

## **Robinswood Questions and Answers**

### **What is being proposed for RHS and why?**

The Superintendent is proposing to the School Board that action be taken to begin the school closure process for Robinswood Middle and High School, because the school is not likely to have its accreditation renewed for next year. To be accredited means to satisfy certain standards regarding teaching and learning, improving student academic performance, and providing support for learning, such as guidance and special education programs. High schools that are not accredited jeopardize their students' ability to have credits transferred to outside districts, to graduate from high school, and to qualify for college admissions and scholarships. This situation leaves the District with limited options, operate an unaccredited school or have Robinswood students return to their home high schools with appropriate support structures in place to help students achieve success in their new environment.

Under this proposal students in Robinswood's Middle School program would attend Tye Middle School in 2010-11.

### **What other options were considered?**

There are two agencies that are responsible for accrediting schools. Neither was able to assure the District that it could renew Robinswood's accreditation for next school year. However, both are willing to work with the district as we develop a new program.

### **Who makes the final decision on the recommended school closure?**

The School Board is the decision-making body.

### **How many students does this impact?**

The proposed school closure would impact 41 middle school students and 123 high school students.

### **What will happen to Robinswood faculty and staff?**

Our Human Resources Department will work to find placements for Robinswood certificated and classified employees. Union contracts specify how this process is to be handled and Human Resources staff will work with unions to properly place all staff.

**What about students in specialty programs located at RHS?** In order to provide services to special education students in the least restrictive environment (as required by law) students in the Cascade program will move to Sammamish.

### **What will happen to students in the general education program?**

General education students in grades 9-12 will return to their home schools of Bellevue, Interlake, Newport, and Sammamish. On a case by case basis, requests for intradistrict transfers may be considered. General education students entering grade 8 would attend Tye Middle School in 2010-11.

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### **Won't schools be overcrowded?**

Interlake and Sammamish are home schools for the largest numbers of Robinswood students. Sammamish has additional instructional space and can accommodate many more students than are returning from Robinswood. Interlake is holding spaces for Robinswood students, which might otherwise have been taken by other students.

### **What is the process/timeline for closing?**

As noted earlier, the Board will make the decision on the Superintendent's recommendation to close Robinswood. The process requires the following: citizen involvement before the board considers closure; a written analysis of the effects of the proposed school closure; at least one hearing to take public testimony and notice given to the public regarding date, time place and purpose of the hearing ; and a final decision within 90 days of the hearing. The hearing to take public testimony regarding the proposal to close Robinswood High School at the end of the 2009-10 school year, is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, at **7:00 pm**, Rainier Room in the Wilburton Instructional Service Center.

### **How does this help the student who does not feel comfortable in the regular school system?**

We are supporting this relocation in the following ways:

- Allowing students to return to their home high school and on a case-by-case basis we may allow students to apply for intradistrict transfer
- On a case-by-case basis allowing a reduced schedule so a student can graduate once requirements are completed even if prior to June, 2011
- Providing professional development to counselors at the home high schools to ensure the needs of Robinswood students are met, that student's progress is monitored, and appropriate interventions and support structures are in place.
- Assigning a staff member to oversee transition and relocation, as well as monitoring student progress throughout the school year.

### **How will teachers be supported in their efforts to learn about the specific needs of the students?**

A committee will be formed to develop a district plan for the proposed closing of Robinswood. The committee representation will include multiple stakeholders. The plan includes proposed topics for professional development to support students from Robinswood. Topics will include academic interventions, behavioral supports, social-emotional development, and student progress monitoring.