

Fairport may close DeLand School in several years

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Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

The Fairport school board Tuesday voted to pursue a facilities pathway that will involve closing the standalone Minerva DeLand School for ninth graders several years from now.

The move is a consequence of declining enrollment in the district, a trend that unites many school districts across the region. Secondary enrollment is down 17% over 10 years.

part of an ongoing study of the district,” Superintendent Brett Provenzano said in a statement after the unanimous vote. “It is also imperative to meet standards and work towards 21st century learning spaces.’

Minerva DeLand, the only remaining standalone ninth grade academy in Monroe County, is not slated for closure for several years, and the decision is not irrevocable if enrollment changes unexpectedly. The plan also includes proposing two capital projects to voters, the first of them this December.

“Renovations to Fairport High School and other district facilities have been

The plan, long in the making, was informed by a district-wide building condition survey. District spokeswoman Jen Merkel said that current second graders would likely be the first students to attend ninth grade at Fairport High School rather than Minerva De-Land.

The fate of the Minerva DeLand building, if it is in fact abandoned, is yet to be decided.

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