Building Relocation and Transition Plan

Background
Over the past several years, overspending, reduced funding, and declining enrollment have significantly depleted our resources. The OPEB payments, purchase of Lane Intermediate School, district organization, and technology leases all contributed to overspending of $14 million dollars. Over the past two years and under the direction of a new district administrative team, budget cuts, debt consolidation, and the end of some technology leases, helped us move from $14 million of overspending to $370,000 of overspending in 2015-2016 with an overall fund reserve deficit of $2.1 million. While this may seem disturbing, it actually represents an improvement (and a lot of hard work).

One of the strategies used to improve fiscal stability over the past 18 months involved leasing or selling vacant or underused district properties. Recently, we sold the Roosevelt School building and leased the Parkway Center located on Root River Parkway.

Sale of District Property
In January, the School Board approved the sale of 1135/1139/1205 South 70th Street, 7021 W. Washington Street, and all adjacent parking properties for $6.75 million dollars.
The party interested in the 70th street properties is a developer with a vision to revitalize the buildings through a mixed use of retail and commercial office space. This potential development will bring jobs and opportunities to the community of West Allis. As part of the offer, the developer now has a 180 day period to explore the viability of their plan.
If the sale of these properties close, the proceeds from the sale will be used to relocate the District administrative offices, The Learning Center, and Bridges to Learning. The remaining funds (along with our recent OPEB settlement) will be used to rebuild our financial reserves. While the opportunity to sell these buildings will have a positive impact on our long-term fiscal stability, the need to relocate offices and programs creates some short-term challenges.

**Enrollment**

The sale of the facilities on 70th Street comes at a time when we are experiencing declining enrollment. During the 2014-2015 school year we educated 9,877 students and this year our enrollment is 9,184. The decline of 693 students over the past two years means a reduction in revenue and that we are operating too many classrooms for our enrollment. The enrollment decline includes a reduction in both resident (458) and non-resident (235) students.

State and city census data continues to project a decline in student enrollment. There are fewer children across the state and with increased competition from private, charter, and voucher schools we project that district enrollment will continue to decline. This requires us to carefully plan the use of facilities and to consider unique and innovative learning opportunities that will attract families to our district and its neighborhood schools.

**Criteria Used to Evaluate Recommendations**

As we reviewed various relocation options, we looked at a variety of vacant or underused properties. We also studied current and projected enrollment trends recognizing that declining enrollment over the next few years would likely mean the consolidation of some school sites.
We also developed criteria that would be used to evaluate recommendations:

- Minimize costs for relocation.
- Minimize the impact of relocation to the fewest number of students and staff.
- Focus on long-term solutions.
- Provide adequate space and an environment conducive to learning for all school programming with options for expansion.
- Consider enrollment capacity of schools and consolidation of existing programs to create adequate space.

In January, a Proposal for Building Relocation and Transition was presented to the School Board and information sessions were conducted. In addition, various relocation and transition options were reviewed and discussed during Board workshops. The following is the approved Building Relocation and Transition Plan based on the collaborative feedback we received during this process.

**Approved Relocation Plan**

1. Relocate school programming for Lincoln Intermediate by joining the attendance area with those of Frank Lloyd Wright and West Milwaukee (Map 2) using Board Policy 432, 432 (Rule) and 432 (Exhibit -1).

![2017-2018 INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA MAP](image)
2. Relocate school programming (e.g., The Learning Center, Bridges to Learning, and the NxGLC High School pilot) to the Lincoln facility.

3. Relocate technology infrastructure and print shop to former administration building at 9333 West Lincoln on the lower level with District Maintenance Shop.

4. Relocate District office personnel to a variety of available spaces (e.g., 9333 West Lincoln, Lane, Recreation Building, Hoover, Madison, and Lincoln) in the district. While this placement splits up administrative staff and programs, it is expected to be temporary.

**Approved Transition Plan for Lincoln Intermediate School Students**

1. Current 5th graders that would have attended Lincoln Intermediate, attend the neighborhood attendance area shown on Map 2 according to Board Policy 432, 432 (Rule) and 432 (Exhibit -1).

   **2017-2018 INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA MAP**

2. Current Lincoln Intermediate 6th and 7th graders attend Frank Lloyd Wright Intermediate School or their neighborhood school. If all Lincoln Intermediate students attend FLW, the projected enrollment at FLW is approximately 915 students. This provides an option for 6th and 7th graders to *attend intermediate school together.*
Lincoln students attending Frank Lloyd Wright or West Milwaukee will be scheduled in classes with current 6th and 7th graders at these schools.


4. An Intermediate School Preview Night on Thursday, March 23, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. will be held at Frank Lloyd Wright Intermediate School and West Milwaukee Intermediate School.

5. Following the preview night, school teams will create a series of orientation events designed to help Lincoln students become familiar with their new school. Counselors and principals will be visiting Lincoln to talk with students. School visits with students will be planned. The goal is to support a positive transition be fostering a sense of belonging. Teachers, counselors and administrators will work together to building strong relationships with all in-coming students.

6. Lincoln instructional staff will be provided with options in commensurate positions at Frank Lloyd Wright or West Milwaukee intermediate school or in other positions of interest that match teaching credentials. We anticipate that positions for non-instructional staff will become available through normal attrition.
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS POLICY 432

The School Board shall set the attendance areas to be served by the various elementary, intermediate and high schools in the district. Resident students shall be assigned to neighborhood schools in their attendance area based on their resident address.

When a new family moves into the district and there is no space available at their attendance area school, the District will assign the student to a nearby school where there is space available. Transportation will only be provided if the student lives more than two (2) miles from the school to which he/she has been assigned.

The District may initiate student transfers to a school building outside of a student’s attendance area based on space or special program needs. In such cases, the District shall provide transportation.

INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFER POLICY

Intra-District transfers must be approved by both the sending school and receiving school. The transfer request is to originate with the school the student currently attends. Once approved, this becomes the student’s school until the student transitions to a new grade level (Intermediate or High School).

The reasons for intra-district transfer are:
• Response to legal documentation (e.g., restraint/custody order documentation is required).

• Response to medical documentation (e.g., doctor documentation is required).

• As part of an official resolution involving a formal complaint over a dispute (e.g., district documentation is required).

Note: If student placement results in a student being assigned to a school other than the neighborhood school (e.g., capacity or the reasons listed above) the assigned school will work to honor any request for siblings to attend that school.

- If openings at the neighborhood school become available, the student that was displaced will have a choice to return.

- Siblings of the displaced students will have an opportunity to return to the neighborhood school if space is available.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

432 Exhibit 1

1. Implementation begins for the 2016-2017 school year.

2. Students new to the WAWM District or transitioning to a new grade level (Elementary, Intermediate or High School) would attend their neighborhood school.

3. Elementary students currently enrolled at an elementary building (excluding 4K students who received a one-year intra-district transfer approval) would have the opportunity to continue in the current building or choose to attend their neighborhood school.
4. Intermediate and High School students currently enrolled in an intermediate or high school can continue in the current building until they transition to the next school level after which they would attend their neighborhood school.

5. For the next two years, students who have a sibling that is attending a building outside of the attendance area can attend that same school with their sibling.

6. Beginning in year 2018-2019, only students transitioning to a secondary grade level (Intermediate or High School) and have a sibling who is attending a building that is outside of the attendance area could choose to attend that same school with their sibling.

7. Students that move to a new residence (in the WAWM District) during the school year, the student could attend the neighborhood school or finish the year in their current school after which the student would attend the neighborhood school. If the student was a junior in High School, that student would be allowed to remain through senior year.