



# BOND PROJECT UPDATE

## NEW SCHOOL: PRE-K TO 2ND GRADE



### THANK YOU, DECORAH COMMUNITY

We want to extend our gratitude for your support for approving a bond that will fund the construction of a new Pre-K to 2nd grade school. A special thanks goes out to the facilities committee, staff, and community members who dedicated their time and effort to sharing this important message with the community. This long-anticipated project, more than 15 years in the making, reflects your commitment to providing an exceptional learning environment for our youngest learners at Decorah Community School District.

The new school will replace John Cline Elementary and West Side Early Childhood Center, ensuring that future generations have access to modern, flexible spaces that inspire curiosity and growth. Your trust in this vision reinforces the strength of our community's commitment to education and opportunity for all. **Together, we are building a legacy that will impact Decorah's children for generations to come.**

#### Decorah Community School District, Board of Education

The Decorah Community School District Board of Education includes: **Cindy Goodner** (President), **Ron Fadness** (Vice President), **Brad Darling**, **Carole Sand** and **Aaron Zander**. Board support is provided by **Darlene Woodhouse** (Board Secretary), and **Cathy Dietzenbach** (Board Treasurer).

**TOGETHER, THEY ARE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING THE DISTRICT'S MISSION AND ENSURING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR STUDENTS.**

# THE BOND WAS APPROVED. NOW WHAT?

With the approval of the bond, we are excited to begin the next phase of this project. We have already kicked off the design process, including initial design meetings with district leadership. Their feedback highlighted a focus on supervision, traffic patterns, and sound transmission. We are also working closely with city officials to foster a collaborative approach that benefits both the school and the broader community.

As the design process progresses, staff will be actively engaged to provide their valuable input. Our project team will work closely throughout this process to ensure the scope and budget are carefully managed as we create a modern, functional learning environment that meets the needs of students, staff, and the community. The project is scheduled to be ready for bidding in fall 2025, and we look forward to sharing updates as we reach each milestone.



**Disclaimer:** This is a conceptual rendering provided for inspiration. Final designs are subject to change as the project progresses through the design phase.

## MEET THE DISTRICT PARTNERS

We are excited about the exceptional partners we have on board to help guide us through this process. Emergent Architecture and Miron Construction bring unparalleled expertise to educational facility design and construction. Together, they will work closely to create the best building for our students, staff, and community.

**Emergent Architecture**, based in Cedar Falls, IA, is a forward-thinking architectural firm specializing in the design of innovative and functional educational spaces that inspire and engage. Known for their client-centered approach, Emergent collaborates closely with school districts to create facilities that embody each community's unique identity and priorities. Their expertise lies in delivering innovative design solutions that prioritize functionality, sustainability, and adaptability to future educational needs. By fostering meaningful collaboration with stakeholders and integrating feedback throughout the process, Emergent ensures that every project is both visually compelling and highly practical. Their unwavering commitment to excellence makes them a trusted partner in shaping and designing educational environments that leave a lasting impact in communities for generations.

**Miron Construction**, located in Cedar Rapids, IA, named the second largest education Construction Manager in the Midwest, excels in delivering high-quality educational facilities, with extensive experience managing complex projects from conception through completion. Their involvement in the design process with Emergent ensures effective management of scope and budget, early engagement of local contractors, and meticulous pre-planning to minimize the impact on education. Miron's collaborative approach involves working closely with school districts to create environments that enhance learning and accommodate diverse educational needs while meeting rigorous standards of safety, functionality, and constructability. Their commitment to excellence is evident in their ability to deliver projects on time and within budget, making them a trusted partner in the education sector.

# ARCHITECTURE 101

**We are transitioning into the architectural design process. The design process includes three distinct phases to advance preliminary concepts developed prior to the bond.**

## **Schematic Design (SD)**

With District input driving the design, drawings are being developed that provide definition to interior and exterior functions, space requirements, adjacencies, and overall design intent.

## **Design Development (DD)**

Once the building footprint has been confirmed and the team has a plan for interior space definition, we will transition into design development. During the DD phase, design concepts are advanced with precise details including structural design, and specific mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection systems. Cabinetry, fixtures, and material selections are also finalized during this phase.

## **Construction Documents (CD)**

In the final phase of the design process, final drawings and specifications used to construct the building will be produced. All building components are defined in detail. These documents are used in the competitive bid process.

# EXPLORING SUSTAINABILITY

The project team is actively exploring sustainability initiatives to incorporate into the design, ensuring the new facility is both efficient and environmentally-friendly. By researching and evaluating green technologies such as photovoltaic systems, the team aims to create a building that reduces environmental impact while promoting long-term energy efficiency and lowering operational utility costs.

Additionally, the team is identifying incentives and grants, including opportunities through the Inflation Reduction Act, to make these sustainable features financially feasible. While all initiatives are budget pending, this commitment to sustainability reflects a forward-thinking approach that benefits both the planet and the community while maximizing the value of available resources.

