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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Norfolk School Board Votes to Advance Phase I of Consolidation Plan

Two Elementary Schools to Close, One to Be Repurposed by End of 2026 School Year

Norfolk, VA – The Norfolk School Board unanimously voted at its meeting on Wed., March 18, 2026, to move forward with a districtwide consolidation plan that will close three schools and repurpose a fourth at the end of the 2026 school year. The decision is Phase I of four planned phases [approved by the Board in fall 2025](#), aimed at addressing declining enrollment, improving resource allocation, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

The schools slated for closure in June 2026 are Willoughby Early Childhood Center (ECC), Norview Elementary School, and Oceanair Elementary School which will be repurposed into an early childhood center (pre-K only).

As part of Phase I, some students from Mary Calcott Elementary will be moved to Ocean View Elementary School beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

“This was not an easy decision, but we are committed to a supporting and nurturing students and families through this transition,” said Superintendent Jeff Rose. “We recognize the deep connections families and staff have to these schools. However, with enrollment trends shifting and operating costs rising, we must take responsible steps to ensure we can continue providing high-quality educational opportunities for all students.”

According to district data, enrollment has declined by approximately 28% over the past 15 years, leaving several school buildings underutilized. The consolidation plan is expected to reduce operational costs while allowing the district to reinvest in academic programs and student support services, at remaining schools.

District officials emphasized that a comprehensive transition plan will be implemented to support students, families, and staff affected by the changes. Key elements will include:

- Student reassignment plans designed to minimize disruption and maintain program continuity
- Transportation adjustments to accommodate new school assignments
- Dedicated transition teams to assist families through the process
- Staff placement support and opportunities within the district

Community meetings and information sessions at the affected schools will be held throughout the spring to provide updates and gather feedback so that students and families can have as smooth a transition as possible. Families will receive detailed information about new school assignments and transition timelines in the coming weeks.

The proposal has generated significant community discussion in recent months, with families, educators, and local leaders voicing both concerns and support. Board Chair Tiffany Moore-Buffaloe acknowledged the community’s engagement during the decision-making process. “We heard from many stakeholders, and those perspectives helped shape the final plan,” Chair Moore-Buffaloe said. “Our focus now is on implementing this transition thoughtfully and ensuring every student continues to receive a strong educational experience.”

The consolidation will take effect at the conclusion of the current school year in June 2026. The district will continue to provide updates via its dedicated NPS website and direct communications with families including a dedicated email address for questions and concerns NPSConsolidation@nps.k12.va.us.

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Established in 1858, Norfolk Public Schools exists to serve the students and families who call it home. NPS is dedicated to strengthening community connections and shaping a future that is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for today and generations ahead.