



# WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

*Together for Excellence ★ ¡Juntos por la Excelencia!*

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## Board of Education

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Superintendent of School, Kristina Davis  
Director of Business & Operations, Karen Apostoli  
DATE: 01-19-2023  
RE: Pioneer Preschool

### This memo is:

- ☐ Information only.
- ☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
- ☒ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: 02/02/2023

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ or attached to this memo

### Basic information:

Over the past couple of years the number of K-5th grade students attending Pioneer School has decreased and in some cases resulted in classrooms being closed and students being moved to other schools.

In addition to the steady decline in student enrollment at Pioneer, at the Board's request, the district administration has been exploring options to create space for the Early Childhood Education preschool program that is currently housed in three different locations.

Due to these factors, the administration is making the recommendation to the board of education to transition the preschool programs to Pioneer elementary school over the next two years. This will result in the need to permanently transition current Pioneer students in grades K-5 to other schools in the District.

### Background or historical information:

The results of Dr. Kasarda's enrollment study attribute the decline in enrollment to very little residential land available for building, low birth rates within the community, and many "empty nesters" remaining in our community.

The declining enrollment has impacted the available space at each building in the district. In particular, the declining enrollment has resulted in classroom sections being closed at Pioneer. The monolingual classrooms at Pioneer have been impacted the most. The results of the enrollment study show this trend will continue for the next few years and then level off.

[Link to Pioneer Preschool Presentation](#)

<p><b>Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue: (Options) 3 options</b></p> <p>The preschool program, once housed entirely within the district, is currently housed at Winfield Elementary School (rental space), Trinity (Trinity Church - rental space), and the Early Learning Center.</p> <p>A Facilities Sub-Committee was formed during the 2021-22 school year to study available options for reuniting the preschool in one space. The sub-committee explored the possibility of a new building for a cost of \$35 million which, without borrowing, is not feasible. At that time, due to a lack of options, the sub-committee recommended the “status quo” for the 2022-23 school year.</p> <p><b><u>We currently rent 3 locations:</u></b></p> <p>St. Michael's Church - Birth to 3 - \$1,800 / month = \$21,600 annually  Trinity Church - Preschool - \$9,260 / month = \$111,120 annually  Winfield School - Preschool - \$13,756 / month = \$137,560 annually  <b>Total rental costs = \$270,280 annually</b></p>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Administration is making the recommendation to the Board of Education to transition the preschool programs to Pioneer elementary school over the next two years. This will result in the need to permanently transition current Pioneer students in grades K-5 to other schools in the District.</p>
<p><b>Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?:</b></p>