

# BARRINGTON 220



Construction crews tear down the mobile classrooms at Station Middle School on June 7, 2021.



## Building a Better Future in Barrington 220

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS DETAILED IN A MARCH 2020 REFERENDUM FOR FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY

**W**HEN BARRINGTON 220 students and staff returned to school in August, three of their school buildings looked a lot different from when they ended the year last May. Over the summer the district kicked off the first of many “Build 220” construction projects, which were made possible by a \$147 million referendum that the community approved on March 17, 2020. Quintessential Barrington talked with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Hunt about some of the projects and how long they will take to complete.

**QB:** *It sounds like there are a lot of exciting changes happening in Barrington 220! Can you tell us a little more about the Build 220 initiative?*

**RH:** Yes, this is a very exciting time to be in

Barrington 220, especially as the new Superintendent of Schools! Build 220 is the construction phase in a multi-year initiative aimed at addressing Barrington 220’s aging facilities and their impact on student learning.

The first phase, **Blueprint 220**, began in 2017 when a group of stakeholders consisting of Barrington 220 administrators, teachers, parents, Board of Education members and community members helped provide input in order for Pepper Construction and representatives from architectural firm DLR Group to create a master facility plan for the district.

During the next phase, **Referendum 220**, the Barrington area community approved \$147 million worth of projects identified in that master facility plan.

Thanks to that community support, we are now in the **Build 220** phase, which is when all of that funding is being allocated to a variety of construction projects happening at every Barrington 220 school. The projects will improve safety and security at each school, better prepare our students for their future, and protect the community’s investment in our school buildings.

**QB:** *Can you share some details about the safety and security improvements that will be made at all Barrington 220 schools?*

**RH:** We will be installing a new camera system and access door control system in each of our schools. The new software will make it much easier for our security team to monitor who is entering and exiting each building at any given time throughout the day. If a door is left open for any reason, the security team will be alerted immediately. In

addition, the camera system is able to quickly sort through hours of video, which can help us quickly locate a specific person in our buildings simply by entering in some of the person's physical descriptions.

Of course, the elimination of the mobile classrooms at Prairie, Station, and Grove is also a huge improvement, as students at those schools will no longer have to exit the main building to get to class. The mobile classrooms at Prairie and Station were knocked down in June and construction on new classroom additions at each of those schools is now underway. The mobile classrooms at Grove will remain on that campus until the new classroom addition is complete. Construction began last month. In addition, over the summer crews completed a new front entrance vestibule at Grove which provides a more secure entrance to the building.

It's important to note that all of the construction and architect crews undergo a background check, as well as a safety training before they are able to begin working on site at our schools.

**QB:** *How will some of the new spaces that are being built help enhance student learning?*

**RH:** Learning today is much more collaborative than in the past. It isn't just a teacher standing in front of rows of desks in a classroom. The new spaces we are building will allow students and staff to easily work together in large groups, small groups, or one-on-one with teachers. In addition, we are creating dedicated spaces in all of our elementary schools for STEM, as well as sensory rooms for students with special needs.

More than \$60 million of the \$147 million referendum is allocated to improvements at Barrington High School. Some of these improvements include: creating student spaces that are flexible and can be used for various purposes at different times throughout a typical school day, as well as for events after hours; increasing the overall amount of instructional spaces for PE classes and athletic teams; improving traffic flow on campus; as well as creating a dedicated area where students can access numerous support services such as counseling, attendance, and health services.

**QB:** *What is the timeline for all the construction that will be happening across the district?*

**RH:** We are working with architecture firm DLR



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Hunt

Group and Pepper Construction to complete the projects. The entire process is expected to last through 2025. The timeline for construction is divided into three phases:

- **Design:** Time needed to review concepts, produce construction documents, and receive authorization from the Board of Education to release for bidding.
- **Bid:** Time needed for prospective bidders to get drawings, estimate and submit bids for the design, and the construction team to analyze and formulate recommendations for Board of Education approval.
- **Build:** time needed to award contracts, purchase materials, construct, and once completed, turn over the facility to the school district to occupy.

**QB:** *Which phases are all of the schools currently in?*

**RH:** BMS-Prairie, BMS-Station and Grove Avenue Elementary have all completed the Design and Bid phases and are now in the Build phase. Work was prioritized at these three schools in order to eliminate the mobile classrooms at each school. Barrington High School, Roslyn Road Elementary, Countryside Elementary, Sunny Hill Elementary, and Hough Street School are all currently in the Design phase. Barbara Rose Elementary, Arnett C. Lines Elementary, North Barrington Elementary, and the Early Learning Center are scheduled to begin the Design phase in early 2022. U

To learn more, visit: [barrington220.org/build220](http://barrington220.org/build220).



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