

Retirement of Facilities: Building Analysis and Public Notification

A building may be retired from use when the Board of Education determines that it is no longer useful to the district and/or is unsuited to the current needs or projected needs of the district.

1. Factors that will be examined when considering a school for closing include:
 - a. Enrollment and program
 1. Enrollment size in relation to that needed to provide quality of educational programs and services.
 2. Enrollment projections indicative on continued small pupil population, taking into account both neighborhood pupils and others.
 3. Effect upon programs for pupils in all schools affected by the closing
 4. Relationship to integration efforts, effect on consolidation on racial balance.
 5. Proximity of the school to community resources.
 6. Relationship to plan for special education and to feeder plan for regular attendance centers.
 - b. Community considerations
 1. Attitudes toward reducing the number of attendance units and reducing costs.
 2. Hardships and/or benefits to parents and/or children resulting from closure, such as the distance from where students reside to schools where assignments will be made.
 3. Reactions on the part of parents and other school patrons.
 4. Effect upon the neighborhood in the event of closure.
 - c. Building characteristics
 1. Age and current physical condition of building including whether or not building is energy efficient.
 2. Adequacy of building for housing a modern and flexible educational program; existence of a multipurpose room and/or other special areas; feasibility of replacement or additions, if needed; need adaptations for the handicapped.
 3. Suitability of the building for other uses.
 4. Capacity of buildings in adjacent attendance areas; space to house additional students.
 - d. Environmental factors
 1. Adequacy of the building in terms of student health and safety.
 2. Frequency of vandalism and amount of damage.
 3. Adequacy of location and size of site.
 4. Traffic hazards and/or serious deterrents to learning in the surrounding community.

Retirement of Facilities: Building Analysis and Public Notification (Continued)

5. Likelihood of surrounding development.
- e. Financial considerations
 1. Staffing requirements.
 2. Food service and pupil transportation requirements and expenses resulting from closure.
 3. Comparative per pupil operating costs in terms of upkeep and maintenance.
 4. Value of property for other uses.
 5. Savings which may accrue by reducing the number of attendance units.
 6. Future tax dollars needed to refurbish building.
- f. Relationship to long-range planning efforts
 1. Comprehensive planning of the school district, of other governmental bodies and planning agencies and of private interests.
 2. Need to use property for other purposes.
 3. Current and projected land use resulting in changes in residential and commercial patterns.
2. Parents and other school patrons will be involved early in discussion pertaining to possible school closings and program relocation.
3. Use may be made of outside consultants when considering school closings.
4. An orderly procedure, including the provision of information to all who will be affected, will be used when closing a school. Parents will be informed in advance regarding recommendations and possible Board action.
5. Boundaries will be realigned when a school is to be closed, taking into account distances from other schools, traffic patterns, building capacities, enrollments, and programs.
6. Time will be provided for adequate preparation for closing and reassignment of students and staff members.
7. Alternate uses of the building or disposition of the property will be considered in light of current and projected needs.

Recognizing that retired school property may have continued community value, the Board shall, as soon as feasible, vote to return the facility to the Town of Wallingford with the recommendation that the first opportunity to acquire retired property be granted to municipal bodies.

Policy Approved: 5/27/86