



Planning for Barrington 220 and Its Future

SINCE 1973, when the Barrington 220 School District was officially formed, our schools have played an integral role in shaping the Barrington area community. What started as a one-room schoolhouse on Main Street in the 19th century has evolved into 12 schools across the Barrington area, which include one early learning center, eight elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. As the Barrington 220 Board of Education, we are honored to serve our community each and every day. We strive to make decisions that are best for our students and the community, and your feedback plays an important role in making those decisions.

Our school district has received many accolades in recent years. Most recently, Barrington was ranked the “Best School District in IL” by 24/7 Wall St. Our continued success has been based on embracing changes that keep our curriculum and facilities both relevant and innovative, in a rapidly changing technological and educational environment.

Periodically, our entire community is faced with strategic decisions that will shape our schools for a long time. For example, in the 1990s we debated the merits of a second high school, before deciding to expand our existing high school building. This decision has impacted the structure and dynamics within our schools over the last 20 years.

A similar decision is upon us this coming spring, as we will decide how to fund our district for another 20 years. We plan to place a referendum question on the April 2019 ballot to provide funds for our facility needs. In preparation for this decision, the Board initiated the Blueprint 220 process to create our first long-term master-facilities plan. After a couple of years of community engagement and planning, we will approve the final plan this month. The complete plan can be reviewed on our website and should provide a path for current and future facility needs.

Blueprint 220 aims to address a variety of our school district’s needs:

- The expected aging of our building infrastructure (e.g., HVAC systems).
- The creation of new learning spaces for 21st century teaching methods.
- Current expectations for building safety and security.
- Signature programs that have high value for our community, such as fine arts and athletics.

Barrington 220 remains committed to programs that educate the “entire student” and our master-facilities plan reflects that objective. The proposed tax impact and the facility projects we prioritize will be decided by the Board this fall. We will attempt to balance the various facility needs based on community input received previously and

through additional discussions this fall.

Over the past several months, we have heard from many community members that support a referendum with a smaller scope, to realize a potential reduction in our existing level of property taxes. Many have voiced support for a referendum that maintains our existing tax level, and still others have indicated a willingness to increase our existing level of taxes slightly to accomplish more items within our plan that create value.

We ask our entire community to engage with the Board in deciding this very important question. Come to Board meetings, email your thoughts to us, discuss with friends. Attend some of the several informational meetings we will have in the spring before the election. Invite Board members to attend community meetings, in order to better understand the issues.

We look forward to this community conversation. U

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