

# **Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation**

M. Kelly Shepherd  
Superintendent

**LaCrosse and Wanatah Schools**

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Date: May 5, 2020  
Re: Press Release

Dear Tri-Township Community,

I hope this information finds you well during these unprecedented times. Like all of us, I know that our health and well-being are currently the number one priority. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all impacted by or battling against the Coronavirus.

That being said, I wanted to take a moment to update the community on the current state of Tri-Township's High School Strategic Plan. On the heels of our two public open house / information sessions, it was clear that our school community and school board desired more information regarding the proposed future for Tri-Township's High School. We heard two clear messages. First, whether another assessment of costs to renovate the LaCrosse High School could be complete; and second, is Tri-Township ensuring competitive bidding with respect to obtaining building proposals.

Regarding the first concern, I recently hosted a building tour with Ratio Architecture representing the Indiana Landmarks Association. Indiana Landmarks has awarded a grant from the Efroymsen Family Endangered Places Grant fund to affiliate organization PEP of LaPorte County. The funds will assist PEP in retaining Ratio Architects to complete a rehabilitation assessment of the historic LaCrosse High School. Ratio's study will assist the Tri-Township School Corporation in determining the cost of rehabilitating the school to meet modern safety, education and accessibility standards. PEP and local boosters are matching the grant to fully fund the study. Results are expected by the end of May.

Indiana Landmarks offers grants to help get the ball rolling on preservation projects and help spark community revitalization around the state," says Marsh Davis, president of Indiana Landmarks. "We're extremely grateful, especially in these economically uncertain times, that we're able to continue to offer this crucial support to local preservation groups."

Second, as businesses reopen, the Tri-Township School Board will begin laying out a plan to engage a Design-Build process to gather additional proposals for a building project to insure the best path with competitive pricing. As that plan is more formalized, information will be provided to the community.