



WATERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 14-4

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Watertown School District 14-4
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Watertown Elementary Schools

At a meeting of the Watertown School Board on Monday, February 12th, the decision was made to approve the Arrow Early Childhood plan for its elementary schools beginning in the 24-25 school year.

The Arrow Early Childhood plan was first presented to a committee that was formed to further study elementary schools in Watertown, and then at two different staff meetings in December. It was then presented at the January 8th school board meeting and to McKinley Elementary parents on January 22nd. The concept consists of McKinley Elementary becoming an Early Childhood Center with preschool and Kindergarten students. The remaining schools (Jefferson, Lincoln and Mellette) would host grades 1-4. The Arrow Early Childhood Plan would begin in the Fall of 2024. A proposed revision to our elementary boundary policies was shared earlier in the meeting.

Students already enrolled in Jefferson, Lincoln and Mellette will be allowed to remain at their current schools, and the McKinley and Roosevelt students will be distributed by following the updated boundaries while considering capacity at the three other schools. McKinley will house our Special Education Preschool, Title I preschool, all-day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten. An addition to our preschool services would be the possibility of a paid option for families to educate their 4-year old at the district preschool site.

New boundaries for attendance areas were proposed at the February 12th meeting with possible approval in March.

Superintendent Danielsen has this to say about the decision, "I appreciate the care with which this decision was made by the Watertown School Board. These are thoughtful people who took the time to listen and study this issue. We feel that the transition allows most of our current elementary students the ability to finish elementary school where they started. We will do our best to care for all elementary students with this transition but most importantly the McKinley and Roosevelt students and staff as they transition to new schools."