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Dear Iroquois Family,

The relocation of the fourth grade is under discussion by the Iroquois Central School District. This document, in FAQ (frequently asked questions) format, contains a synopsis of the common questions that have been asked. It is important to note that this is a living document and will be updated periodically.

1. Q. *What is the primary reason for the district considering the relocation at this time?*

A. The elementary buildings are experiencing space constraints that are impacting the instructional and social emotional development of the students.

2. Q. *What is really causing the shortage of space in the primary schools?*

A. Student requirements for instructional and social emotional services have increased over the past decade creating the additional need for locations to provide these services. The events in the past 4 years have accelerated the needs of the students requiring additional instructional and social emotional support.

3. Q. *What calculus did you use to determine that now is the right time to make this change?*

A. A facilities committee reviewed the entire district to determine what steps the district could take to improve the facilities to meet the mission of the district. The district's mission is to educate the entire student, which includes academic and social emotional growth.

4. Q. *Who is really asking for this change and why?*

A. The instructional staff have been the greatest advocates for improving the areas in which pull-out services and specials are delivered. The past four years have not only caused an increase in the academic support required but also the social

emotional support required. By relocating the fourth grade, both issues can be better addressed for the greatest number of students.

5. *Q. If next year's fourth grade is moved, will this permanently solve the space issue?*

A. No, the relocation will address concerns for the next five to ten years. However, changing enrollment and student requirements will need to constantly be monitored.

6. *Q. It doesn't seem like space was an issue prior to the introduction of UPK. Isn't that the real reason for the change? Why can't we have them located on the main campus or even off-sight?*

A. Space concerns were an issue before UPK and in fact are the greatest issue in the primary building that does not house a UPK program. The appropriate instruction location for UPK is a setting that does not isolate the UPK students from other students of the same age. The district does attempt yearly to partner with an outside provider but currently has been unable to establish a partnership.

7. *Q. Why is it important for UPK classrooms to be located in the primary schools? What benefits does it hold?*

A. By locating the UPK in primary buildings it allows for instructional and social emotional support. The classrooms will be able to have the appropriate facilities required. Administrative overview will be by administrators that have experience and expertise with younger learners. Peers of similar age will enhance the social development of the students.

8. *Q. How will the relocation impact the delivery of social emotional support to students?*

A. The relocation of the fourth grade will include a new principal and school counselor. These individuals will be able to focus a greater amount of time on each individual student and family to provide greater support than is now available. Additionally, the relocation will allow for greater support in both the Middle School and all Primaries due to 4th and 5th grade being housed within an Iroquois Intermediate (II) building.

9. *Q. Will the 4th graders be isolated from other students?*

A. No, the 4th graders will be housed in the Iroquois Intermediate (II) building with 5th graders. The reopening of the II building will provide an excellent transition period for students of both 4th and 5th grade before they enter Middle School. The II building will be its own school with a principal, nurse, librarian, music program, and school counselor as well as any other requirement for a school.

10. *Q. What will the district be providing to the students with this move?*

A. The students will have a principal, school counselor, pull-out services for instruction and social emotional requirements, nurse, shared SRO, appropriate class sizes, plus music, art, and PE instructors.

11 Q. What is the actual plan for moving the 4th grade?

A. The first step is for elementary principals to plan for both the current 3rd and 4th grades to transition to the reopened II building. At the same time an administrator would be hired to become the new principal of the II. Their goal from hire date until the end of the year would be to meet with teachers, staff, stakeholders, and current administration to plan for September.

12 Q. What is your necessary timeframe?

A. The district requires a six-month period to make the appropriate plans for the reopening of the II school.

13 Q. If the district moves the 4th grade what will students gain academically and socially emotionally because both have been impacted negatively during COVID?

A. The opening of the II will provide greater support and improved instructional settings than if no action was taken. The II would have an administrator and school counselor dedicated to the social emotional needs of the students. Additionally, there would be pull out services for academics that would be provided in improved educational settings for learning.

14 Q. It has been mentioned a few times that the district goal is to maintain a specific class size depending on the grade. What positive and negative impacts could there be if we wait, and some class sizes are larger than the goal?

A. If no action is taken that would put the district in a reactive position. Class sizes in the primary buildings could exceed the maximum that the district has held for decades. The greatest concern is the ability for rooms to house that number of students and losing the delivery of personalized instruction.

15 Q. If the current third graders are moved next year, will they miss out on celebrating their final year in their home school?

A. No, the elementary principals in conjunction with the teachers will make sure the typical and appropriate celebrations are held.

16 Q. What can be done to help the 3rd graders with the transition?

A. The elementary principals in conjunction with the teachers will make sure transition activities and opportunities occur for the 3rd and 4th graders.

17 Q. Will the building have its own SRO?

A. Currently the main campus is covered by two SROs. That practice will continue.

18 Q. Will the 4th grade still have recess?

A. Yes, the 4th grade will still have an outside recess, weather permitting. The district will work with the new principal to provide safe areas that have the opportunity for students to grow socially through recess.

19 Q. Will there be a playground built?

A. A playground will not be built at this time. It may be included in future capital projects. However, the District will be constructing “recess” areas for students to play games such as Four Square.

20 Q. How would the move affect the music program? Will there still be performances?

A. Yes, the 4th grade will still have a music program that includes performances. The instrumental music program will be consolidated into a single program rather than three independent programs at each primary school.

21 Q. How will transportation be affected? Will my child be expected to ride the bus with older students?

A. The 4th grade students will be transported on the current main campus bus runs. The younger students will be assigned to the front of the bus to parallel what was done when the II was previously open.

22 Q. Will the II students have a nurse?

A. Yes, the II building will have a nurse solely assigned to the building.

23 Will the II students have a counselor?

A. Yes, the II building will have a school counselor solely assigned to the building.

24 Q. Where will the main office be located?

A. The II office will have its own front door in the middle of the campus. This front door will be the main office and be directly connected to the 4th and 5th grade classrooms.

Thank you for your continued support,

Douglas R. Scofield
Superintendent of Schools