



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

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Dr. Keith W. Hilts, Superintendent of Schools

February 14, 2023

Dear Wausau School District Community:

We want to reach out to you with some more information about last night's decision by the School Board to restructure the Wausau School District. First, this was not a decision any of us took lightly – especially the School Board. We sincerely applaud their willingness to take this conversation on. The work they've done over the course of the last year and more to fully understand challenges facing the district, the perspectives of families, staff, and community, as well as, being thoughtful about how to best move the district forward has been nothing short of incredible.

We'd also like to take an opportunity to thank YOU. You shared their thoughts, ideas, questions, and concerns with us and we hope you continue to do that. Your input matters to us. We want you to know that we value our partnership with you and sincerely appreciate your willingness to join an important and complex conversation.

Now, let's take a look at the proposal the Board approved last night:

- Wausau West will become a senior high school serving grades 10-12
- Wausau East will become a junior high school serving grades 8 and 9
- John Muir and Horace Mann Middle Schools will serve grades 5-7
- Five of our 13 elementary schools will be closed and merged with other schools. Which ones? Hewitt-Texas, Lincoln, Grant, Franklin -or- Hawthorn Hills, and Rib Mountain will close. There will be more discussion about this so please watch for more information.
- As part of the proposal, we will create 2 Early Learning Centers to serve students from birth to 5 years of age.
- Lastly, we will appropriate facilities for our charter schools and other specialized programming.

Click here to watch last night's Board meeting: [PART 1](#) and [PART 2](#)

We know this may leave you feeling anxious and concerned about what this will mean – especially for your students. Please know, this restructure will not happen immediately. In fact, the proposal the Board approved last night means implementation will not happen until the Fall of 2025. That said, Board members have expressed some interest in a staggered implementation. Conversations will continue around this topic. Also, we will do everything we absolutely can to support your students and our staff before, during, and after the restructuring. They are in great hands.

So, what's next? A lot of work and planning needs to happen. That work has already started. Moving forward, here's what we want you to know: We absolutely want you to have a seat at the table; to work collaboratively with us to re-envision what the Wausau School District will look like for our students and our staff. The Wausau School District is a great place, but let's work together to make it even better! More on this to come! Please watch for more information in your email, in our newsletters, and on our website, www.wausauschools.org. We will keep you informed in the months and years ahead.

Lastly, at any time, don't hesitate to reach out to any of us with questions and thoughts! We're here for you and want to help in any way we can!

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.