

(ATTACHMENT 1) ACTION ON AN EMERGENCY REORGANIZATION OF ROOSEVELT MIDDLE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS TO ELIMINATE SIXTH GRADE FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

1. Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts is located at 800 West Walnut Street. The school serves 627 students in grades 6 through 8. The school has an arts focus and provides students with the opportunity to participate in Fine Arts and Vocational Education classes such as dance, graphic arts, visual arts, band, orchestra and Project Lead the Way.
2. After careful review of Third Friday enrollment numbers and the school budget for Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts, the school did not meet its projected enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year.
3. Over the past four years, enrollment has decreased, as detailed in the following official September enrollment count table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
2010	782
2011	740
2012	685
2013	634

4. The official September 2013 enrollment at Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts was 634 students, including students with special education needs (26.3%). The students currently attending Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts live in 69 Milwaukee Public Schools attendance areas. Transportation is currently provided to Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts at a cost of \$621,761.00. The projected transportation cost for the 2014-2015 school year is estimated to be \$640,415. Transportation to Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts is currently city-wide.
5. Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts' 2012-2013 attendance rate was 87.3%, compared with the district's average of 91.3%. As of February 22, 2014, the attendance rate for the school is 85.3%, compared to the district's current average of 90.7%. Over the past four years, the attendance rate has decreased, as detailed in the following official School Profile Detail for climate and engagement data table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>District</u>
2009	92.9%	90.5%
2010	91.1%	90.7%
2011	90.8%	91.2%
2012	87.3%	91.3%

6. Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts' 2012-2013 suspension rate was 36.6%, compared with the district's average of 15.4%. As of February 22, 2014, the suspension rate for the school is 32.5%, when compared to the district's current

average of 6.8%. Over the past four years, the suspension rate has remained higher than the district's average, as detailed in the following official School Profile Detail for climate and engagement data table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>District</u>
2009	38.9%	26%
2010	44.3%	20.5%
2011	40%	19.4%
2012	36.6%	15.4%

7. Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts began the 2013-2014 school year with 30% (11) of the teaching staff listed as "not highly" qualified as defined by No Child Left Behind legislation. As of February 22, 2014, four teaching vacancies remain unfilled at the school. These positions have been filled with substitute teachers.
8. The rotation of substitute teachers during the course of the school year does not support a stable learning environment for students and places the school in a constant state of flux. This instability creates an environment that is not conducive to learning and potentially dangerous.
9. Information obtained from the Department of Student Services indicates that approximately 20 students have been referred for a Central Office hearing. The hearings were a result of student's violation of school rules relative to personal/physical safety, including assaults to students and staff, as well as the possession or distribution of illegal substances.
10. The emergency reorganization of Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts for the 2014-2015 school year will consist of the elimination of students in 6th grade. Students that will be enrolled in grades 7th and 8th will remain at the school. The Administration will work with the school staff and community to assure quality educational programming and a positive learning environment for these students. This will allow for continuity with existing students.
11. Information obtained from the Student Assignment Process pending assignments report, indicates 9 students from fifth grade have selected Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts as either their first, second or third choice for the 2014-2015 school year. Should the elimination of sixth grade occur for the upcoming school year, families will be notified and provided with a list of all MPS schools to select from for the 2014-2015 school year.
12. During the 2014-2015 school year, Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts will consist of students in grades 7 and 8. During the 2015-2016 school year, Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts will return to servicing students in grades 6 through 8.
13. The Administration recommends that the Board eliminate sixth grade at Roosevelt Middle School of the Arts for the 2014-2015 school year and return to servicing students in grades 6 through 8 for the 2015-2016 school year.