

How We Got to This Point

By Sue Haupt, School Board President

On February 16 residents in the Edgar School District will be asked to make a big decision that will affect our district and our community for years to come.

Starting in March of 2008, board members evaluated space needs throughout the building and identified 19 areas of concern. Working independently, a staff committee also identified 18 concerns. Many of those have been addressed by moving classes to different areas that are a better fit, relocating some classrooms and making minor, low-cost renovations.

That left 4 core areas that we are unable to address within our current budget limitations:

- Inadequate classroom space for early elementary that keep regular class sizes small and special needs in suitable facilities
- Overcrowded cafeteria space, kitchen storage, and delivery access
- A good but growing Fine Arts problem- a band room built for 45-50 students with a current high school band enrollment of almost 100; chorus way beyond capacity; drama facilities held with poor gym acoustics, lighting, and sound
- A weight room/physical education teaching station that is dangerously overcrowded

(For complete details on each of these concerns, [click the links at the bottom of the district homepage.](#))

The board then asked for community input to prioritize these areas. A group of community members attended several meetings and took a hard look at our overall facility and programs. Their input led to a plan, developed by Somerville Architects, that addresses all four areas. This plan involved two small, separate additions and remodeling/retrofitting existing space to better meet our needs, at a lower cost than all new construction.

This expansion/remodeling plan is ambitious, but it is also a well thought out, creative, long range plan for our district. The board recognizes that this is a difficult time to ask residents to approve this expansion, has taken steps to minimize the financial impact, and will also be applying for federal stimulus dollars approved for school construction in the State of Wisconsin.

The Board of Education is asking district residents to carefully look at the issues, the costs, the benefits, and reach an informed decision. If you need more information, have questions or want to discuss this plan, please contact one of your board members, Mr. Lacke- superintendent, or attend one of the community forums scheduled for February 3 (3:30 or 6:45pm) and February 10 (3:30 or 8:00pm).

And, please remember to vote on February 16.

Sue Haupt
Board President