



## Building a Bridge to the Future



# ZM MESSENGER

### ZM Board Moves Forward with Task Force Recommendation

On February 11<sup>th</sup> the Zumbrota-Mazeppa School Board approved a plan that will renovate and create additions to its two current facilities. On February 4<sup>th</sup> two recommendations by the task force were presented to the school board for consideration. One option was to renovate and add onto existing facilities. The other option called for renovation, some additional space on existing buildings, and the construction of a new middle school. The board liked both options but ended up choosing the renovation and addition plan.

In researching the pros and cons of each option the main difference came down to finances. The estimated yearly additional cost to operate a third building was \$745,000. This cost would put a major strain on the district's annual operating budget. The second major finance component is the overall price tag between the two options. The new middle school option was priced at nearly \$61,895,000 and the renovation with additions is priced at \$49,950,000. Board members expressed that in the community survey the idea of reinvesting in current facilities had higher community support than constructing new. Nexus Solutions, who the district has been

working with in this process, also explained that the renovation with additions price falls below what the communities expressed they would be willing to pay on a project.

The project also includes \$3,300,000 in deferred maintenance expenses that are part of upcoming projects needing to be done at the sites. The district will use its current Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) budget to pay for these costs. Bonding against its LTFM and doing these projects all at once allows the district to capitalize on the Farm Tax Credit Program, which brings a 40% tax credit to agricultural land. The district's current LTFM levy does not qualify for the 40% credit. This is not a new tax but structuring it this way provides some tax relief to agricultural land owners.

After hearing input from the public during Patron Input, seeing a presentation by Nexus on the scope of the two options, reviewing tax impact information from Ehlers, the District's Financial Advisor, and reviewing budget considerations, the school board entered discussion. The outcome of the discussion was a unanimous motion and vote to move forward with renovation and additions. The board decided to target May 14<sup>th</sup> as the election day for the project. Details and scope of the plan will be available for the public soon with public meetings to explain the plan.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

After Prom planning meeting Sun., March 3 @ 6:30 pm VFW Zumbrota. Looking for junior/senior parents' assistance in planning the AfterProm event April 27. For info email [zmafterprom@gmail.com](mailto:zmafterprom@gmail.com)

- Open House.....2
- E cig Meeting.....3
- Nurse Notes.....3
- Bloodmobile.....3
- Board Minutes.....4
- PIE Dance Party.....4
- FFA Week.....5
- Gymnasts.....5
- ACDA.....5

[www.zmschools.us](http://www.zmschools.us)

### School Board Recognition Week

The Minnesota School Boards Association set February 18-22 as School Board Recognition Week in Minnesota as a time to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our society. ZM Schools joined with all



public school districts across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their commitment to the communities of Mazeppa and Zumbrota and its children. Thank them for the time and effort it takes to maintain our school district.

Pictured are current board members Jason Lohmann, Jean Roth, Amanda Peters, Jim Wendt, Angie Bredehoft, and Stephanie Miller.



## OPEN HOUSE for ZM VOCATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CLASS TOWNHOUSE

The snow is deep, but students have been working hard on their townhouse project throughout the school year.

You are invited to tour these units at their open house

**Saturday, March 2 & Sunday, March 3**

**10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**119 & 121 Highland Circle, Zumbrota**

Bidding and sale information will be available at the open house. Interested parties are invited to discuss the purchase price and final project details with Advisor Kevin Nelson.

You can also contact Mr. Nelson at 507-251-9649 if you have questions.



## School Board Holds Numerous Meetings in February

The ZM School Board held extra meetings in late January and February regarding the proposed facilities project. A special meeting was held January 29 to review the community survey conducted earlier in January. A random survey was conducted of 600 households in the district to assess their impression of the school district and the possibility of a facilities update. The board discussed the results, which overall were favorable towards the district and the administration and staff. A special meeting was held on February 4 to hear from the Facilities Task Force, which has met since last fall. The task force recommended two options to the school board: 1) remodel and additions totaling about \$56.2 million or 2) new grade 6-8 middle school at \$65.4 million. The board requested that the administration provide a firm project plan to include the scope, draft a ballot question, and project the funding and tax impact summary not later than February 19.

On February 11, the board held a work session to review the two options recommended by the Task Force. Nexus Solutions representative, Rob Brown, reviewed both options and went over the building plans and Ehler's representative, Shelby McQuay, reviewed the funding options with the board, along with the ballot questions for each option.

After discussion, the board decided to approve Option 1, which includes renovations to both school sites, but with the removal of the purchase of 60 acres for future development. It was felt this option best represented what the communities would support. The scope of the project will include renovation, remodeling, upgrading and construction and equipping of improvements and additions to the various existing school sites and facilities, including construction and equipping of special education and physical education space, the creation of flexible academic spaces, the construction and equipping of additional early childhood education space, and the remodeling of the existing and construction of new technical education and trades classrooms; and the construction of secure entrances and security and safety improvements to all school sites.

In other work session discussion, district policies for review and revision included #302 Superintendent; #421 Gifts to Employees; #510 School Activities; #511 Student Fundraising; and #513 Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design. Mr. Harvey asked the board to review the policies as some of the MSBA policies are different from what ZM currently has adopted.

On February 19, a special meeting was held to discuss the facility options summary of the submitted Review and Comment, which was set up at the February 4 meeting.

*Continued on page 4*



## IBM Engineers Return to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

ZM's sixth graders once again thank the IBM engineers for helping to sponsor an e-learning day at ZMES. Students worked with the engineers to build rollercoasters and then execute the required engineering moves.

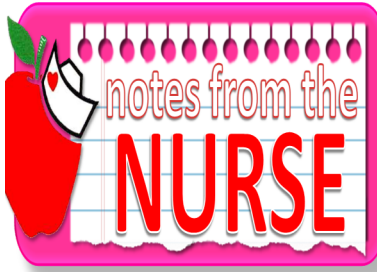
Thanks to these great volunteers who year after year work with ZM's students to improve their engineering techniques while teaching the students how to work together to achieve their goal!



## E-cigarettes, Vapes, and JUULs

Did you know that E-cigarettes come in many forms and can look like everyday products like pens, USB flash drives, phones, and tubes of lipstick and that they are unsafe, especially for young people. Learn what parents should know on **Tues, March 5, 6-7 pm, ZMMS/HS Auditorium.**

Learn what you can do as a parent, as a school, and as a community at this Parents Only meeting. This meeting is sponsored by ZM Schools, Goodhue County Health & Human Services, and Live Well Goodhue County.



**Health offices:** We are seeing an average of 850 students per month through the health offices for injuries, illnesses, medication administration and health conditions. Please be sure to have current emergency contact information in the Parent

Portal. We are still seeing symptoms of influenza (sudden onset of fever with cough and or sore throat), strep throat and the stomach illnesses (vomiting/diarrhea). Please keep your children home if they are symptomatic.

**Immunizations:** Please check the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus to see if your child is current with school immunizations. Letters were sent home with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reminding them of immunizations are needed before 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Letters were also sent home to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who need their

## SEA Winter Survival Class

ZM Schools once again has joined with the Goodhue County Education District in their Students Education Adventures (SEA) program. This is a five-week course which includes outdoor education and experiential learning, as well as areas of



team building, cooperation, leadership, and service to others. Students are expected to develop and maintain individual goals, while cooperating with and meeting group expectations.

Students have the chance to apply their new skills needed to survive outdoors in the winter as well as learning to enjoy our Minnesota winters through snowshoeing, hiking, ice fishing, fire building, fire cooking, building stick shelters, and quinzhees).

Those involved have the opportunity to receive a half credit upon completion of the course. The final session of the course is an overnight experience where students apply the skills they have learned throughout the course. Students are transported by their individual schools to and from the course and are expected to maintain communication with their teachers on the days of the course to determine the day's assignments and what is expected of them upon their return to school the following day.



### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>:

If your child needs to take medication on this trip, please make sure you bring the medications to the school by 3/1/2019. If you are a chaperone, you may administer medication to your own child.

Please do not bring in medication the morning of the trip. Thank you for your cooperation.

Meningococcal booster, which is due at age 16.

**Guidelines for children returning to school:** A student should not come to school if they have had a fever of 100 degrees F or more in the past 24 hours: vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours: has an undiagnosed skin rash.



**Fri., March 15**

**9:00 am—2:00 pm**

**ZMMS/HS Gym**

**PLEASE call 732-7395 for appt.**

*Thank you!*



**“Intelligence plus character—  
that is the goal of true  
education.”**

**Martin Luther King Jr.**



## School Board Minutes

The school board has had numerous meetings in the month of February, working to determine the scope and process of the facilities project, as well as the regular school business.

On February 4, two community task force members presented the group's finding and recommendations, which included two options: 1) remodel and additions at \$56.2 million or 2) new grade 6-8 middle school at \$65.4 million. The board accepted the two recommendations and requested that the administration provide a firm project plan to include the project scope, draft ballot questions, and a project funding and tax impact summary not later than February 19.

At the February 11 work session, Nexus Solutions representative, Rob Brown, reviewed the two options recommended by the Task Force and Shelby McQuay from Ehlers reviewed the funding options, along with a possible ballot question. The board voted to approve Option One, which included renovation of both the Mazeppa and the Zumbrota sites with the removal of the possible purchase of 60 acres for future development. In other discussion, the board was given district policy revisions for review and approval at the February 25 meeting. The board also directed the administration to develop the necessary Review and Comment documents for the district-wide capital project for Option One to be considered by the ZM communities for not more than \$50 million and submission to the MN Department of Education for their consideration.

The board held a special meeting on February 19 to approve and submit the Review and Comment to the MN Department of Education. Nexus Solutions and Ehlers representatives were in attendance to review the project and answer any questions on the project or on the financial issues.

The regular school board meeting was held on February 25. Recognition was given to Trystar Inc for their \$500 donation to robotics, to Farm Bureau for the \$1000 donation to Family and Consumer Science for a tower garden, and to the Red Wing Lions Club for their \$300 donation to FCCLA/Leo Club. Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school, noting that registration will be moved to the first week of March due to the large number of snow days this year. He congratulated the various sports teams on their state participation and thanks FCCLA and FFA for their help with Snow Week and FFA Week.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the primary/elementary school. February is I Love to Read month with several activities scheduled. PIE is holding a fundraiser dance March 1. Mr. Harvey reported enrollment number at 1,191 for February. The treasurer's report to the board was available for review. Shannon Clemenson, school resource officer, noted that there will be an e-cigarette, vaping informational parent session on Mar 5.

The soccer and golf agreements with Pine Island were approved as well as the para and custodial sub rates. District policies revisions approved included #310 School District Administration, #302 Superintendent, #421 Gifts to Employees, #510

### PERTINENT DATES

- 3/11 - School Board Work Session, 7:00 pm, ZMES Media Center
- 3/12 - Grade 7-12 Scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 3/13 - Early Release
- 3/14 - Grade 9-12 Band Concert, 7:00 pm, ZMHS Auditorium
- 3/18 - Education Foundation Meeting, 6:15 pm, ZMMS/HS Room 124, Zumbrota
- 3/20-24 - Choir Trip to Branson, MO
- 3/21 - Grade 3 Concert, 7:00 pm, ZMES Gym, Mazeppa
- 3/25 - No School/Staff Development
- 3/26 - K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:00-8:00 pm
- 3/28 - K-6 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:00-8:00 pm

School Activities, #511 Student Fundraising, and #513 Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design. Tawny Michels was hired as a program teaching assistant in Cougar Care beginning 2/4/19 and resignations were accepted from Kayla Stensrud and Samantha Kleese, program teaching assistants and from Kaitlyn Hinchley, Cougar Care. Kevin Nelson and Mary Jo Kruse submitted resignations and were thanked for their many years of service to ZM Schools. Lane changes were approved for Shannon Johnson and Jamie Quam to Masters and for Andrea Clement to BS+30.

The board gave administration approval to purchase/sell land from the city of Mazeppa. The board approved a resolution relating to the issuance of school building bonds and calling an election on May 14. The construction house bid timeline is as follows: Bids due to superintendent's office by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019. Minimum bid accepted is \$229,000 per townhouse unit and high bidder has choice of unit. Second high bidder has right of refusal for remaining unit and must confirm choice or refusal within three (3) working days. School board will approve winning bids at the March 25, 2019 regular school board meeting. The board discussed school schedules during state tournaments. Because of the number of snow days this year, school will remain in session for grades K-12 and fan buses will be offered for students wishing to attend. There were no board comments. Minutes were available from the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative, the Goodhue County Education District, and the Southeast Service Cooperative. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

### **P.I.E. DANCE PARTY PREK-6 GRADE FAMILIES** Friday, March 1 from 6:30-8:00 pm, ZMMS/HS Gym \$20/Family (Max), \$15 Family of 3, \$10 Family of 2

Student must be accompanied by adult—Snacks & Glow Sticks available for purchase. **Bring indoor shoes!!**

What is P.I.E.? It is a group of K-6 parents that work together to support ZM staff and to provide opportunities and classroom needs for students.





## FFA CELEBRATES NATIONAL FFA WEEK

ZM's FFA Chapter is continuing this school year with their usual array of activities and accomplishments. The Chapter celebrated National FFA Week with their annual staff breakfast on February 20—an event appreciated by everyone! Members have received many awards this year in various categories. Pictured are this year's officers and a few of the team placings in regional contests.



Left: The 2018-2019 FFA chapter officer team. Front row: Emily Haugen, Ashlyn Miklas, Emma Nelson, Siddha Hunt, and Brynn Karstens. Back row: Makayla Arendt, Kyra Nichols, Casey Dykes, and Aby Mielke.

Right: The Best Informed Greenhand team placed first at the Region VIII contest held on Feb. 1 at Riverland Community College in Austin. Siddha Hunt placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, Natalie Clemenson 6<sup>th</sup>, and Ashlyn Miklas 8<sup>th</sup> individually. Front Row: Addie Voxland, Ashlyn Miklas, and Siddha Hunt. Back Row: Hailey



Schliep, Emma Nelson, Natalie Clemenson, and Brenna Thomas.



Left: Sydney Higley competed in the Farm Business Management contest for the first time, placing 23 out of 67 individuals at the U of M Invitational. She will compete in the regional in March.

Bottom Right: Bridge Downes and Zayne Novek competed in the Fish & Wildlife contest at the U of M—Zayne placed 73 out of 217!

There are 56 active FFA members at ZM and their efforts are noted and appreciated! In addition, there are 69 FFA alumni involved with the program.



## Gymnastics Team Advanced to State Competition

The PIZM Gymnastics team won the section meet for the second year in a row. The team competed February 22 at the University of Minnesota Pavilion and placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

Individuals advancing to state competition included Brynn Burkhalter, McKenzie Cordes, Sawyer Gorman, and Jaci Newmann.

## ACDA Honor Choir

ZMHS student, Madelyn Hofschulte, was selected into the Minnesota American Choral Directors Association State 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Women's Choir as an alto 1. Prior to being selected, she prepared a digital audition which included an a capella song and scale, sent it off, and was judged against hundreds of the finest singers in the state. Madelyn received word in November that she had made it into the Honor Choir. She then prepared five songs, all of which had to be memorized prior to rehearsal, to perform in a concert.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Madelyn sang with the other selected vocalists inside Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. The guest conductor for the Women's Choir was Erynn Millard from MN State University Moorhead, MN. Madelyn Hofschulte is taught by Susan Peterson.







# Building *Bridges to the Future*



Wear what you want day during the last practice of 7/8 boys basketball season!!



Members of the middle school math league



Making and tasting ice cream in high school science



Thanks to Farm Bureau for donating \$1000 to FCCLA for a tower garden.



with mental illnesses.

The NAMI Connection Support Group continues to meet every Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Red Wing Christ Episcopal Church, 321 West Ave, Red Wing.

This support group is for people who live

The group is free, open to public, and 100% confidential. For information, call Joel at 507-206-8557. To reach the NAMI offices, call 1-888-626-4435 or visit their website at [www.namimn.org](http://www.namimn.org).



Gr 4 put on a great concert February 26—making music on pail drums