

# AVISTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #21

350 SOUTH HULL STREET  
AVISTON, IL 62216-3407

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March 1, 2023

Dear Aviston Elementary District #21 Residents:

There is a great deal of excitement to share with our community regarding the future of our school! Aviston continues to see residential growth, which affects school enrollment and the quality of educational services we are able to provide. Incredibly, Aviston Elementary School's enrollment has increased 13.9% since 2019, with a total enrollment of 433 (March 1, 2023 count). Recognizing the need to grow with our community, Aviston Elementary School is prioritizing the following projects:

### **Increasing School Building Space**

To meet the demands of increasing enrollment, construction plans are underway to provide for additional classrooms, special services/therapy areas and an expanded cafeteria. The building addition project is utilizing a funding method that is already in place and has been collected through property taxes for past projects, such as parking lot repairs and roof replacement. The bond debt repayment timeline has been lengthened to make this construction project possible. It is much like lengthening the term of a mortgage payment at a similar amount to build an addition for a home.

The project is currently in the design phase, but groundbreaking is expected this summer with a completion date of December, 2024.

### **Increasing the Number of Teachers and Support Staff**

On April 4, 2023 a ballot question will be proposed to voters in Aviston School District #21 to increase the property tax rate limit of the education fund from .92% to 1.17%. If passed, this proposition will make additional education funding available to add new teachers and support staff to meet the needs of our quickly growing enrollment.

Aviston District #21 is currently number one out of 851 Illinois school districts for having the lowest expenditure amount per student. The value and quality of education at Aviston is the best in the state, but running at such a slight margin in comparison to enrollment growth will further stretch limited resources. The April 4, 2023 ballot question provides the opportunity to have sustainable educational funding to meet the needs of a growing school year after year.

My goal is to have information available to our district residents so that everyone can make informed decisions on the future of our children's education and our school. Local decision making is our best approach to meeting the needs of our children. Good schools produce good communities. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding these two important initiatives. I can be reached by phone at 618-228-7245 or email [pamil@avistonk-8.org](mailto:pamil@avistonk-8.org).

Thank you,

Phillip Hamil  
Superintendent