



## WATERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 14-4

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2023

Jeff Danielsen, Superintendent  
Watertown School District 14-4  
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### **Roosevelt Elementary to Close at the end of the School Year**

During the November 13, 2023, School Board Meeting, the Watertown School District Board of Education decided to close Roosevelt Elementary at the end of the 2023-24 school year. The district began studying the elementary schools after a 2021 Architecture Study brought to light projected infrastructure needs. The closure of Roosevelt Elementary is a needed first step in modifying elementary services.

A committee with representatives of teachers, parents, community members, school board, and administration met this fall to discuss the elementary schools, including, federal funding, early childhood, capacities, English as a second language (ELL) services growth, services such as Occupational and Speech Therapy, balanced class sizes, SPED services, and counseling services.

State statute requires a district to notify patrons of a school's closure by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding school year. The district will bring forward a plan in the coming months for how the Roosevelt attendance area will be distributed.

Superintendent Danielsen has this to say about the decision, "Roosevelt Elementary has long served the community of Watertown in educating elementary students. It has lived up to the namesake and produced resilient students and staff. A big thank you to the Roosevelt staff members, students and families for their dedication to the educational mission while at Roosevelt. We are committed to making sure that our students and staff members currently at Roosevelt are cared for as we move through this transition time in the next year."

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Enclosure: A copy of the resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Watertown School District declares that the attendance center of Roosevelt Elementary School, currently serving grades one (1) through four (4) to close at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

WHEREAS, as per SDCL 13-23-1 the School Board shall have the power to discontinue an attendance center by resolution of the board and action shall be taken by December first prior to the closure.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watertown School District administration be authorized to discontinue education services at the Roosevelt Elementary School and further plan and assist families, students, and staff with the transition.

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School Board President

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Business Manager