

## Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools

P.O. Box 149

Neligh, Nebraska 68756

402-887-4166



### PRESS RELEASE

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The Neligh-Oakdale Board of Education is continuing to address facility challenges, including meeting the correction order given by the State Fire Marshal's office.

The Board has dedicated much time to providing the public with updates on the facility in the following manner

- hosting community-based meetings
- holding open meetings
- sending phone messages
- sending email updates
- sending press releases
- posting updates on school website
- posting Fire Marshal order
- posting Board response

At the August 11 board meeting, the board unanimously approved the hiring of Sampson Construction as construction manager for facility improvements. The district must correct the deficiencies indicated by the State Fire Marshal's office. In June, the board approved a plan of correction for Eastward and the High School. The State Fire Marshal also visited Westward on a second visit to the school due to time restraints during his first visit. The inspections were at the request of an anonymous caller. The Fire Marshal has submitted another order requiring correction at that facility for which the board has until Aug. 29 to respond.

As the board stated in its original response to the Fire Marshal's office, the first correction order will require a bond since the costs exceed funding currently available to the district. Some of these costs include fire sprinklers and a new HVAC system due to height requirements that must be met to use the basement as a means of egress or hallway.

The exact amount of the bond and what it will entail cannot be determined until Sampson Construction finishes estimating the potential projects. The board must then determine which projects can be funded by a bond and which projects paid for by the building fund. Those figures will be released to the public once they are provided to the Board's Building and Grounds team.

As was stated at Monday's meeting, the school architect has met with and continues to communicate with the Fire Marshal's design team in Lincoln as to what the district must do to meet the correction order. The Lincoln office will make final approval of the correction order and plans by the district.

The Board of Education thanks the district stakeholders for all of their valuable input into the facility challenges and will continue to provide updates to the public, as it has throughout the entire process.