

March 27, 2020

Dear Northview community,

As the president of the Northview Public Schools Board of Education, and on behalf of the full Northview Board, I am writing to share our thoughts and provide information on recent decisions made by the Board.

As board members, we have participated in and witnessed first-hand, the kindness, generosity and sacrifice made by those in our community to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and families. This is Northview. This is why we serve on the Northview Board of Education.

As board members, we are responsible for governing Northview Public Schools. When each of us took on this role, we expected to face challenging circumstances. While we never anticipated facing a challenge as large and complex as COVID-19, we remain steadfast in governing Northview Public Schools to best meet the needs of our students and families—now and in the future.

In the midst of an ever-changing situation, the Board is faced with making decisions. We are asking for your grace and understanding as we make time-sensitive decisions during an uncertain time.

The clearest example of this was the Board's decision to proceed with the May 5, 2020 bond proposal. The primary rationale for not delaying this ballot proposal is because 2.608 debt mills will expire on June 30, 2020. This means that any proposal brought to the voters after June 30, 2020 would in fact be a tax increase. Delaying the vote beyond May also means that the much-needed work on our schools would be delayed by one year.

The information we have received to date indicates that the May 5, 2020 election will be held in person. One step being taken by the Secretary of State's office to reduce the number of in person voters is the mailing of absentee voter applications to all registered voters. Absentee ballots will then be mailed to all registered absentee voters. We believe the Northview community will turn out and vote on May 5 either by absentee ballot or in person.

Thank you for taking the time to read this communication. While it is longer than I would have liked, the Board's priority is to provide clear and complete information to the Northview community.

If you have questions on any of the information shared in this communication, please contact our superintendent, Dr. Scott Korpak, by email at skorpak@nvps.net or by calling him at 616-365-6151.

Sincerely,

Doug LaFleur

Douglas LaFleur, Ph.D.
Board President
Northview Public Schools