

Adopted: 1998

Revised: 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013

808 RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the District when the closure and retirement of a school building is determined to be in the best interests of the community and educational program.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to retire facilities from use as an active school building when said closure is in the best interests of the educational program and the public as a whole.

The Board will make every effort to find a community use for school facilities scheduled for retirement to assure maximum benefit by the public who originally acquired the property.

III. RETIREMENT AND CLOSURE CONSIDERATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes the magnitude of the decision to close and retire a school facility. It shall endeavor to make its decision with the maximum benefit realized by the educational program and the public majority.

Considerations made by the Board of Education when contemplating the closure and retirement of a school facility shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. **Public Safety.** The Board of Education holds the authority to close a facility when an unforeseen natural event or building system failure causes a facility to become unsafe, unhealthy, inaccessible, or inoperable.
2. **Educational Suitability.** When a school building cannot be adapted to accommodate a modern and flexible educational program.
3. **Cost.** When the costs of operating, repairing and/or renovating a school building to assure that public safety and/or educational suitability criteria exceed the benefits of closure and replacement.
4. **Historic Significance.** The historic value of any building will be considered by the Board when making its final determination.

The Board will seek both professional and community opinions when making its final determination as to the retirement of any school facility. The final decision of whether a facility shall be closed or remain in use shall be made by the Board.

IV. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Recognizing that retired school property may have value for recreational or other community purpose; the Board will grant the opportunity to acquire such property in the following order:

- a. Parks, Recreation, and Community Education.
- b. Other municipal bodies.
- c. Private entrepreneurs whose use of the property would return it to the District's tax roles.

Or any combination of the above uses determined to have the greatest benefit to the community.

Legal References: MS 123B.51 and MS 471.64

Cross References: Policy 801 and 807