

Underwood Public Schools



Project

7,050 ft.² addition 4,645 ft.² remodel 16,655 ft.² new bus garage

AREAS

music room addition, new bus garage, fitness area remodel, fire sprinklers in existing areas

BUDGET

\$5,637,378

FINAL COST

\$5,637,378

Referendum: May 2014
Design: May 2014 – January 2015
Bid phase: February 2015
Construction: April – September 2015
Bus garage: April 2016

Keeping a community moving

Underwood's community and school staff members all knew they needed more and upgraded space in the town's K – 12 school. "Our key needs were classrooms, a music room addition, fitness area renovations and a new bus garage, says Superintendent Jeremy Olson. "R.A. Morton helped set our budget in pre-referendum planning. They did a nice job working to truly understand our needs."

The referendum budget was set at \$3.5 million, but the school board decided to submit a \$3.4 million budget for bonding approval. This left the project short \$100,000, which R.A. Morton value-engineered out of the budget and project.

"R.A. Morton did an outstanding job on the pre-referendum phase of our project," Jeremy explains. "The referendum passed, and they also helped us in the bidding phase. As actual construction began, they kept contractors on schedule and the entire project within budget."

"right from the start"



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— JEREMY OLSON
Superintendent, Underwood Public Schools

Handling different designs

Another component of the Underwood project was a new bus garage. There were differing ideas on its design, specifically whether it should be a steel building or a post frame building. R.A. Morton helped work through those designs.

“We opted for a post frame building, and although it delayed that part of the project, it didn't affect educational programming or student transportation,” Jeremy says. “We did have some contractor quality issues to resolve, such as concrete installation and floor levelness, yet R.A. Morton took care of it.”

“Our community is very impressed with our addition, renovated spaces and bus garage,” Jeremy says. “Perhaps the most positive feedback has been about the weight room and enhanced fitness area. Overall, it's given us great new space, which helps all of us reach our academic, community and athletics goals.”

R.A. Morton contributions

- Facility Analysis
- Pre-Referendum Planning
- Estimating
- Competitive Bid
- Value Engineering
- On-Site Construction Management – Full-Time
- Project Management
- Project Cost Accounting
- Budget Management
- Schedule Management
- Project Closeout



That fall in Underwood, school started on time, with additional space that teachers, staff members and the entire community appreciate. By the next spring, the bus garage was open, too. That's keeping everyone moving.