

Community Update: Reimagining Our Schools & Budget Outlook

During our Board of Education meeting on February 9, 2026, we received two critical presentations regarding the future of our elementary schools and the preliminary budget for the upcoming school year. We know the pending decision regarding school closures is a heavy one for our community, and we want to ensure you have the facts presented by our leadership team.

The “Why”: Addressing the \$2.7 Million Gap

Superintendent Swartz and Business Manager, Andrew Giaquinto, presented again on the current fiscal status of the district. [A copy of this presentation can be found here](#). Our district is facing a **\$2.7 million systemic budget gap**. This is not a one-time issue, but a result of relatively small increases in state aid not keeping up with increased staffing wages and benefits, combined with a long-term decline in student enrollment. Our elementary buildings currently operate at only **60% capacity**.

To maintain our current programs and stay within the calculated tax levy limit of **2.22%**, the administration has determined that we must consolidate from four elementary buildings to three. Without this move, the district would be forced to consider a **10.18% tax levy increase**, which is not a sustainable path for our taxpayers.

The Recommendation: Prioritizing Academic Continuity

On February 9, Assistant Superintendent Rick Arket and Lincoln Principal John Geniti presented a detailed analysis of our options. [A copy of this presentation can be found here](#). Their recommendation centers on **Glen-Worden** as the building for repurposing/closure, based on the following factors:

- **Staffing & Stability:** Glen-Worden currently has the most “junior” staff based on seniority. Closing this building allows the district to preserve the long-standing Co-Teach and Special Education programs at Lincoln and Glendaal with the least amount of “domino effect” transfers for teachers and students.
- **Class Size Equity:** Currently, class sizes are imbalanced (e.g., some sections have 12 students while others have 26). Moving to a three-school model will allow us to level these out to an equitable **20–22 students per class**.
- **Transportation Realities:** Analysis showed that closing Glendaal would result in some bus rides exceeding **100 minutes**. Closing Glen-Worden keeps the longest bus runs under 93 minutes.

This presentation contains data that was used by Superintendent Swartz to recommend Glen-Worden for closure or repurposing. This recommendation was made during the January 22, 2026, discussion with Glen-Worden staff, Reimagining Our Schools community forums ([presentations linked here](#)) and formally presented to the Board on January 26, 2026.

Proposed Redistricting Plan

The Board had inquired if a complete redistricting of the elementary schools is a prudent approach. Based on the analysis including notable increased transportation time and loss of demographic equity in each school, it was determined a complete redistricting is not a viable option. Instead, the administration recommends a **Strategic Redistricting** approach. Instead of moving every student in the district to new zones, we would only relocate students from the closed building. This limits the number of students impacted to approximately **160–180**, rather than over 400 students.

Board Vote

The board of education voted in a 5-2 measure to close Glen-Worden.

Next Steps

We recognize that Glen-Worden is more than just a building—it is a community. Working with our Reimagining Our Schools committees and administrative team, we will roll out a support plan and timeline to help our families stay connected while they build new relationships with the teachers and peers at their next school home. This plan will be available to our community.

Thank you for your continued engagement in our schools.

By The Numbers
A look at the trends and challenges leading to the reimagining of our elementary school footprint.

The Enrollment Trend Over the past 15 years, our student population has significantly decreased. ↓ 500+ Fewer Students Since 2011	The Financial Reality We are facing substantial fiscal challenges for the upcoming school year. ~\$2.8 Million Projected Budget Gap	The Community Effort This process is being guided by extensive stakeholder input. ~70 Community Volunteers	The Future Plan Ensuring equitable resources for all K-5 students. 4 → 3 Elementary Schools <i>Planned transition: Fall 2026.</i>
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The Goal: By moving from **four schools to three in Fall 2026**, we can operate more efficiently and redirect resources to **preserve high-quality programming for all students.**