

ACTION ON A REQUEST TO WAIVE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 5.01(8)(B) AND BOARD RULE 1.01 TO CLOSE DANIEL WEBSTER SECONDARY SCHOOL (6850 N. 53rd STREET) AT THE CLOSE OF SCHOOL DAY ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2017, AND POSSIBLE WAIVER OF BOARD RULE 1.09(2), TO RECEIVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY

ADMINISTRATION'S ANALYSIS

1. Universal Academy for the College Bound (UACB), Webster Campus (6850 N. 53rd Street), was established as a non-instrumentality charter school in fall 2013, serving grades six through ten.
2. In March 2017, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors approved the mutual termination of the non-instrumentality charter school contract with Universal Academy for the College Bound, effective April 7, 2017. Board action also authorized the Administration to operate the Webster Campus as a traditional MPS school named Daniel Webster Secondary School, effective April 10, 2017.
3. Effective April 10, 2017, the Administration took leadership of the school and directed resources as necessary to mitigate disruption and to provide for a smooth transition for students, families and staff. This allowed students to complete the 2016-17 school year with the least amount of disruption to the learning process.
4. Since that time, the Administration placed great emphasis on encouraging families to enroll their children at the school. In addition, auto dialer messages were sent to let families know the start date and time for Daniel Webster Secondary School.
5. Despite these efforts, Daniel Webster Secondary School remains under-enrolled at 269 students. The school currently has a total enrollment of 269 students. The projected enrollment is 625 students and the building capacity is 870 students.
6. Having achieved a total school enrollment of just 40% as of August 29, 2017, there are not enough students to offer the robust academic programs every MPS student deserves. Therefore, the Administration is recommending the closure of the school effective at the end of the school day on September 1, 2017.
7. Parents were notified of this recommendation via a letter and auto dialer that invited them to attend meetings to learn more about the recommendation and their options. Two meetings were held on August 30, 2017, and two meetings were held on August 31, 2017. In addition, Students Services staff provided support to families for enrolling in another MPS school.
8. Staff members were informed of the recommended closure on August 29, 2017 at a staff meeting, and were provided with a letter outlining reasons for the closure as well as the plan for staff placements in other buildings within the district.
9. At these meetings, representatives from various district offices and departments were on hand to share crucial information and assist parents and staff with plans to move forward.

10. In order to reduce disruption and facilitate a smooth transition, it is recommended that middle school students move to Morse and high school students will move to James Madison Academic Campus (JMAC) or Vincent High School. Each of these sites offers specialized programming: Morse Middle School for the Gifted and Talented focuses on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and college preparation; both JMAC and Vincent High School offer the Culinary Arts program and Vincent High School offers an Agricultural Science program. Parents will also have the option of selecting other placements where there are available seats. The Department of Student Services will make every effort to assist families in making this transition including several opportunities to assist in selecting the MPS option that is best for each child.