



IMPORTANT INFORMATION – OCSD SCHOOL FACILITIES & EFFICIENCY STUDY

August 2, 2022

Dear OCSD Community,

During tonight's Board of Education meeting, the Board reviewed the findings from the fourth section of our completed efficiency study. This section, titled, *School Facilities and Efficiency Study*, was completed by Castallo and Silky LLC - Educational Consultants, Alan Pole and Deb Ayers.

This portion of the study was conducted to determine:

1. How the district can maintain educational opportunities for students while continuing to be fiscally responsible to taxpayers; and
2. How to continue operating efficiently to ensure effective utilization of staff and facilities.

Completing a study of this magnitude is no easy endeavor. As a part of their work, the consultants presented recommendations to address declining enrollment, which is projected to trend downward for the foreseeable future. Recommendations from the study include but were not limited to:

- Ensuring enrollment data is updated annually so data-driven decisions can be made
- Closing Leighton Elementary School and sending students to nearby elementary schools
- Developing a facility planning committee to create and monitor a long-term facility plan for the district; and
- Thoughtfully considering the fiscal implications of any potential capital project related to existing debt service to continue the strong financial health of the district and minimize any adverse budgetary impact in future years.

The findings and recommendations discussed during tonight's board of education meeting are difficult to hear, and we recognize that any potential changes will be equally difficult. We understand that any recommendations to close a school brings about strong emotions.

With that said, please know that **the Board of Education and I have not made any final decisions at this time concerning any of the recommendations that are part of the full study (this includes the transportation, fiscal, energy and school facilities and efficiency portions of the full study). Accordingly, all of our schools and programs will continue to be in operation throughout this upcoming school year.**

Our schools are the foundation for who we are as a community. Accordingly, we cannot make any decisions without further discussion and the input of our students, teachers, staff, families and taxpayers.

In the near future, the Board will be allocating more time to review the full study and discuss its outcomes. In addition, the district will be seeking feedback from our entire learning community that will be used to guide our decision-making process. In the coming weeks, I will be sharing more information on opportunities that are designed to solicit feedback from our community.

We will also ensure that each decision that is made will be thoughtful, responsible and in the best interest of our greater OCSD community. In addition, regardless of the decisions that are made, we will continue to:

1. Provide each student a high-quality education
2. Ensure that all student and staff are safe in our schools at all times; and
3. Ensure that the district operates in an efficient manner.

Information about our comprehensive study has been posted to our district webpage at the following URL: <http://www.oswego.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1819>. In addition, community members can share any question they might have about the study by submitting them through our *Facts, Questions and Answers* (FAQ) portal. This portal can be found at the following url: <https://forms.gle/qC5FjPf6FMFRWntE9>.

With that said, thank you for your time and consideration of this information. I will be in touch with more information moving forward.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Mathis Calvin III
Superintendent of Schools