



# Aitkin Public Schools

## BOND REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

*On August 9 Voters Will Decide on a Plan for the Future of Our Schools*

### LONG-RANGE SCHOOLS PLAN PROPOSED TO MEET NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME

A citizen-led task force came to the consensus that the best long-range plan for the Aitkin community to address aging school buildings faced with health, safety and other issues is to build a new Grade 5-12 Middle School/High School and remodel Rippleside Elementary School. The School Board agreed to bring this option to voters and on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, voters will decide whether to approve this plan.

### TASK FORCE PLAN FROM THE COMMUNITY

The citizen-led task force, made up of a cross section of community leaders, was formed to create a long-range facility plan for Aitkin Public Schools. After reviewing facility, financial and other assessment information, the task force recommended:

- A new Grade 5-12 Middle/High School with an auditorium, athletic and community facilities
- A remodel and addition to Rippleside Elementary School to meet the needs of Pre-K through Grade 4 students

*This plan will cost \$68.5 million and is estimated to increase taxes on a \$100,000 home by \$19/month.*

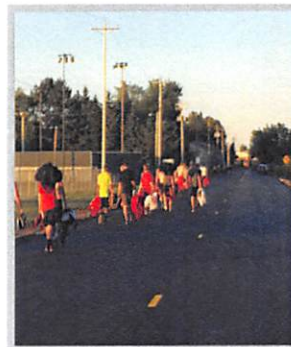
### HEALTH AND SAFETY TOP CONCERNS

The oldest part of Aitkin High School was built in 1936 and Rippleside Elementary School was constructed in 1957. In order to keep up with the growing cost of repairs and maintenance in these aging buildings, Aitkin Public Schools administrators have had to use money that could have gone to classroom operations.

- Old ventilation systems and failing doors and windows cause **air quality problems** at both buildings
- Inadequate control of building entrances results in **security concerns**
- Lack of space leads to **safety issues** at bus and parent-drop-off and pick-up areas



Left: Leaky roof  
Bottom left: No safe access to athletic fields  
Bottom right: Outdated classrooms with air quality problems



### BENEFITS OF THE PLAN

#### Health, Safety and Security

- Healthier buildings with better air quality
- Safer properties, better traffic flow and secure building entrances
- Full compliance with state building codes

#### Better Classroom Education

- The space needed for students to learn their best
- Early learning and kindergarten spaces
- Technology access for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- Enhanced special education space

#### Hub for Community Events

- Needed space for senior citizens and civic groups
- Community fitness center and walking track
- Auditorium for community performances
- Athletic courts and fields