

Next Steps

**Determining
The Future
For Walden
Elementary!**

**VALLEY CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



VIKING VOYAGE

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Office of the Superintendent

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Planning for the Future: The Journey of Walden Elementary School

As Walden Elementary School approaches its 100th anniversary, the vibrant school community is at a pivotal moment in its history. Known for its caring climate and culture, Walden has fostered a dynamic environment where staff and families are dedicated to prioritizing the needs of students. As we look toward the future, we recognize the importance of sustaining this culture for generations to come. We are committed to ensuring that Walden Elementary continues to thrive, prioritizing the needs of both current and future students. However, the building itself, while safe, is beginning to show its age, prompting critical discussions about its future. We want you to be a part of these discussions.



VALLEY CENTRAL'S MISSION

At Valley Central we champion curiosity and set high expectations. Our mission is to empower every member to achieve at high levels and embrace the joy of continuous learning.

MORE INFORMATION

VCSHDNY.ORG



Superintendent's Message

Dear Valley Central Families,

Our Commitment to Community Engagement

Over the past year, Walden Elementary has embraced a collaborative three-phase approach to explore options for revitalizing the school. This process has emphasized transparency, stakeholder engagement, and informed decision-making. The Valley Central community has played an integral role in this exploration, with numerous communications designed to keep everyone informed and involved.

Key Engagement Activities:

1. **Board Meetings:** Regular updates have been provided during board meetings, allowing community members to stay abreast of developments.
2. **Community Tours:** Six tours of Walden Elementary have been conducted, inviting community members to see firsthand the current state of the building and its facilities.
3. **Communication Outreach:** A flyer was mailed to the entire Valley Central Community, ensuring that every resident had access to important information regarding the school's future.
4. **Informative Video:** [This video](#) was shared outlining the challenges facing Walden Elementary, giving those unable to attend tours a chance to engage with the issues at hand.
5. **Surveys for Feedback:** A survey was distributed to gather input from all community members, demonstrating a commitment to listening to the voices of those most affected by the school's future.

Continuous Updates

Updates on Walden Elementary's status are consistently posted on the school's website located on the top menu titled "[The Future of Walden](#)." This page serves as a centralized hub for information and is designed to keep the community informed and engaged.

Moving Forward: Phases of Progress

The District has successfully completed Phase 1 of its planning process and is now entering Phase 2. This transition represents an exciting opportunity for the community to reimagine the future of the school, ensuring it continues to serve students for the next century.

I understand that anxiety often accompanies significant transitions, and I want to acknowledge those feelings. I want to emphasize that no final decisions regarding the future of Walden Elementary have been made at this time. We are committed to fostering transparency and inclusivity among all community stakeholders and cultivating a culture of open dialogue.

The District recognizes the importance of ongoing factual discussions and values the insights of all stakeholders. Community members are encouraged to attend our upcoming events, and reach out with questions or feedback to ensure they receive accurate and timely information. Send email to communications@vcsdny.org.



Superintendent's Message Continued

Upcoming Events and Next Steps

As we move through Phase 2, several events and steps will take place in October and November. The District warmly invites all Valley Central Community members to remain involved and informed during this critical period. Your participation is vital as we strive for a future that prepares our students for this global society. Please join us at the events below:

Date	Time	Location	Event
Wednesday, October 23rd	6:30 p.m.	Walden Elementary	Walden Elementary Tour
Wednesday, October 30th	6:30 p.m.	Valley Central High School	Feasibility and Equity Reports will be presented at the Board of Education Special Meeting and the Walden Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Education
Monday, November 4th	6:30 p.m.	Walden Elementary	Walden Elementary Tour
Thursday, November 14th	6:30 p.m.	Valley Central High School	Town Hall

Walden Elementary School stands at an exciting crossroads, with nearly a century of history behind it and a future filled with opportunities. By prioritizing community engagement and transparency, Walden is setting a strong foundation for the next 100 years. The commitment of families, staff, and community members to come together is a testament to the school's enduring legacy. Together, we can ensure the modernization of Walden Elementary and that it continues to be a nurturing and inspiring place for generations of students to come.

Warm regards,

Superintendent Avila