

Member _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION CLOSING MORRISTOWN JUNIOR HIGH BUILDING

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 14, 2025 on the proposed closing of the Morristown Junior High building, located at 23 Anne St E, Morristown, Minnesota;

WHEREAS, during this hearing, people wishing to give testimony for and against the proposed closing were heard, and such testimony was considered by the School Board; and

WHEREAS, published notice of this hearing was given in compliance with Minnesota Statutes section 123B.51, subdivision 5.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2143, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public Schools, as follows:

1. The attached Findings of Fact and Conclusions regarding the closing of the Morristown Junior High building are hereby adopted.
2. The closing of the Morristown Junior High building is necessary and practicable.
3. The Morristown Junior High building is closed effective June 5, 2026.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member _____ and upon vote being taken thereon,

the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against:

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions Regarding the Closing of the Morristown Junior High School Building

- The State's funding formula hasn't kept pace with inflation for the past 20 years leaving a funding gap of \$1,356/pupil.
- State funding is linked to enrollment. Our enrollment has declined over the past 10 years resulting in 120 less students today than in 2013.
- Loss of COVID funding provided to districts from 2020-2023.
- 2025 Graduating class size is larger than incoming kindergarten classes. This means we receive less funding from the state as our funding is based on pupil count.
- WEM is operating significantly more space than we need. With the elementary, junior high school, and high school, we have capacity of 1,156 students. Our current enrollment is 777 students. We are spending money heating, cleaning, and operating space that we do not need.
- Despite the investments we made in them, our buildings are old and underutilized.
- By shifting all grade levels to one school, this would allow the District to:
 - Invest more in student learning
 - Increase pathway electives for younger learners
 - Increase academic electives and course offerings
 - Increase Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities
 - Save money with less square footage to heat, clean, and operate
 - Reduce duplication of resources
 - Improve staff efficiencies and collaboration
 - Allow greater flexibility to master schedule and improved utilization of staff
 - Eliminate grade level transitions between schools, which are found to be challenging for students
 - Eliminate the need for teachers to travel between buildings, which allows for more time working with students
 - Improve continuity of students support services
 - Increase school/district spirit and culture