



To the Oakes Public School Community:

With only a few weeks until the March 14 bond referendum, I want to take a moment to address one of the most frequent questions I have received: **"Is this the right plan?"** Let me provide you with some insights into the development and decision-making process behind the proposed plan.

### **A Community-Driven Plan**

*The plan was not developed in isolation or by a small group of people. It was crafted through a collaborative, community-driven process.*

We engaged our community through open houses, surveys, and listening sessions to gather their perspectives and insights. The district and school board prioritized projects based on immediate needs, which were identified through extensive feedback from our teachers, students, parents, and residents. The highest-ranked needs were HVAC, indoor air quality, windows in the high school, plumbing, sewer pipes, accessible bathrooms in the high school, and kitchen infrastructure updates. These are the core elements of the proposed plan that is on the ballot.

### **Thorough Decision-Making Process**

*The school board has followed a thorough decision-making process. The board's primary focus was prioritizing urgent needs to support an environment that best supports student learning and achievement and provides a high value for taxpayer investment.*

The board carefully considered our community's feedback, evaluated the plan's costs, and researched financial options to pay for these essential infrastructure investments. At the same time, the district recognizes that investing in these improvements now can lead to long-term cost savings, compared to continually patching up issues that will only become more expensive to fix – or may reach a point where they cannot be repaired. For example, if our HVAC system breaks, our school building will have no heat. Other 50+-year-old kitchen appliances also cannot be fixed if they break.

### **Residents Will Decide**

Guided by community feedback, the proposed plan represents a thoughtful and strategic approach to addressing our school's most urgent needs. The plan will ensure that our school will operate into the future while providing a safe, healthy environment for our students and staff.

Ultimately, this is a choice for district residents. On Thursday, March 14, voters will have the opportunity to decide whether to invest in our school, our students, and our community's future.



Please make sure to vote and make your voice heard. You can learn more at [OurSchoolOurFuture.org/vote](https://OurSchoolOurFuture.org/vote).

As the election approaches, I welcome any questions or comments you may have about the plan. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at [Anna.Sell@k12.nd.us](mailto:Anna.Sell@k12.nd.us) or 701-742-3234. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in shaping the future of our schools.

Warm regards,

Anna Sell  
Superintendent of Oakes Public School