

A revision to the elementary boundaries that includes the closure of Hoover Elementary School for the 2024-25 school year was approved by the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education at its February 20 meeting. The plan was approved with a 5-4 vote.

In addition to closing Hoover, the plan primarily affects students living in the current boundaries for Lakeview, Coolidge and Horace Mann. It will relieve overcrowding at Lakeview and fill extra capacity at Coolidge and Horace Mann. Some students at Tullar were also affected by the change.

A total of 28 people spoke in open forum, primarily about closing Hoover and the change to the boundary area in the Nature Trails subdivision on the southwest side of the District that would switch from Lakeview to Coolidge. Some board members expressed concern over the amount of change the District has experienced over the past year and wondered if both the Lakeview and Hoover changes needed to happen at the same time. It was noted that it would be difficult to do one move without doing the other and that this change was part of the overall plan introduced in 2019.

There were also questions about what would happen if the plan didn't pass. Chad Buboltz, the District director of learning and leadership, said that students would still have to be moved from Lakeview, so it would either be done on a lottery system or a system where students without siblings at the school would move. That could shift some students living close to the school and break up neighborhoods. He also said if the plan wasn't adopted, there likely would not be a kindergarten class placed at Hoover next fall.

All staff members will continue to have jobs in the District at a similar employment level. The Hoover staff will be kept together and with Hoover students as much as possible. The plan results in a savings of between \$473,398 and \$653,398 in staffing costs and an estimated \$48,150 in building costs. There is no plan to sell the Hoover building at this point.

In other action, the Board approved the 2024 NJSD Hall of Fame class. The group consists of Colette (Goudreau) Murphy, Al Long, Wayne Salzman, Warren Schucknecht, Will Scribner, Bob Totten and Frank Wiesner. They will be inducted on homecoming weekend, October 4-5.

In personnel moves, the Board approved the hire of Sara Gauerke as a math interventionist at Horace Mann and Taft. A retirement was approved for middle school educational assistant Margaret Gross, effective Jan. 16.

The Board recognized crossing guards with appreciation from the Neenah Police for their service to the children of our community.

The next meeting is set for March 5 at 6 p.m.