

Colfax-Mingo

Community Schools



August 11, 2021

Tigerhawks -

We are looking forward to our staff and students returning to our buildings soon! I hope you are able to take care of yourselves and be ready for this exciting school year!

Our safe and secure entries, elementary restrooms, and updated kindergarten classrooms will be ready to go for the start of the school year! We may not have all of the finishing touches complete due to some backordering issues for certain products (custom color aluminum doors and window frames, steel veneer on elementary canopy, some new furniture at both buildings), but we will have the buildings to use for school. We are excited for you all to see the changes during our Back to School night August 23, 2021 from 5-7:30 pm.

I am writing with a disappointing update on our stadium construction. On July 30, Graphite Inc. informed the district that they will be unable to finish the stadium for use this football season. In addition, Graphite Inc. requested access to the current stadium in mid-September so the second phase of the project (new gymnasium addition) could begin. After some discussion and negotiations, the offer for \$10,000 from Graphite Inc. and a Sept. 18 access was approved by our Board. The offer was accepted with the understanding of no additional cost due to a later start time in the second phase.

Our Board was faced with an unenviable task as there are no answers for the disappointment and frustration our community patrons, students, and staff all feel. We were able to hold Graphite Inc. to the contracted agreement for the cost of the projects. Speaking with our legal counsel, the best way to ensure we were good stewards of the taxpayers' money was to accept this offer and stay as close to the overall schedule as possible. To this point in the process, we have stayed within budget and have paid much less money than we anticipated due to the delays in completion by Graphite Inc.

We have some options for our football season schedule and will share them once they are finalized.

A close friend of mine used to say, "In times of stress and disappointment, people will always draw closer together or grow further apart." I have found that to be true in the past and I believe it will be true in this situation as well. We have grown together as a community in the

Colfax-Mingo Community School District's mission is to ensure a community that fosters life-long learners, independent thinkers, and productive citizens of character!

past few years. It is imperative that a disappointment outside of any of our control does not fracture our community or cause hard feelings. A dysfunctional school-community relationship will have a negative impact on students, but we have an opportunity to model for our young people how communities pull together to overcome obstacles. We can and will complete this project and enjoy the amazing opportunities these new facilities will provide. Not in the timing we would like or expect, but it will happen.

It is important for us to remember all the great things happening in our district and that the future is extremely bright for all of our Tigerhawks. We have a lot to celebrate and be proud of in Tigerhawk Country!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to reach out to me.

Take care and be safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erik Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E".

Erik Anderson