



Brian Roebke photos

The ribbon to dedicate the new and renovated space was done where the old met the new on Saturday morning at the Little Chute high/middle/intermediate school complex. Pictured from left are intermediate/middle school principal Lori Van Handel, community task force member Patty Tiedt, former school board president Dr. Francis Van Lieshout, school board president Jerry Verhagen, intermediate school student Mackenzie Maas, school board member Leon Biesterveld, and high school student David Peeters.

Little Chute dedicates new school spaces

By Brian Roebke
Editor

After more than a year of construction and after several years of discussion and planning, the smallest geographical sized school district in the state dedicated its renovated school spaces last week.

Voters in the Little Chute Area School District approved a referendum to fund the \$17.8 million project that included 50,000 sq. ft. of renovated space and 21,000 ft. of new space in the former courtyard entrance to the school commons, gym, and auditorium.

Superintendent David Botz noted there wasn't a public high school in Little Chute 55 years ago but giants in the community took a leap into the future to create a Little Chute High School building in 1964.

"From 1964 fast forward two years to 1966, when the doors to the

new high school opened and so began the Mustang legacy and pride that comes from the community when a new school is built," he said.

One of those giants in the community, Dr. Francis Van Lieshout, was instrumental in creating the high school and served as the president of the school board.

During the construction that was just completed, students and staff had to deal with workers all over the building but didn't mind the inconvenience because they knew something better was on the way.

"It seemed like every day, something was pounding, something was smelling, or something was being shut off," Botz said. "At times it seemed like this project was going to consume us all."

The construction modernized the 50-year-old building into a flexible learning environment to provide

students with greater opportunities to collaborate, communicate, and create.

Features included a new library, cafeteria area, fitness center, multiple collaboration spaces, consolidated school offices that create efficiencies and improve security, and relocated the district office.

The district relocated the Flex Academy from the civic center into the main campus, improved the instructional area for the career pathways academy, and major upgrades were made to the roof, electrical, heating, and ventilation systems.

Students entered the building on Sept. 10 with much work yet to be done, but with enough completed to allow them to begin to enjoy the new spaces. Construction is still not fully complete, but it's very close.

"The building project is a testament to the commitment of the Little Chute Area School District and community to invest in the



Logan Vandenberg and Blake Gludemans play with the Little Chute High School Jazz Band during the dedication ceremony and open house for the new and renovated school building spaces.

future of the children of Little Chute," Botz said. Construction was the construction manager.



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Superintendent David Botz speaks at the dedication ceremony for the renovated school space in Little Chute. Seated from left are school board president Jerry Verhagen, Tim Kippenhan of Miron Construction, and former school board president Dr. Francis Van Lieshout.