

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING
OF SCHOOL BOARD
OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 191
BURNSVILLE-EAGAN-SAVAGE, MINNESOTA**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 191, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage, Minnesota was held on the 12th day of December, 2019 at _____ p.m.

The following members were present:

and the following members were absent:

Board Member _____ introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION CLOSING
METCALF MIDDLE SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, a Notice of Public Hearing on the question of the necessity and practicability of closing Sioux Trail Elementary School, Marion W. Savage Elementary School, and Metcalf Middle School was published in the legal newspaper of the School District for two successive weeks on _____ and _____, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the time and place of the meeting was set forth in the Notice; and

WHEREAS, Metcalf Middle School was identified in the Notice as a school considered for closing; and

WHEREAS, the reasons for the proposed closing were set forth in said Notice; and

WHEREAS, numerous opportunities were provided for members of the community to be heard whether for or against the question of closing Sioux Trail Elementary School, Marion W.

Savage Elementary School, and Metcalf Middle School, including at a September 23, 2019 Design Team Meeting through a feedback form; community focus group meetings held on October 3, October 7, October 8, October 9, October 14, and October 15, 2019; multiple site meetings for staff at each school held between October 1 and October 8, 2019; multiple site meetings held for middle school and high school students between October 8 and October 18, 2019; an online feedback form active from October 1 through October 20, 2019; and a meeting with Metcalf families on November 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2019, the School Board heard a presentation and recommendation presented by consultant Dr. Roger Worner; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on said closings was conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes § 123B.51, subd. 5 pursuant to said Notice by the School Board beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Diamondhead Education Center, 200 W. Burnsville Pkwy., Burnsville, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has considered the following materials: July 2, 2019 Baker Tilly Organizational Analysis Study; July 8, 2019 presentation of Organizational Analysis Study by Dr. Roger Worner and Dr. Kay Worner; August 8, 2019 Review of Facilities Study & Recommendations presentation; September 12, 2019 Outline for Facilities Study Process/Update and Facilities Review Timeline; September 17, 2019 Facilities Realignment presentation from Dr. Roger Worner; October 10, 2019 Facilities Realignment Process Update; October 24, 2019 Facilities Realignment Process Update; and the November 14, 2019 Memorandum and Presentation from Dr. Roger Worner; and

WHEREAS, testimony and materials were received during the course of the hearing by anyone in favor of or opposed to said closings and the hearing was not deemed closed until everyone who requested to speak had an opportunity to do so; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has considered the recommendation of the Administration to close Sioux Trail Elementary, Marion W. Savage Elementary and Metcalf Middle School pursuant to the recommendation of the consultant (Worner).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that after considering the materials in the record, the testimony presented at said hearing held pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 123B.51, subd. 5, and the recommendations of the Administration, the School Board of Independent School District No. 191 (Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District) hereby determines that Metcalf Middle School, located at 2250 Diffley Road, Burnsville, Minnesota, shall be closed effective the end of the 2019-20 school year for the following reasons and based on the following findings of fact:

1. In the Spring of 2019, the School District commissioned Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC, to perform an Organizational Analysis Study to ascertain the status of the School District and tender conclusions and recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of the School District. Baker Tilly contracted with Drs. Roger and Kay Worner to conduct the study.
2. The conclusions of the Baker Tilly study were presented to the School Board in July 2019. The study included analyses of the School District's enrollment/enrollment trends, finances, programs and services, staffing, and facilities. The study resulted in a 57-page report that contained a number of conclusions and recommendations. In relevant part, the study recommended the District close two elementary schools and one middle school at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

3. The recommendations were significantly and substantially predicated on the School District's past enrollment decline; the School District's future, projected enrollment decline; the resultant under-utilization of the School District's elementary and middle school levels, leading to increased cost and ineffectiveness; a declining General Fund balance; and past and projected future General Fund budget reductions.

4. The School District's enrollment is declining:
 - a. Over the ten-year span of time from 2009-10 through 2018-19, the School District's enrollment declined by 1,524 students or 15.5% from 9,858 students in 2009-10 to 8,334 students in 2018-19.
 - b. The enrollment decline was steady, with the number of enrolled students declining in ten consecutive years from 2009-10 through 2018-19.
 - c. Over the next five years, the School District's enrollment is projected to further decline from 8,334 students in 2018-19 to 7,598 students in 2023-24, representing a net loss of 736 students or 8.8%.
 - d. Based on the past and projected future enrollment declines, the School District will have lost the equivalent of 90 class sections (assuming an average class section size of 25 students/section) over the 15-year span of time from 2009-10 through 2023-24.
 - e. The School District's net loss of students through Open Enrollment migration during the 2017-18 school year was 1,556 students, while an additional 1,248 students out-migrated from the School District to non-public, charter, and home school settings.

5. The School District's General Fund balance is declining:
 - a. The School District has lost significant General Fund revenue as a result of declining enrollment and student out-migration and has projected to further experience revenue losses as a result of declining enrollment and student out-migrations in the future.

- b. The School District's General Fund balance has declined by \$7,698,627 or 32.7% over the five-year span of time from 2012-13 to 2017-18.
6. Using the State of Minnesota Selected Guidelines for School Facilities as a guide for applicable square footage of school buildings, elementary schools with enrollments of 500 students or less are constructed to allocate between 125-150 square feet per student. Employing that standard, six (6) of the School District's elementary schools are grossly under-utilized, and two (2) of the District's three middle schools are grossly under-utilized.
7. In light of the School District's current building capacity and enrollment, closing two elementary schools and one middle school is necessary and practicable to put the School District in the best position to serve its students, families, and communities. Underutilized schools produce negative consequences for both finances and academic programming. Closing these schools will enable the District to more efficiently, reliably, and cost-effectively offer robust, consistent, and quality academic programming for all students.
8. The School District engaged the services of Dr. Roger Worner to serve as the community engagement meetings Facilitator with the assistance of Assistant Superintendent Brian Gersich. Dr. Worner and Assistant Superintendent Gersich presented information from the study at six community focus groups, one design team meeting with principals and parent representatives, and one meeting with administration. During these eight meetings, community members and School District faculty provided feedback regarding the recommendation to close schools, and the choice of which schools to close.
9. Dr. Worner presented the administration's recommendations for the sites identified for closure on November 14, 2019, and provided a memorandum which included the criteria used, sites identified, and rationale for selection those buildings. In making its recommendations for which schools were necessary and practicable to close, the administration considered following factors:

- a. Lowest geographic risk of losing students to a nearby school district via open enrollment;
 - b. Oldest building/greatest need for update/greatest need for capital improvement.
 - c. Smallest overall capacity;
 - d. Smallest actual current enrollment;
 - e. Least cost-effective or economical to operate;
 - f. Least flexible for future programming.
10. Based on an examination of the School District's ten elementary schools in light of the factors above, four elementary schools were identified as possible candidates for closure: Rahn Elementary, Vista View Elementary, Marion W. Savage Elementary, and Sioux Trail Elementary. These schools met multiple of the factors listed above; the other schools met significantly fewer factors.
11. Although it is the School District's smallest elementary school, Rahn Elementary School was determined to be highly vulnerable to geographic risk of losing students. Therefore, it is not recommended that Rahn Elementary School be closed.
12. Marion W. Savage Elementary School is the oldest, least modern, and least flexible elementary school in the District. It has the third smallest enrollment and is the least cost-effective to operate. For these reasons, it is necessary and practicable that Marion W. Savage Elementary be one of the two elementary schools to close.
13. Of the remaining two options (Vista View and Sioux Trail), Vista View has a greater capacity, a greater enrollment, lower utility costs, lower utility costs per student, and fewer square feet per student. Sioux Trail Elementary School has the third smallest capacity, second smallest current enrollment, and is the third least cost-effective to operate. For these reasons, it is necessary and practicable that Sioux Trail Elementary School be one of the two elementary schools to close.

14. Metcalf Middle School is the oldest of the three middle schools; has the lowest enrollment; has the highest utility cost per square foot; has the second smallest capacity; and has the second highest number of square feet per student. Eagle Ridge Middle School is the newest, most modern middle school facility. Nicollet Middle School is the largest middle school facility, is the center for School District after school food service production, and its operation is pivotal in providing utilities to its site sister, Sky Oaks Elementary School. For these reasons, it is necessary and practicable that Metcalf Middle School be the middle school to close.

15. School District administration considered all data compiled through its facilities study, consultant recommendations, and public and staff feedback at various meetings and the public hearing. The School District considered alternatives to the closing of the schools, but determined that these closures were necessary to effectively solve the identified concerns that have arisen due to the declining enrollment and underutilization of buildings.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by Board Member _____, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

whereupon said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.