

MEMO

To: House Education Committee
From: Travis Zablotney District 5 Chairman Minot, ND
CC:
Date: 1/9/23
Re: HB1185

COMMENTS:

Please vote no on HB1185. I am not opposed to a new high school in Minot so long as the school system can afford both its operating budget and can take full responsibility for the construction costs of the new high school. I can attest from attending multiple Minot Public School Board budget hearing meetings, that the School Board and administration of Minot Public Schools were entirely aware of the operating financial position that the Minot Public School District was in prior to deciding to put the new school to a vote. They were projecting a \$4 million dollar deficit and already operating with a maxxed out mil levy without yet having to include additional operating expenses for a new high school. I understand these are two different issues (operating budget and building bond) however from the ability to raise additional revenue they overlap. Unanticipated cost overrun due to any reason is not a valid argument for a bail out. It is called poor management. Anyone with their eyes open could see inflation was coming long before this project was estimated and sent to the voters, There should have been adequate contingency included in the budget and bond request. In my opinion the Minot Public School board was in a hurry to rush this to the voters and failed miserably in their budgeting process and bond request. The Minot Public School Board knows that taxpayers in Minot are weary and will not support additional spending. They should now lie in the bed they created (take responsibility and figure it out) and not look to the rest of the state for a bail out.