



## HIGH SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION TRANSITION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: When will the high school consolidation occur?**

**A:** In the fall of the 2006-07 school year, the district will operate one high school for all students' grades 9-12.

**Q: What is the status of the transition plan to consolidate the two high schools?**

**A:** A transition team comprised of parents, staff and students will be selected by the end of the present school year (2003-04). Their work regarding most phases of the transition process will be completed by the spring of 2005 (one full year prior to consolidation of the two high schools).

**Q: How will transition team members be selected?**

**A:** Presently, a committee of staff, parents, students, administrators and board members are working on the role and responsibility of the transition team. Additionally, they will determine the application and selection process. Parents, staff and students interested in serving on the transition team will be able to volunteer for consideration in the next six to eight weeks.

**Q: Is there room for all high school students at the Kimball site?**

**A:** Yes. The projected enrollment for the 2006-07 school year is approximately 1,740 high school students. The present facility can accommodate that number of students.

**Q: What about Schools of Choice?**

**A:** The district will not be accepting any new non-resident students at the high school level beginning next year.

**Q: Does closing one high school solve the District's financial concerns?**

**A:** No. There is a significant cost savings in operating one high school instead of two. The Royal Oak School District continues to experience a decline in enrollment that adversely affects the amount of money received by the state. The district will continue to look at ways to conserve financial resources while maintaining outstanding programs for students.

**Q: What are the cost savings related to the high school consolidation?**

**A:** The overall savings of closing a high school are expected to be in excess of \$2.3 million annually. Savings will include overhead costs such as utilities, administrative, custodial and secretarial services. Duplicate services such as class offerings, extra-curricular activities and athletic teams will not be necessary.

**Q: Will bussing be provided?**

**A:** Traditionally, Royal Oak has provided transportation for elementary and middle school students only. Whether there will be transportation provided at the high school level when the two buildings are consolidated, will be determined at a later time.

**Q: Will all athletic teams be combined prior to full consolidation in 2006-07?**

**A:** The district will be working with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) to address athletic eligibility and the rules that must be followed when combining athletic teams. It is unclear at this time which teams will be combined prior to 2006-07, it is expected that some teams will be. Currently, hockey and boys swim teams are combined from both high schools.

**Q: How will extra-curricular activities be consolidated?**

**A:** Both Kimball and Dondero have outstanding extra-curricular activities. It is the goal of consolidation to maintain and enhance excellent extra-curricular activities for students. It is anticipated that the input from staff and students will have significant impact on the quantity and quality of extra-curricular offerings.

**Q: Will some activities be discontinued?**

**A:** Extra-curricular offerings are based upon student participation levels. While participation may wane in some areas, there will be other opportunities that will present themselves.

**Q: What about Band, Orchestra and Drama?**

**A:** The current expectation is that the district will strive to offer complete programs at both high schools for the next two years. Due to staffing considerations such as retirements and student interest, it may be possible to combine certain programs (including fine arts) prior to the 2006-07 school year.

**Q: How will teachers be selected for the consolidated high school?**

**A:** It is anticipated that the present high school staffs servicing Kimball and Dondero will be the staff at the consolidated high school in 2006-07. As enrollment declines over the next few years and normal staff attrition occurs, we expect being able to staff the consolidated high school with relatively few layoffs of teachers presently employed.

**Q: Will many of our newer teachers lose their positions?**

**A:** Given the normal attrition rate for staff in the district, that staff currently employed at the high school in 2003-04 school year should not be overly concerned about their employment in 2006-07.

**Q: What will the name of the high school be? ..... the mascot?..... the colors?**

**A:** The naming and selecting a mascot and colors for the consolidated high school are significant topics. The district will seek input from the community, staff and students regarding these issues. Both Kimball and Dondero are a rich part of the tradition of our school district and special consideration will be given recognizing this tradition.

**Q: What will become of the tradition and history of both Dondero and Kimball High Schools?**

**A:** We hope that the tradition and history of both high schools will live on for a long time in the hearts of their respective alumni. Over the next two and one-half years, prior to consolidation, staff, students and community members should take the time to reflect and acknowledge on the positive contributions of both Clarence Kimball and George Dondero.

**Q: Will class size be a factor?**

**A:** The expectation is that class size should not be significantly different than it is today.

**Q: What are the plans to improve the facilities, including instructional areas, parking and auxiliary areas such as gyms, auditoriums, cafeterias, etc?**

**A:** The Board of Education is presently studying the components of a future bond issue. It is expected that district voters will have the opportunity to cast their ballot regarding a bond issue sometime during the 2004-05 school year. The proceeds from a bond issue will improve and enhance buildings the district intends to use for instructional purposes at all levels.

**Q: Is a successful bond issue a pre-requisite for the consolidation plan?**

**A:** No. There is adequate space to implement a consolidation plan before the approval of a bond issue. However, a successful vote would allow the district the opportunity to improve district facilities at all levels for students.

**Q: What is the future use of Dondero High School?**

**A:** In the Facilities Plan approved by the Board in September, the Dondero site is intended to become a middle school. It is anticipated that when enrollment dictates, this site will become the only middle school in the district.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact: Karen Patrick, (248) 435-8400 ext. 228  
Email at [patrickk@royaloakschools.net](mailto:patrickk@royaloakschools.net)