

My name is Brady Pesek and I am a resident of Edmore, North Dakota. I am here today to express my strong support for maintaining the Edmore School and repurposing it as a multi-functional community center. This school, though no longer serving as the educational institution it once was, is a vital part of our community's identity and future. I believe that with the right support, this space can be transformed into a cornerstone of our town—a place where people of all ages can come together, engage with one another, and improve their overall well-being.

As a small town, Edmore faces many of the same challenges that other rural communities across North Dakota are experiencing: population decline, a loss of resources, and the difficulty of retaining young people and families. In recent years, we've seen businesses close, schools consolidate, and families move away in search of better opportunities elsewhere. This is a reality many small towns are facing, and it can feel as though we are losing our community piece by piece.

However, we are not willing to give up on our town. We know that in order to secure a bright future for Edmore, we need to find innovative solutions that provide value to the people who live here. This is why we are so committed to keeping the Edmore School operational and transforming it into a community center that can meet the needs of our diverse population.

The school building itself is ideally located and structured to accommodate a wide range of community activities and functions. Our vision is to turn this space into something that will benefit everyone, from children and young families to seniors who may be at risk of social isolation. By repurposing the school, we can provide a safe, inclusive environment where residents of all ages can engage in activities that promote physical, social, and mental well-being.

We envision the school becoming a gymnasium where individuals can participate in physical exercise, recreational sports, and fitness activities. Having a gym will also provide our children with an important place to stay active, which is crucial given the lack of other recreational spaces in our area. In addition, we would like to incorporate workout equipment, allowing people of all ages to prioritize their health and wellness. For our senior residents, a designated senior center would offer a gathering space for social activities, support groups, and other meaningful programs that can combat loneliness and promote connection.

Beyond these immediate uses, our vision for the school extends to offering a golf simulator for those interested in recreation, a community kitchen where residents can come together to cook meals, host community events, and share food, as well as a library that can offer reading material, educational programs, and a quiet place to learn. We also see this space becoming a formal venue for weddings, family gatherings, and local celebrations, something that our town desperately needs and that would allow us to hold meaningful events right here in our own community.

The opportunity to revitalize the Edmore School as a community center is not just about preserving a building—it's about preserving the heart of our town. It's about creating a place that will bring people together, foster relationships, and build a sense of belonging. It's about making sure that our town remains a viable, thriving community where future generations will want to live and raise their families.

I can't stress enough how important this project is for the future of Edmore. Losing the school and allowing it to fall into disrepair would be a devastating blow to our community. We have already seen too many vital institutions close, and we cannot afford to lose any more. This community center is not just a luxury; it is a necessity. It is an investment in our collective future, one that will pay dividends for years to come.

We are committed to making sure that this vision is carried out responsibly. Any funding received would be used solely for the operational costs necessary to maintain the school as a community center, including essential services such as water, electricity, heat, and insurance. We will also ensure that there is a transparent, separate account or tracking system to monitor the use of funds, ensuring that every dollar is dedicated to the school's continued operation and success.

The positive impact of this community center would be far-reaching. It would offer a central place where people can connect, improve their health, and learn from one another. It would attract people from surrounding areas, boosting the local economy and making Edmore a more attractive place for newcomers. Most importantly, it would help to build the kind of strong, interconnected community that every small town needs in order to thrive.

As our representative, I am asking for your support in ensuring that the Edmore School continues to serve our community—not just as a school, but as a vital resource for all who call Edmore home. With your help, we can create a space that will support education, health, recreation, and social well-being for years to come. Together, we can ensure that Edmore remains a vibrant place for future generations to live, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss this vision with you further and explore ways we can work together to make it a reality.

Sincerely,  
Brady Pesek