

# The Weekly Comet

From Dr. Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

### Referendum - Official Results

On March 7, the Bellevue community came together to approve a \$13.1 million general obligation bond that will partially fund phase 1 of a five-year facility master plan - a new elementary school for the Bellevue Community School District.

Thank you...Thank you to every voter who took the time to go to the polls on March 7. Thank you to every resident who took the time to learn about the plan and make sure their family and friends knew the facts too. Thank you to each member of the facilities committee for giving their valuable time to this process. Thank you to the school board for being committed to investing in our school's facilities while also being diligent stewards of our financial resources.

Because more than 65% of voters, 1,142 people, said yes to the future of Bellevue's schools, we are able to look forward (Total votes were the following: 1142 Yes votes; 594 No votes; 65.7% in favor, with 60% needed for approval). *Around two and a half years from now, we will be welcoming third through fifth graders into a brand new building at the middle/high school campus.*

First, though, OPN Architects, the architecture firm that the district hired to do preliminary planning prior to the vote, must start the design process. They will spend time getting to know our community's collective vision for this project. This will include detailed conversations about space needs, adjacencies, and aesthetic preferences with district staff and other stakeholders in the community identified by the school district. Final dimensions, exact layout, and materiality and other aesthetics, both inside and out, will also be determined during this process. Once the design is complete, the project will go to public bid, likely in late fall or early winter. Construction usually takes 12 to 14 months, so the building will likely be ready for students for the 2025-26 school year.

For the immediate future, preK through second grade will remain at the current elementary school for the immediate future where they will have much-needed additional space once the 3-5 students are relocated. A second, future phase will include renovations and improvements to the high school's fine arts and CTE spaces and/or other facility projects to address space needs based on enrollment, including a potential addition to the 3-5 building for PK-2. Phase 2 will be funded using state sales tax revenues and will not affect property taxes. This phase will commence around 2028. *This project has been a longtime dream for many in our community. Thank you for investing in our collective future.*

### Upcoming Events, Early Dismissals, and "No School" Days

- March 22 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students - Teacher Professional Learning
- April 7-11 - No School for Students - Spring Break; Teacher Professional Learning on April 11
- April 26 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students - Teacher Professional Learning
- May 10 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students - Teacher Professional Learning
- May 27 - Bellevue HS Graduation - 4:00

### Student Collaboration and Work

The Bellevue CSD kindergarten students were so excited to receive their monsters they created with the eighth graders (right and on the following page), who did a great job of sewing these together and creating a story to go with them. The kindergarten students are using these as their desk buddies and taking them home. Outstanding collaboration in the district between buildings...students learning from each other is a key to their development and understanding of others.

Also, see the students working on the renovation of the Ag Building on the next page, getting it ready for students in the 2023-2024 school year...excellent hands-on learning for "life".





