

KENMORE-TOWN OF TONAWANDA
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLANS FOR KENMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING



We educate, prepare, and inspire all students to achieve their highest potential!

History – How Did We Get Here?

- 18 schools have or will be closed as Ken-Ton enrollment dropped from 22,350 in 1965 to less than 7,000 today
- Recent experience in successfully closing/selling school buildings:
 - 3 buildings sold between 2005 and 2012 (Jane Addams, Brighton, Green Acres)
- Buildings and facilities being considered:
 - Jefferson Elementary – Closed after the 2012-13 school year
 - Roosevelt Elementary, Hamilton Elementary, Kenmore Middle School – Will close after the current school year as part of “Scenario I” consolidation plan

Why consider moving programs?

- Pre-K needs immediate placement by September 2016
- The district has a variety of programs and offices spread throughout the district, especially at Transportation and Sheridan
- We should take advantage of opportunities to expand or enhance programs
- We can begin the process of moving programs in anticipation of selling or leasing buildings
- Bring additional savings by reducing the need for redundant services in multiple locations (nurse, administrators, kitchen, custodial)

Recent Process

- **Stakeholders Facilities Meeting: March 16**
 - Discussion with parents, representatives from Town and Village government, collective bargaining units
 - Discussion on debt owed, possible uses for buildings, and community concerns/priorities
- **Meetings with teachers and administration for each program**
 - Each program was met with to discuss needs, how they might fit into different buildings in the district, and what concerns they may have with changing locations

Kenmore Middle

- Appraised value:
\$1,600,000
- Outstanding Debt
Service: \$7,773,824
- Debt Remaining After
Appraised Value:
\$6,173,824
- Debt Payoff date: 2027-
2028
- Prime candidate for
repurposing



2016-17 Opportunities

- **Pre-Kindergarten:**

- Currently, no pre-kindergarten classes are housed at two of the five elementary schools (Hoover Elementary and Lindbergh Elementary); Edison only houses one Pre-K classroom
- Opportunity for 2016-17: Move Edison's classroom and Roosevelt/Hamilton classrooms to KMS building

- **Big Picture Program:**

- Currently lacks access to facilities such as a gymnasium, cafeteria, and secondary science labs
- Opportunity for 2016-17: House Big Picture Program in KMS building

Benefits for Pre-K Programs

- Pre-K will have its own separated “wing” of the building to call its own
- Year-round access to gymnasium (difficult to schedule in occupied school buildings); in warmer weather, access to Crosby Field
- Access to nursing staff, auditorium, cafeteria, and multiple rooms for flexible usage
- Instead of being isolated to 1 or 2 classrooms in an occupied building, opportunity an entire learning environment to be cultivated
- Pre-K teachers won't be isolated; will be able to collaborate
- Many village resources within walking distance

Why KMS?

- ❑ KMS has highest debt of closed/closing schools
- ❑ KMS has the most room and facilities and needs minimal modifications to bring in programs
- ❑ KMS is connected to the strip from Longfellow, Crosby Field, and Lindbergh
- ❑ Interest in maintaining a strong presence in the Village of Kenmore
- ❑ It has room to expand use in the future; many district offices and programs can be consolidated here

16-17 Functions at KMS

- Big Picture
- Pre-K
- Nurse & Medical Director
- Structured Suspension Program (BOCES)
- Teacher Mentor program
- High School Equivalency Program
- Storage for permanent records and exams

16-17 Functions at KMS

- ❑ Alternative testing site: use for January Regents, AP, IB, PSAT, 8th grade assessments
- ❑ Athletics facilities: gymnastics in fall season, used in other seasons while new facilities are constructed at KE
- ❑ Dedicated space for School Board and other meetings
- ❑ Alumni and district PTSA offices
- ❑ District history: chance to display plaques or other important items from closing schools
- ❑ Kitchen used to prep “from scratch”

Recognizing Needs

- ❑ KMS will need multiple zones where Pre-K students and older students/adults are separated
 - Big Picture
 - Universal Pre-K
 - District offices
- ❑ Separate bathrooms, use of doors, parking, and signage

Considering Other Buildings

- ❑ Roosevelt, Jefferson, and Hamilton do not have the large facilities that KMS has: gym, auditorium, kitchen, pool
- ❑ The other buildings have less square footage and multiple buildings would have to remain open; with KMS we can consolidate to 1 building and share staff
- ❑ Buildings cannot be partially “closed off” (For example: using only a few rooms at Hamilton to host Pre-K)

Beyond 16-17

- ❑ Rooms will be available at KMS to place other district offices and programs
- ❑ Construction of large settings for board or community meetings is possible
- ❑ The district/board will have to consider what buildings they wish to maintain vs. lease vs. sale
- ❑ Continue to solicit input from parents, staff, community, local government, and all stakeholders