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RCSD Superintendent Dr. Carmine Peluso Presents Comprehensive Reconfiguration Plan

(September 12, 2023) At this evening's Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Dr. Carmine Peluso presented a detailed comprehensive reconfiguration plan that includes school closures, moves, and grade reconfigurations.

"Our District has experienced a continuous decline in enrollment for more than a decade and must make the necessary adjustments to create better learning and extracurricular opportunities in modernized facilities with highly qualified staff and programming to meet the diverse interests of our students," said Dr. Carmine Peluso.

If these changes are not implemented, the District's projections forecast more significant decreases in the years ahead. This comprehensive reconfiguration has been guided by certain 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 last summer.

The following are proposed:

Recommended 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

Recommended 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 Dr. Walter Cooper Campus

Middle Schools (7-8)

- Charlotte Campus*
- Douglass Campus
- East Lower School
- Freddie Thomas Campus*
- Jefferson Campus* (RIA program remains)
- Wilson Foundation Academy Campus*

*Denotes new middle school

High School (9-12)

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

Student Transitions for the 2024-25 school year

Elementary Schools

- Current K-5 students in closing schools will participate in a special lottery to select a new school in their zone. Current PreK and 6th-grade students will participate in the traditional school choice process.
- Students with multiple disabilities (GEM) at School No. 29 will move to Mary McLeod Bethune School No. 45 as a K-8 program.
- Current PreK, 6th, and 8th-grade students at Wilson Foundation Academy will participate in the traditional school choice process.

Middle Schools

- Current 7th-grade students will attend a school in their zone. (Excludes students at Northwest, East Lower, School of the Arts, and World of Inquiry School No. 58)
- Current 8th-grade students will participate in the traditional school choice process.

High Schools

- Current 9th-11th-grade students in closing schools will participate in a special lottery to select a new school.

Programs

- NorthSTAR Program students will move to the Franklin Campus.

“I am confident this plan will ensure every child in the District has access to qualified staff in a school with the support and opportunities they need to succeed,” said Peluso.

The Board of Education will make its final decision in October. An illustration of the RCSD footprint after implementation including tonight’s presentation can be found [here](#).

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