

5.1 – SOUTH: CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OPTION No. 5. SOUTH: CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Description: Reassign students from two or more of the southern area elementary schools into a single school facility. Options include:

- 5.1 Renovate Southern Middle School as an elementary school, assigning the middle school students to available capacity at Southern High School and closing one or more of the existing elementary schools.
- 5.1 Renovate an existing elementary school to receive students from one or more other schools, or build a new elementary school facility, allowing closure of one or more elementary school facilities.

Purpose: To alleviate over-crowding and reduce the total number of school facilities in the south through consolidation into a renovated or new facility.

Planning Assumptions:

- If the Southern Middle School is to be renovated as a new elementary school, there must be sufficient capacity at Southern High School to receive the middle school students, maintaining separation of educational programs and age groups as needed.
- If a new school is to be constructed, a site location must be determined. Phasing may be needed if the new school overlaps the footprint of any existing school facility.
- Since closure of a community school is likely to be viewed negatively by the affected community, it is essential to inform the public on the educational benefits that will result from the program.

Planning Goals Addressed:

- *Address the largest number of the most critical facility deficiencies*
The schools in the south have the largest number of building deficiencies; renovating an existing school or building a new facility while closing one or more most deficient facilities will reduce the number of facility deficiencies.
- *Improve the learning environment for the largest number of students*
Since the elementary schools in the south have the largest enrollments, this program will provide benefits to a large number of students.
- *Correct inequities in the quality of facilities*
A major renovation project or a new school, accompanied by closure of one or more deficient elementary schools, will substantially address inequities in the condition of facilities. The closure of one or more elementary schools will allow operational funds to be re-directed to correct deficiencies and enhance the remaining schools.
- *Improve the efficiency of operations*
Concentrating bus services and maintenance in fewer facilities will improve the efficiency of operations.

Planning Objectives Addressed:

- *Educational excellence:* The improved learning environment will support education.
- *Equity:* The program will correct inequities in the quality of facilities between schools in different parts of the county.
- *Community:* The changes will negatively affect communities by removing one or more elementary schools as community schools.
- *Safety and Security:* Major renovation of an existing school, or construction of a new school, will incorporate up-to-date security features as part of the architectural design and the building systems.

Benefits:

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- Major renovation or new construction will result in a state-of-the-art school, with benefits for the learning environment, the efficiency of operations, the community, and the larger environment.
- A new or fully renovated school will send a positive message about the role of education in Garrett County.
- Closure of one or more schools will result in operational efficiencies.

Detriments:

- Will involve substantial capital cost to implement.
- Closure of one or more of the southern area elementary schools may be opposed by the community.
- Will result in a relatively large elementary school.

Implementation:

- Establish a planning committee to address all issues in advance:
 - Engage the principals of both the leaving and the receiving school to fully discuss the educational, circulation, and schedule, as well as the special needs of students.
 - Engage the community in decisions on the scope of the new work and the closure of existing schools.
 - Develop an educational specification for approval by the Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.
 - Define the scope of work needed for renovation or new construction.
 - Determine the budget requirements for both the capital project and for operation of the new school.
 - Define the schedule for design, construction, and occupancy.
- 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** \$ _____