



# WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359 • 715-261-0500 • Fax 715-261-2503 • [www.wausauschools.org](http://www.wausauschools.org)

*Dr. Kathleen Williams, Superintendent of Schools*

December 17, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Children in our Elementary Schools,

Preceding the April 2015 Referendum election, the Wausau School District Board of Education consistently communicated its desire to study and reexamine the elementary school attendance boundaries to address enrollment inequities while planning for short and long-term considerations. Also to be taken into consideration would be the impact those potential boundary changes would have on our middle and high schools. This letter is to inform you that the boundary study process will commence next month.

You also may recall that the purpose for constructing additions to four elementary schools was to be able to close the aging A.C. Kiefer Educational Center; create four new 4K Learning Academies at G.D. Jones, Hawthorn Hills, Riverview, and Thomas Jefferson; and create additional classroom spaces at G.D. Jones and Thomas Jefferson.

At the September 14, 2015, Board of Education meeting the hiring of Martenson and Eisele, Inc., was approved to facilitate a boundary study process. Thus, a District-wide Boundary Study Team will be created and convened to develop recommendations for the Board to consider in order to adjust attendance boundaries for 13 elementary schools to take effect for the 2016-17 school year. The Boundary Study Team will also be charged with the development of a set of recommendations for proposed new attendance areas for the four new 4K Learning Academies (early childhood and 4K) to be opened in the fall.

The composite of the Boundary Study Team will consist of two parents/guardians from each respective school, along with community members, specialists, as well as principals and administrators *who will serve in a resource capacity only*. Those individuals who are willing to serve as parent/guardian volunteers are to be aware of the following:

- Phone or send an email to Cassie Peck, Administrative Assistant, at 715.261.0505 or [cpeck@wausauschools.org](mailto:cpeck@wausauschools.org) indicating your interest to serve on the Boundary Study Team and provide the name of your school and the name(s) and grade(s) of your child(ren) attending that school.

- Agree to attend all Boundary Study Team meetings from 6:00-8:30 P.M. on the following dates: Monday, January 18, 2016, Tuesday, February 2, and Monday, February 15.
- Agree to receive input from a broad cross-section of parents/guardians in your school community and share same with the study team.
- Volunteer names must be received by 4:00 P.M. on Monday, January 11, 2016.
- In the event that more than two people apply from any one school, a public lottery will be held at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at the Longfellow Administration Center to determine the two representatives per school.

Based on the directives and criteria established through the Boundary Study Team process, Martenson & Eisele, Inc., will develop a Summary Report of the team's recommended attendance boundary scenarios and the rationale behind their development. The Summary Report will be presented to the Board of Education at its Education/Operations Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, February 22, for review, comment, and eventual action. A Special Meeting is tentatively being scheduled for Thursday, February 25, for the Board of Education to have further discussion, to hear public comment, and to act on the recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Kathleen Williams".

Dr. Kathleen Williams  
Superintendent of Schools