

WICKLIFFE CITY SCHOOLS

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2221 Rockefeller Road Wickliffe, OH 44092

Phone: 440.943.6900

Fax: 440-943-7738

Web: wickliffeschools.org

Superintendent: Joseph Spiccia

Treasurer: Susan M. Haffey

Board of Education: Carl Marine • Donald J. Marn • Jackie Sheridan • Daniel J. Thomeier • Gail Willis

Dear Wickliffe Schools Families,

At the May 25th Board of Education meeting, two important decisions were made regarding the academic programs in our schools as well as the school facilities themselves. This message is to inform you of those decisions and why the board decided to take action at this time.

As a reminder, the board has been in thoughtful discussion about the district's current academic programs since the findings from the community task force were presented to them in April. These findings found, among other things, that the academic programs of the district could be enhanced if more technology and modern day facilities were available to students. In addition, a significant amount of tax dollars could be saved or repurposed by making shifts to the grade level configurations and number of schools that the district operates. With this information in mind, the board took unanimous action tonight.

First, the district will move forward with plans to close Wickliffe Elementary School during the 2018-19 school year. This school is 94 years old and while the district staff has done a great job to keep it functional, it is simply getting too costly to operate. Repairs are challenging to complete as well as extremely costly, and because of its age it does not allow for critical elements to a modern day education.

Students in grades PK-4 will move to the middle school facility in August of 2018 along with students in grades 5 and 6. Students in grades 7 and 8 will attend the high school. The district will use the 2017-18 school year to plan for this transition so that students, staff and community are comfortable with this change and ready to move forward. This move is expected to save the district more than 400,000 dollars per year.

While this change is important, it is only the first phase of the overall review of the district's facilities and their impact on the quality of education provided to students. Second, the board intends to engage the community and various experts in a larger study regarding the overall school facilities. The task force raised great questions related to how the district can enhance the quality of education provided to students. They recognized the need to attract young families to our community and the role technology plays in preparing students for today's college and career expectations. So the board wants to explore these issues further and will do so during the 2017-18 school year.

Please know that nothing will change for the start of the 2017-18 school year. The district is committed to keeping everyone up to date and involved in this process. We want to hear from students, parents, residents and staff regarding this review. We will provide multiple opportunities for input and look forward to further discussions regarding the academic programs we offer at Wickliffe City Schools. Should you have any questions about the action the board took at their meeting, please contact the district's Central Office at 440-943-6900. We are happy to offer support and discuss any questions you may have at any time.

Enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,



Joseph Spiccia
Superintendent

