes two phases. Phase-one is near-term and recommends remodeling and expanding the existing Hartford Elementary. Phase-two is longer-term planning and includes two options. These are just two options that accommodate growth from the areas of the West Central School District that are also within the boundaries of Sioux Falls, Ellis and Wall Lake. These future considerations all include the maintaining of a solid building presence in Humboldt for students and utilizes the district’s investments made in Humboldt Elementary.

⇒ What are the next steps in the master planning process?

The district is moving forward with phase one of the master plan recommendation to expand Hartford Elementary. The board of education will be updated on the progress at each monthly, regularly scheduled board meeting. Phase two is not a current reality. It is dependent upon continued growth, speed of growth, location of growth and a multitude of other considerations. Because of these factors, the board will not take action on phase two at this time.

⇒ How will phase one be paid for?

Phase one will be paid for by issuing capital outlay certificates. These certificates will not raise taxes for our district taxpayers. State law does not allow for a public vote when a district issues capital outlay certificates that are under 1.5% of the district's assessed valuation.

⇒ What are the projected start dates/ completion dates?

Look for monthly updates at the regularly scheduled board meetings.