

Education On Target

by Supt. Niemann

Building Bond Election Called

At the regular April School Board Meeting, the Ashby School Board unanimously passed a 'Resolution Relating to the Issuance of School Building Bonds and Calling an Election Thereon to Be Conducted by Mail'. This resolution sets the stage for an August 10th election to provide funding for additional classroom and site additions and improvements. More specifically the funds will be used to construct and equip two kindergarten classrooms, two high school classrooms and a science room. The main entrance of the school will see security upgrades and both the north and south parking lots will be resurfaced and increased in size to add more parking spaces. Some existing windowless rooms will be repurposed for use by paraprofessionals and title aides to work with students individually and in small groups.

This building project will help achieve multiple goals. First, it will allow Ashby School to keep class sizes small in the lower elementary grade levels. Second, it will create space targeted directly towards middle school students; i.e grades 5-8. At the high school level, it will provide space for added elective courses. And a final academic goal will be to expand special education services as current staffing is resulting in very large caseload numbers. More practical matters such as overflowing parking lots, a crowded weight room, and lack of storage space; particularly for the drama department will also be rectified. If passed, this resolution will permit Ashby School to borrow up to \$5,900,000 to accomplish these goals. This election will consist of one ballot question and will be conducted by mail pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 204B.46, with no polling place other than the administrative offices of the school district.

More details of the proposed building project can be found at the Ashby School Website at <https://www.ashby.k12.mn.us/> or by contacting Superintendent Niemann at 218-747-2257.

Drama Department Shines

On April 16th I had the pleasure of watching the Ashby School Drama Department perform Disney's *"Beauty and the Beast"*. What an amazing performance they displayed!!! From the acting to the dancing the students showed exceptional talent. Equally impressive were the stage sets and costumes. In fact, this musical requires two sets of costumes for most of the characters!!! I want to give a special shout out to director Paula Wojcik for the enormous amount of effort she put into getting our students ready for this production. Kudos also to Tony Munsterman for leading the musical aspects of this show. However, on the downside, I was reminded again of how limited our space is for sets, costumes and props.



Ms. Wojcik says it best “There is no way to take a picture that can fully encompass this lack of space, especially since this is only about half of our stored props and sets. We are currently storing several sets and props down in the dungeon (which is not ideal as it is cumbersome to access down there, not to mention the fact that several of our props and scenery are fragile and have been broken or damaged in the transition). We also have some things stored in the bus garage. Another thing to keep in mind regarding the stage space is the cast and crew. Everything pictured was on the stage or backstage during the musical; to that, add about 40 students maneuvering in the dark. Definitely not an ideal or safe situation”. Due to our space limitations for our drama department, the addition of a mezzanine on the stage is part of the building project which will be voted on in August.