

Dear Wappingers School Community,

At the Board Meeting of February 11, I shared the results of our latest enrollment projections prepared for the District by F.A.C.T.S. These projections cover a ten-year period and indicate that our District will experience a steady decrease in enrollment. This projected decrease in enrollment is not a new phenomenon; it is consistent with the decreases we have already experienced during the last five years. Twelve of the thirteen school districts in the County have also shown decreases during this same time frame.

What does this mean for our District?

First, it means that we must examine what projected decreased enrollment means relative to other key factors such as current enrollment, the space capacity of the schools, and the optimal space needed to continue to carry out the critical work of educating our students. When we consider how all of these factors combine we know that our elementary schools are under capacity by 1300 students.

The Board of Education has asked the administration to conduct a study and make recommendations to the Board that will lead to right-sizing our District. It does appear that the District can sustain a school closing. The task of the administration will be to identify the feasibility of a school closing that presents the least disruption to the fewest students and families possible and that also maintains the same or an improved educational experience for students and families.

We recognize that the act of a school closing is difficult for any community. However, in our current difficult financial climate we must consider various options if we wish to sustain all of our programs and services without interruption or decrease.

Sincerely,

Marco F. Pochintesta

Interim Superintendent of Schools