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MENOMINEE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Consolidation Feasibility Study **BASIC FACTS**

Background:

The purpose of the failed August 2022 referendum was to address projections that show that the district must reduce operational costs, solve overcrowding at Central Elementary School, and address significant building needs. The Menominee Area Public Schools Board of Education and administration launched a consolidation feasibility study in March 2023 to investigate when and how to consolidate our school district from three schools to two.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF CONSOLIDATION?

A feasibility study is examining how to provide the following:



Adequate and safe learning spaces for all grade levels.



Necessary educational programming and culture for all grade levels.



Fiscal stability for the school district.

WHY IS CONSOLIDATION UNDER CONSIDERATION?

Consolidation is one part of a long-range financial solution to:

DECLINING ENROLLMENT

- 35% enrollment decrease in the past 15 years.
- Over \$5 million less revenue for the District.
- With less revenue, reductions in operating expenses are critical.

INEFFICIENT USE OF SPACE

- **Overcrowding at Central Elementary School.** The building is being used at 150% of its intended use.
- **Underutilization of Blesch and the Jr/Sr High School.** These schools are under utilized by approximately 50%.

WHAT IS THE PLAN UNDER CONSIDERATION?

- **Reconfigure grade levels** to consolidate from 3 buildings to 2 buildings.
- **Central Elementary will close**, moving the K - 2 students to Blesch.
- **Blesch will educate Kindergarten - 5th grade** (with room to add a future 4K program)
- **Menominee Junior/Senior High School** will contain grades 6 through 12 with grades 6 - 8 core classes housed in a “wing”
- **District Offices will move** to the Junior/Senior High School.

See reverse side for Frequently Asked Questions.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the consolidation feasibility study?

It is two months of coordinated work (strategic process) to gather information and decide how MAPS will effectively transition from a three-building school district to a two-building school district.

What plan is being analyzed?

At the start of the 2023-24 school year, MAPS will reconfigure grade levels to consolidate from 3 buildings to 2 buildings.

- Central Elementary will close, moving K-2 students to Blesch, and creating a K-5 school.
- Menominee Junior/Senior High School will serve students in grades 6-12.
- Grades 6-8 will be served in a middle school wing for core classes.
- The District Offices will move to the Junior/High School.

Is this the only plan being considered?

Yes, at this time. The Board of Education and the administrative team are collecting data and analyzing this solution because it appears to achieve the necessary reductions and can be achieved in an efficient manner. It was a logical and feasible starting point. There are no solutions being evaluated that cannot be achieved for obvious financial or other reasons. However, if stakeholder feedback or the analysis strongly indicates another effective solution, the Board could select to study another option. No decisions have been made.

What are the potential benefits of consolidation?

Fewer transitions

- Less anxiety & more years to connect students, families, and staff;
- K-5 is a more typical elementary school. 6-8 is a more typical middle school with exploratories

Connectedness

- Opportunities for student-to-student mentoring;
- Keeps more siblings together;
- Staff time for addressing student needs across grade levels, content areas, and ISD services.
- Student social/emotional well being

Instructional Time

- Iterative staff will spend time with students vs traveling.
- Teachers can more easily collaborate (elementary & middle school).
- Classrooms for specials and ISD services vs carts.

Consistency

- School routines and communication
- Expectations for classroom behavior, discipline, academic achievement, etc.

Opportunities

- Earlier exploration of careers and a more robust middle school experience for 6th graders.
- Potential for 4-year-old kindergarten in the future.

When will staff and parents know the decision?

The current goal is to have the Board of Education consider the recommendations at its May 17 meeting. We cannot predict if the Board will act at that time or not, but a decision is expected by the end of May.

How can I stay informed?

Community input sessions are being held on April 25 and 27. Any further information that is required for the board to make a decision will be gathered between April 27 and May 17.

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