



Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103

Memo

To: Board of Education
From: Ali Finn
CC: Dr. Katie Reynolds and Dr. Scott Warren
Date: June 16, 2026
Re: Library Modernization Project

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board of Education with an overview of the proposed Daniel Wright Library Modernization initiative and seek feedback regarding the committee's recommended direction for the future of the library learning environment.

Background

Over the past several months, a district committee of teachers, administrators, library staff, and instructional leaders has engaged in a collaborative visioning process to reimagine the Daniel Wright Library as a modern learning commons that supports the evolving instructional needs of middle school students.

The committee's work included staff and student feedback, visits to neighboring innovative library and makerspace programs, collaboration with instructional furniture specialists, and multiple planning sessions focused on creating a flexible, student-centered environment that supports literacy, inquiry, collaboration, creativity, and innovation.

The resulting proposal reflects a shared vision for a library that serves as both a center for literacy and an instructional hub that can support interdisciplinary learning experiences across all content areas.

Proposed Modernization

The proposal recommends transforming the existing library into a flexible learning commons through updated furnishings, collaborative workspaces, makerspace opportunities, improved aesthetics, and technology integration.

Options

- Option A: Foundation
Furniture + soft seating + makerspace
(~\$143K)
 - Full Furniture Package
 - Shelves, Circulation desk, soft seating, study pods, makerspace/classroom tables and chairs, teacher lectern

- Option B: Recommended
Furniture + flooring + paint + technology + Wall opening
(~\$270K)
 - Full Furniture Package
 - Shelves, Circulation desk, soft seating, study pods, makerspace/classroom tables and chairs, teacher lectern
 - Updated LVP and/or carpet flooring
 - Paint
 - Technology moved
- Option C: Phased Expansion
Room additions
(additional ~\$100K+)
 - Potential for reallocating space in other parts of the building:
 - Podcast studio, larger makerspace expansion to nearby classrooms, music studio, etc

The redesigned space can support:

- Flexible instructional configurations for whole-group, small-group, and independent learning
- Inquiry- and project-based learning experiences
- STEM and engineering design challenges
- Literacy instruction and independent reading
- Student collaboration and presentations
- Cross-curricular learning opportunities
- Intervention, enrichment, and REACH programming
- Student clubs and extended learning opportunities

The modernization is intended to preserve the library's role as a center for reading and research while expanding its ability to support innovative instructional practices that align with the District's Strategic Plan and Portrait of a Graduate.

Committee Recommendation

Following review of multiple scenarios, the committee recommends a comprehensive modernization that includes updated furniture, flexible learning zones, makerspace furnishings, environmental improvements, and technology enhancements. This option provides the greatest instructional impact while remaining within the existing library footprint and avoiding significant structural renovations.

Proposed Next Steps

The administration proposes the following next steps:

- Gather Board feedback regarding the proposed modernization plan.
- Finalize the preferred scope of work and project budget.
- Refine implementation timelines in collaboration with Facilities and Finance.
- Continue design work related to furniture layouts, instructional zones, and makerspace programming.

- Develop a communication plan for staff, families, and the community.
- Present final purchasing recommendations for Board consideration at a future meeting, if appropriate.
- Begin implementation planning with the goal of minimizing disruption to student learning.

Administration recommends that the Board review the proposed Daniel Wright Library Modernization plan and provide feedback regarding the committee's recommended direction as planning continues for future implementation.