

# **Goodridge residents to decide on single-question ballot**

**Submitted by Superintendent Tom Loberg**

In less than one week, Goodridge Public School residents will cast their vote at the polls and decide whether to invest in critical educational and facility improvements to the district's building. The Goodridge Forward plan was not developed in a vacuum — it is the culmination of over a year of assessments, planning, prioritization, community feedback, and more. The school board and administration feel confident that the proposed plan best addresses the district's most critical needs while providing a high value for district taxpayers.

If residents approve the \$21.35 million single-question ballot, these improvements will positively impact students, staff, and the community for decades to come, including:

- Providing right-sized spaces to educate students, including Special Education, history, classrooms to serve grades 3-6, an improved science lab and lecture area, home economics, and more. Providing hands-on learning spaces, such as welding, small engines, welding, robotics, and more will open doors of possibilities for students that choose not to attend postsecondary education.

- Creating right-sized spaces for physical education and activities, including adequate gymnasium space. The new gymnasium would provide space for locker rooms, concessions, and a weight room with community access, and the small gymnasium would be renovated to serve as a dedicated secure entrance.

- Making critical updates to improve safety, security, bathrooms, and building systems, including a dedicated secure entrance, improving the building's HVAC systems to increase indoor air quality, and providing additional bathrooms to serve students well.

With Election Day right around the corner, the district encourages residents to vote absentee in person to avoid any delays in the mail. Residents can visit the Auditor-Treasurer's Office in Thief River Falls during normal business hours or during their extended absentee hours. Extended voting hours include Saturday, Nov. 4, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 6 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Residents can now vote absentee by mail or in person through Monday, Nov. 6.

All residents will vote at the Goodridge Senior Center, 307 Vaughn Main St. E. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7. For updated voting information, visit [goodridgeforward.org/vote](http://goodridgeforward.org/vote). Residents can find their estimated tax impact by visiting [goodridgeforward.org/cost](http://goodridgeforward.org/cost).

If you have any questions or feedback about the referendum, residents can contact Superintendent Tomas Loberg at [tomas.loberg@goodridgeisd561.org](mailto:tomas.loberg@goodridgeisd561.org) or 218-378-4134. For complete information about the Goodridge Forward bond referendum, visit [goodridgeforward.org](http://goodridgeforward.org).