



Dear Brown Deer Parents and Community Members:

Since 2005, when voters did not support a \$39.5 million comprehensive plan to upgrade our facilities, we have searched for more cost effective solutions to address our long term facility needs and most importantly how we teach and develop our students for college and career readiness. Most recently, a Vision and Strategic Planning Team, made up of a cross section of community members, reviewed our needs and made several recommendations. While we have heard many ideas on how to move forward, the School Board and Administration believe it is now critical to reach out to all district residents to establish community-wide priorities. This survey is an opportunity for you to evaluate various options, as well as provide comments and suggestions.

To assist us with our data gathering efforts we are working with School Perceptions LLC, a Wisconsin-based independent firm, with expertise in conducting school district surveys. All survey data is returned to School Perceptions. Your identity will remain confidential.

To complete this survey online before September 2, 2011, simply follow these steps:

- 1.) Go to the website: **www.survey2000.com**
- 2.) Enter the survey access number:
- 3.) Take the survey!

The survey access number will not identify you; it simply links you to the District's survey. To obtain a second access number for another adult in your household, please call the district office at (414) 371-6758 or email bffleming@browndeerschools.com.

To save the district expense, we encourage you to take the survey online. If you do not have Internet access, you may use a computer at the District Office or at the Brown Deer Library during regular business hours. If you prefer to complete the enclosed paper survey, please drop it off at the District Office at 8200 North 60th Street or mail it to:

School Perceptions
319B East Washington Street
Slinger, WI 53086

Final survey results will be reported at a Board of Education meeting in September and will also be available on the District website at www.BrownDeerSchools.com. We value your comments and suggestions. Together, we will continue to shape the future of the School District of Brown Deer by Defining Our Destiny.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Williams
School Board President

Dr. Deb Kerr
District Administrator

Community Respondent Information

What is your age?

- 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-64 65 and older

How long have you lived in the School District of Brown Deer?

- Less than one year 1-5 years 6-10 years 11-20 years
 More than 20 years Do not live in the District

Are you employed by the School District of Brown Deer?

- Yes No

Do you have children who previously attended or grandchildren who currently attend Brown Deer schools?

- Yes No

Do you have children younger than elementary school-age?

- Yes No

Do you currently have school-age children?

- Yes No

If "Yes", which school(s) do your children attend? (Check all that apply)

- Dean Elementary Brown Deer Middle School Brown Deer High School
 Private/Parochial School Homeschooled Public School outside of District

How do you currently receive information regarding District issues? (Check all that apply)

- School Administration Television District mailings
 Teachers Other School District staff Booster Clubs
 District web site School Board meetings Attend meetings at schools
 Parent Teacher Organization Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel Teacher Websites
 NorthShoreNOW Radio Highlights Newsletter
 Alert Now Community organizations Neighbors
 Students Other _____

The District is exploring other options to increase two-way communication with our community.

How would you prefer to communicate with the District?

(Check all that apply)

- Twitter Blogs Facebook
 Wikis LinkedIn Instant/Text messaging
 Email Attend meetings and events
 Other _____

Comments/suggestions to improve District communications:

Facility Planning History The District is forecasting a 4% decrease in the tax levy this fall due to careful planning and benefit concessions provided by the staff. With your permission, a referendum recapturing this decrease would present the District with a unique opportunity to address a significant portion of our facility needs without a substantial property tax increase over the current level.

Since 2005, the District has worked hard to reduce our facilities plan from \$39.5 million down to a \$15 - \$19 million concept. The plan would consolidate operations to two buildings and close Dean Elementary. By having one less building to maintain and repair, the District could reduce operating expenses by more than \$350,000 annually. This savings would be accomplished by reducing staff, improving energy efficiency, reducing utility costs, and eliminating lease payments for the portable trailers. The plan also:

- Makes more efficient use of under-utilized space at both the middle and high schools.
- Increases the useful life expectancy of our buildings by 20 years.
- Provides sufficient space for current and future enrollment projections.
- Removes \$7 million of needs at Dean from the district’s capital improvement list.
- Addresses \$3.3 million in long range maintenance items needed at the middle and high schools.
- Allows students to access advanced grade level instruction and a broader range of courses and facilities.
- Provides separate classroom areas, cafeterias, gyms and playgrounds for younger and older students.

Consolidated Two-School Campus Creating a two-school campus requires remodeling the middle school and high school, adding onto the high school, and vacating Dean Elementary. See the site plan for more detail.

Key elements of this plan include:

- Reconfiguring the middle school into an elementary school serving students in grades 4K-6
- Reconfiguring the high school to serve students in grades 7-8 and 9-12
- Providing secure entrances at each building
- Creating physical separation of students by grade levels with separate gyms and cafeterias
- Improving safety of student drop-off and pick-up
- Addressing ADA compliance issues and installing an elevator at the high school

Upgrading the Middle School for Elementary School use includes:

- Converting twenty classrooms to accommodate students in K4-4th grade
- Refurbishing hallways, special education classrooms, library, cafeteria, chorus and band rooms
- Repairing of crumbled paving and new, age-appropriate playgrounds

Upgrading portions of the High School for 7th and 8th grade use and addition at the High School includes:

- Providing light to heavy remodeling to convert under-utilized space for 7th and 8th grade classrooms, administration, guidance, science, technology, art and multi-purpose uses
- Building a high school gym, locker rooms, high school cafeteria and art classrooms
- Refinishing hallways, replacing the gym floor and bleachers

<p>Do you support a plan that would create a two-school campus?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I’m not sure/need more information
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Comments/suggestions regarding the two school concept:

Expanding the High School Gym In addition to the facility upgrades identified in the two-school campus plan, a larger gym could be added to the project at a cost of \$4 million. The gym included in the base plan provides enough space to teach two physical education classes at the same time. The expanded gym would double the gym space and include an indoor track. This expanded facility would provide:

- More teaching and competition space for students
- An indoor track for school and community use throughout the year
- Expanded space for large events, programs and fundraisers such as Badger Band concerts etc.
- Sufficient space to host indoor conference and WIAA events that generate revenue
- Opportunity to be competitive with other metro area and athletic conference school districts
- Service to meet the needs of our student athletes and families and attract new families to our district
- Needed practice space for middle and high school teams during late afternoon and evening hours
- More opportunities for physical fitness and health and wellness activities

<p>Do you support adding a larger high school gym to the base plan?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information
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Comments/suggestions regarding adding expanded gym space to the base plan:

Financing Opportunity This summer, the District was issued the authority to access \$5 million in Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB). QZAB bonds are federal, interest-free bonds used for school district renovation and repair projects. This could save the District in excess of \$2 million in interest payments. To do so, the District must successfully pass a referendum before the funds expire in December of 2012.

<p>Do you support the District utilizing up to \$5 million in QZAB interest free funding?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information
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The QZAB Bonds require private matching for 10% of the project costs. The district will seek grants and private contributions. Another source of private matching could come from community volunteer services. This could take the form of tutoring, campus creek clean-up, and a fall harvest festival.

Would you volunteer a few hours to help the District meet the QZAB private matching requirement?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information
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Comments/suggestions regarding QZAB financing:

Dean Elementary Based on an analysis of district facilities by Plunkett Raysich Architects and C G Schmidt

Construction, the following key findings were identified:

- Dean has exceeded its useful life. It was designed and built in 1958 with a 30-year life expectancy.
- Dean is located immediately adjacent to a flood plain. Water damage has occurred in recent years.
- Portable classrooms cost \$70,000/year to lease and have been used since 2007 to house eight classrooms.
- Major building repairs must be addressed and are too costly to be handled as part of the district’s annual operational budget including:
 - The entire roof must be replaced; minor repairs are no longer sufficient.
 - The fire alarm system must be upgraded by the end of 2012.
 - Heating, ventilating and air flow systems require extensive work to improve building conditions.
 - Outdated plumbing systems and fixtures require extensive replacement.

If Dean Elementary were to remain open, the District would:

- Need to secure \$8 million through a successful referendum to upgrade the building, replace the roof and build 8 new classrooms. This would extend the useful life of Dean by 10 – 12 years.
- Need to secure an additional \$8 million through a second successful referendum to address major building repairs at the middle and high school.
- Fail to realize a \$350,000 annual savings as a result of reduced operational costs due to consolidation.

Considering this background, which of the following options would you support?	<input type="checkbox"/> Close Dean/Consolidate operations to 2 buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Remodel Dean Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> I’m not sure/need more information
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If Dean Elementary is closed as part of the two-school campus plan, the District could maintain the Dean building to be reopened at a future date at an annual cost of approximately \$100,000 to heat, snowplow, insure and secure the building. If any portion of the building was to be used, repairs and upgrade of the fire alarm system and a new roof would be required at an additional cost of \$575,000.. Demolishing the Dean Elementary building would cost \$470,000.

Considering this background, which of the following options would you support?	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Dean for possible future use <input type="checkbox"/> Demolish the building <input type="checkbox"/> I’m not sure/need more information
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Comments/suggestions regarding Dean Elementary:

Portable Classrooms Since 2007, the District has leased portable trailers at Dean Elementary as eight classrooms and restrooms. The units cost \$70,000 per year to lease; the lease expires in August of 2013. The electric heating and cooling systems are costly to operate. The trailers are located in the flood plain and are at risk of flooding.

As part of any facility plan, should the District continue to lease portable classrooms?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I’m not sure/need more information
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Comments/suggestions regarding the use of portable classrooms:

<p>Funding Support In 2011, the District is forecasting a <u>4% decrease</u> in the tax levy. This reduction, along with access to interest free QZAB bonds, gives the community an opportunity to address up to \$15-16 million of facility needs with no tax impact over the current level. The School Board will finalize a plan to deal with our facility needs based on input from residents and the community's willingness to financially support a plan. Therefore, to help the School Board set realistic goals, please respond to the following questions.</p>	
<p>Would you likely support a referendum to update some of the District facilities if your taxes would not increase over the current rate?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information
<p>Would you likely support a referendum to implement the two-school campus plan if the annual tax increase is \$16-\$18 for each \$100,000 of assessed home value?</p> <p><i>This would provide \$18 million in funding for the District's recommended plan.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information
<p>Would you likely support a referendum to implement the two-school campus plan AND expand the high school gym if the annual tax increase is \$38-\$40 for each \$100,000 of assessed home value?</p> <p><i>This would provide \$22 million in funding for the District's recommended plan, and double the size of the proposed gym including an indoor track.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information

Comments/suggestions regarding the funding support options:

<p>Project Timing/Election Date If a successful referendum is held this fall, the District could conservatively save more than \$350,000 by beginning construction in the summer of 2012. Construction will require work during two summers. Savings would result from the earlier elimination of portable trailer lease payments, staff reductions, and lower operating expenses. The District would need to spend \$12,000 to cover the cost of a special election.</p>	
<p>Given this background information, would you support the District pursuing a referendum this fall?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I'm <u>not sure</u> /need more information

Comments/suggestions regarding project timing:

For more information, plan to attend the following Community Information and Listening Sessions:

- Monday, August 29 at 6 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria
- Wednesday, August 31 at 1 p.m. in the MAC at the High School
- Thursday, September 8 at 6 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria

Or call Barb Fleming at (414) 371-6758 or email b Fleming@browndeerschools.com

Thank you for your participation. We sincerely appreciate your time and feedback!

School District of Brown Deer
8200 North 60th Street
Brown Deer, WI 53223

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Important
**COMMUNITY
SURVEY**
Enclosed!



**We need your input.
Please complete survey
by mail or online
before** September 2, 2011