



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

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Cale Bushman, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Dear, Wausau School District Community:

As we have at the conclusion of each meeting, we are reaching out to let you know that our Elementary Facility Plan Citizen Task Force met for the ninth, and final, time on December 4, 2024. As another reminder, this is part of the Wausau School District/Board's process to create a long-range elementary school facilities plan. That plan will focus, in particular, on whether the number of elementary schools in the Wausau School District should be reduced and if so, then how, where, and when. Facilitating the process is Mark Roffers from MDRoffers Consulting, LLC – a school facility planning and projections firm.

To ensure transparency throughout this entire process, we want you to know what's happening in those task force meetings. [Click here](#) to access our webpage. At the bottom of it, you'll find agendas, meeting summaries, and materials from each meeting.

During the meeting on Wednesday, the task force identified their recommendation for the Wausau School Board. That recommendation is as follows:

- Hewitt-Texas Elementary closes and shifts to Riverview Elementary
- Hawthorn Hills Elementary closes and shifts to John Marshall and Franklin elementaries (Hawthorn Hills' 4K Academy shifts to Riverview Elementary)
- Grant Elementary closes and shifts to Thomas Jefferson Elementary (Thomas Jefferson's 4K Academy shifts to Lincoln Elementary)
- Lincoln Elementary closes and is repurposed into a 4K Academy. Lincoln's K-5 grades shift to G.D. Jones Elementary. (Jones' 4K Academy shifts to Lincoln)

Aside from receiving the most support of task force members, here are the other reasons they came to this recommendation:

1. A comprehensive solution to fill most of the 1,300 empty elementary seats
2. Closes or repurposes 2 east side and 2 west side schools
3. Remaining schools are regularly spaced out in the community
4. Receiver schools have large populations of walking zone students
5. All schools that would be closed do not have separate gym and cafeterias; all receiver schools do have such separate spaces
6. All receiver schools have at least the "more suitable" learning spaces

We know that whether you're a staff member, parent/guardian, or student that decisions like this come with anxiety, but here's what we want you to know:

- We value our partnership with you! The wellbeing of your students and our staff will always be the primary lens we look through when making these difficult decisions.
- The task force is advisory only. Their recommendation will be sent to the Wausau School Board on Monday (December 9):
 - Scheduling notes: The meeting begins at 5pm at the Longfellow Administration Center. No action will be taken on that recommendation. You are more than welcome to attend in-person or watch the livestream available by [clicking here](#). It's possible the Board could take action during a special meeting on Wednesday, December 18 at 5 p.m. at Wausau East High School. Details will be forthcoming on that.
- Students are still coming to school everyday and they (and we) need our teachers and staff! If any staffing reductions are to be made, it will likely happen through transfers to other vacant positions resulting from attrition – mostly retirements and resignations.
- We can absolutely promise you that we will support you, your students, and our staff throughout this process every step of the way – especially if any consolidations happen. We are here for you!

To provide you with some context as decisions were made, we're also including meeting notes/outcomes in full, that we encourage you to read through. Please click the document below to read through them:

[Outcomes_Task Force Meeting #9_12.4.2024 \(1\).pdf](#)

Please know there is a lot to be decided and figured out. We encourage you to follow along and if you have any questions/comments/concerns, please let any of us know. In addition, we will keep you updated if and when there are developments. We are all here to help and support you and your students in any way we can.

Thank you for your partnership!

[Cale Bushman](#), Interim Superintendent

[Diana White](#), Coordinator of Communications and Marketing

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