

The School District of La Crosse is looking to create a Long-Range Plan that falls in line with our debt structure. At this time, no decision has been made on what the plan will look like. We are currently looking at potential projects to present to the School Board. A new Emerson Elementary School could be an option to be considered since it is our oldest elementary school building. If we were to start replacing a new building every ten years our last elementary replacement would take place in 2102. Administration is only in the very early stages of this fact-finding process.

**What would the general timeline be for either project (remodeling vs. new building)? How long does it take for a referendum/architect planning, build, etc.?**

Either would take a passed referendum, a very aggressive timeline example would be as follows;

Referendum Fall 2022

Architect Selection November 2022 – February 2023

Design, Specification and Plans – February 2023 – August 2023 Build

August 2023 – August 2024

School Year 2024/25

**How feasible to renovate Emerson – find out how efficient we can reconfigure existing building?**

Due to restrictions with the age and layout of the building and lack of District property – we are limited to our options of expansion, either upward or outward. UPDATE: Once the Board has made a commitment to the current Emerson site, administration will work with architects and structural engineers to determine the feasibility of new building vs. a building refresh.

**What options have been explored and determined not feasible? Seems that options have not been explored and we have no timeline for exploring those options.**

We are only in the fact-finding stage now. Administration is looking at the big picture, where are the districts biggest needs. The debt service is driving the timeline. Any time that there is a reduction in debt, the district looks at it as an opportunity to address District needs without raising taxes. The age of Emerson and the fact that the University has grown over the years makes it a feasible project for replacement, however it is not the only potential building for replacement. One of our middle schools was built in 1924 and Hogan Administration 1920. We have numerous other renovation projects district wide to consider. The district is only trying to determine the level of support for a new or refreshed Emerson at this time.

**Costs of renovation of total renovations at current location vs. new building at Hogan.**

To get an accurate cost we would first need to identify the scope of each project for a new building or renovations at the current Emerson site. Currently, new building costs are about \$280 per square foot and remodeling is at approximately \$150 a square foot. By the time we start either project costs could vary greatly.

**List of Concerns with current school and location (deficiencies, standards not met, etc.)**

Traffic patterns around the school, lack of land owned by the district, university expansion, lack of small group instruction space, narrow hallways, front entrance and office area. The amount of work needed on the building infrastructure and envelope. Due to the foundation of the building, adding an upper floor addition is not an option for the current location.

**Are offers from UWL for the purchase of Emerson property in writing?**

There have not been any offers in writing. The district has never requested an offer. All discussions about UWL purchasing the Emerson property have been informal and without budgetary information.

**Has the School District asked the city about purchasing the land where the safety circle is located and/or Crowley field?**

We have tried to acquire the traffic circle multiple times. The City Engineer department has not been willing to give up this property. No discussion with the parks department has been made at this time regarding Crowley Field acquisition. UPDATE: During the summer of 2019, district administration met with representatives of the city on two occasions to discuss the disposition of the property.

**Has an official analysis of the Emerson school structural capacity been completed by a structural engineer?**

No. It is too early in the process.

**How will you engage parents in a conversation? Plans for forums after the initial email feedback period?**

We will first have discussions with the Board of Education. From there, the Board will put together a plan to work with the community on a decision-making process.