

BOND COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2

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Greenville, Illinois 62246

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Dear Bond CUSD #2 Parents and Families

I am sure most of you have heard through social media or otherwise that the Board of Education has scheduled hearings regarding the potential closing of Sorento school at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. The Board of Education has not taken any action on this matter, but is required to post and conduct hearings, as a statutory requirement, should they want to take action. We know this can be a difficult and emotionally charged topic. A similar discussion occurred two years ago when the District was looking at elementary attendance zones, in-district boundary lines and balancing elementary class sizes. It was a difficult discussion then, as it is now.

This discussion comes about as our district strives to better meet the needs of all of our students with the limited resources we have, in a long term, sustainable way. It is clear our students have greater academic and social/emotional needs as a result of their experiences over the past 20 months. We are challenged with meeting these needs at the same time our district enrollment is decreasing, the cost of doing business is going up, and shortages exist in the labor market. While we have benefited from the one time infusion of federal funds to combat the effects of COVID-19, we know these funds have a limited time frame for use and are likely not to be renewed. With that in mind, we must consider how we meet the needs of our students in a long term, sustainable way. At present, part of that discussion includes moving from 3 to 2 attendance centers at the elementary level, in an effort to “do more with less”. I know there will be many questions and concerns expressed as we navigate this process. In coming weeks, more information will be available as the Board of Education works towards solutions. The Board of Education is committed to gathering feedback throughout this process and will consider it accordingly. If you are unable to attend any of the hearings listed on the following page or wish to send questions/comments to the unit office, directly, please do so at elaesch@bccu2.org.

Professionally,



Wes Olson, Superintendent of Schools

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Emily Laesch, Supt./Board Secretary

Liz Provost, Accounts Payable/Unit

Jennifer Mitchell, Payroll & Benefits/Unit

Michele Wade, Spec. Ed/Unit

Notice published on the district website on December 5, 2021 as required by ILCS 10/22.13, with additional note added on December 13, 2021.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Board of Education of Bond County Community Unit School District No. 2 will hold three public hearings in December, 2021.

The sole purpose of each of these hearings shall be to discuss the decision to close a school building and receive input from the community.

The school building that the school board is considering closing is Sorento Elementary School, located at 510 S. Main St., Sorento, IL.

The first hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 15th at 5:30 p.m. in the BCCU #2 High School Library, 1000 E. State Rte. 140, Greenville, IL.

The second hearing will be held on Thursday, December 16th at 4:30 p.m. in the BCCU #2 High School Library, 1000 E. State Rte. 140, Greenville, IL.

The third and final hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 22nd at 6:55 p.m. in the BCCU #2 High School Auditorium, 1000 E. State Rte. 140, Greenville, IL.

Randi Workman, President
Nate Prater, Secretary
Bond County CUSD #2
1008 N. Hena St.
Greenville, IL 62246

*Note (added 12/13/21): In the event it appears that the number of attendees at these hearings will exceed the capacity of the BCCU #2 High School Library, Bond County CUSD #2 will move the meeting down the hall to the BCCU #2 Auditorium and will direct those arriving at the Library accordingly.