Dunlap Community Unit School District 323
Board of Education Meeting
Date
November 18, 2026

INFORMATION ITEM

TO: Members of the Board of Education
Dr. Scott Dearman, Superintendent

FROM: Dr. Scott Adreon, Director of Operations & Services

SUBJECT: Elementary Playground Renovations

SUMMARY: (Explanation & Design Attached)

One of our goals is to ensure that all of our playgrounds are safe, compliant, and accessible to every student. Attached are the plans and preliminary budgets for the four remaining elementary schools (excluding Wilder Waite, as that project has already been budgeted and committed).

One particularly important consideration is the anticipated transition of our Elementary Life Skills program from Banner Elementary to Hickory Grove. As part of this transition, it is essential that the playground at Hickory Grove is designed to ensure full accessibility and provide meaningful opportunities for all learners to participate.

There are also two additional budget considerations to bring forward:

- **Hickory Grove Elementary:** An additional $30,000 for playground fencing, which is necessary to address specific student needs and ensure a safe play environment.
- **Ridgeview Elementary:** An additional $175,000 for playground equipment. The largest existing structure is beginning to show significant signs of wear. Once the poured-in-place safety surfacing is installed, removing and replacing the equipment in the future would become impractical. Addressing the equipment needs now would allow us to take a more proactive and cost-effective approach.

Ultimately, these improvements are an investment in creating safe, inclusive, and accessible play environments that meet the needs of all of our students, both now and in the years ahead.