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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Board Decides to Close a Building

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Business Manager

The Board of Education decided on Wednesday night to close one of our elementary buildings. This decision was reached as a result of the State Auditor's evaluation of our district. This evaluation led to the determination that there was enough additional space in the district to operate for a minimum of two years without one of the buildings. However, the Auditor's determination did not specify which building should be closed. When the Board of Education met last Sunday to evaluate and work through the possible options for how the district would operate in the future, they asked the Superintendent and Treasurer to model this change along with many others. The personnel implications of those options were reviewed by the Board of Education in executive session Wednesday night prior to their public discussion on the matter. They went on to announce at the meeting that they would be closing an elementary building and the decision for which one would be left to the Business Manager to evaluate and determine.

Since Wednesday, we have been working very hard to meet the goal of announcing which building will be closed. It was assumed by some that we already knew; but in reality, no. We have spent the end of this week evaluating the following: physical condition of the buildings, utility costs of each facility, traffic conditions at each building, school times/bus routes, delivery methods of education at each grade level, and which combination of grade configuration will meet our students' needs the best. Our curriculum department and the principals are advising us on academic priorities. By Tuesday's Board meeting this process will be complete and we can announce to everyone which building will be closing.

We have started to inform those employees affected by this decision. Exact building closure does not determine specific employee layoffs.

There will be many people who feel we should have made other decisions on the priorities for cuts. The bottom line is we are all hoping there will be a level of respect for the fact we are trying to implement cuts that keep most of our classrooms whole while at the same time saving the district a significant amount of money. The reduction of an elementary building has the potential to save \$400,000 per year. Will things be more

crowded? Will there be less support space? Will the change be painful, cumbersome and a headache for many? The answer to all of these is yes. Like every business and government agency, we too must take on these challenges to do more with less. Our community expects nothing less.