Appendix 1b

WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 259
WICHITA, KANSAS

RESOLUTION 2024-01

School Closings

March 4, 2024

RECITALS:

In 2016, the district began declining enrollment; and

The infusion of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER), provided by the Federal CARES Act to offset pandemic learning loss, is set to expire September 30, 2024; and

District Administration and the Board of Education have consulted the public and engaged stakeholders through surveys, opportunities for public comment at regular Board meetings, a special hearing, and other opportunities for input to ascertain budget priorities. The district's stakeholders, the Board, and administration agree that our people are valued above our facilities; and

In December 2023, the Superintendent and the Board received the advice of third-party subject matter experts and specialists whose analysis of district facilities revealed that that several district buildings are underutilized, have accumulated substantial deferred maintenance issues necessitating costly repairs, or both; and

In January 2024, the Superintendent and Board received information that approximately $42 million of expenditure reductions would be necessary to balance the 2024-25 budget; and

The Administration reported the ongoing struggle to adequately staff all buildings with certified teachers, custodians, paraprofessionals, and other staff critical to the daily operations of schools, with between 200 and 300 vacancies posted during the school year throughout the school system; and

The Administration consulted BOE Policy 1213 – Closing of Attendance Centers, as well as other relevant factors. Those included the location of each school, condition of the building, long-term projected student attendance, site size, magnet redundancy, the ability of sites to accommodate projected student attendance, and the capacity at neighboring schools to accept the students if schools should close; and

The Superintendent presented a proposed list of schools to close at the regular Board of Education meeting on February 12, 2024. The proposal recommended closing six schools. At that meeting, the Board voted to schedule a public hearing regarding the proposed school closings for February 29, 2024, and directed staff to publish a notice as required by Kansas law.; and

The Board has considered the evidence presented to it at the public hearing on February 29, 2024, and being fully advised in the premises, now resolves as follows.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 259 (Wichita), Sedgwick County, Kansas (the "Board"):

Section 1. After reviewing and considering information relating to enrollment and school closings, including the following:

- Online survey;
- Community feedback;
- Stakeholder engagement;
- Attendance guidelines and principles;
- Factors listed in Board Policy 1213 – Closing of Attendance Centers;
- Public comments at regular Board meetings;
- Public comments at scheduled listening sessions held February 21, 22 and 26, 2024;
- Public comments at the public hearing held on February 29, 2024;
- Presentation on December 11, 2023, illustrating to the Board the underutilization of certain buildings; and
- Financial condition of the district in light of the fact that over the last seven school years the district has declined in enrollment and faces reducing expenditures by a projected $42 million to balance the 2024-25 budget;

The Board determines that the following school buildings shall be closed to improve the school system of the district, accompanied by reassignment schools and alternative placement options:

School to Close	Reassignment Schools and Alternative Placement Options
Hadley Middle School	Hamilton Middle School, Marshall Middle School, Wilbur Middle School, Pleasant Valley Middle School, Magnet Application, Special Transfer Application
Jardine STEM and Career Explorations Academy Middle School	Mead Middle School, Magnet Application, Special Transfer Application
Clark Elementary School	Caldwell Elementary School, Beech Elementary School, Allen Elementary School, Magnet Application, Special Transfer Application
Cleaveland Traditional College and Career Readiness Magnet Elementary School	Original neighborhood boundary school, Magnet Application, Special Transfer Application
Park Elementary School	Irving Elementary School, Washington Elementary School, Harry Street Elementary School, Linwood Elementary School, Magnet Application, Special Transfer Application
Payne Elementary School	Lawrence Elementary School, Stanley Elementary School, Woodman Elementary School, Magnet Application, Special Transfer Application

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption by the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, this resolution is hereby introduced and adopted by Unified School District No. 259 at its regular meeting held on March 4, 2024.

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President, Board of Education
Unified School District No. 259

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Clerk of the Board
Unified School District No. 259