

# Beatrice Public Schools

Striving to be among the best in the nation

District 15 explores options for improving elementary facilities

**Past:**

In 1954 voters passed a bond issue to build four elementary schools, replacing the seven then in use

**Present:**

Since 1958 elementary facilities have adapted to changes in education, society

**Future:**

The district weighs 3 options for improving educational opportunities for students

Harrington School was built in 1925 by petition, rather than a bond issue. Presently, the district has four elementary schools. The district is looking at building a new elementary school, building a new elementary with a preschool, or remodeling the current buildings.



## Questions

**Q: If the bond issue passes what will happen to the existing buildings?**

**A:** The existing buildings would be either sold for an appropriate reuse that would be compatible with the neighborhoods that they are located in or the building would be demolished and the property sold for redevelopment for use compatible with the existing neighborhoods.

**Q: How will safety and security be addressed in the new building options?**

**A:** The new school options will be constructed to provide a storm shelter in each of the four classroom neighborhoods. The proximity of the storm shelter areas to the students and staff are important for quick and easy access. The building will also be designed to have a secure main entrance that will require all visitors to enter the building only after permission has been granted by the school office staff.

**Q: Does the facility have capacity for growth?**

**A:** Yes all options have accommodations for some modest growth. The school board has recommended that the project include two additional classrooms so as to provide at least 7 classrooms per grade level and a total of 51 PK – 5 classrooms for all proposed options.

**Q: What was the intended life span of the existing buildings?**

**A:** The life span of the existing buildings is relative to the program requirements and the degree of maintenance and repair that are performed over the life of the building. The existing Beatrice elementary schools have been well maintained over the years, but building systems like heating, ventilation and air conditioning need to be updated every 25 – 30 years. Also, changes in educational program offerings required more and different space than what was required 60 years ago. A 60 year life span is a reasonable expectation, before major improvements are required for any building.