July 9, 2020

Dear Flint Community Schools Families,

I hope you are safe and healthy, and enjoying a restful summer as we prepare for the year ahead. I know much uncertainty still surrounds the fall semester—we will be announcing more details on our Return to School plan in the weeks to come.

In the meantime, I wanted to share with you that the Board of Education voted on Monday in support of consolidating schools. The Flint Junior High School, at the site of the former Northwestern, was in need of significant and expensive repairs in order to operate safely, which would cut into our already limited districtwide budget. At the same time, our enrollment numbers are not in keeping with our current building footprint, and we knew we could better our existing infrastructure to benefit our students, families, administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, staff, and community.

For that reason, the Flint Junior High School will not reopen in the fall. If your child is currently enrolled at the Junior High, they will instead attend Holmes STEM Academy in the fall. At the same time, Holmes STEM Academy will become Holmes STEM Middle School Academy and will be reconfigured to become a middle school for grades 6-8. Additionally, Brownell STEM Academy will expand from a K-2 to a K-5 school. If your child is currently enrolled in grades 3-5 at Holmes, they will instead attend Brownell. Students currently enrolled in grades K-2 at Brownell will not be affected.

I realize these changes will impact many of our families and children, and understand the connection our residents have to neighborhood schools. That is why we spent substantial time weighing all options before proposing this solution. For that reason, I am confident this decision is in the best interest of our students and will help us continue to build on the academic progress we have seen in recent years.

There will be no changes to current district boundaries, and you will be contacted directly regarding the school to report to in the fall. Please rest assured that building closures are our last resort, however, we must operate within our means and ensure funding stays where it is needed—in our classrooms.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact my office at superintendent@flintschools.org.

Your partner in education,

Anita Steward
Superintendent