

# Colby USD 315 – Phase I

K-12 Education

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Project Value:

**\$1,517,017**

Annual Energy Savings:

**\$25,487**

Annual Maintenance Savings:

**\$26,500**



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Comprehensive HVAC and control system upgrades at Middle School
- Replaced Middle School roof
- Installation of secondary drain pans for High School gymnasium air-handling units suspended above gym floor
- Installation of high efficiency air and dirt separators for hydronic piping system at High School
- District-wide lighting retrofit and replacement project
- New T5HO high bay lighting in all district gymnasiums
- Occupancy sensors district-wide for lighting and will eventually be tied in to HVAC control system in future phases of work
- New LED exterior building lighting for both district campuses
- District-wide control system front end upgrades
- Multiple local Colby contractors involved in construction process for roofing, electrical, and supplemental HVAC work

## THE CHALLENGES

USD 315 had deferred significant investment in many of its buildings over time and had kept its Capital Outlay mill levy low as it paid off a bond issue for the district's high school from the late 90's. The time had come to start addressing the district's older buildings with aging, antiquated and in many instances ineffective systems.

As part of the district's facility plan developed and refined with Willdan, the highest priority for USD 315 was a major overhaul of the HVAC system at the Middle School as well as replacing an increasingly problematic roof at that building. The facility had been plagued with comfort issues for years with many HVAC system components original to the building from the 1960's.

## THE SOLUTIONS

Willdan collaboratively worked with USD 315 to determine the right solution for the Middle School HVAC system balancing future building use, facility need and financial budget. An independent central hydronic system was determined as the best system to serve the building, getting it away from the campus steam boilers it previously shared with other buildings.

This was the first step in the updated facility master plan for the main campus developed by Willdan and USD 315. The Willdan team also designed a roofing system specific to the needs of the building with its unique architecture that was implemented as part of this first phase of work.

Additional improvements were made district-wide as part of the master plan to address the next highest priorities of prolonging the life of important and expensive infrastructure (High School gymnasium floor and hydronic piping infrastructure) and moving forward with energy retrofits that significantly reduced the energy use of the district freeing up operational dollars in the general fund to be used elsewhere by Colby Public Schools.

Willdan's team approach with USD 315 for developing, refining and moving forward with the first phase of the district-wide facilities master plan to systematically address USD 315 priorities has been very effective to date. The team's collaborative approach and ability to develop cost-effective, long-term solutions has helped develop a strong relationship between the two entities and has helped the district reach a position of proactively planning for its facilities for years to come.

