



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

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Dr. Keith W. Hilts, Superintendent of Schools

Dear, Wausau School District Community:

Here at the Wausau School District, our most important goal is to keep your students and our staff safe. Also important – is ensuring we have spaces where everyone can thrive. As hard as we try, we're facing a number of challenges, like declining enrollment and differences in student access to programming, that are starting to get in the way. That's why we're in the midst of a conversation about possibly restructuring the Wausau School District. So, where does this conversation stand? The Wausau School Board has asked administration to draft up potential scenarios for a restructure of the district. So, what have we shared so far? On November 26, we shared with the Board 'Scenario A.' Scenario A stemmed from an idea that was developed by some parents through the course of our subcommittee meetings. In that scenario, 5 elementary schools would close: Hewitt-Texas Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Grant Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, and Rib Mountain Elementary. Franklin would then be used for an alternative education site, Rib Mountain would become a site for our charter schools, and another building would be used for a childcare center. The two remaining schools would be sold.

First, no decisions have been made. Secondly, please know that if this were the direction the School Board wanted to take, students and staff at any of the schools listed above would stay together if they moved. As far as our secondary schools go; Scenario A would create a junior high for grades 8 and 9 and then a single senior high school for grades 10-12. Our two middle schools would then serve students in grades 5-7. To watch the Board discussion about Scenario A, [click here](#). The conversation starts at about 2 hours and 3 minutes in.

Then, at the board meeting on December 9 – the School Board reviewed 5 different high school scenarios. Those scenarios were:

- Move enrollment boundaries
- Create 2 'equal' schools
- Grades 8-9 and 10-12 on 2 campuses
- Grades 9-10 and 11-12 on 2 campuses
- Grades 9-12 high school on 1 campus

The Board decided they would like to talk more about creating just one high school on one campus and the idea of creating a junior high for grades 8 and 9 and a senior high school for grades 10-12. To listen to the conversation, [click here](#). The conversation starts at about 22 minutes in. The conversation about the high school scenarios continued during the Board Meeting on Monday, December 19. [Click here](#) to listen to the discussion. The conversation begins at about 13 minutes in. We want to reiterate that absolutely no decisions have been made. The conversation is continuing and we urge you to get involved. Please [click here](#) to visit our webpage dedicated to this topic. There you can share your questions, ideas, comments and concerns.

To help you understand why this conversation is not only important, but necessary, we've put together another video for you – this time the focus is on why a restructure would benefit the entire Wausau community. [Click here](#) to view it. We understand this is a tough conversation to have; since we know you love your school. We love all of our schools, too, but given the challenges we're facing, we're in a difficult spot. We want to improve our service to you. We want your students and our staff to have the same opportunities no matter the school they're in. We're also excited about saving money and reinvesting it into our staff and programs.

Thank you for taking the time to get informed on this topic and, as always, we thank you for being a partner to us. It is truly a privilege to educate your children.

Take care,

Dr. Keith Hilts, Superintendent, Wausau School District

It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.