

Building a New Legacy

Bosco System Catholic Schools



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can we make gifts electronically like we do with tithing?

Yes, donors will be able to utilize Automatic Withdrawal, or Electronic Funds Transfer, as they do for tithing.

Naming rights and recognition opportunities?

Naming opportunities for various gift and pledge levels are available for review by donors. As the new multiuse facility is completed, all donors will be recognized for their support. The recognition method will be determined at a later date and fully communicated to the Bosco System family.

Are there other gym alternatives rather than putting money into a new gym?

A Visioning Committee (VC), which is composed of representatives from the Boards of Education at St. Athanasius, St. John's in Independence and the Bosco System, was established two years ago. The primary goal of the committee is to create a Vision Statement and long range plan for Catholic education in our area. Sharing the St. Athanasius gym was one of the ideas reviewed by the committee. Two challenges were on the table that all agreed were difficult to manage; current utilization of the St. Athanasius gymnasium for school and parish needs, and the necessary transportation linkage between Jesup and Gilbertville. In the end it was unanimous that replacing St. Mary's Hall with a new multiuse facility would help both elementary and high school needs.

One thing the VC continued to come back to was that every nearby school with middle school athletic and extra-curricular programs, both public and parochial, has their own school gymnasium. We currently rely on the Don Bosco high school gymnasium for primary and middle school events, all of which are a scheduling nightmare. Our middle school physical education program suffers by not having a usable facility for daytime activities. And we all know of the concerns about the safety of utilizing the gymnasium in St. Mary's Hall.

The VC is developing a formal process to seek community feedback, planned for this fall. Please provide your feedback as this survey becomes a reality.

Estimated cost of new plan is quite a bit lower than was originally communicated during the feasibility study. What happened?

The Building Committee has been hard at work using the guidance provided from the feedback in the feasibility study to refine a plan that meets our needs allowing us to stay within the fundraising potential of \$2.5 to \$3.3 million. The multiuse facility has been downsized 15,680 sq. ft. from the original plan of over 20,000 sq. ft. and a review of some more cost effective building materials and processes has helped to drive the projected building costs down. As well, the early projections for the improvements to Don Bosco have been more detailed estimates for the bathroom and locker renovations, and flooring and window replacements. Now the focus turns to the fundraising effort.

What about maintenance and energy costs?

The projections show that by replacing two old buildings, which do not have appropriate insulation and heating systems, with a newly constructed energy efficient single level building, we can expect our maintenance expenses to be maintained or possibly reduced. As well, replacing windows and lowering/insulating the hallway ceilings in Don Bosco will certainly show savings on the energy needed to heat the building.

What about enrollment for the next 5-10 years?

Our goal, and the goal of the communities we live in, is to continue to provide a Catholic education. An effort to promote the Bosco System as an alternative to public education is one of the objectives of the Student Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC). Regardless of the enrolment, it is our responsibility to provide an appropriate environment for our students to grow academically, improve physically, and assemble safely.

At one time, the school supported 300 students. Why do we need more room to support fewer students?

There are many more classes and activities now offered to our students than those provided fifty years ago when the original grade school and high school were built. In recent years the state of Iowa has increased graduation requirements. The Iowa Core Curriculum standards mandate that schools provide additional learning opportunities for students. Some of the course offerings include civic literacy, employability skills, and financial, health and Technology literacy. Another reality is that the advent of a classroom being used as a computer lab. We are also driven to a staffing goal of 25 students per teacher from a time when some classes were as high as 40 students per teacher.

What recruitment efforts are being made to increase enrollment?

The Visioning Committee feels that without appropriate facilities, our enrollment will suffer further beyond the current trend. We have seen what happens to nearby schools, when new public facilities with better amenities and more attractive features are built. The Bosco System believes that high quality Catholic education is a long-term priority for our area. A priority is to provide safe and attractive learning environment for our faculty and students.

The Board of Education has plans for marketing our school system to further promote opportunities here, and will work with the SIAC committee to implement these plans following this campaign.

Will the Raymond program be moved to Gilbertville?

There are no plans to move K-2 students and staff to the Gilbertville location at this time. St Joseph's Parish is a member parish of the Bosco System Board of Education with full active representation. The full board supported the plan to move forward with the goal of providing a replacement of St. Mary's Hall with a new multiuse facility.

Who is making all the decisions?

The Bosco System Catholic Schools Board of Education and a Building Committee (established by the Board of Education) are guiding the process. The members of each are listed here. Our consultant, the Steier Group, has helped establish roles for these groups with a focus on a common goal of taking the Bosco System to the next level.

Building Committee

Vince McFadden
Kerrie Becker
Scott Becker
John Huff
Julie Niemeyer
Scott Reiter
Steve Reiter
Dan Roth

Board of Education

Tim Horrigan, Chair
Scott Reiter, Vice Chair
Julie Niemeyer, Executive Officer
Sue Davis
Larry Delagardelle
Eric Eckerman, DB Principal
Kelli Even
Curt Frost
Matt Hovey
Jamie McMahan
Sheri Purdy
Blaine Rhoads
Janet Weber
Father Kenneth Stecher, Pastoral
Coordinator
Father Jerry Blake
Father Dennis Colter

If you have questions about any of the plans, please email buildinganewlegacy@boscosystem.pvt.k12.ia.us or call 319-296-1606 to leave a message.

Is the rumor true that we already have \$2M in the bank for this plan?

This rumor is not true. We currently have slightly over \$100,000 contributed to the Bosco System facilities fund. This campaign has two goals; The Celebration Goal of \$2.5 million and the Challenge Goal of \$3.3 million.

Celebration Goal: will enable the Bosco System to move forward with the replacement of St. Mary's Hall with a new multiuse facility. Dependent on the actual construction bids we may be able to accomplish some of the improvements to Don Bosco High School's 1956 building.

Challenge Goal: will enable the Bosco System to complete the multiuse facility and to make ALL of the improvements planned for Don Bosco High School.

We do want everyone to understand that all projects will be done with fiscal responsibility being our guide. There is no intention of taking on any debt to complete any of the goals of this campaign.

Why is this a Bosco System project when St. Mary's Hall is owned by Immaculate Conception parish?

The Bosco system already has a cooperative use agreement with Immaculate Conception Parish for use of cafeteria and gymnasium space in St. Mary's Hall. St. Mary's Hall is made available and scheduled by Immaculate Conception Parish for other uses, such as the Forester's meetings, scouting meetings, and other after-school activities. It is the intent that the Bosco system will use this new facility for these and other parish/community activities as well as necessary school events.

The archdiocese has recommended that school properties be managed by the respective Board of Education. As part of this project, documents are being developed to more clearly identify ownership of all the education buildings in the system.

Immaculate Conception Parish has consented to the demolition of the convent and St. Mary's Hall, and the placement of this new facility on Immaculate Conception property. Facility management will be by the Bosco System Board of Education through its facilities subcommittee to include cleaning, maintenance and upgrades as part of the budget of the Bosco System.

What about using volunteer labor to build the multiuse facility and to make the improvements to Don Bosco?

Our Building Committee is working with the architect for the overall construction plan. We look forward to using our active volunteers at appropriate phases of the project, both with remodeling and renovations in the high school and in the new facility if possible. We will gladly accept in-kind donations when able. In order to proceed with signing a contract for the actual construction, the board of education and the archdiocese requires us to have appropriate cash in hand as well as pledges to fulfill the entire needs of the project. We plan to have no long term debt at the end of the campaign.

The preliminary plan had space shown for the music department in the new building. What happened to that plan?

After discussion with Mr. Mikita and some of the band boosters, it was determined that relocating the music room to the new building created more issues than renovating the current location to meet the needs of the music department.

What will be done with everything that is currently stored in the convent?

We have created a list of people, groups and organizations that are currently using the convent for storage or other purposes. We will work with these groups to identify what needs to be stored going forward and where the most appropriate place is to store those items. We will work together to sort through everything and clean out what we can.

We are working with the Recycled Greeting Card Group to determine the best place for relocation. This group generates @ \$20,000 per year and has an outstanding production system. We are also working with the Youth Group leaders to relocate the meeting space used for Youth Group each week. We are considering space in the high school building for these two groups.

In the end, everything that is in the convent will be gone through and either relocated, recycled, disposed of, or given away. We are also considering holding a sale to give the community the opportunity to purchase some items that are not needed but have value. This decision will not be made until all groups who have items in the convent have sorted through them. Then, with the appropriate permission, we may hold a sale.

Any groups who currently use the convent or St. Mary's Hall for various activities will also have the opportunity to use the new multi-use facility or another space within the Bosco System. The new building has some storage built into the plan. We will use those storage areas for the appropriate items and find other storage areas for everything else. This project will force us to clean out and organize many areas within the Bosco System.

Why are we doing this campaign now?

It has been a couple generations since our facilities have been the focus of attention. What better time to come together to strengthen the facilities we use to support the Catholic education of our youth.

Why do we need a bigger weight room?

The larger weight room offers us the opportunity to work with students overall health and wellness by having weight programs and enhanced physical education classes. Rather than being a weight room for a select group of athletes, the room can become a Fitness Center. Presently because of the small size of the weight room, athletes are working out in unsupervised facilities around the area, which is a constant concern for the welfare and safety of our students.

Why do we need a new wrestling room?

Turning the existing wrestling room into a Fitness Center for all students to use means we need a new space for our wrestling program. The current space which is used by a variety of groups, ages K-12, is tight for a single mat program. With the size of our program the safety of the students is a paramount concern, which drives us to the need we have had for some years, a two mat facility. The new expansion off the existing wrestling room, which will become the Fitness Center, will be a cost effective expansion that will allow the coaches and athletes to work in a space that enhances the ability to teach and learn, while adding the missing element so important, safety.

With the elimination of the convent, where will the Recycled Card Group (Card Ladies) meet?

The Board of Education is actively working with Immaculate Conception Parish and the group to evaluate the space needs and site possibilities. We are confident that an appropriate location will be determined very soon.

With the elimination of the convent, where will the Youth Group meet?

The Board of Education is actively working with Immaculate Conception Parish and the group to evaluate the space needs and site possibilities. We are confident that an appropriate location will be determined very soon.