



Brainerd Public Schools

Opportunity. Innovation. Success.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Blueprint 181

Investing. Growing. Leading.

Blueprint 181 Launches with Public Listening Sessions, New Planning Website

Aim is to Develop Facilities that Promote Innovation, Opportunity and Success for All

Brainerd, MN (April 24, 2017) Brainerd Public Schools recently launched Blueprint 181 which brings facilities planning into a new phase focused on community-wide discussion of options to address school needs.

Blueprint 181 is the process to engage area residents in the development of a facilities plan that addresses the education, health and safety need of the students and staff of Brainerd Public Schools.

"It is essential for us to hear from local residents, business owners, parents, and students about what you believe is most important for our schools and our district's future," said Laine Larson, Superintendent of Brainerd Public Schools. "We are concentrating on listening to the voices of our community."

A team of community members began evaluating the needs of all 12 school district buildings in 2014. After systematic review they recommended changes that would ensure these buildings are able to serve students in this community for decades to come. The district needs community input on these recommendations to further shape and define our strengths and needs, and to address the community's suggestions in the best, most efficient way possible.

A current list of neighborhood listening sessions is found below. For the most up to date information, community members are urged to visit the new website, which is dedicated to school facilities planning: blueprint181.org.

The website contains basic information about the planning process, including the guiding framework from the task force. It also provides an outline of where we currently are in the process and how local residents can get involved. The website will be updated regularly to reflect community input and to answer frequently asked questions.



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We encourage and look forward to your engagement in this important process.

The ultimate goal of Blueprint 181 is to provide facilities that promote Innovation, Opportunity and Success for all learners, by meeting the following eight objectives:

- Safe and secure facilities;
- Mechanical and educational adequacy updates;
- Space required for enhancing best practice instruction and high-quality 21st Century educational learning opportunities;
- Create spaces that promote robust opportunities in the areas of academics, arts, activities, and athletics;
- Increased community collaboration, ownership, and workforce development;
- Visionary technology integration;
- Transparency, engagement, and community trust-building; and
- Highest quality educational opportunities for our taxpayers' generous investment.

The mission of the Brainerd Public Schools, in partnership with the community, is to ensure all students achieve their individual potential by providing the highest-quality programs and resources to prepare learners for an ever-changing global society.

Larson offered examples such as ongoing, high-quality professional development to maximize teaching and learning methods. Plus, providing education-enhancing technology devices and high-speed internet connections in all classrooms to prepare all learners for the workforce and world of tomorrow.

“The most important factor in this phase of the school facilities planning process is engagement by local residents and staff,” said Larson. “I invite all community members to take part in one or more listening session to bring your questions forth and to share your vision for the future of our community’s schools.”

The public is invited to attend any and all of the following listening sessions. Child care for school age children will be provided:

- May 1, 5:30-7 pm, Riverside Elementary Cafeteria
- May 2, 6:30-8 pm, Harrison Elementary Gym
- May 4, 5:30-7 pm, Niswaga Elementary Gym
- May 9, 4 -5:30 pm, Washington Educational Services Building, Room 200
- May 9, 5:30-7 pm, Garfield Elementary Gym
- May 11, 5:30-7 pm, Lowell Elementary Gym
- May 18, 5:30-7 pm, Baxter Elementary Gym
- May 23, 7-8:30 pm, Brainerd High School Cafeteria
- May 24, 6-7:30 pm, Forestview Middle School Cafetorium

Larson encourages community members to share their thoughts and questions with her and other district leaders. Residents may email blueprint181@isd181.org, or call at 218-454-6900. Thank you for your unending support to Brainerd Public Schools.



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