

Questions and Answers for the Consideration of Closing a Building

Q. Why is the Maplewood Board of Education considering closing a school building beginning school year 2017-2018?

A. There are two factors that the Board of Education is considering when looking at closing a building. First, declining enrollment. The chart below shows the actual enrollment numbers from the 2000 school year to the current. The second is that currently we are not being fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars by having three buildings.

Student Enrollment	
2000	1197
2001	1166
2002	1147
2003	1123
2004	1128
2005	1118
2006	1128
2007	1056
2008	1010
2009	955
2010	975
2011	940
2012	905
2013	870
2014	831
2015	786
2016	775
2017	<u>750</u>
	447 Less
	Students or
	37% Loss

Q. Why is the Elementary building the most logical choice?

A.

- *Utility Costs
- *Extra-curricular areas- the elementary building does not have band & choir rooms. The gym cannot be used for sporting events
- *Lack of Parking
- *Faster response from rescue services and the school nurse in an emergency at the high school and middle school
- *Costs of delivery services
- *Poor Internet connectivity – cost is double compared to High School and Middle School

Q. What will happen to the current teaching staff?

A. Classroom teachers will remain consistent with the current academic schedule. Only buildings and rooms will be different.

Q. Are there going to be changes to academics?

A. The academic schedule will remain the same. Including recess for the students K – 4. No teaching staff will be cut.

Q. Will any non-teaching staff be affected?

A. Some positions will be eliminated through attrition; hopefully the impact to current staff will be minimal.

Q. What will the new building configurations look like?

A. Students K – 6th grade will be housed at the current middle school. Students grades 7 – 12 will be housed at the high school. High school start and ending time will remain approximately the same as the current school. The new K-6 building start and ending time will be approximately the same as the current elementary schedule.

Q. How will students in the K – 6 building be located?

A. Kindergartners will have their own designated area on the first floor. Grades 1 through 3 will have designated areas on the first floor. Grades 4 through 6 will be on the second and third floors. There will be three lunch periods. Kindergartner through second grade will have a common lunch. Grades 3 and 4 will have a common lunch and Grades 5 and 6 will be together.

Q. How will students in grades 7 through 12 be located?

A. Seventh and eighth grade classrooms will primarily be separated from the high school students. There will be three lunch periods with grades 7 and 8 having a common lunch period.

Q. What will happen to the current elementary school?

A. The Board of Education has not made a decision as to what will happen to the building as of yet.

At the November 9th, 2016 regular Board meeting there will be a question and answer session to discuss possible building closure. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.