



# WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Longfellow Administration Center

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*Cale Bushman, Interim Superintendent of Schools*

January 9, 2025

Dear Wausau School District Community:

We are reaching out to you this morning to give you an update on the Special Board Meeting held last evening (January 8, 2025). As we shared with you earlier this week, board members reviewed the recommendation of the Elementary Facility Plan Citizen Task Force and then took action on it.

By an 8-0 vote, the Wausau School Board approved the consolidation recommendation (also known as Bundle #1) which 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. Grades K-5 at Lincoln will shift to G.D. Jones Elementary. (Jones' 4K Academy shifts to Lincoln)

They also voted that the consolidation happen following the conclusion of the current school year.

As a reminder, the Elementary Facility Plan Citizen Task Force, made up of parents, staff, and community members, met 10 times over the course of the last several months as part of the Wausau School District/Board's process to create a long-range elementary school facilities plan. The focus of the plan was whether the number of elementary schools in the Wausau School District should be reduced and if so, then how, where, and when. The task force was facilitated by Mark Roffers and Nick Johnson from MDRoffers Consulting, LLC – a school facility planning and projections firm.

To provide you with the history, context, and data of these discussions since the task force first convened in June, we're including some resources below:

- First, we encourage you to watch last evening's Special Board Meeting. [Click here](#) to do so.
- Click the documents below to view the formal recommendation to the School Board, as well as the handout provided to attendees:
- [Refined Elementary Task Force Report \(Presentation\) to Board 1.8.2025 \(1\).pdf](#)
- [Public Meeting Handout 1.8.2025 \(2\).pdf](#)
- Click here to review the webpage dedicated to the work of the Elementary Facility Plan Citizen Task Force. You'll find all of the materials, meeting notes, presentations, and more from each of the task force meetings. You'll also be able to view all of the school board meeting updates.

So, what's next? Now that the task force's recommendation has been approved, we are immediately getting to work to plan out the process. We know that you probably have a lot of questions. We promise that we will absolutely keep you in the communication loop along the way as the process is planned out. More importantly, we want you to know that you can reach out to us about anything – whether it be questions, comments, and/or concerns. We are here to support you, your students, staff, and community members and will do so every step of the way.

Lastly, we know change is hard, but as one of our Board members mentioned last night, it's not the brick-and-mortar buildings we're attached to, it's the amazing people in them that make our schools so special; creating life-long memories. Next school year, our buildings will still be full of those amazing people with far more life-long memories to come! Please know, we'll do this together. In the meantime, please keep an eye out for more information and updates as details become available.

Sincerely,  
Cale Bushman, Superintendent  
Diana White, Coordinator of Communications and Marketing

You can always reach Diana White by sending her an email at [dwhite@wausauschools.org](mailto:dwhite@wausauschools.org). You can also call 715-261-0500. In addition, you can reply to this message and/or email [communications@wausauschools.org](mailto:communications@wausauschools.org) to reach her.

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