

(5/22/24 District Administrator's Corner Article)

There is always work to do as we reflect on the vision of excellence at the River Valley School District. The word that seems to stick in my mind as we process what to do next is "Forward."

I picture the statue on the pinnacle of our state capitol building. "Forward," as the statue is named, is an 1893 bronze statue by American sculptor Jean Pond Miner Coburn depicting an embodiment of Wisconsin's "Forward" motto. Jean P. M. Coburn was an artist in residency when she created "Forward." A replica of the original was created and proudly placed at the Wisconsin State Capitol grounds at the top of State Street. This solidified "Forward" as the motto of the state of Wisconsin. Coburn had originally planned to cast the statute in copper, but her funds ran out and the statue remained in its bronze form. Sometimes we have to take "best laid plans" and flexibly pivot.

Our April 2024 referendum centered around fiscal responsibility, ADA needs, as well as safety & security. These changes would have provided an opportunity for River Valley to transition to one campus and serve all students in updated facilities. When the referendum did not pass, we found ourselves needing to be flexible, yet thinking about how to move forward. As a result of that discussion, we are seeking additional information from the River Valley community on next steps pertaining to facilities. Therefore, a simple survey is forthcoming to garner details on which facilities projects our community wants to pursue. Here are the questions that will be part of that brief survey:

Question 1: In which community do you reside? Each of our four villages and additional 12 municipalities have a distinct personality and diverse needs. We will be able to sort data findings by this demographic question.

Question 2: What is your age? Likewise, your age helps us to sort data findings by this demographic question to determine who is interested in which facilities projects.

Question 3: Did you vote on April 2, 2024? This will help us establish who may vote in the future.

Question 4: How did you vote on Question 1 (\$19.5 million for school facility improvement projects)? Simply put, yes or no?

Question 5: If you voted no on Question 1 on April 2, please indicate the possible reason. Please let us know why. We have listed 8 potential reasons, but there is space to provide other reasons.

Question 6: How did you vote on Question 2 (\$14.5 million for performing arts and high school projects)? Simply put, yes or no?

Question 7: If you voted no on Question 2 on April 2, please indicate the possible reason. Again, please let us know why. We have listed 5 potential reasons, but there is space to provide other reasons.

Question 8: Choose items you feel are necessary to replace, remodel, or renovate? We have provided some ideas from the community facilities task force, but there is space to provide other ideas.

In the upcoming week, the survey will be available to take electronically and as a paper copy. It will be shared with school families and the community facilities task force, who will be encouraged to share with other families and friends in our voting area. The survey will be featured in the Home News and the Buyer's Guide and can be cut out, completed, and submitted to the District Office. If you would like a paper copy, just stop by or reach out to the District Office (660 W. Daley Street, Spring Green, 608-588-2551, or lglasbrenner@rvschools.org). Completed surveys can be mailed to the District Office or delivered to the drop box outside the District Office door.

Again, we will move forward in this democratic process as we listen to the voices of our community and will plan carefully. *"If you can't fly, then run; if you can't run, then walk; if you can't walk, then crawl; but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward!"*
- Martin Luther King

Mr. Loren G. Glasbrenner
District Administrator