



# STORYLINE

STORY CONSTRUCTION NEWS & VIEWS | SUMMER 2020

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

# CONFIDENCE VS. CERTAINTY



These days it's impossible to watch the news or scroll through social media without seeing so many people who are certain of their position on a topic. I am specifically referring to the different ways in which families, cities, states and society "should" be responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with it typically comes an intolerance for those who see it differently. When certainty of any flavor is thrown in my face with indignance, I find it exhausting.

With today's volatile conditions and ever-changing landscape of information, I find it hard to be certain about almost anything.

On the other hand, as a leader, I know that I need to assess and proceed in a direction with confidence. Paralysis is not a good option. Taking all the information and viewpoints into consideration, and confidently choosing a direction to head, is the mode that I prefer and the one that I believe is best for leading. While I'm confident to act, I am always receptive to new information and feedback that can compel a course correction. Still moving, still confident, always humble and never certain.

If I was certain, I wouldn't budge. If I was certain, I would feel as if I needed to defend my initial thinking rather than change direction based on new inputs. Certainty is exhausting. Leading with confidence is filled with many levels of emotion and energy that require constant assessment and review. It is not easy or effortless, but it is a better approach to leadership in times of great uncertainty like we're facing in 2020. Certainty is just not sustainable.

Throughout the last 60 days I have greatly curbed my consumption of news and social media that feature reckless certainty. Instead I've compared notes with other leaders who are assessing and acting with confidence, not certainty. Be confident, be well, and be humble. We need you now and we'll need you on the other side of this, too.

*Mike*

*NOTE: This is our last print edition of the StoryLine newsletter. We've been putting out this newsletter in some form for decades, and we'll continue to do so digitally. Our email newsletter will allow us to share more Story news and views in a way that best serves those stories, and we hope you'll continue to join us on this journey. Visit [www.storycon.com](http://www.storycon.com) to continue to receive our quarterly StoryLine newsletter digitally!*

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# RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS HELP STUDENTS AT BALLARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Ballard Community School District, which serves Kelly, Huxley, Slater, and Cambridge, Iowa, voted on a school bond in December 2018 to help cover site improvements to Ballard Middle School. The project included a 7,453 sq. ft. addition east of the existing middle school, a 6,167 sq. ft. courtyard infill within the current middle school, and a 96,451 sq. ft. renovation.

The 50-year-old building formerly served the district as the high school. However, when Ballard High moved to their new campus 12 years ago, the middle school started to occupy the building. Initially constructed in the late 1950s, superintendent Oattie Maxey explained that the flow and construction of the existing structure did not match the middle school curriculum and needed reconfiguring. What came out of it was a renovated space that put the three grades into separate “pods” that facilitate a community within grade levels. Shared spaces such as the gymnasium, cafeteria, and fine arts area became pod areas as well, and each received renovations.

Most critical to this project was its scheduling and phasing, which allowed full occupation of the building throughout the school year.

“Story’s CP 2.0 system gave the school board a greater understanding of the whole process from start to finish and eliminated that communication barrier. The scheduling became crucial since construction wasn’t taking place in a vacant building or a new building. It was happening in a space that was being used as a middle school, and the visibility of where we were in terms of schedule was right in the job site trailer.”

Shifting classroom instruction to areas that had not been touched by construction activity, or to areas where construction was completed, also needed to be coordinated with breaks in order to allow time for teachers to move into new spaces. Keeping everyone on the same page with the logistics of these moves was a major challenge, but Story and the Ballard school district were able to work together to make the transitions as seamless as possible.

Scheduling adjustments were also made quickly once the district ended in-person instruction due to COVID-19, and Story was ready to hand over the keys to Ballard School District three months earlier than initially planned.

## CLIENT

Ballard Community School District

## DELIVERY METHOD

Construction Manager

## ARCHITECT

Haila Architecture + Structure + Planning

## PROJECT MANAGER

Jamie Rochleau

## PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT

Nate Miller; Matt Riemenschneider

## PROJECT SIZE

110,071 total sq. ft.

## DATE COMPLETED

June 2020



# BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## GETTING AHEAD OF THE CURVE WITH RENOVATIONS

With strong support from their community, a bond of \$6 million was passed to make improvements to Baxter's K-12 facility, which was initially built in 1913. The district had concluded that outdated building was not giving students the learning environment necessary in 2020 and beyond. Story was brought on as construction manager, and FEH Design as architect for the project that ultimately included demolishing 27,000 sq. ft. of the school, renovating 3,000 sq. ft. of existing classroom and administrative areas, and a 20,492 sq. ft. addition to the k-12 school.

The first phase brought new infrastructure and renovations while the second phase included an addition. All in all the building gained four new classrooms, a family consumer science space, two science lab classrooms, and re-purposing of the wrestling room to a pre-school area.

One of the more challenging aspects of the project was coordinating the demolition of the hundred-year-old, three-story space inside the school building. The structure served as the high school and contained the heart of much of the mechanical systems in the building, including the boilers and air handling units. Demolition began in early July of 2019 and by mid-October, the team had the new systems installed and running in another existing area of the building in time for colder weather.

Replacing such significant pieces of the mechanical system without causing unplanned disruption to the school schedule was made possible by focused planning and phasing discussions with team members.

"There were numerous occasions that Jamie, Connor [Havlir] or Dale had suggestions that helped save a lot of money or just made the project better," Dr. Clapper said.

"Now that the project is almost over, looking back, I know the decision to use Story was the right one; their expertise was so valuable."

### CLIENT

Baxter Community School District

### DELIVERY METHOD

Construction Manager

### ARCHITECT

FEH Design

### PROJECT MANAGER

Jamie Rochleau

### PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT

Dale Hofert

### PROJECT SIZE

23,492 sq. ft.

### DATE COMPLETED

July 2020



# EMPLOYEE PROFILE

## CONNOR HAVLIR, PROJECT ENGINEER



Connor Havlir, Project Engineer at Story Construction is a native of Arlington Heights, Illinois, and currently lives in Ames, Iowa. He graduated from Iowa State University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Engineering. Connor started at Story Construction in 2018 as a project engineer, just after finishing his degree. "I enjoy being in the field and being able to see all components being put into place as a construction project progresses from start to finish"

Connor is wrapping up his work at the Baxter Community School project this summer. "School projects are so rewarding because we get to see how much a community appreciates what we do for them." Outside of work, you can find Connor hiking the trails in the summer, and in the colder months, hitting the slopes skiing and playing ice hockey. Thanks for your hard work, Connor!

## The **STORYLINE** is going digital!

Summer 2020 will be the final print edition of Story Line.

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