

Transitions for Tomorrow: Did you know?

Thank you for taking the time to attend tonight's Board of Education Work Session. What follows is a brief summary of points taken from Superintendent Wandrie's "Transitions for Tomorrow" presentation to the Lapeer Community Schools Board of Education.

- Due to a host of powerful demographic forces (economic recession, job loss, declining birth rate, etc.), the total enrollment of Lapeer Community Schools is projected to decline by nearly 1,000 by 2017.
- In Michigan, schools are funded with a State-allocated dollar amount per pupil based on the number of students attending each school district. Unfortunately, our school district receives the lowest per-pupil funding level in the State and, during this economic downturn, that State per-pupil amount has been repeatedly reduced. The combination of declining enrollment and a reduced State of Michigan per-pupil payment for each student has put tremendous pressure on the District's leaders to make difficult decisions about how to invest those decreasing financial resources.
- The Board of Education and administrative staff of Lapeer Community Schools has taken extraordinary steps to involve students, parents, staff and the broader community in the strategic planning process. Superintendent Matt Wandrie made it clear from the start of the process that it would be driven by ideas, not an agenda.
- The timeline of the proposed four-year strategic plan is consistent with the principle of achieving a structure that fits the needs of LCS students. Right-sizing the District is the right thing to do regardless of any budget implications.
- Upon close examination of all our elementary buildings, the recommendation to close Maple Grove Elementary was a difficult one. It was based on a 24-item list of closure criteria laying out the important factors involved in building assessments. We are confident that the decision, given all the factors outlined the presentation, is the correct one.
- As part of the overall restructuring plan, the Administration recommended District-wide changes for the upcoming 2012-13 school year. These changes include the re-purposing of Turrill Elementary for use as a Year-Round Focus School, the redrawing of elementary attendance boundaries and the initiation of 15 task forces to facilitate implementation of the strategic plan.
- In the coming weeks there will be numerous additional opportunities for community responses and input. On February 23rd, Superintendent Wandrie will host a Town Hall Meeting at the auditorium at 7 p.m. at East High School where he will field questions regarding the strategic plan. On February 27th at 6 p.m., he will also hold an informational meeting on the Year-Round Focus concept at Turrill Elementary.
- Finally, all information pertaining to District-wide restructuring and the long-term strategic plan can be found on the District's website (Lapeerschools.org) under the "Transitions for Tomorrow" tab.

