

A Message from the Board of Education, Skokie School District 73½

Based on the recommendation of our administration and a committee of community residents, we have approved a plan to use our bonding authority to build an addition at Meyer School and a multipurpose room at Middleton School. We believe this will serve our students and families more effectively and maintain the high educational standards our community expects.

The addition at Meyer would include a gym, a library, seven classrooms and a gross motor room where staff can work with students who need physical and occupational therapy. The multipurpose room at Middleton would be used primarily for physical education classes to accommodate the adoption of everyday PE for every student.

Increased space means that our teachers, support staff and students would have more room to teach and learn. "A new library would be huge for me, to be able to bring students to the library and do activities there," says Persephone Kelly, a kindergarten teacher who has taught at Meyer since it opened more than 20 years ago. Planned spaces for small-group work would also benefit students, particularly when assessing their progress, she adds. Right now, a teacher working with small groups often must share space with another teacher doing similar work, which can distract youngsters. "It's best for kids to have space where they can focus and not be interrupted."

Ross Mathee, a district parent whose three children all attended Meyer, believes the additional space is warranted. "The costs and hassle of converting the Meyer multipurpose room from gym to cafeteria and then back to gym and art is unproductive and does not allow for art and drama to be housed in their own classroom," he says. Furthermore, he adds, "afterschool care does not have its own room to house this important community need." The need is clear at Middleton as well, he says. Without sufficient flexible space for general purposes, students have very limited options for recess in bad weather, and the band sometimes practices in hallways, he notes.

Randy Roberts, an attorney and Skokie village trustee whose children attended district schools, agrees. "I think there's a definite need for an expansion at Meyer. We have to have adequate space for library, adequate space for small-group instruction," he said. "if we're going to attract young families to Skokie, we need high-quality schools." As a member of the advisory committee that recommended the plan, Roberts believes the plan addresses the district's needs responsibly. "I have a lot of confidence in our elected school board and our administrators. They'll do this in a way that's reasonable and not excessive. I think there's a strong correlation between good neighborhoods, good quality of life and good schools."

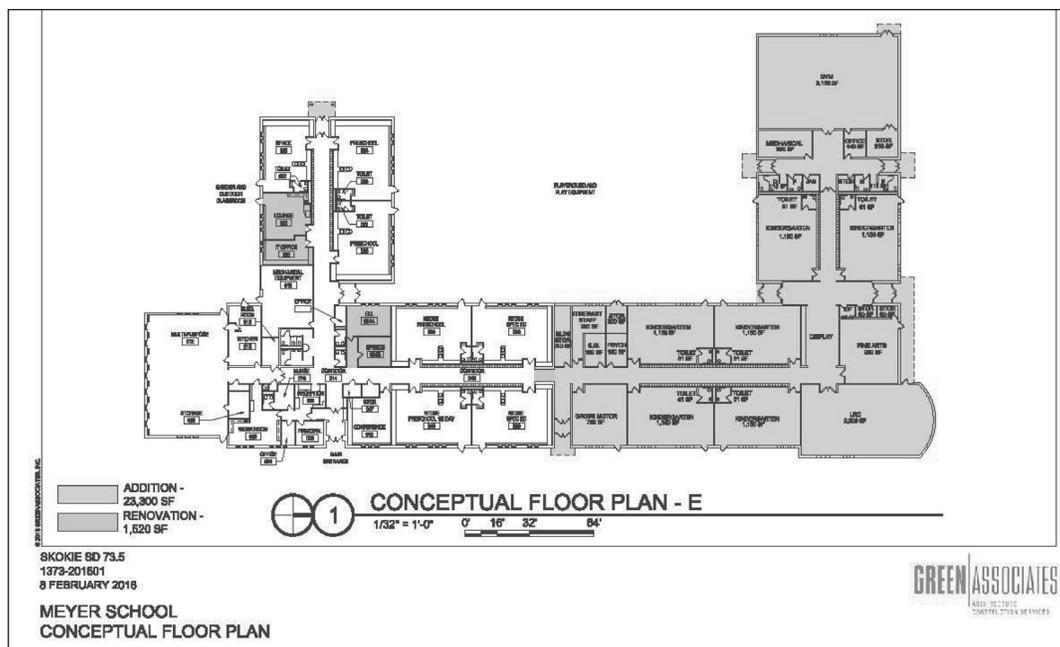
Bob Quane, a former school board president whose daughter attended district schools, believes the community will benefit from the project. "Meyer is an exceptional learning and nurturing environment and the perfect front door to the community and the school district for families and their children," he says. "The new addition strengthens the priority of the District to ensure that our children have the best start possible. This investment will solidify District 73½ as the best place in the area to start and raise a family."

Erin Shelley, a district resident and parent, agrees. "I would not live in the community if it weren't for the love, compassion, and dedication my children receive in Meyer's early education program," she says. "There are many parents in this community with a similar viewpoint. The value that Meyer's pre-K and kindergarten add to our community is priceless."

For more information, visit www.sd735.org. The district also plans to hold an information session for community members and host tours of the existing Meyer facility for interested residents. For details, please see the other side of this flier.

Postal Patron
Local
Skokie, IL 60076-9614

An invitation from Skokie School District 73½



The public is invited to attend a presentation on the proposed building additions for Meyer and Middleton schools. **The meeting is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7 at Meyer School, 8100 Tripp Ave.** Those who would like to attend but need child care are asked to call Meyer at 847-673-1223 to make arrangements.

Interested residents also are invited to learn more about Meyer facility space needs by touring the school. **Public tours are planned for 10 a.m. Thursday, April 7 and 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14.**

In order to accommodate all those who wish to take one of the tours, advance registration will be required. Those interested in a tour are asked to call the school at 847-673-1223 to make a reservation.

For more information, visit www.sd735.org