



Barbara Deane-Williams
Superintendent of Schools
Rochester City School District
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, New York 14614
www.rcsdk12.org

November 18, 2016

Dear Families of Martin B. Anderson School No. 1,

I am writing to share some very difficult news regarding your school and to describe steps we will take to address its impact.

The news is that the District has run out of time to consider changes to the Facilities Modernization Plan approved last March. This means that your building will be renovated next year and become the new home for a different school program after that.

In August, during my second week as Superintendent, I met many of you at a school forum to discuss this issue. Since then my team has worked exhaustively to find a better solution, and they have proposed multiple ideas. Unfortunately, none of the options could be feasibly approved, planned and executed in the compressed time frame required by an outside board that controls the construction process.

Now that the decision is final, my team will work equally hard to support your transition in the fall of 2017 to a new school program. Here is what you can expect.

- Soon after Thanksgiving, we will schedule a meeting at the school to talk about placement options in other school communities.
- Our Student Placement office will assign two senior people to meet personally with each family and determine which new school program is the best fit for your family. These placement specialists will serve as your personal guides throughout the process.
- All School No. 1 families will receive preferential placement priority at the schools of your choice, with assignments in place before the school-choice lottery opens to other District families.
- It is our intent to provide every School No. 1 family who lives nearby a seat in Children's School of Rochester No. 15, so that you can return to your current building after renovation.

A special note for families with children in your school's wonderful autism program. We have made arrangements to keep the program intact as part of the School No. 15 community, beginning next year. That will mean a move to the school's "swing space" location on Upper Falls Boulevard next year, and a return to your current facility after renovations. We will do all we can to make these transitions as smooth as possible for your children, and I welcome suggestions from families and staff members on what we can do to help.

It saddens me to share this upsetting news, especially as all of our families are preparing to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. Please know that our District has many other fine school programs that are ready to welcome your children, and my team will do all we can to make this process work well for your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Deane-Williams".

Barbara Deane-Williams
Superintendent of Schools