

4.1 –5TH AND 8TH GRADE REASSIGNMENTS

OPTION No. 4. GRADE BAND RE-CONFIGURATION **4.1 5TH AND 8TH GRADE REASSIGNMENTS**

Description: In order to relieve over-crowding in schools and balance enrollments, the program will take advantage of under-utilized space, reassigning 8th grade students from the middle schools to the high schools, and reassigning 5th grade students from the elementary schools to the middle schools.

Purpose: To balance enrollments in order to provide more equitable opportunities for students.

Planning Assumptions:

- While the State Rated Capacity figures for the middle and high schools indicate that capacity is available to allow this approach to work, the architectural plans for all receiving schools and their schedules will need to be examined carefully to determine if the reassignments are possible. Some spaces may need to be re-purposed or re-designed. Particular attention needs to be given to core facilities like the cafeteria.
- Consideration should be given to establishing 8th grade academies in the high schools.
- Consideration should be given to whether these changes will apply to schools in both the north and the south.
- Separation of age groups will be a key area of concern.
- Special consideration should be given to the Swan Meadow School.
- Redistricting will be required for most 5th graders; redistricting will not be required for the 8th graders (who already attend schools near the two high schools); however, this Option could be combined with the redistricting outlined in Option 3.

Planning Goals Addressed:

- *Address the largest number of the most critical facility deficiencies*
Projects to accommodate the reassigned students are unlikely to address facility deficiencies to any large degree.
- *Improve the learning environment for the largest number of students*
The program will relieve over-crowding in certain elementary schools that have the largest student enrollments.
- *Correct inequities in the quality of facilities*
The program will not have a major impact on building performance issues.
- *Improve the efficiency of operations*
The reduced student population in certain elementary schools will improve the traffic management and safety issues at these schools, without changing the traffic situation at the middle or high schools.

Planning Objectives Addressed:

- *Educational excellence:* The relocations will reduce overcrowding in certain schools, improving the learning environment.
- *Equity:* All 5th and all 8th grade students will be equally affected.
- *Community:* The changes will have little impact on the role of the school in the community.
- *Safety and Security:* Although the renovations required by this program will be secure in themselves, they will have marginal effect on overall building security.

Benefits:

- Involves relatively little capital or operational cost.
- Relieves over-crowding in certain elementary schools, allowing specialized spaces such as music and art to be returned to their original function, and providing more opportunities to use small spaces for one-on-one instruction, small group learning, or other educational functions that require isolation.
- Makes better use of the middle school and high school facilities.

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Detriments:

- There may be community objections to removing the 5th graders from the community for the school day.
- Mixing of different age groups may be difficult and may require special provisions for physical and schedule separation, particularly during arrival/departure, class changes, and use of common spaces, such as the gym, cafeteria, and media center.

Implementation:

- Engage the principals of both the leaving and the receiving schools to fully discuss the educational, schedule, and internal circulation concerns, as well as the special needs of students.
- Define the scope of renovations needed:
 - Develop the designs either in-house or through engaged architectural/engineering services.
 - Implement during the summer months to prepare for the fall semester.
- Seek State and local funding approval, as appropriate:
 - State: FY 20__
 - County:
 - Planning and design: FY 20__
 - Construction: FY 20__
 - Other: grants, donations, etc.
- Develop project designs:
 - Detailed architectural/engineering design
 - Detailed cost projection and schedule for design and construction
 - Project delivery method.
 - Special considerations (safety, special needs students, timing of grant funds, etc.)
- Suggested timeframe (initial round of projects):
 - Design: FY 20__
 - Construction: FY 20__

Budgetary Implications:

- Estimated cost of improvements: \$ _____
- Estimated cost of equipment: \$ _____
- Estimated cost of training: \$ _____
- Misc. other: \$ _____
- **Total** \$ _____