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Happy New Year! As we kickoff 2018, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools (PLSAS) has some very exciting times ahead as we begin to create space for our ever-growing student population.

Thanks to voter approval of PLSAS' two school funding requests, we are now in the process of moving from concept proposals into a design phase along with construction timelines for our new building additions, new elementary school and new Bridges Area Learning Center.

Last month the School Board received a construction phasing plan for district-wide building projects that will continue through 2020. Throughout the planning and design phases there will be opportunities for stakeholder input. For a detailed chart that includes design, bidding, construction and occupancy timelines visit our website: www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/construction

Staff meetings are underway to plan for additions or renovations to Five Hawks, Glendale (paid for using existing funding sources), Jeffers Pond and Redtail Ridge elementary schools to be completed in time for the 2018/19 school year.

PLSAS is expecting to break ground on a new elementary school in the Big Sky Estates development in Savage in late spring of 2019, after Prior Lake Aggregates has completed mining in that area. The new elementary school will then open in the fall of 2020.

At the secondary level, design, bidding and construction phases for school projects will begin in 2018 for classroom additions, and kitchen/cafeteria expansion to Prior Lake High School, additions/remodeling at the middle schools and the construction of Bridges Area Learning Center, which are slated to open in fall of 2019. Other high school construction projects including the secure front entrance and gyms will open in fall of 2020. Remodeling and additions will also be made to Grainwood, WestWood and Edgewood in time for the 2019/20 school year.

To help ease crowding at the elementary level until the new school opens, the district is implementing the following short-term space solutions over the next two years with the goal of being as least disruptive as possible to students and families:

- Construction of two additional classrooms each at Redtail Ridge and Jeffers Pond to open in the 2018/19 school year.
- Continue to limit open enrollment for the 2018/19 school year up to 75 students in kindergarten and up to 1% of new students in grades 1-12.

In addition, the district is considering implementing the following additional short-term space solutions:

- Use existing, non-traditional spaces for classrooms in elementary schools, such as computer labs and staff lounges.

- Lease space in the community for pre-kindergarten programs that are currently located in neighborhood schools.
- Maintain La ola del lago Spanish Immersion at Edgewood School for the next two years, while also utilizing space at neighboring WestWood Elementary for 4th and 5th grade immersion sections.
- The School Board is expected to discuss potential elementary attendance boundary adjustments for the 2018-19 school year at upcoming board meetings in January and February (a process to determine comprehensive elementary boundary changes will be made prior to the opening of the new elementary school and will include stakeholder involvement).
- Class size average adjustments.

We have created a dedicated web page to keep staff and residents up-to-date on the planning and construction process so that all stakeholders can see their investment come to life for students. Please check back frequently for updates: www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/construction

These construction projects would not be possible without the support of the residents of this community. Thank you again for your generosity as we work to fulfill our mission to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community. Together, we are PLSAS!