

Construction Update

An Update on the School District's Construction Projects and Educational Enhancement Efforts • September 2003

Progress continues on school renovations and new construction

The Moorhead School District is approximately a year away from opening two new schools and four completely renovated schools. The new and remodeled schools and the enhanced educational programs are part of the district's efforts to further improve the quality of education offered in the schools.

During the last several months construction has created a number of changes at Moorhead High School, Moorhead Junior High School and Robert Asp School. Construction continues as well on the new elementary school and the new middle school.

Moorhead Junior High is being renovated into a K-5 elementary school for the 2004-05 school year. Construction over the summer included removing the exterior panels and installing a new curtainwall. Inside, the classrooms in the two-story portion of the school have been significantly renovated with work done on the walls, ceiling and floor.

Similar work was done at Robert Asp School, which is also being renovated into a K-5 elementary school for the 2004-05 school year. Only sixth-graders will attend Robert Asp this year to accommodate some construction continuing into the school year. Exterior work on the curtain-wall installation is expected to be completed in October.

At Moorhead High School, both the ninth grade center

addition and the scene shop addition to the theater are taking shape. The new ring road surrounding the Sports Center and parking lots by the Sports Center have been completed, and the former road between the school and the Sports Center has been cleared for construction of the fieldhouse addition.

Inside, the school has had renovation in the former media center and administrative areas. Part of the former media center is being renovated to be the new administrative area. During the 2003-04 school year, construction will continue on the ninth grade center, commons/cafeteria, fieldhouse, and scene shop additions.

Across the district, stakeholders will be working throughout the year to plan for the transitions for the 2004-05 school year.

The Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force will be formed to research options for the elementary school boundaries.

The Elementary School Implementation Team and the Middle School Implementation Team will work during the school year to plan the educational programs that will be offered at the elementary and middle school level.

At the high school, a High School Enhancement Research Study Group will be created to research the impact of state and national requirements on the high school programming.



The three-story academic wing of the new middle school is being enclosed. Students in grades 6-8 will attend the new middle school beginning in the 2004-05 school year.



Structural steel and metal stud framing have been erected for the new K-5 elementary school in south Moorhead. This portion of the school is now being bricked.



Additions at Moorhead High School include a ninth grade center, commons/cafeteria, a fieldhouse for physical education, and a scene shop addition to the theater. The three-story ninth grade center shown here will create smaller learning communities for ninth-graders and ease the transition to high school.

Highlights of the Master Facilities Plan

- Change the district's grade configuration from K-4/5, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 to reduce the transitions for students and allow for comprehensive curriculum development.
- Build a new grades 6-8 middle school and implement the middle school model.
- Convert Robert Asp and Moorhead Junior High to K-5 elementary schools.
- Build a new K-5 elementary school.
- Renovate Moorhead High School by adding a ninth grade center, cafeteria/commons and fieldhouse.
- Create smaller learning communities at the elementary, middle and high school levels.
- Convert Probstfield Elementary School into a district education center for Early Childhood Family Education, Early Intervention Services, HeadStart, Adult Basic Education, Community Education and district offices.



▲ Above: From the third floor of the middle school's academic wing, the areas where the media center, music classrooms, cafeteria and gymnasium are under construction can be seen.

◀ Left: As part of the district-wide construction projects, Moorhead Junior High and Robert Asp School are being renovated into K-5 elementary schools. The brown panels on the exterior of the schools are being replaced with a new blue curtainwall to update the appearance of the schools. Moorhead Junior High is shown here.



Classrooms in the two-story portion of Robert Asp are being remodeled. Second-floor classrooms, like the one seen here, were ready for the start of school. Work will continue on first floor classrooms during the school year. Only sixth-graders are attending Robert Asp this year to accommodate some construction during the school year. Similar work was done at Moorhead Junior High this summer.

Recommendations for School Names

In May 2003, the Moorhead School Board approved the recommendations for school names presented by the School Naming Task Force. The fourteen-member task force worked for several months to gather community suggestions and research possible names for each school facility.

The task force made the following recommendations for school names.

Elementary School in Current Robert Asp Facility: *Robert Asp Elementary School*

Elementary School in Current Junior High Facility: *Ellen Hopkins Elementary School*

New Elementary School: *S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School*

New Middle School: *Horizon Middle School*

High School: *Moorhead High School*

Area Learning Center: *Red River Area Learning Center*

District Education Center in Current Probstfield Facility: *Probstfield Center for Education*

The School Naming Task Force report is available on the district Web site at www.moorhead.k12.mn.us.