

District 129 to release study results

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Posted Saturday, July 08, 2006

West Aurora school district residents want to know what's going on in their schools, what the plans are and how much it will all cost.

That's one of the things Superintendent Jim Rydland gathered from a community-wide survey the district recently commissioned.

"The survey says that we need to communicate and be direct with the public," he said Friday. "We need to seek feedback, and now we need to act on it. That is terribly important."

The full results of that survey, as well as the results of a study on the viability of the district's buildings and enrollment projections, will be presented during the school board meeting at 5 p.m. Monday at the district office, 80 S. River St., Aurora.

It's part of that public process that may end in a referendum this fall or next spring, Rydland said.

With one year at the district's helm behind him, Rydland said he wanted to evaluate the district's philosophy and plans.

"We're giving the school district a physical," he said. "We're asking questions about what's working, and work to sustain that, and what's not working, so we can change that."

The district's new "teaching and learning plan" focuses on a back-to-basics approach and emphasizes life skills and lessons that cross disciplines, he said.

It also could lead to changes such as adding another period at the high school or implementing gifted magnet schools for elementary and middle students.

"The public's real concern is that their money is being used for students, that their money is being used for learning," Rydland said.

School board members will also see a timeline of when the new plans will be implemented. Many are planned for this or next school year.

The district also plans to post the results of the survey on its Web site, www.sd129.org, after

Monday's meeting.

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