

**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 **Education/Operations Committee Meeting** of the BOARD OF EDUCATION will be held in the **Nicholson Board Room, 415 Seymour Street, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403** at **5:00 PM** on **Monday, December 18, 2023.**

- 
- I. Call to Order
  - II. Approve the Minutes
  - III. Public and Student Comment
  - IV. Red Granite (**Possible Action**)
  - V. Open Enrollment Seat Availability (**Action Requested**)
  - VI. Adjourn

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NOTICE POSTED: Friday, December 15, 2023, at 3:00 pm

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

# Minutes of REGULAR MEETING

## The Board of Education Wausau School District

**DRAFT**

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A Education/Operations Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of the Wausau School District was held Monday, November 27, 2023, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Nicholson Board Room, 415 Seymour Street, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403.

Present: James Bouche via Webex; Jon Creisher; Pat McKee; Cody Nikolai; Jennifer Paoli; Joanna Reyes; Cory Sillars; Lance Trollop; and Karen Vandenberg.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

II. Approve the Minutes

**Cory Sillars moved to approve the minutes of October 23, 2023, seconded by Pat McKee. The motion carried 8-0.**

III. Public and Student Comment

The following individuals made comments: Michael Hughes, Amanda Molin, and Dana Moore.

IV. 4K Program Agreement (**Action Requested**)

**Karen Vandenberg moved to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 4K agreements as presented, seconded Jon Creisher. The motion carried 9-0.**

V. Next Steps Planning

The administration requested more clarification on recent board action.

VI. End of Referendum Planning (**Action Requested**)

The Board will continue to monitor the status of current projects. They elected to wait to make a recommendation.

VII. Adjourn

**Jon Creisher moved to adjourn, seconded by Cody Nikolai. The motion carried at 7:11 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

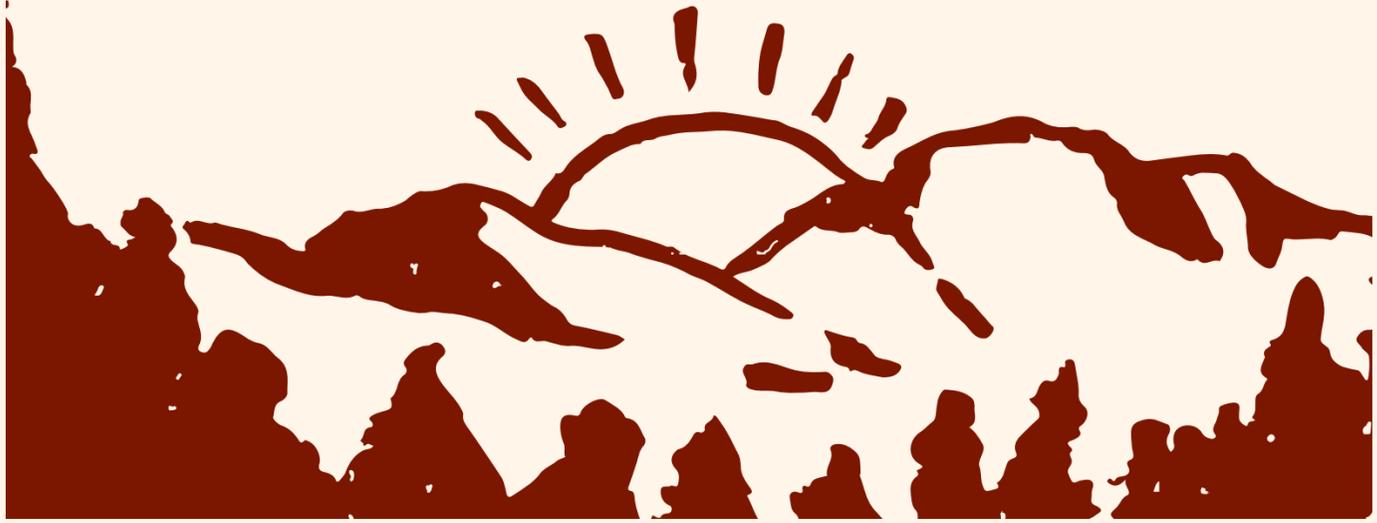
Karen Vandenberg,  
Board Clerk

KV:cp

12/18/2023



Red Granite Charter School and Monk Botanical Gardens Respectfully Request Support From the Board to Reside at Monk Botanical Gardens



# RED GRANITE CHARTER SCHOOL

## AGENDA



Federal Grant Overview



Enrollment Update



Location Presentation



Questions



Request for action by School Board

# Grant Budget Expenditures



**Award Amount**

**\$1,974,544.00**

**Duration**

**5 years**

	AMOUNT DISBURSED
YEAR 1 (NOW - 9/30/24)	\$538,118.00
YEAR 2 (10/24 - 9/30/25)	\$564,265.00
YEAR 3 (10/25 - 9/30/26)	\$321,487.00
YEAR 4 (10/26 - 9/30/27)	\$300,187.00
YEAR 5 (10/24 - 9/30/28)	\$250,487.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,974,544.00</b>



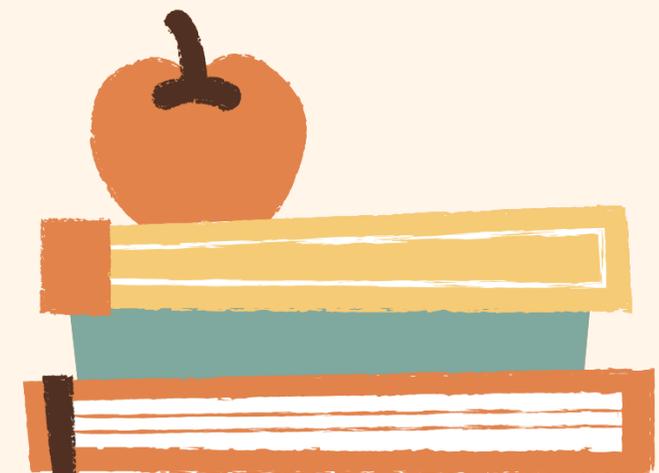
# Grant Budget Expenditures

## Personnel

- Principal and Lead Teacher to support school development Planning Year, and additional support years 2-5.
- Teachers: curriculum development.
- Substitutes so teachers can participate in PD, conferences, and school visits.
- Administrative Expenses for grant oversight.

## Travel

- PD, Conferences, and School Visits





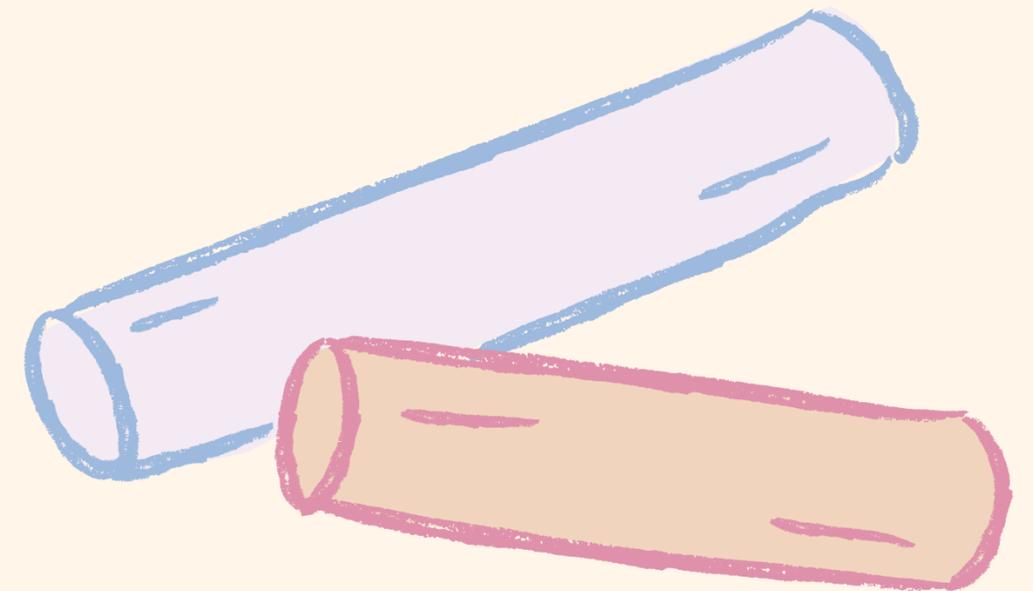
# Grant Budget Expenditures

## Equipment

- Technology, Expeditionary Learning Equipment, Playground, Classroom, Science, Library, Music, Art, Outdoor Education, and Classroom Supplies.

## Facilities

- Outdoor Classrooms
- Modular Classrooms



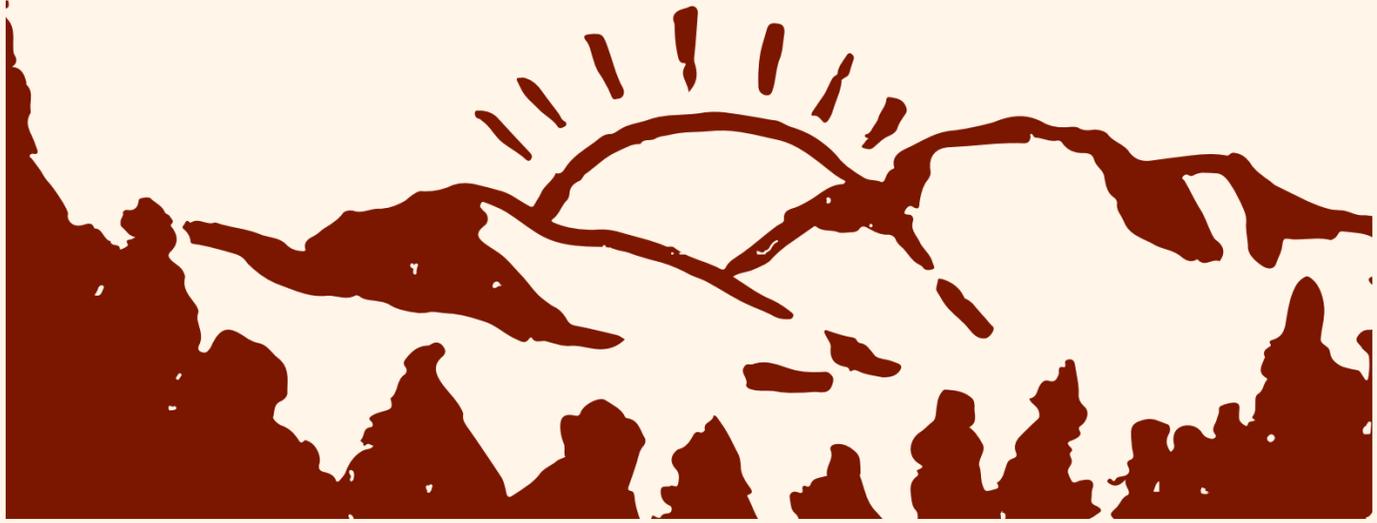
# Grant Budget Expenditures



## Contractual

- Charter School Contractors
  - Circle Education LLC
    - Operational Support, Planning and Curriculum, PD and Training, Administration, Governance Board, Staff Development, Compliance, Facilities, Human Relations, and Grant Activities.
  - MCH Consulting
    - Public Relations, Marketing, Fundraising, Community Outreach and Development.
  - Website and Social Media
  - Marketing
    - Print, Radio, Etc...





# AGENDA



~~Federal Grant Overview~~



Enrollment Update



Location Presentation



Questions

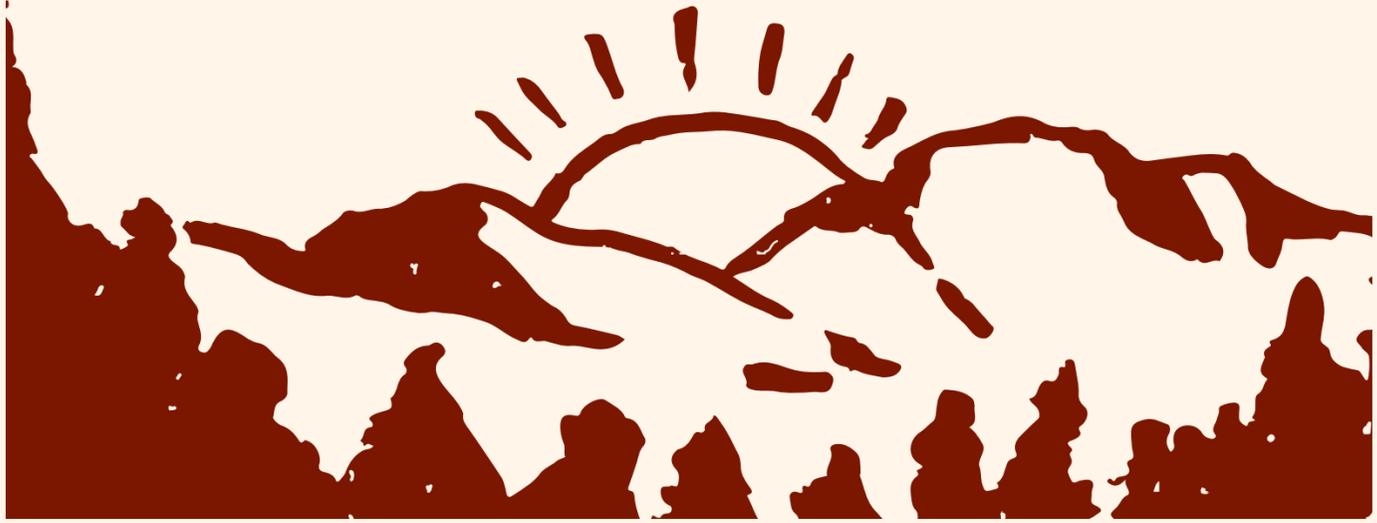


Request for action by School Board



## Current enrollment numbers as of 12/14/23

GRADES	NUMBER ENROLLED	% CAPACITY (22 PER CLASS)
PRE-KINDERGARTEN	7	31%
KINDERGARTEN	6	27%
FIRST GRADE	10	45%
SECOND GRADE	2	9%
<b>TOTAL ENROLLED</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28% OVERALL</b>



# AGENDA



~~Federal Grant Overview~~



~~Enrollment Update~~



Location Presentation



Questions



Request for action by School Board

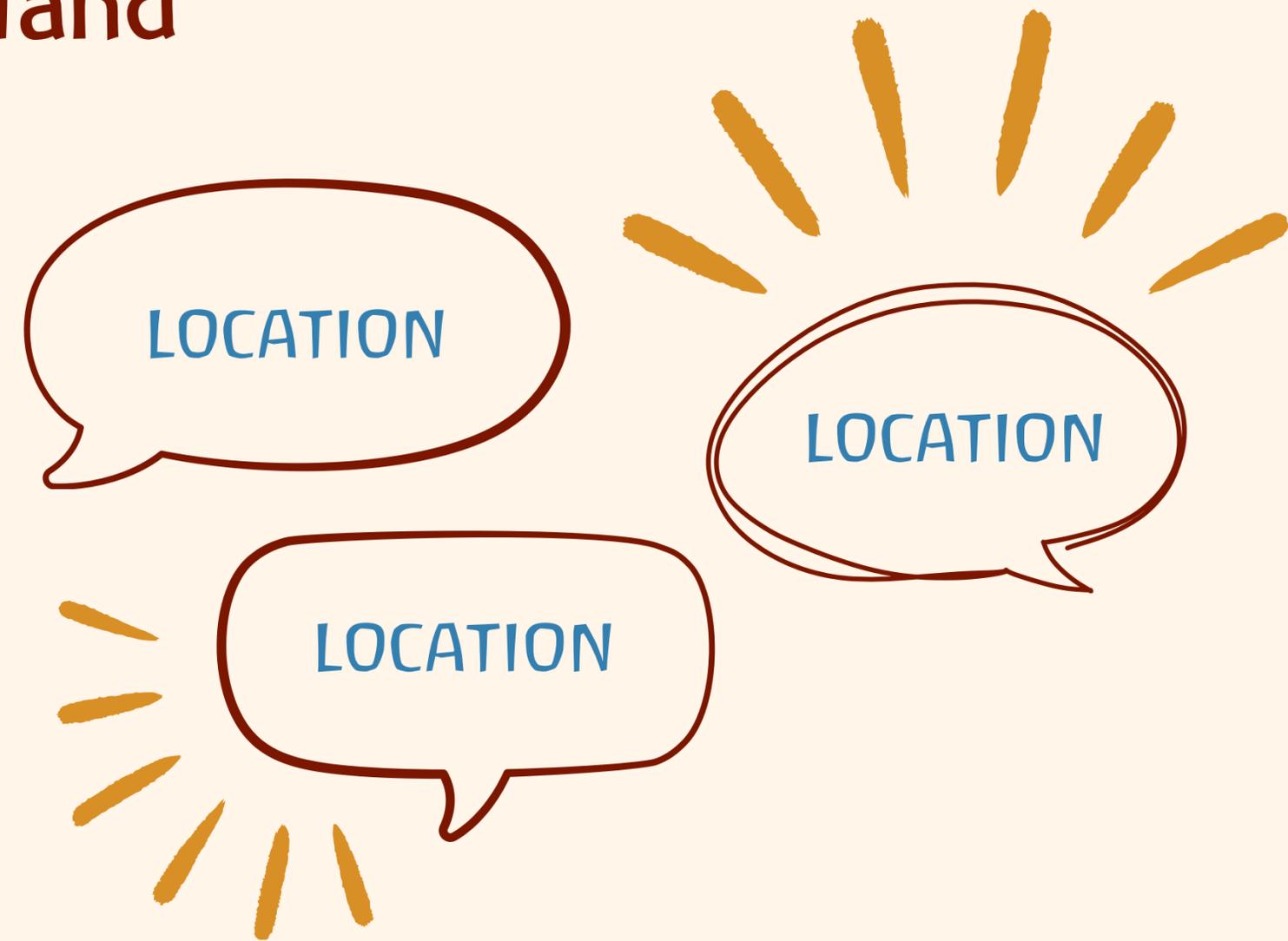
# RGCS LOCATION DISCUSSION



★ Where we stood, where we stand

★ Why Monk Gardens

- High Level Comparison
- Infrastructure Solutions
- Staffing Solutions
- Security Solutions
- Location Talking Points
- Input from Monk Gardens





# Where we stood, where we stand



## EARLY 2023

- Five year charter contract signed
- Restructuring plan passed by school board
  - School board votes in favor of RGCS being placed at Hewitt-Texas for the Fall of 2024 with plans to move into this building when restructuring begins district wide in Fall 2025

## NOW

- Five year charter contract signed
- RGCS awarded federal grant in image of charter contract
- Restructuring plan reversed by school board
- RGCS currently has no place to reside

## Why Monk Gardens



# High Level Comparison

- The costs to the district will be similar at Monk Gardens and Hewitt-Texas.
- Residing at Monk Gardens creates a long-term solution for Red Granite that does not involve needing space now or in the future at an existing school. This allows the district to take the time it needs to develop its future direction.
- There are significant synergies between Monk Gardens and Red Granite, enrollment in Red Granite is expected to increase as a result of this partnership and this is good for the district.
- Monk Gardens is very excited to have us in their space.



## Why Monk Gardens



# High Level Comparison

- Monk Gardens has existing expansion plans which Red Granite can piggyback on and create economies of scale for future needs
- **The public likes this idea:**
  - Less controversial.
  - Monk Gardens will get to expand.
  - The location is more central.
  - The location is not near a quarry.
  - The location is well established inside the community and Monk Garden's existing PreK program is very popular and highly rated as well as aligned with Red Granite's approach.



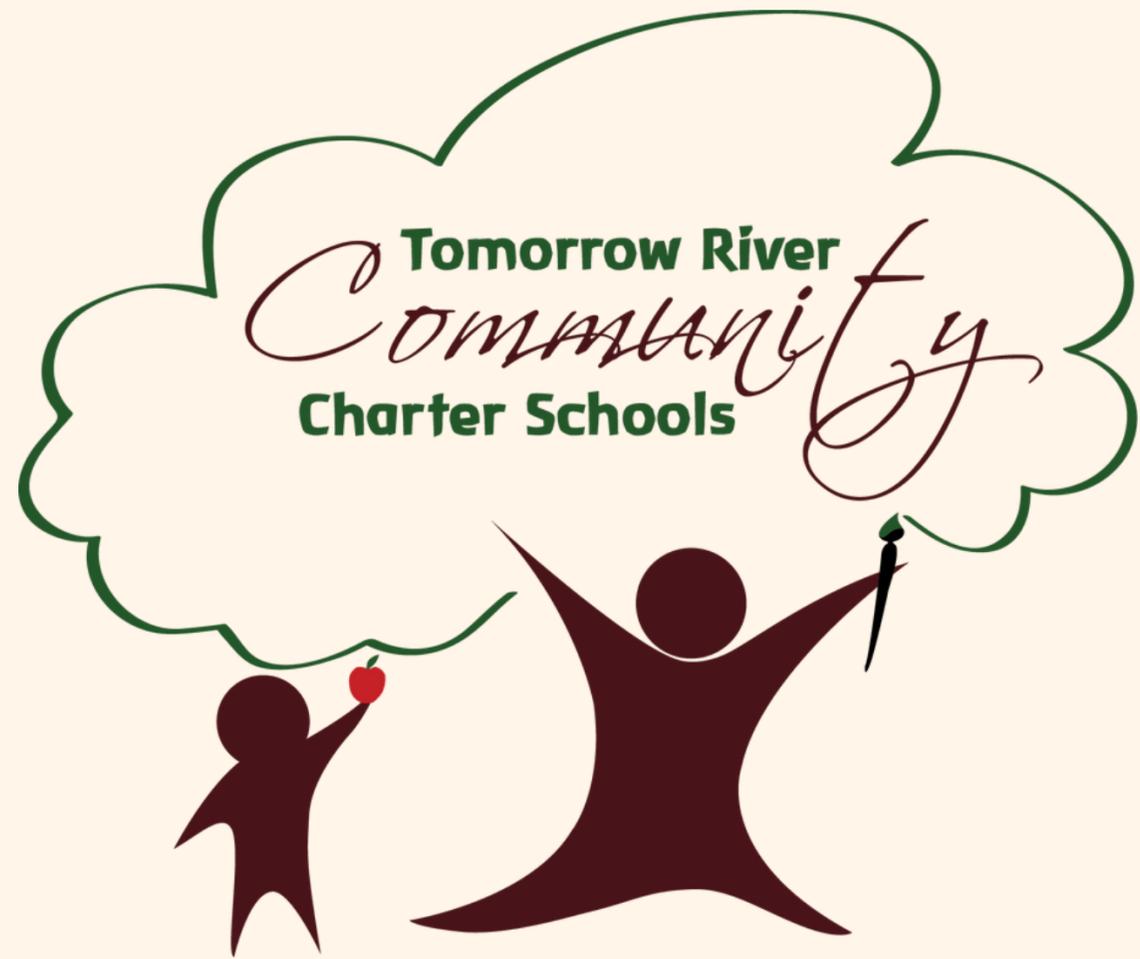
## Why Monk Gardens



# High Level Comparison

- Wausau School District will see increased tax revenue from increased open enrollment, including Monk Gardens rising students.
- Ultimately, the perception will be that Red Granite is a part of Monk Gardens. This is not a new site, this is further utilizing an existing site that welcomes our school and its concept.

# Similar Success Stories





- 75% of students are open enrolled
- 15-22 students per class, Enrollment 50 students in year one, over 240 students in year 10.
- Grades PK-8th
- 11th Year of Operation
- Partnership with an Environmental Station
- Utilization of Yurts, Modular Classrooms, and Outdoor Classrooms.
- [Website](#)
- [Video](#)





# Kickapoo Valley Forest School



- PK-2nd Grade
- National News Attention
- Partnership with an Environmental Station (Open to the Public)
- Outside the whole day
- [NPR News Article](#)
- [Website](#)



# Kickapoo Valley Forest School





- 480 acres
- Located at a Nature Center (Open to the Public)
- Kindergarten through 5th Grade
- [Website](#)





# Infrastructure



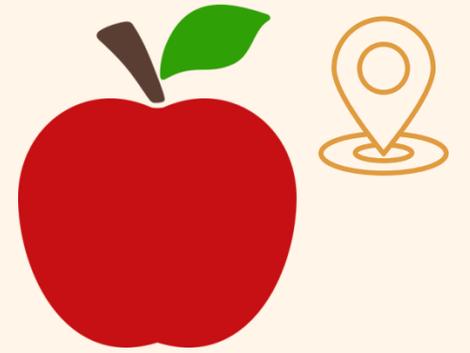
- RGCS will contract PreK through Monk Gardens and continue with opening K-2nd.
- RGCS will open with a “bare bones” approach similar to how Monk Gardens opened and similar to how multiple other successful schools have opened including TRCCS, our sister school. Also similar to how the Wausau School Forest was managed for many years.
- RGCS will pay for all costs related to construction of modular classrooms now and in the future.
- RGCS has a contractor who is ready, willing and able to build these structures and have 3-4 structures ready by August 1st 2024.
- Approval needed: Wausau School Board, Monk Gardens Board and the City. Monk Gardens is willing and able to help Red Granite work with the city.

# Infrastructure



- RGCS does not need access to internet or plumbing during its first year.
  - There are three restrooms in place at Monk Gardens which can be used and they are connected to city water and sewer
    - Bathrooms are ADA compliant, single stall, safe and secure
  - If needed, Red Granite will invest in or rent temporary restroom structures
  - Internet needs will be very low during our first year in particular as part of our design is a de-emphasis on technology. Hotspots will more than suffice for attendance and teacher needs.
    - RGCS will pay for hot spots / internet needs

# Staffing Solutions



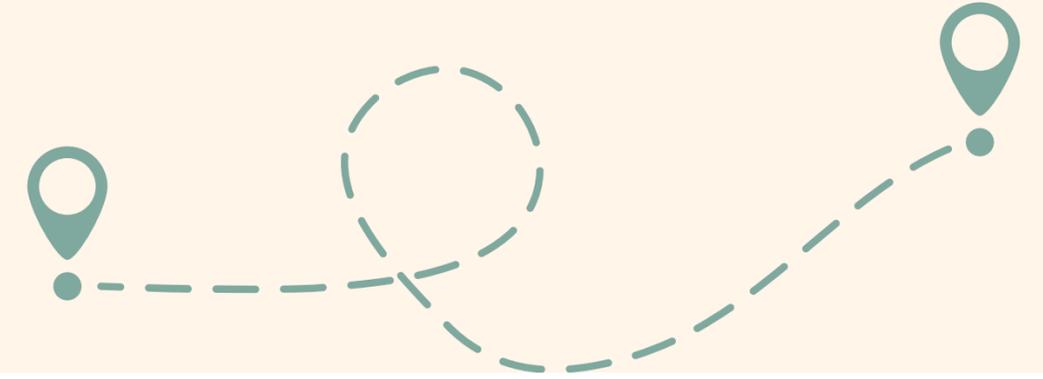
- RGCS does not need a cafeteria, students will bring their own lunch
  - Students who qualify for subsidized meal plans will have this provided by RGCS via daily cold lunch meal delivery.
- RGCS does not need support staff or specialty teachers from the district. The only support we would ask for is with Special Education
- There is no need to find staff for Grounds Keeping or Custodial Services
- Monk Gardens will maintain the grounds Red Granite will occupy for the first year. This includes mowing, trimming and snow removal
- Future agreements related to groundskeeping will be reached between Monk Gardens and RGCS and will not require funding from the district
- Daily spot cleaning will be done by staff, restrooms are checked and cleaned daily by grounds staff, RGCS will hire a cleaning service for their modular classrooms
- RGCS will cover the cost associated with this.

# Security Solutions



- Follow the same procedures and policies that school forest and field trips follow at this time
- Monk Gardens is upgrading fencing and security as part of their capital improvements for 2024
- Monk Gardens already works closely with both the police and sheriff's department regarding inspections, emergency procedures and contacts just like other schools and programs do
- Monk Gardens has run a successful school program for several years with similar levels of security

# Location



- Monk Gardens is 0.08 miles from Thomas Jefferson and this could be a possible existing school where sharing of staff could occur
  - Special Education only
  - Bus Route for students, could get dropped off and picked up after and before Thomas Jefferson students.
- Monk Gardens is 7 miles from Fire Station 3 for EMS response
- Monk Gardens is on a city bus route and schools transport students to Monk Gardens regularly already



## How Does It Work In The Future?

Monk Gardens has an existing plan for significant expansion already in place.

- Monk Gardens is eager to have Red Granite work with them as part of this expansion.



- Joint fundraising efforts
- Sharing costs related to: fencing, plumbing, high speed internet
- Red Granite intends to cover all costs related to future expansion.

## What Are We Asking the District To Provide?

At both Monk Gardens and Hewitt-Texas we would ask the district to cover the following costs:



- Electrical costs on a monthly basis, RGCS will cover the cost of running electricity from the existing lines on site.
- Shared staffing for Special Education

# RGCS Modular Classrooms



- Classrooms constructed out of repurposed shipping containers
  - Already done by multiple schools across the country
  - Three shipping containers for each classroom = ~900 square feet per classroom
  - Existing estimate includes electric, windows (13), insulation, painting
  - This aligns with RGCS existing principles (environmental stewardship and innovation)
  - These classrooms can be highly individualized and beautiful in appearance
  - Minimal impact to the grounds: gravel pads with concrete pylons or pressurized wood planks.

# RGCS Modular Classrooms



## QUOTE

<b>Quote To:</b> Red Granite Schools			
<b>Quote From:</b> HJ III Services		<b>Worked Performed At:</b> Construction yard in Crandon WI,	
<b>Via:</b> Tommy Johnson			
<b>Date:</b> 12/6/23			
<b>Rough estimate per classroom</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>cost per Unit/Sqft</b>	<b>total cost</b>
Shipping containers	three containers per unit	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00
electrical components	(wiring, outlets, switches etc)	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
lumber cost		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
flooring cost	LVP (lamine vinyl planking)	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
ceiling cost	Drop ceiling	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
wall cost	drywall	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
windows	36"x54" 13 total,	\$300.00	\$4,000.00
doors	36" 2 total exterior doors with window	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
roof	60 mil rubber membrane roofing	\$5/sqft	\$5,000.00
insulation	spray foam	1.50/sqft	\$3,000.00
paint	interior		\$400.00
	exterior		\$700.00
lighting	4' LED lights \$70 each, 12 total	\$70.00	\$840.00
Labor			\$25,000.00
			Grand total
			\$58,740.00
<b>notes:</b>			
Quote does not include transportation expenses (Shipping containers from port to construction yard and then construction yard to final location.)			

# RGCS Modular Classrooms



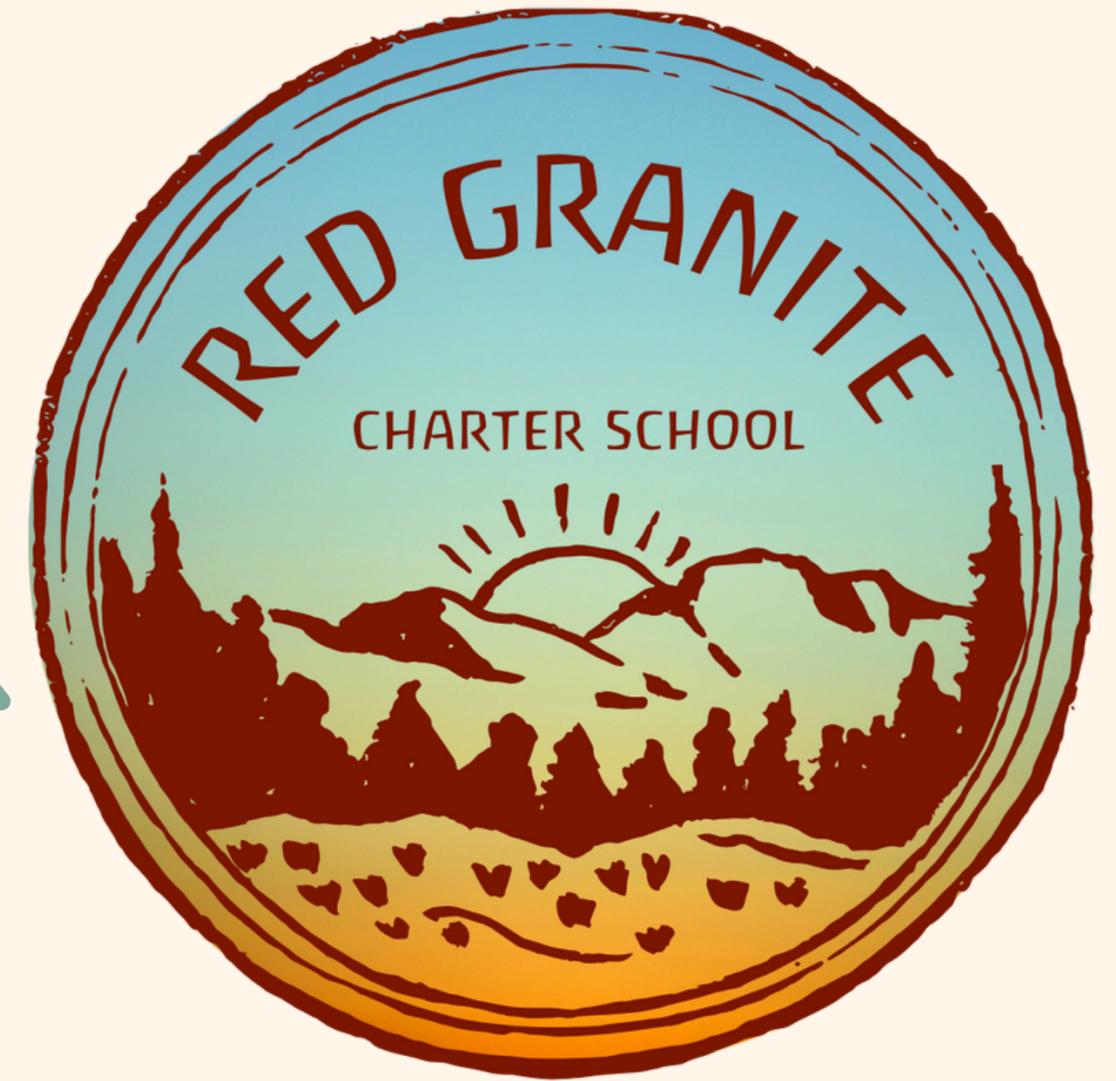
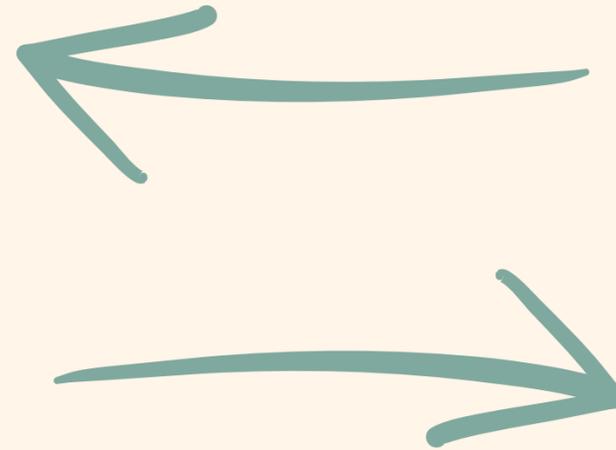
## INSPIRATION

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# Partnership







# Community Benefits of MBG Hosting RGCS

## Good Economics

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- Share staff, professional development, & possible before/after care for working parents
- Shared costs could also include development of the site, maintenance and grounds, office space & indoor/outdoor teaching space
- Sprouts Garden Preschool
  - In two school years our attendance has doubled from 19 to 40 students
  - 23% of students in the past three years have been from out of district



# Community Benefits of MBG Hosting RGCS

## Good Optics for All

- WSD, Monk Gardens & RGCS partnership
- City of Wausau, Visit Wausau, Chamber of Commerce & all major Foundations support MBG, Sprouts Preschool and the future expansions
- WSD partnering with a well known and trusted community asset
  - 4,500 students through programs
  - DCF Sprouts Garden Preschool as an example of a well run, safe outdoor preschool
- WSD have similar partnerships with YMCA that has successfully worked for years



# Community Benefits of MBG Hosting RGCS

## Increase RGCS and MBG's impact



- MBG & RGCS have similar missions
- MBG's leadership has extensive experience in developing effective nature-based programs that integrate with curriculum standards
- MBG and RGCS can leverage each others' contacts and fundraising efforts
- Every student coming to the Gardens will learn about RGCS and vice versa



# Development of MBG's Site

## RGCS Site at Monk Botanical Gardens

- 2 acre lot on corner of 1st & Campus Drive
- Trees line two of the four sides of the plot
- Enough space for expansion and development of a permanent building
- Zoning is slated as educational institution
- 30 acres of natural space to explore and learn
- Tornado shelter on site





# Development of MBG's Site

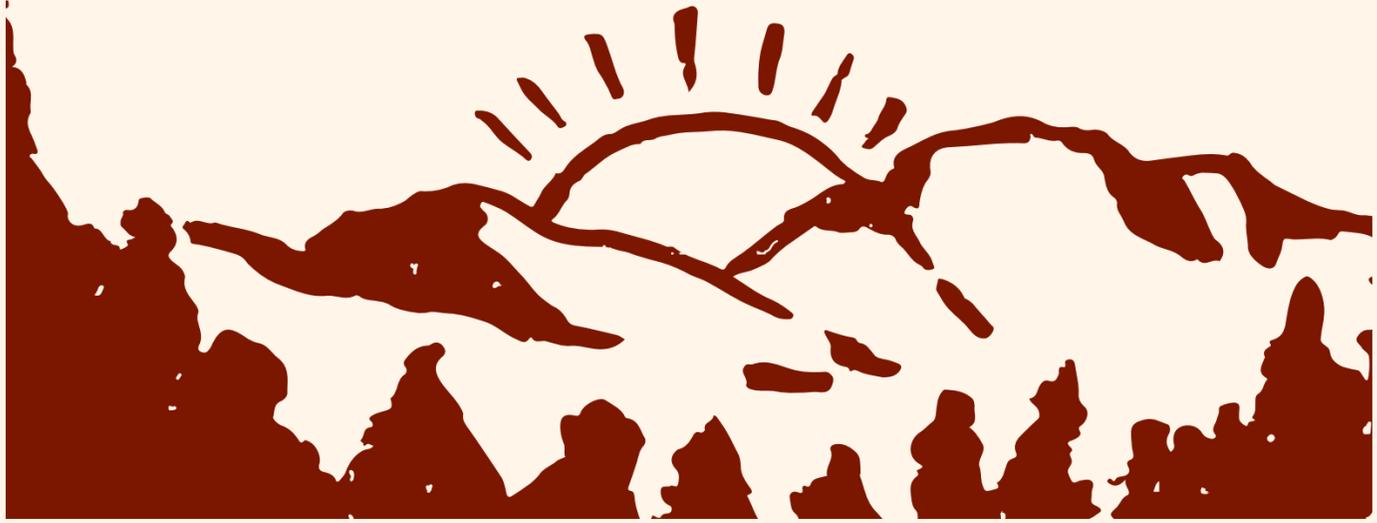
## MBG's Education and Visitor Center Plan

- Phase I-installed 2024 (\$4.8M raised)
  - Fencing around the 30 acres (cost share opportunity)
  - Installing an English Garden
  - Completing the children's garden
  - Renovating the pond
  - Resurfacing all main trails to be fully accessible
  - Moving entrance from 1st street & Campus Drive to 4th Ave
  - Putting in a parking lot and gatehouse



Phase II-Education & Visitor Center (2027) (cost share opportunity)

Phase III-Classroom Expansion (2032) (cost share opportunity)



# AGENDA



~~Federal Grant Overview~~



~~Enrollment Update~~



~~Location Presentation~~



Questions



Request for action by School Board

# Questions



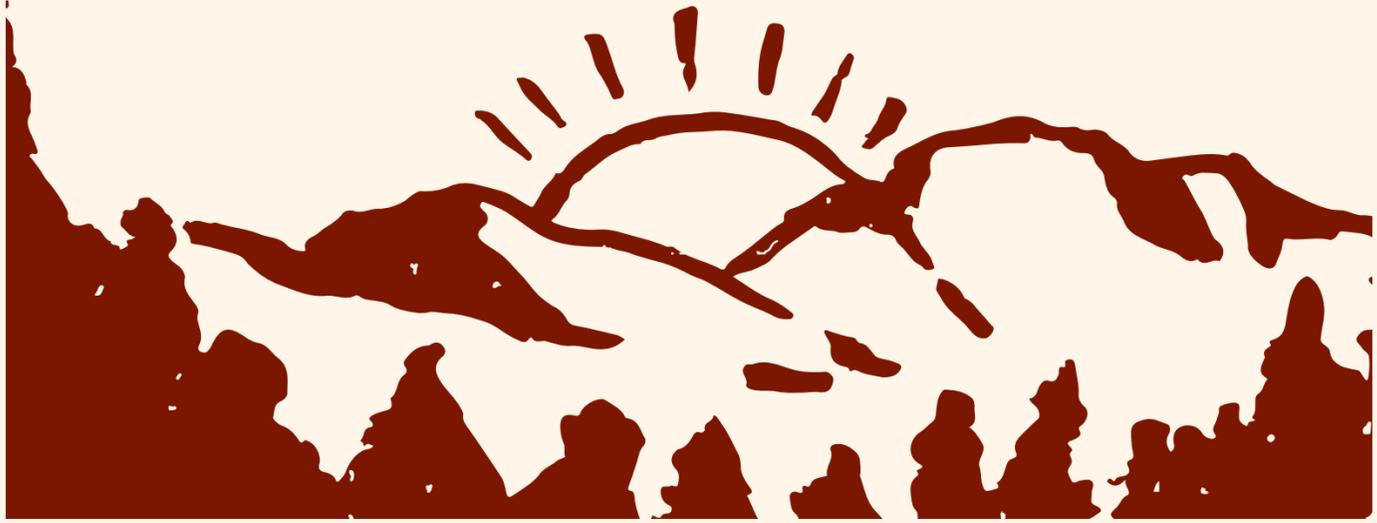
## Contact Information

Board Chair: Michael Hughes [mdhughes@uwalumni.com](mailto:mdhughes@uwalumni.com)

Board Vice Chair: Amanda Molin [amanda.molin@creativeplanning.com](mailto:amanda.molin@creativeplanning.com)

Charter School Contractor: Chamomile Nusz [chamomilenusz@gmail.com](mailto:chamomilenusz@gmail.com)

Charter School Contractor: Meghan Hughes [meghansimkins@gmail.com](mailto:meghansimkins@gmail.com)



# AGENDA



~~Federal Grant Overview~~



~~Enrollment Update~~



~~Location Presentation~~



~~Questions~~



Request for action by School Board

# Request for Action



## Red Granite Charter School Final Location

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- “ Red Granite Charter School and Monk Botanical Gardens Respectfully Request Support From the Board to Reside at Monk Botanical Gardens ”



**WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Pupil Services/Special Education Department  
Longfellow Administration Center

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415 Seymour Street · P.O. Box 359 · Wausau, WI 54402-0359 · 715- 261-0532 · Fax 715-261-2556 · [www.wausauschools.org](http://www.wausauschools.org)

Cale Bushman, Director of Pupil Services    Wendy Cartledge, Director of Special Education

**Date:** 12/18/2023

**To:** Wausau School District Board of Education

**From:** Cale Bushman, Director of Pupil Services, Wendy Cartledge, Director of Special Education

**RE:** Open Enrollment Space Determinations 2024-2025

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Wisconsin Public School Open Enrollment Program, Wis. Stat. § 118.51, and Wis. Admin. Code Chapter PI 36 requires School Boards to designate the number of regular education and special education spaces available for the next school year. Space determinations must be made and approved by the School Board at its January Board meeting. If the Board does not intend to deny applicants due to space, it may make that determination and document it as such in the January Board minutes.

The changes in the Open Enrollment Program also require school districts to consistently apply specific criteria to ensure decisions on special education space are not arbitrary or unreasonable. Criteria utilized for determining regular and special education spaces available for Open Enrollment are as follows:

### **Regular education Open Enrollment availability considerations:**

- District policies, procedures, or other factors regarding class size for particular programs or classes;
- District policies, procedures, or other factors regarding student-teacher ratios for particular programs, classes or buildings;
- District policies, procedures, or other factors regarding building capacity;
- Enrollment projections for the schools of the district which include, but are not limited to, the following factors; projected student transfers in and out of the district, preference requirements for siblings of non-resident open enrollment students, reserved space for potential growth based on a Board established percentage, and current and future space needs for special programs, laboratories (e.g., in technology or foreign languages), or similar district educational initiatives;

- the number of nonresident students currently attending the schools of the district; and
- the number of resident home schooled or private school students likely to attend the schools of the district in accordance with §118.145.

### **Special Education Open Enrollment space availability considerations:**

- Review each special education teacher and related service providers' current caseload, projected caseload for the next school year, and compare the projected caseload with projected enrollment and DPI caseload recommendations,
- Utilization of the Wisconsin DPI caseload factoring analysis,
- Review of current and projected special education programs and services
- Review of current staffing patterns, certifications, experience

### **SUMMARY**

Following an analysis using the criteria detailed above, in tandem with District Policy, the administration projects the following spaces to be available under open enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year.

### **Regular education:**

- Grade 4K: No limit set
- Grade KG: No limit set
- Grade 1: No limit set
- Grade 2: No limit set
- Grade 3: No limit set
- Grade 4: No limit set
- Grade 5: No limit set
- Grade 6: No limit set
- Grade 7: No limit set
- Grade 8: No limit set
- Grade 9: No limit set
- Grade 10: No limit set
- Grade 11: No limit set
- Grade 12: No limit set
- EEA: No limit set
- Red Granite: Based on lottery in - State statute
- Montessori: Based on lottery in February - State statute
- WAVE Elementary: No limit set
- WAVE Secondary: No limit set

## **Special education:**

The District will not have available open enrollment space for students requiring:

- Cross Categorical Special Education services including all specially designed instruction, services, supports, and related services PK-12+
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs or services for all grade levels PK-12+
- Physical Therapy programs or services for all grade levels PK-12+
- Occupational Therapy programs or services for all grade levels PK-12+
- Speech Language Pathology services for all grade levels PK-12+
- Vision Impairment Services PK-12+
- Orientation and Mobility Services PK-12+
- Transition Age 18-21 programs or services

The Pupil Services and Special Education Departments will maintain waiting lists for Open Enrollment applicants, should additional spaces become available the Friday following the first Monday in June. The availability of additional spaces will be determined by applying the aforementioned criteria, and in accordance with Board policy.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Motion to approve the regular and special education non-resident spaces available under open enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.