

1 HB1186 – School Construction Loan Fund / Grant Fund

2 Mandan Public Schools – Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Asst. Superintendent

3 Good afternoon, Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate
4 Education Committee.

5 I come to you today representing one of the most rapidly growing
6 school districts in the state. In April of 2021, 78% of Mandan
7 School District votes approved an \$84,000,000 bond issue to
8 build a new elementary school and a new high school. Mandan
9 Public School was planning to spend roughly \$10M in federal
10 ESSER dollars to cover the \$94M estimated cost. However, when
11 the project was bid in the summer of 2022, inflation had driven
12 the project costs up to \$114,000,000. This is over a 20% increase
13 over pre-bid estimates provided to us.

14 Mandan Public Schools is working hard to close the \$20M gap
15 created by inflation without having to go back to our taxpayers.
16 To address this gap we have received \$8.3M in the CTE grant,
17 which we thank both the Senate and House for recently passing.
18 We also believe we will be able to secure \$3M from business

1 partners and another \$4M when we sell surrounding property.
2 Mandan Public Schools has some existing authority in our
3 building fund, but this legislation would help us ensure we don't
4 need to raise taxes beyond the \$99 per \$100,000 in taxable value
5 that we promised our taxpayers before inflation took a dramatic
6 hike.

7 As shared by Dr. Vollmer, a lower rate is tax relief for the citizens
8 of these rapidly growing communities that are doing their best to
9 ensure adequate educational spaces for the ever increasing
10 number of students in our districts.

11 *Mandan Enrollment

12 2022 – 4,336

13 2021 – 4,241

14 2020 – 4,030