

ROCK RIDGE WOLVERINES

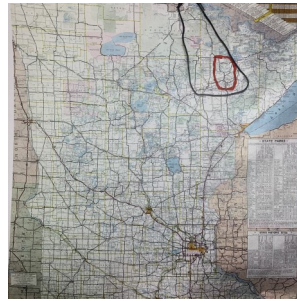


Request for sales tax exemption for construction materials in building new high school and two new elementary schools

The Background Story



We are in a high poverty area. # 5 highest in poverty out of 87 counties



We are in one of the worst growing population areas in MN since 1970



First school consolidation in 15 years in Minnesota



Meet the new Rock Ridge Wolverines!

The most extraordinary educational story in Minnesota that you've never heard of

CAREER ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL



Everything started with the communities wanting to improve educational opportunities and making school more relevant, career-focused, and rigorous for the kids

May, 2019 Citizens in Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia, in two simultaneous public elections, pass a \$178 million bond referendum, to build a new collaborative high school and two new elementary schools, one in each district, using union labor. On a per-pupil basis, this is one of the largest school bond referendums in MN history.

The linchpin is a new High School Career Academy with the twenty-first century skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, citizenship, character, entrepreneurship, and global competence, permeating throughout the K-12 system.

February, 2020 Citizens in both school districts, through public process and public vote, name the new high school and district as Rock Ridge with the Wolverines as the mascot. The colors selected are black, green, and gray. The tagline for the district is "Fiercely United."

May 2020 Citizens in both school districts vote, in two simultaneous public elections, to consolidate to improve educational opportunities for students. Rarest of consolidations because based on redesigning the educational system and improving educational opportunities for kids, not because of financial distress.

But the construction costs are extraordinary—an extra \$5 million over normal construction costs.*



Why are construction costs so high in Rock Ridge?

Lack of buildable land in area. Final site selected was the best of the worst choices available.

Unusual rock geography and wetlands

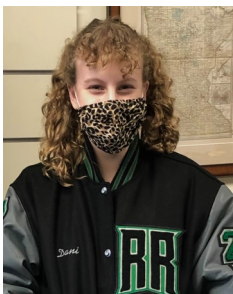
Costly requirements to blast rock (drilling and explosives), hammer, chip, remove, haul, and crush rock.

Costly retaining walls

*estimate by Pat Gallagher, project manager, Kraus-Anderson



What can you do to help our current and future kids?—make a difference



High poverty rate + highest population loss + extraordinary site costs = sales tax exemption for construction materials. All we ask is a level playing field. We will take care of the rest.

Money saved from sales tax (est. \$3 million by Gallagher, Kraus-Anderson) will be used to purchase classroom materials, desks, chairs, tables, whiteboards, storage cabinets, and smartboards, etc.

Positive Prediction: In a few years, Rock Ridge will be one of the most famous educational success stories in the State of Minnesota that everyone will know about.

