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Board of Education Approves Comprehensive School Reconfiguration Plan

(October 19, 2023) This evening, the Rochester Board of Education approved Superintendent Dr. Carmine Peluso's detailed Comprehensive School Reconfiguration Plan, including grade reconfigurations and school closures and moves beginning in the 2024 – 2025 school year.

"The decision to close schools was undeniably complex and challenging," said Superintendent Peluso. "It was not a choice made lightly; rather, it was made with a heavy heart and a deep sense of responsibility. We are determined to transform this District to create better opportunities for our students and prepare them for a promising future."

This comprehensive reconfiguration was guided by specific criteria, including enrollment declines, school accountability status, building structures and conditions, demographics, program offerings, long-term financial planning, and recommendations from the State Monitor. It will align with the new grade structure (PreK-6, 7-8, 9-12) approved by the Board of Education in August 2022.

School Closures

Elementary Schools

- Clara Barton School No. 2
- Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10
- Adlai E. Stevenson School No. 29
- Andrew J. Townson School No. 39
- RISE Community School No. 106
- Wilson Foundation Academy

Middle Schools

- Dr. Alice Holloway Young School of Excellence
- Franklin Lower School
- Monroe Lower School

High Schools

- Franklin Upper School
- Northeast College Preparatory High School

Building Closures

- School No. 20**
- School No. 29**
- School No. 39*
- School No. 44**
- School No. 106*

*Buildings remain in RCSD inventory

**Buildings returned to the City of Rochester

Reconfiguration Impact

Elementary Schools (Citywide: PreK-6)

- Nathaniel Hawthorne School No. 25 moves to 190 Reynolds Street (Current site of School No. 2)
- Montessori Academy School No. 53 moves to the Dr. Walter Cooper Campus at 353 Congress Avenue

Middle Schools (7-8)

- Charlotte Campus*
- Douglass Campus
- East Lower School
- Freddie Thomas Campus*
- Jefferson Campus*
- Wilson Foundation Academy Campus*

*Denotes new middle school

High Schools (9-12)

- New high school at the Franklin Campus
- Rochester Early College International High School moves to the Dr. Alice Holloway Young Campus at 85 Adams Street

Modifications Based on Community Feedback

- All current K-5 students in School No. 2 are invited to remain and form part of the School No. 25 community; students not choosing to remain will participate in a special lottery;
- Current School No. 29 and RISE Community School Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Students in specialized ASD classrooms will remain together; and
- The JROTC Program will move to the Franklin Campus as part of the new school's community.

In December, the District will begin the Special Lottery for impacted students in the closing schools. This will be managed by the Deputy Superintendent of Administration and Supports via the Office of Accountability. Dr. Peluso will provide a status update on the reconfiguration implementation at monthly board meetings.

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