

### Rochester Prep to leave St. Paul site

#### Justin Murphy

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

Rochester Prep High School is vacating its space on St. Paul Street, canceling classes next week to prepare for the move. The school plans to be in the new space on Jan. 2, board President Geoff Rosenberger confirmed Thursday night. Lease details still are being worked out and the location was not disclosed.

The building stands on a former Bausch + Lomb manufacturing site that was designated a brownfield in 2009 due to the presence of trichloroethylene, a carcinogenic chemical solvent that leaked from underground storage tanks. While state and local officials have taken a series of steps to address concerns, and concluded the building was safe through ongoing testing, Mayor Lovely Warren this week urged the charter school and Rochester City School District to find an alternative location, as the concerns had become a distraction for students and teachers. Students left class on Tuesday to march in the rain to RCSD headquarters and demand action.

“The building is safe but it’s pretty clear our students don’t want to be there, so we’re going to accommodate their wishes,” Rosenberger said.

“This is not easy and we have a lot to do in a short period of time.”

School officials are going to have “a long conversation” with Rochester City School District about terms of breaking lease, which runs through June 2018.

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