Q & A
Community Education Center (CEC)
Recommendation Plan
Walled Lake Consolidated School District

Recommendation to Close CEC:

1. Why is the District considering closing the Community Education Center?
   This decision dates back to the 2011 Plante Moran Facilities Utilization Study when it was recommended to close the CEC along with Twin Beach and Maple Elementary Schools.

   Overall, this recommendation is being made as one of the continual budget reductions made over the past 15 years. Reasons for continual budget reductions include:
   - District’s student population is declining.
   - District revenue is declining and operational expenses are increasing.
   - The District has a history of making decisions that keep funding in the 19 schools.
   - The District has determined the majority of programs housed at the CEC can be continued while being housed in the existing District schools and facilities.
   - Lastly, the District has confirmed that the more than $2 million dollars of bond funds, that was slated to be spent from the Safety, Security & Technology bond, can be used to make necessary renovations/alterations in existing schools to house the CEC programs.

2. Why are you closing the CEC and not closing and selling the Educational Services Center?
   The District owns both the CEC and the ESC. However, the CEC costs three times the amount of the ESC to operate and run. The District does not believe it is an appropriate use of the previously allocated bond funds; these funds would be better spent on ensuring current school sites can house these programs.

3. What is the cost to operate the CEC and what savings will be realized?
   CEC operational costs are nearly $225,000 per year. This savings will be realized annually.

4. If Community Ed and other programs such as Prime Time Care (PTC) generate money, why would we close their building?
   The District must continually look at ways to reduce operational costs. With this recommendation, the District has space to fully continue PTC. Currently, CEC houses the PTC supervisor’s office and the services are in each of our elementary and middle schools. Further, the PTC program does generate funds and this child care service is highly valued and will continue at each of the 12 elementary and middle schools where it currently exists.
5. **Where will the CEC programs be relocated?**
   With the assistance of TMP, the District’s architectural firm, the program supervisors and coordinators, as well as all departments affected, a recommended relocation plan was presented to the Board of Education at its February 2017 meeting. The Recommended CEC Relocation Plan is available on the district website at wlcisd.org, under the “District” tab entitled Budget Planning 2017-18.

6. **Why does this have to happen now?**
   The District is in its final year of the implementation of the Safety, Security & Technology bond and has confirmed that the nearly $3 million of bond funds that was slated to be spent from this bond at the CEC, can be used to make necessary facility alterations at existing schools to house the CEC programs.

7. **Will the District be reducing staff?**
   It is not the District’s intention to reduce staff. Each of the CEC programs provides integral services to our K-12 program and to the communities the District serves.

**Building/Property:**

8. **What will happen to the building?**
   The building will be razed, as it is a difficult and costly facility to maintain and the District has been told it would be extremely difficult to sell in its current condition.

**Timeline for this decision:**

9. **What is the timeline for making this closure?**
   District administration made a recommendation to the Board of Education at its February 2, 2017 Board meeting, after more than a year of exploration, examination and research. The District is hosting public forums to discuss the course of action and plans to then request the Board of Education to make its decision at the March 2, 2017 Board meeting.

10. **What is the timeline to demolish the building?**
    The District is planning a community farewell celebration in June of 2017. After that time, the process of disassembling the building will begin with an estimated completion in 2018.

**New Locations for Programs:**
(Please reference the Recommended CEC Relocation Plan.)

11. **Will we continue Community Education programs?**
    Yes!

12. **Where will Prime Time Care be located?**
    Recommended office space is at either the ESC or Geisler Middle School.

13. **Where will Preschool be located?**
Recommended office space is at either the ESC or Geisler Middle School. Several elementary schools with existing space will house the CEC preschool classrooms.

14. Where will the Wall of Fame be relocated?
It is recommended that the Wall of Fame be relocated to the ESC Board room.

Facility Usage:

15. Gym time is at a premium in Walled Lake Schools, how will the District accommodate programs and activities that need gyms?
Because Community Recreation uses both the main and auxiliary gyms at the CEC for adult evening leagues, it is likely that both adult basketball and floor hockey will be eliminated as other gyms around the District are utilized for both interscholastic and recreational programs.

16. How will facility requests be prioritized in light of the loss of this space for programs?
The community facility request process has served the District well and will continue through the Operations Department. Internally, K-12 educational programs are a priority and we do not anticipate there will be space accommodation issues.

Historical preservation:

17. Will there be historical preservation of the Pewabic Tiles and other artifacts?
Walled Lake Schools respects the various artifacts that are in the CEC and will work to recover what we are able to within reasonable cost and construction limitations.

Continuation of Programs:

18. Will the District continue the Summer Food Service Program?
Yes, the Summer Food Service Program will continue and it will be housed at the CEC for the summer of 2017. We will investigate a new location for 2018.

19. Will the Women Infant and Children Program (WIC) be located in a WLCSD facility?
Unfortunately, since the WIC program is not a District program, and we are consolidating facilities to house and maintain current District programs, we have facility/space limitations and may not be able to house this program.

20. What programs if any will be eliminated?
As stated above, Community Recreation uses both the main and auxiliary gyms at the CEC for adult evening leagues. Therefore it is likely that both adult basketball and floor hockey will be eliminated, as other gyms around the District are utilized for both interscholastic and other recreational programs. We do not anticipate eliminating other programs.

21. Will all recreation programs be continued?
Yes, with the only exception of adult basketball and adult floor hockey.
22. Will summer camps and other camps during breaks still be offered?
Yes, We realize these programs are an integral part of the fabric of our WLCSD educational offerings and we will continue them as long as there is a demand for them.

Communication of this decision:

23. Will the District be communicating this to staff, parents and the community? How?
Absolutely. Walled Lake Schools works very hard to be transparent with our community about decisions. Any and all recommended plans, timelines, Q & A’s and any other documents that become available on this topic, are accessible on the district website at wlcasd.org under the “District” tab entitled Budget Planning 2017-18. Meetings have taken place with the CEC staff and we will continue to use the website, cable, meetings, social media, newsletters, media and any means to ensure our community is informed.