

A recommendation to the Decorah Community School District Board of Directors from the Decorah Shareholders, Monday, July 19, 2010.

The Decorah Community School District Shareholders have completed a two year evaluation of district facilities. This process started in September of 2008 and concluded in May of 2010. The Shareholder's Committee is presenting a petition to the Decorah Community School District Board of Directors, Monday, July 19, 2010 at a special board session. The petition is requesting the Board to call a special election on September 14, 2010 of the voters in the district to authorize to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in the amount not to exceed \$10,405,000 to provide funds to construct additions to, remodel, improve, furnish and equip the current high school building and improve the site. In addition we request renewal of the PPEL (Physical Plan and Equipment Levy) on the same ballot.

- The mission of the Decorah Shareholders is to make recommendations and support educational improvement for the Decorah Community School District and its Board of Directors. Shareholders provide an open forum on issues that support and sustain a quality educational environment.
- Shareholder members from 2008-2010 involved in the District Facility Evaluation: Craig Rabe (co-chair), Jeff Olinger (co-chair), Markus Burggraf, Chami DeLong, Julie Goedken, Tony Gossman, Robin Hines, John Hjelle, Randy Imoehl, Stacy Knight, Joe Knobbe, Janet Lambert, Diane Lovstuen, Tracy Maher, Chivonne Marlow, Ruth Palmer, Kate Rattenborg, Diane Sadler, Deb Schaffer, Melanie Tietz, Alicia Trout, Joann Voltmer, Elizabeth Leschensky.
- The evaluation process included; tours of all school district facilities; communication with current teachers and staff; discussion with all building principals and the superintendent; multiple meetings with Struxture Architects; completion of a facilities survey; report from Iowa Construction Advocate Team; a session with a school financing expert; annual reports to the Decorah School Board of Directors; and monthly meetings of the Shareholders for two years.
- The following items were key in forming Shareholder's Recommendations for H.S.:
 - Mechanical Systems (heating and ventilation) are at their life expectancy.
 - "Domino Effect" of upgrading mechanical systems (requires you to bring the rest of building up to code).
 - Safety and Security ("Safe Room", Main Office Location, Sprinkle building)
 - Lower Energy Costs / "Greener Building" (More money available in General Fund for education).
 - Educational spaces currently not adequate for art, family consumer science, industrial tech and vocational agriculture.
 - Bathroom and locker room facilities are undersized and do not provide gender equality.
 - Improve and expand space for cafeteria, kitchen, commons area, and orchestra room by capturing space in current gym and adding a new gymnasium addition. Gym addition allows for temporary classroom staging during construction (eliminates need for portables).
 - Take advantage of the current economic conditions; historic low interest rates, construction costs competitive.

For additional information contact Jeff Olinger (563)380-6471 or Craig Rabe (563)419-1316

