



March 15, 2024

Dear Center Cass Families -

Many thanks to each of you attending student conferences, events, and performances. Your expectations and support helps us grow your child while they are here. Also, many thanks to Team 66 and those who donate to the foundation, you help make our school a better place for everyone! Below are a few District updates that may interest you:

We have started significant updates to our safety and security systems. Those enhancements are included in the [March BOE meeting News Release](#). While updates were definitely needed, safety and security systems alone are not enough. We need to continue to prepare for emergencies and teach our students "if you see something, say something" when something doesn't seem right. Appreciate you reinforcing that concept at home.

Aside from the safety and security work above, the district is developing a five year plan to accomplish the work identified in District 66's state approved Health, Life, Safety Plan. The work in the plan is the same work that was shared with the community during the referendum process. In an effort to address the safety concerns outlined by architects and engineers, we plan to issue debt certificates and use a portion of the money generated from the referendum to pay back the debt certificate. Thus, no additional referendum is needed. We appreciate the additional dollars from the community.

The debt certificate would likely range somewhere between \$12,500,000-\$18,500,000. The lower end of the debt certificate is necessary to complete the \$12,500,000 of Health Life Safety work, the upper end of the debt certificate at \$18,500,000 would be used to address the Health Life Safety work and space concerns in the District. Space concerns could be addressed by adding five to six additional classrooms to the District, costing another \$6,000,000, which when added to the \$12,500,000, gives you the upper range of the certificate. The Board will continue to analyze and discuss the pros and cons of each option before any decision is made.

We value, encourage, and welcome volunteers. Our schools are not the same without you. The world is changing, and so are policies and recommendations around volunteers. Volunteers helping inside the school around school employees just need to go through regular office procedures. If a volunteer is ever alone with children at school or on a field trip, the volunteer must have a full background check, including fingerprinting. These procedures are in alignment with High School District 99.

Just a reminder, we have an early dismissal on Tuesday, March 19, and then Spring Break from March 25, 2024-April 1, 2024. School will resume on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely -

Andrew S. Wise - Superintendent of Schools