



# **CARDINAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

## **COMMUNICATION**

**TOGETHER, WE ARE OUR BEST!**

**Purpose of Cardinal Community Connections Communication Updates:** Increase communication to foster positive stakeholder relationships and engage the community in school happenings around accurate, transparent information as a way to nurture school community pride.

### **ESSER Funding Update**

**October 6, 2022**

The Necedah Area School District received \$1,992,471 of one-time money ESSER III funds to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic the past two years by providing emergency financial assistance to schools.

Although some of our funding has gone to support ongoing expenditures, The District has prioritized a majority of the funding to support one-time expenditures. One of the allowable costs associated with the grant funding is to address the air flow in the building, which we do through our 12 rooftop units.

As the result of a facility assessment study conducted last school year, our HVAC system (rooftop units) are beyond their end of life. At this point, we can no longer get parts for the 28 year old units, which were installed with the new building in 1998. We had them refurbished in 2015, with the life-expectancy of 3-5 years, which we have surpassed.

Following a community survey and school board deliberations, it was decided that the ESSER III funding would be spent on the replacement of as many rooftop units as we could afford. 20% of ESSER III funds are required to be spent on 'researched-based practices' to help mitigate learning loss; which left the district \$1,600,000 for the rooftop units.

The purchase of the rooftop units using ESSER III allowed the district to avoid asking the community for a referendum to support this capital project. Although there were good ideas presented for using the funding, it was decided that we couldn't risk a referendum not passing. Three of the rooftop units would not make it through this winter, and another one was not fixable and was already being accommodated by a short-term solution.

The other ESSER Funding was used for positions that were needed to help with learning loss including interventionist positions and special education.