**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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LANSING - The Westside Neighborhood Association, The Sexton Parent-Teacher-Student Organization and the Sexton Alumni Association will hold a press conference on Tuesday, January 17th at 11:00 a.m. in the Sexton High School Social Room to address the pending decision of the Lansing School District to close a high school.

The event is a kick-off to a larger campaign to bring transparency and inclusion in this right-sizing process, to present data on the viability of right-sizing plan with Everett and Sexton High Schools staying open, as well as to delay any decision until January 31, 2013.

The Lansing School District has announced their intentions to determine whether Eastern or Sexton High School should be closed at the end of the 2011-2012 academic school year. The Board of Education (BOE) commissioned a community task force to study the issues of redistricting or right-sizing the district. Brian Ralph, Director of Operations is on record as indicating, “We have a strategic plan. We now have to have a right-sizing plan.”

Petitions, social media and community events will follow the press conference in addition to addressing the Board of Education at their Thursday, January 19th meeting in the Administration Building, 519 West Kalamazoo, in downtown Lansing.

District administration has cited decreasing enrollment, budgetary shortfalls and aging buildings as the reasons for the condensed timeframe. Based on three reports commissioned by the BOE since 2002, data supports not only delaying the decision past this month, but also choosing to keep Sexton High School open as the best option in any right-sizing plan for the district.

Additional information and materials will be presented at the press conference.

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