



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

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Dr. Keith W. Hilts, Superintendent of Schools

November 14, 2023

Good afternoon, Wausau School District Families:

We wanted to reach out to give context around some important decisions made during the November 13 Wausau School Board meeting. As you have probably heard by now, there were some big changes made to the Wausau School District restructuring plan.

After a lot of discussion and a 5-4 vote, here's what we understand at this point:

- Wausau East and Wausau West High Schools will continue to serve students in grades 9-12 as two separate high schools.
 - ◆ That means school colors and mascots for the high schools will remain as they are now.
 - ◆ Each high school will retain its current structure.
- Horace Mann and John Muir middle schools will continue to serve students in grades 6-8.
- However, the Board has expressed interest in improving parity between the secondary schools.
 - ◆ They want the development of a common 6-12 secondary curriculum to continue.
 - ◆ Balancing enrollments was mentioned, but no action was taken to that effect.
- Keep elementary schools K-5, but continue to assess the current footprint to determine solutions for decreasing the amount of square footage that the district is managing for elementary education.
 - ◆ The idea of hiring a consultant or creating a task force to conduct an analysis of our elementary footprint was discussed, but no action was taken.
- The idea of housing 4K and Early Childhood programs in each elementary school was also discussed but no action was taken.
- The current referendum work will continue.

Several questions will need clarification in the weeks and months to come:

- Will the Wausau Area Montessori Charter School be housed at the Lincoln Elementary site?
- Will the new Red Granite Charter School be housed at the Hewitt-Texas site?
- How will a plan to restructure our elementary footprint be developed and what is the timeline for that?
- How and when will the Wausau School District complete the needed work at the elementary schools that was removed from the last referendum?
- Will the work to partner with the YMCA to develop a childcare program in a district site continue?
- Will we build a road behind Hawthorn Hills Elementary School?

That said, we know you probably have a lot of additional questions about what next steps look like. To ensure we are able to get those answers for you, we have put together a very brief survey. [Click here](#) to share your questions with us. We will read through each and every one of them to ensure we get you the information you need.

We look forward to working with you, your students, our staff, and the Board to ensure this district is set for success not just in the year ahead – but well beyond. Throughout that process, we will keep you in the loop every step of the way as we move forward and get direction from the Board. In the meantime, we remain committed to making this the very best district for you, your students, our staff, and our community.

Thank you,
Dr. Keith Hilts, Superintendent

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