



West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

Administration Office

January 25, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of students attending Lincoln Intermediate School:

Many of you have heard that we have an accepted offer to sell 1135/1139/1205 South 70th Street, 7021 W. Washington Street, and all adjacent parking properties. These buildings house our district offices (e.g., administration, Enrollment Center, and Recreation Department) and school programming (e.g., The Learning Center and Bridges to Learning).

The sale or lease of property is one of several strategies we are using to improve our fiscal stability. (Recently, we also sold the Roosevelt School building and leased the Parkway Center located on Root River Parkway.) 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. 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.

The sale of these facilities comes at a time when we are also 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 means that we are also operating too many classrooms and schools for our enrollment. The decline includes a reduction in both resident (458) and non-resident students (235). State and city census data also 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.

As we reviewed various relocation options, we looked at a variety of vacant or underused properties. We evaluated 11 district properties and numerous configurations of space before arriving at a recommendation. We also considered our educational programming needs, declining enrollment projections, and fiscal responsibilities. It was important to thoroughly review each option as we prepared recommendations and rationale. Multiple scenarios were reviewed in an effort to provide an optimal work and school environment for employees, staff and students.

Our recommendation to the School Board is to consolidate the enrollment at Lincoln Intermediate School with our other three intermediate schools by revising our Neighborhood Attendance Areas. If approved, current Lincoln Intermediate students and in-coming 6th graders will attend Lane, Frank Lloyd Wright, and West Milwaukee intermediate school for the 2017-2018 school year. During this transition, all instructional staff will be placed in commensurate positions at these intermediate schools or in other positions of interest that match teaching credentials.

The Lincoln facility will be used to house The Learning Center, Bridges to Learning and the pilot NxGLC high school program. This site provides much needed room for program expansion and it has the components (e.g., gymnasium, cafeteria, multi-purpose rooms, technical labs, etc.) designed to meet the needs of secondary students.

The proposal also includes a plan to relocate District office personnel to a variety of available space in the district. While this placement splits up administrative staff and programs, it is expected to be temporary.

If the proposal is approved, students will receive notice of their neighborhood school for the 2017-2018 school year by March 3, 2017. A Preview Night will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Lane, Frank Lloyd Wright and West Milwaukee for students and their families.

We are planning to share our Proposal for Building Relocation and Transition with you at an information session on **Monday, January 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Lincoln in the cafeteria**. We will discuss this proposal and answer questions regarding transition.

Please know that we have worked hard to make a thoughtful recommendation regarding building relocation and transition. We understand change is never easy. Yet, we believe in the future of the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District and have great confidence that our consolidated intermediate schools will meet the needs of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Lexmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and "L".

Dr. Marty Lexmond
Superintendent