

**Shared Key Interests**

1. Advance student learning, achievement, and success by keeping it at the heart and as the filter for our decision making.

2. Utilize research-based curricula that reflects 21st Century themes and applications and are responsive to the needs and potential of all students, preparing them for a global society.

3. Provide real-life, diverse learning opportunities with practical applications in the classroom and beyond.

4. Inform and engage the community in shaping educational strategy and formulating responses to change.

5. Attract, retain, and develop a high quality, diverse, creative, and innovative workforce of leaders.

6. Provide safe, secure, flexible, inviting, and well-maintained environments that nurture student well-being and enhance teaching and learning.

7. Identify, integrate, and expand technology to foster adaptability and maximize learning for all.

8. Foster mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations that expand learning opportunities and resources.

**Wausau School District**

Board of Education Meeting Agenda

In Compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law

Public Notice s.19.84 (3)  
Exemptions s.19.85

James Bouché, President  
Karen Vandenberg, Clerk

A meeting of the **AUDIT OF THE BILLS COMMITTEE** will be held in the **Nicholson Board Room, 415 Seymour Street, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403 at 5:00 PM on Monday, October 3, 2022.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Approve WSD Position Statement related to John Marshall Historic Site Designation (**Action Requested**)

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III. ADJOURN

\*\*NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT OF THE BILLS COMMITTEE MAY ATTEND THIS COMMITTEE MEETING AS TO CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. ANY SUCH BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE WILL BE FOR INFORMATION GATHERING, DISCUSSION, AND/OR RELATED PURPOSES AND WILL NOT RESULT IN DIRECT DECISION MAKING BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING.\*\*

Action Item\*

NOTICE POSTED: Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 8:15 am

By: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE SENT TO:

WSAU WSAW-TV WAOW-TV WJFW-TV CITY PAGES WAUSAU PILOT & REVIEW SCHOOLS  
WAUSAU DAILY HERALD WAAM CITY HALL COURTHOUSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

To: Wausau City Council and Mayor Rosenberg  
Re: Wausau School Board Position Statement Re: John Marshall Historic Status  
Date: October 3, 2022

Dear Mayor Rosenberg and City Council Members:

The Wausau School Board has been aware of an ongoing interest by the Historic Preservation Commission and the City of Wausau Plan Commission to designate John Marshall Elementary School as a local historic landmark. Please accept this letter reaffirming our continued request to not designate John Marshall Elementary School as a historic landmark.

John Marshall has an outstanding staff providing an excellent education to its students. However, the facility is not equal to many others in our district. As part of our district-wide study of our elementary buildings, we identified over \$7.4 million of maintenance, improvements, and upgrades needed at John Marshall. This figure would likely be higher today if updated for inflation.

We are also in the middle of our discussions about the long-term facility plan for the entire district. Specifically, the District is engaging in conversations with staff and community members about whether some schools should be closed or merged in order for the District to improve service to students, families, and staff while, at the same time, becoming more efficient. These conversations have not been resolved and so the reason for the request to table the topic still exists.

The District has not been idle during these past six months. We first had a need to engage with the community in a dialogue that led to the recent passing of a \$120 million referendum. Once that work was complete, the Board created two subcommittees of staff and community members to explore the feasibility of a district restructuring. Those two committees met for three months over the summer; a total of eight times, to explore options and determine the viability of such an extensive change. Seeing potential in a possible change, the District has now actively engaged our staff in a conversation about this topic. No decisions have been made with regard to the elementary schools, including John Marshall. However, three options have often emerged:

- 1) Invest over \$7.4 million (higher now) to improve the facility;
- 2) Close the school and consolidate the students into other schools; or
- 3) Replace the building with a new modern building.

Our understanding is that if the City designates John Marshall as a historic landmark, the City removes the option of a new building. Thus, we continue to request it not be designated as such and to instead allow the Wausau School District to determine its district-wide plan, including the future of John Marshall.

We appreciate the City Council's recognition of the time required to explore a tremendously important topic such as restructuring an entire school district serving over 8,000 students and employing 1,200 people. The Wausau School Board respectfully requests that the topic of designating John Marshall as an historic landmark be tabled until such time as the District has confirmed a direction for the District.

During the September 20, 2022 Plan Commission meeting, the Wausau City Planner, Mr. Brad Lenz, made an important comment. He pointed out the criteria for a decision to designate an historic landmark "boils down to the public interest" and not necessarily the historic interest. It is not in the public's best interest to limit the District's options for John Marshall Elementary School to its current appearance as outlined in the City's municipal code, chapter 2.82 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION. The public would be better served by exploring all district options to improve service to students, families, and staff while becoming more efficient in its delivery of services. The educational value of the school to its students, staff and families must take precedence over the historic value to passersby.

We look forward to an in person conversation about this topic with whomever you deem appropriate.

On behalf of the Wausau School District School Board,

James P. Bouché Ed.S.  
Board President