



LITTLE FALLS

NEWSLETTER

District 482 | May-Issue 2 | 2025

What we know:

- The community survey results are in and were announced at the May 12th Board Meeting, they can be viewed on the district website or our pages. (they did not go in the Board's favor)
- The Board is still moving forward with a vote to close Dr. Knight and will not be pursuing the sale of any of the vacant properties because "they might use them in the future"

Important Dates to Note:***UPDATED***

- ~~The Board is calling a special Meeting May 27th to schedule a public hearing~~

Hearing: 6/23/25 6pm
Vote: 06/30/25

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Make yourself aware of what is truly happening in our schools
- Attend any and all upcoming meetings and make your voice heard (remember this will affect ALL district students)
- Reach out to YOUR School Board ASK THEM WHAT THEIR FUTURE PLANS ARE AND WHEN AND WHAT FUTURE REFERENDUM THEY PLAN TO PURSUE!



KNOW YOUR



SCHOOL BOARD

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District in Financial Stress: But Continues Spending Funds

What is the reasoning behind closing Dr. Knight, and why are no other options being fully considered?

Monday May 19th, we learned that the Little Falls Community School Board has plans to continue moving forward with plans to close Dr. Knight Elementary School in Randall, MN.

Recently, although they claim to be under dire financial stress, the board approved a \$20,000 community survey, as they said they wanted to see the public's view. Well, those results are in, and they did not give the board the results they were hoping for. However, the results did not change their plans. At their work session on Monday, some dialogue between the board shows us this.

Board Director Kelsie Herzog stated "I would like to vote on it (the closure) because I think pushing it out a year and saying it still might be on the table next year is going to cause more chaos at Dr. Knight and we will probably lose more enrollment in the process anyways. I would rather make a decision whether we keep it open, or we close it."

Sharon Ballou – Board Clerk responded asking "What about Peter's suggestion of an operating levy, and that if it passed then we wouldn't have to close a school? And I guess my point on that is, if we don't go with the suggestion, what did we spend \$20,000 for?"

Board Chair - Doug Dahlberg had just a short answer to this stating "well that was one suggestion" and this is where the conversation ended on that subject.

We echo Sharon Ballou's question; WHY DID THE BOARD PAY FOR A \$20 THOUSAND survey if they are NOT going to use the information it provided to make informed decisions??? For a district in dire financial strain, they sure have no problem spending funding in areas it is not needed.

Another point discussed were ideas brought to them by the community to sell some of the vacant district land. In their discussions on the different properties, the plot east of the high school was brought up and Executive Director of School Operations – Mark Diehl

Commented "you know you would have to really think about whether or not you want to give up that kind of space, if you did have some future growth."

Board Director Dan Schilling followed with "It's one-time money, what's one thing property never does? Go down in value. We sell all that land now and we give up our possibility of selling that land in the future to offset the cost of building a new school. The age of our school buildings, is not in the immediate future but at some point, in the future we are going to need to build a new building."

Board Director Kelsie Herzog also stated, "I am not in favor of selling the properties."

We need to hold the board accountable for their spending decisions and ask ARE THEY DOING WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR STUDENTS? We cannot continue to let them spend district money on administrative positions and cushy buildings while they continue to cut education-based positions!

"BE A VOICE NOT AN ECHO, IF THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG, SPEAK UP!"

