

Media Release - FEMA Grant 4/6/23

Dear Community Members,

You may have heard some talk around town regarding the possibility of the School District applying for a FEMA grant. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some information regarding this potential project.

Let me first start by explaining what this grant is all about. The grant is called the FEMA BRIC grant, which stands for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities. The grant supports hazard mitigation projects reducing the risks to individuals and property from disasters and natural hazards. The BRIC program supports communities through capacity building enabling larger projects including tornado shelters.

I met with the Building and Grounds Committee on March 8th, and then presented to the School Board on March 29th. The School Board is *interested* in pursuing the project if the City Council is in support as well. I met with the City Council on April 4, 2023 to discuss the possibility of partnership in pursuing this project.

There are a number of things that have to happen before the School Board can make a decision on whether or not to move forward with this project. First and foremost would be the acquisition of the property needed to construct the facility. The proposed area is South of the school building where the basketball and tennis courts are located; this land is currently owned by the City of Mellen. Please understand that the Memorial Park near Highway 13 is NOT included in this proposal.

If the grant is pursued, the School District would use the grant funds to construct a building that would serve as a safe shelter for the community in the event of a natural disaster, while also being utilized as a practice gym and community fitness center.

The facility would be a great asset to the community by providing a space for community activities. In addition the weight room and fitness room would be relocated to allow for external access to community members. The basketball and tennis courts would also be relocated.

This is an opportunity that, without the FEMA BRIC funds, the School District and Community would not be able to complete.

As always, feel free to contact me at 715-274-3601 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Elmhorst-Friemoth  
Superintendent  
Mellen School District