Binghamton City School District

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June 8, 2022

Dear BCSD Families and Community Residents,

The Binghamton City School District's Board of Education continues its work toward completion of the district feasibility study which began in May 2021. It is critical that the district is proactive in planning for the future, as enrollment in the district declines and conditions at some of our buildings deteriorate. We must be fiscally responsible to taxpayers while providing students with high-quality, efficient programming that positively impacts students.

The objective of the feasibility study is to evaluate our current and future use of the district's 10 school buildings, taking into account building conditions and capacity, enrollment trends and transportation needs. Multiple scenarios for long-term facilities improvement were developed based on data collected by an independent firm, and stakeholder analysis and discussion. Community input is a critical component of the study. Throughout the year, the scenarios were reviewed and discussed by school administrators, and a group of 40 community stakeholders, all of whom are city residents.

Your voice matters! It is extremely valuable for stakeholders to communicate their thoughts and feelings to school board members, who have the responsibility to decide the outcomes generated from the study. The Board of Education will hold a series of community forums on the west and east sides of the city. The purpose of the forums is to present key data and information gathered so far, providing our community the opportunity to share their input and ask questions. They will occur at the following locations and times:

> June 15 - Theodore Roosevelt Library, 3 p.m.
>   East Middle School Auditorium, 6 p.m.
>
> June 22 - Horace Mann Elementary Gymnasium, 3 p.m.
>   West Middle School Auditorium, 5:30 p.m.
>
> June 23 - Woodrow Wilson Elementary Cafetorium, 6 p.m.

Board of Education members will attend each of these meetings. Those unable to attend in person may access the meetings via Zoom. Zoom links will be shared via email to all BCSD families and posted to the Board of Education website 24 hours prior to each meeting.

For now, here are some things you should know about the current status of the feasibility study:

> **All current options do not recommend permanently closing three or more schools.** There are four elementary schools (Horace Mann, Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas Jefferson, and Woodrow Wilson) being reviewed and evaluated due to the limitations of

their facilities. Currently, all options under study only consider decommissioning **<u>one</u>** school, if it benefits students, taxpayers and the community.

The Board of Education is not voting on closing a school on June 14. At its regularly scheduled June 14 meeting, the Board of Education will provide an update to the community on the feasibility study. Input gathered at the upcoming community forums will be shared at the July 2022 board meeting.

The district is not considering changing grade configurations at the elementary level. While reconfiguration of buildings to become grades *PreK-2, grades 3 - 5, or PreK-4* were discussed as potential options during the study, the board has decided not to change grade level configurations at the elementary level. This option would have created an additional building transition at the elementary level and was deemed not desirable.

Faculty and staff will not lose employment. In the event a building is identified as being decommissioned, the district would implement a plan to transition faculty and staff to other buildings. Any plan would take a minimum of two years to implement. Additionally, any position no longer needed would be eliminated through attrition.

For more information, please visit:
https://bcsd1.ss14.sharpschool.com/district/building_projects/feasibility_study_2021-2022

Thank you for your time, attention, and input.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brian Whalen
President, BCSD Board of Education

Educating, empowering, and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.