

# D-99 moves closer to facilities upgrade

District receiving proposals for firms to help with public engagement strategy of plan

By **NATHAN LURZ**  
nlurz@shawmedia.com

**DOWNERS GROVE** – Downers Grove Community High School District 99 is one step closer to upgrading its facilities.

The district will receive the last of its request for proposals Oct. 21 for firms to aid in a public engagement strategy of its Master Facility Plan.

At the Oct. 3 school board meeting, District Superintendent Henry Thiele said the plan was based off a good deal of work, particularly during the last year.

“We want to make sure we have a comprehensive plan determined from feedback from the board and administration last spring so that we had a unified plan put together with all the changes and details worked out as much as possible,” he said.

The district’s plans for the future of Downers Grove North and South

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**Henry Thiele**

Downers Grove Community High School District 99 superintendent

## Know more

For more on the full scope of Downers Grove Community High School District 99’s proposals, visit [csd99.org](http://csd99.org) and [mysuburbanlife.com/downersgrove](http://mysuburbanlife.com/downersgrove).

high schools have been discussed in earnest since 2013. In 2015, the board proposed the framework for a \$69.9 million plan with new common areas, fine arts improvements, administration offices, cafeteria upgrades and more.

“This has evolved from tearing things down to a lengthy board discussion to prioritizing different com-

ponents of this,” District 99 Director of Communication Jill Browning said. “We want to modernize our schools and make them the premiere schools for our students. ... The next step is to ask the community their thoughts.”

However, the district has continued to adjust the plan since then, with updates at the Oct. 3 meeting detailing work that has since been completed, including a new indoor track and other improvements.

Although the full scope of the district’s proposals over the years are available at [csd99.org](http://csd99.org) and [mysuburbanlife.com/downersgrove](http://mysuburbanlife.com/downersgrove), Browning said the public’s input was key.

“[The plans do] represent what we’re hopeful for, for the future, but

now is the time to go to the community to see what they can support and what their thoughts are about these plans,” she said.

After the district receives the proposals, a team of district administrators will review them and select finalists to give an in-person proposal in November, with board approval of a final consultant in December, according to board documents.

At the meeting, district staff estimated the contract could be in the neighborhood of \$50,000 over the course of 12 months, but that total could be higher depending on the details of what the board of education asked of the firm.

Thiele said a full price tag would be part of the eventual public discourse, but the district needed to have the baseline conversations of what residents wanted and expected before moving too far forward.

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