



Tecton
ARCHITECTS

SCHOOL FACILITIES

MASTER PLAN & RECONFIGURATION STUDY

PUBLIC FORUM

03.04.2020

Website

<https://www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/facilities-study>



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AGENDA

1. Recent BOE action
2. Summary of activities
3. Feedback & Survey data/results
4. Current Options
5. Costs
6. Discussion of Educational Models
7. Recap original Goals of Master Plan

Recent action from the **Board of Education...**

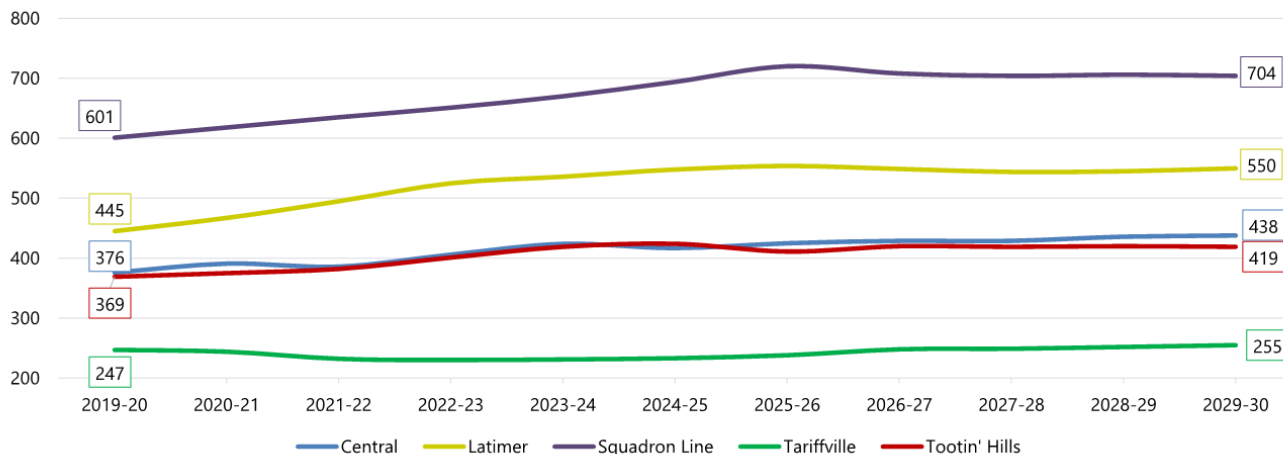
- Removed 5-6 Option from Consideration
- Status Quo – “repair what you have” was taken off the table as an option, this will be needed regardless
- Continue to focus on what is best for the students and community long term while addressing the immediate need strategically.
- Communicate the opportunities and challenges of educational models being considered
- Continue to welcome and digest feedback

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

OUR PROCESS

ELEMENTARY PROJECTIONS / BASED ON MEDIUM

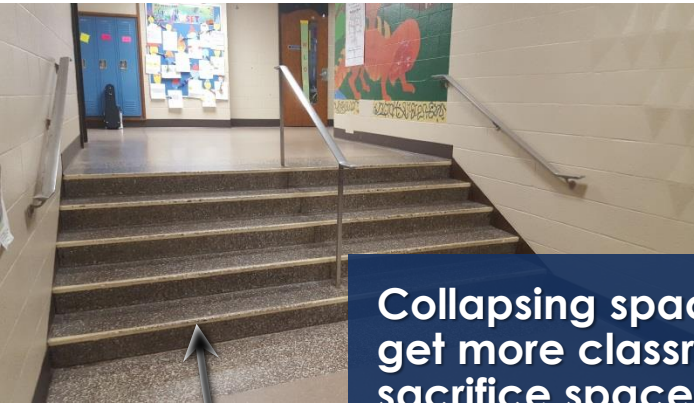
Elementary School Projections (K-6): 2019-20 to 2029-30



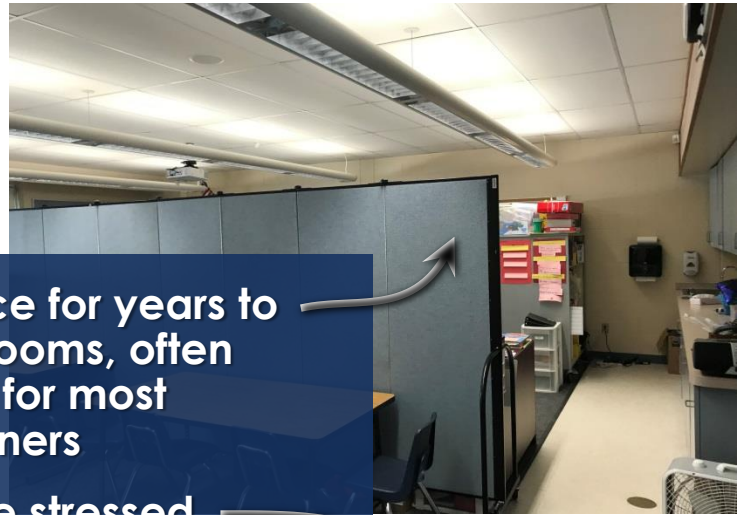
Medium projections model

- **Fastest growth projected at Latimer (23.6%), Squadron Line (17.1%) and Central (16.5%), the three districts with the greatest housing permit activity.**
- Modest growth projected at Tootin' Hills (13.6%), with most of that growth occurring over the next five years.
- Tariffville projected to stay generally stable over the next decade, growing by just 3.2%.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED / IMPACT ON EDUCATION

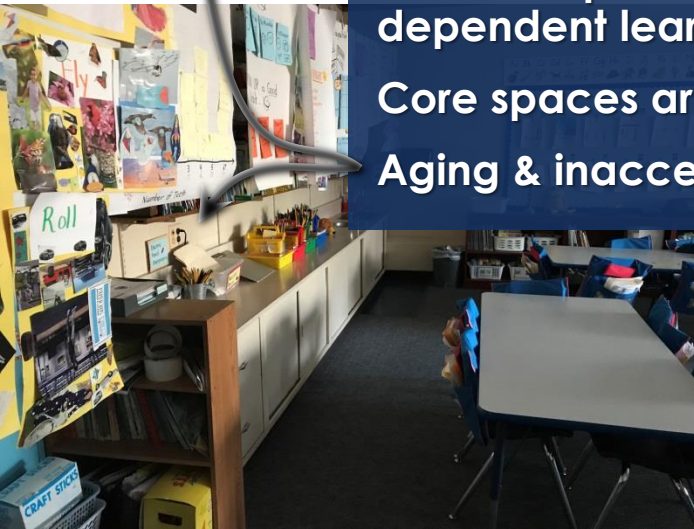


Collapsing space for years to
get more classrooms, often
sacrifice space for most
dependent learners



Core spaces are stressed

Aging & inaccessible space



Feedback from Neighborhood Meetings so far...

- Understand and appreciate the building analysis but would like to learn/hear more about the benefits educationally (research/data) of 5/6 school or 6th in middle school
- Please summarize the educational reasons for new models
- What are other communities doing for grade structure configuration?
- Latimer we have to do something now to address the elementary schools and need to determine best first step with built in flexibility for the long run. **Concerned about now**, but it will take 4 years until we see relief

Feedback from Neighborhood Meetings so far...

- Don't want to support anything that will result in a school closing
- What happens to a vacant building if we consolidate?
- You can't separate conditions and demographics
- Would like more information about logistics of 5 6 or 6th to HJMS model (details on start times, who is riding the bus together, etc.)
- Some concerns about 5th and/or 6th graders being with older kids and those influences. Didn't we look at a 5 6 before?

Feedback from Neighborhood Meetings so far...

- Some people said they moved to town because of K 6 structure
- Models with same sized schools why would you equalize populations? Can't you shift some now by redistricting?
- Have the teachers been involved? You should have the same town hall session with them
- Need to emphasize with people that “doing nothing” still has significant costs in terms of on going maintenance to old buildings

Feedback from Neighborhood Meetings so far...

- Concerns about the capacity of the core spaces for special events cramped spaces and no parking
- Concerns about more multiunit housing being built
- Like the idea of preschool in more buildings not just Squadron
- The elementary schools need to be renovated, they are outdated and many of the spaces are not adequate for today's educational needs.

FEEDBACK & SURVEY DATA

WHAT WE HAVE HEARD

Survey Results

As of February 21, 2020:

Staff responses = 247

Community responses = 1,180

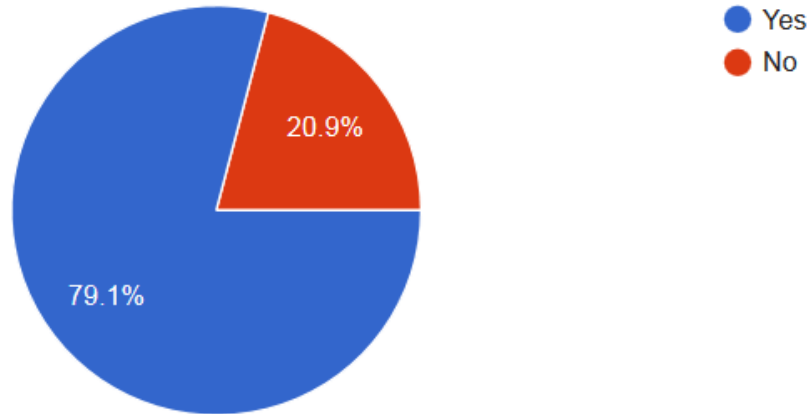


Staff Survey

Staff Survey

3. Would you support a 6th grade addition to Henry James Memorial School?

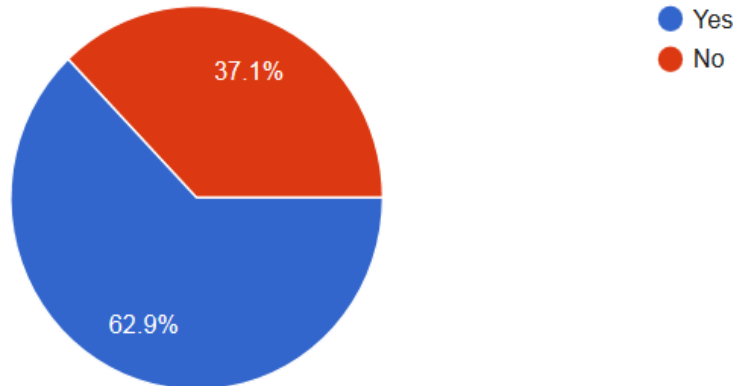
244 responses



Staff Survey

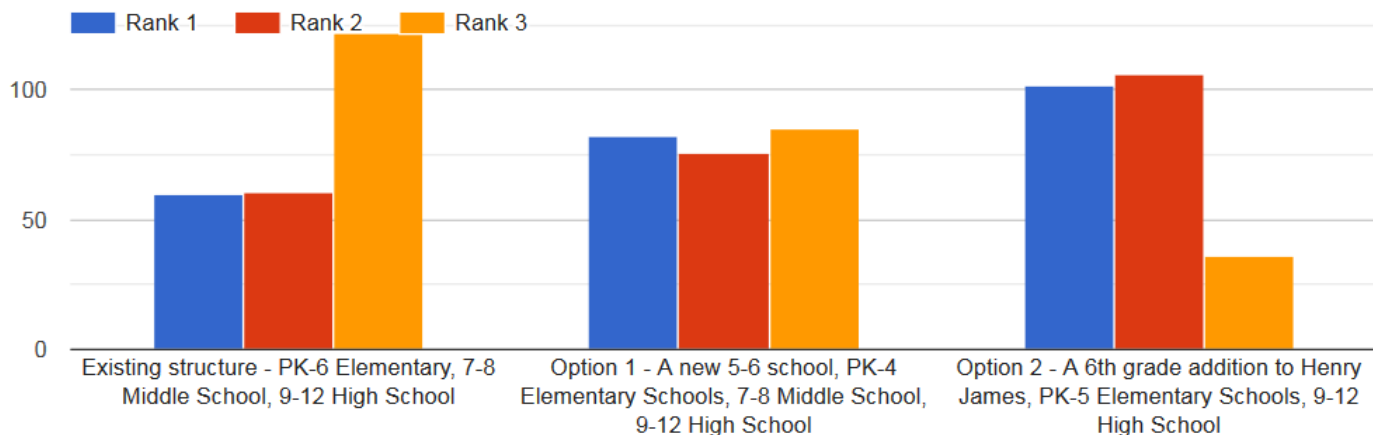
4. Would you support a new 5-6 intermediate school on the Henry James Memorial School site?

245 responses



Staff Survey

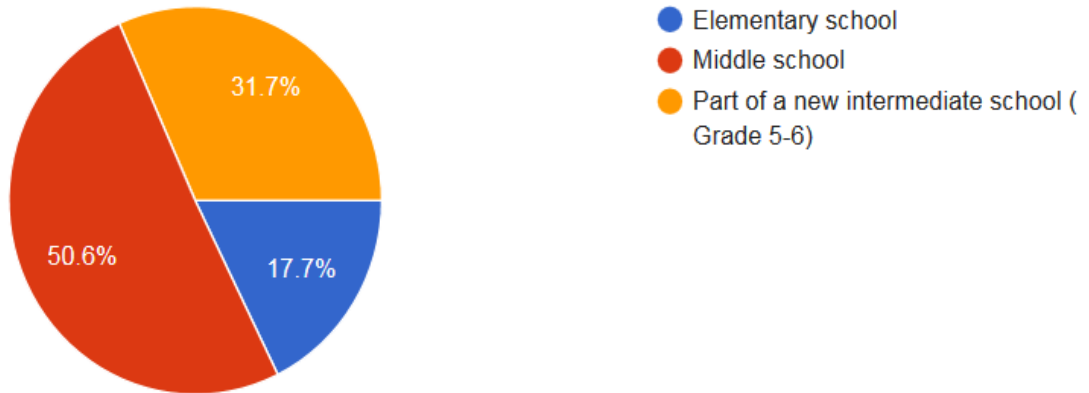
6. The current master planning effort contemplates grade reconfiguration. Please rank from 1 (most desirable) to 3 (least desirable) the potential grade structures below:



Staff Survey

7. Where do you believe the most effective location is for Grade 6?

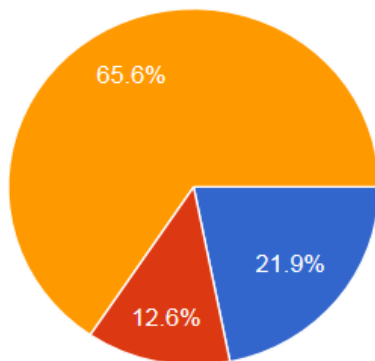
243 responses



Staff Survey

10. In planning for improvements to the physical condition of the schools, what would you rather see?

247 responses



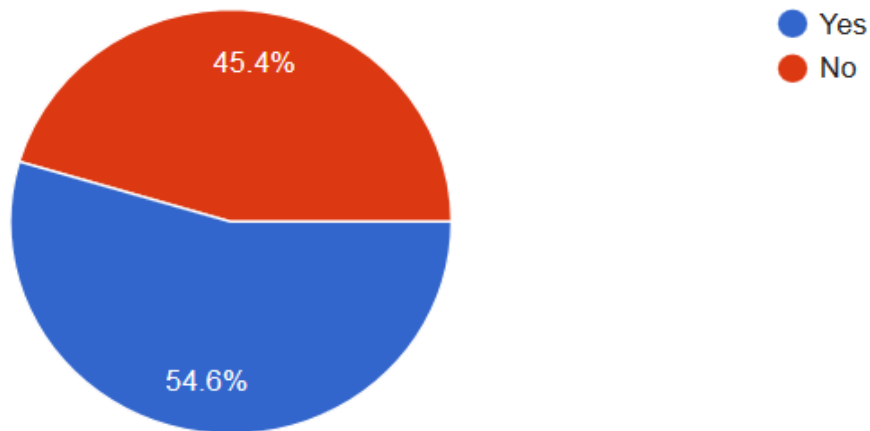
- Additions and renovations
- New School on the same site(s)
- Does not matter as long as needs are addressed

Community Survey

Community Survey

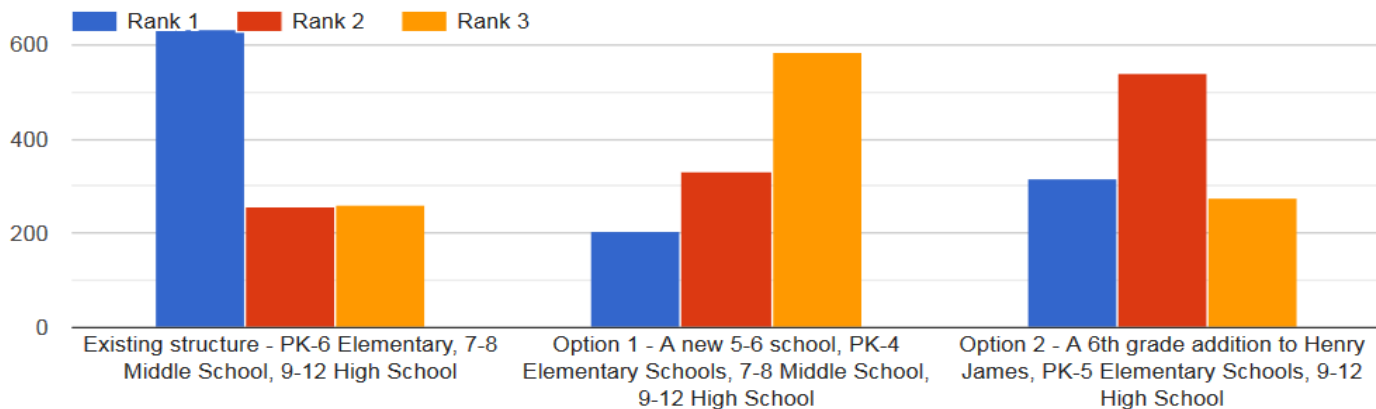
3. Would you support a 6th grade addition to Henry James Memorial School?

1,158 responses



Community Survey

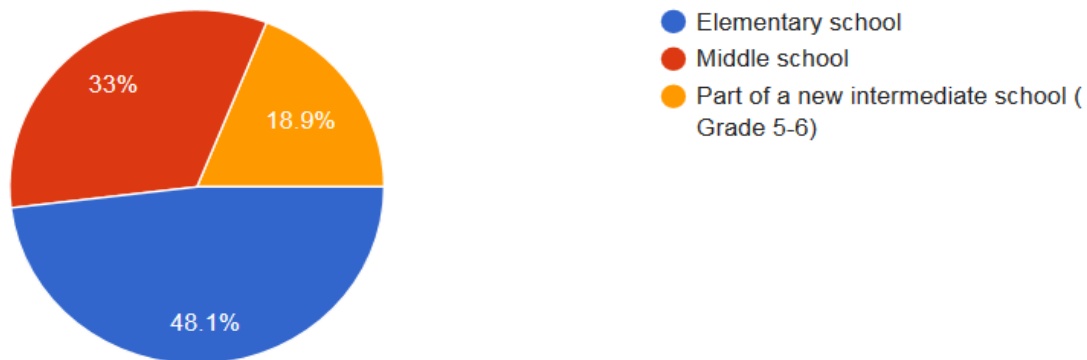
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Community Survey

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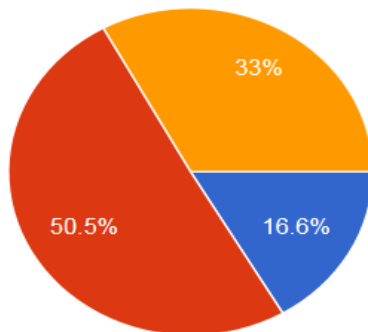
1,162 responses



Community Survey

11. Would you support a long range capital improvement program to address the physical and educational needs of the elementary schools if it meant an increase to your taxes?

1,171 responses



- Yes, the need is clear
- Yes, but needs to be a phased approach to mitigate the tax impact
- No, taxes are too high now

CURRENT OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION



6th Grade Addition + Latimer

Revised enrollment numbers based upon October 2019 demographic projections
utilizing highest enrollment per school through the 2029-30 school year.

6th Grade Addition + Latimer

(No Redistrict)

(Redistrict/Equal)

Building Name	Current Grade Configuration	Current Enrollment	Projected Enrollment	Prop. Grade Configuration	5 PK 5 Elem. Schools, 6 8, 9 12,	5 PK 5 Elem. Schools, 6 8, 9 12,	Proposed Project Type
HENRY JAMES MIDDLE SCHL.	7-8	633	735 (27-28)	6-8	1,128 (735 + 393)	1,128 (735 + 393)	Addition
LATIMER LANE	K-6	445	554 (25-26)	PK-5 (+RSG)	464	399	RAN or New
SQUADRON LINE	PK-6 (+RSG)	601 (+101 PK)	720 (25-26)	PK-5	605	399	RAN or New
CENTRAL SCHOOL	K-6	376	438 (29-30)	PK-5	367	399	RAN or New
TOOTIN HILLS	K-6 (+RSG)	369	424 (24-25)	PK-5 (+RSG)	346	400	RAN or New
TARIFFVILLE	K-6	247	255 (29-30)	PK-5 (+RSG)	216	400	RAN or New
SUBTOTAL		2,671	3,126		3,126	3,126	

Note: Revised enrollment numbers based upon October 2019 demographic projections utilizing highest enrollment per school through the 2029-30 school year.



6th Grade Addition to Henry James / SITE PLAN



What it might look like...

6th Grade Addition to Henry James / FLOOR PLAN



Elementary Renewal

Revised enrollment numbers based upon October 2019 demographic projections
utilizing highest enrollment per school through the 2029-30 school year.

Elementary Renewal

(No Redistrict)

(Redistrict/Equal)

Building Name	Current Grade Configuration	Current Enrollment	Prop. Grade Configuration	Projected Enrollment	Projected Enrollment	Proposed Project Type
HENRY JAMES MIDDLE SCHL.	7-8	633	7-8	735 (27-28)	735	Existing to remain
LATIMER LANE	K-6	445	PK-6 (+RSG)	554 (25-26)	479	RAN or NEW
SQUADRON LINE	PK-6 (+RSG)	601 (+101 PK)	PK-6	720 (25-26)	478	RAN or NEW
CENTRAL SCHOOL	K-6	376	PK-6	438 (29-30)	478	RAN or NEW
TOOTIN HILLS	K-6	369	PK-6 (+RSG)	424 (24-25)	478	RAN or NEW
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SUBTOTAL		2,671		3,126	3,126	

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COSTS FOR OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION



Cost for options (Step 1 Only)

Overall Project Costs

6th Grade Addition + Latimer

\$66,070,773

Scope: 6th Grade Addition (1,128) and Renovate
as New at Latimer (PK 5, 399 Students)

\$49,318,149

Cost to Simsbury after projected
Reimbursement

Elementary Renewal

\$45,466,801

Scope: Renovate as New at
Latimer (PK 6, 554 Students)

\$31,763,107



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COST METHODOLOGY

OUR PROCESS



COSTS – Important Considerations

1. Costs are based upon mid range of historical averages
2. Costs are escalated to mid point of 2022, or the potential mid point of construction for Step 1 of the plan options
3. Adjustments shall be made once a preferred option is selected
4. Does not include impact for operational costs or premium for site logistics for multi phase renovations
5. Reimbursement rate utilized is last published 2018:

Renovate as New ~ 34.64%

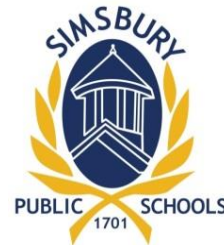
New Construction ~ 24.64%

THE EDUCATIONAL MODELS

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Middle Level Education

SPS Public Forum
March 4, 2020



SPS ~ History of Conversations

— — —

2006-2008: SPS 5-6 Study / Recommendations

- Keep current K-6 elementary school structure
- Specialize where possible-subjects/units-Tandem/Team Teaching
- Teacher collaboration across town (Early Release)
- Work to make Character Education programs relevant to 5th and 6th grade students
- Student leadership opportunities for 5th and 6th grade students at the school level
- Expansion of World Language (Time and grade levels)
- Town-wide Extra-curriculars for 5th and 6th grade students

Long-Term Facilities & Enrollment Task Force

- Ongoing question: If/When should grade 6 be moved to HJMS?

SPS ~ Research

National:

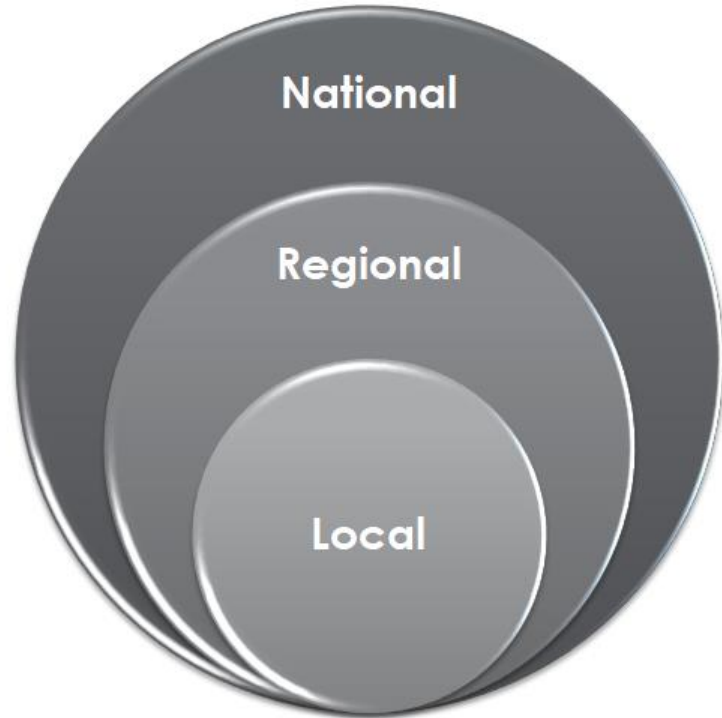
- Literature Review

Regional:

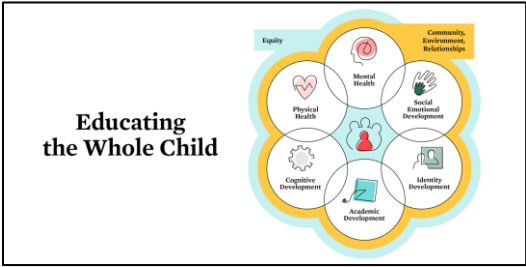
- District Reference Groups (DRG) A & B

Local:

- Survey Results



What is a “Middle School”?



Important Elements When Teaching Adolescents

Every young adolescent...

- Has the capacity to learn, grow, and develop into a knowledgeable, reflective, caring, ethical, and contributing citizen.
- Must have access to the very best programs and practices a school can offer.
- Must be engaged in learning that is relevant, challenging, integrative, and exploratory.
- Faces significant life choices and needs support in making wise and healthy decisions.
- Thrives academically, socially, and emotionally in a democratic learning environment where trust and respect are paramount and where family and community are actively involved.
- Deserves educators who are prepared to work with this age group, who are themselves lifelong learners and committed to their own ongoing professional development and growth.



Literature Regarding Middle Level Education



- Early adolescents - a remarkable stage of life with race, ethnicity, gender, culture, family, community, and environment being influential factors
- Middle Schools are able to address the unique developmental needs of young adolescents
- Teachers can specialize to provide high quality content area focused instruction
- Support staff are also able to specialize to meet the needs of early adolescents. (School Counselor, Psychologist, Social Worker, SRO, etc...)
- Teams of teachers collaborate on projects/learning activities to foster connections and integrate skills across disciplines
- Greater access to extracurriculars/enrichment
- Age appropriate materials in special areas and Library Media Center

Most literature supporting the closing of a middle school supports the need to create K-8 schools instead. Some reasons provided are:

- Moving from one school to another (transition) can adversely affects student performance
- Dip in Standardized Assessment Measures for grade 6 students
- Behavior issues tend to rise in the middle school
- Exposure to older teens may have a negative influence
- Middle school is typically bigger (number of students) than elementary school

CT 6-8 Schools in District Reference Groups (DRG) A & B

DRG A: 6-8 Middle Schools

- Darien
- Easton
- Ridgefield
- Weston
- Westport
- Wilton

Other DRG A Configurations:

- New Canaan 5-8
- Redding 5-8

DRG B: 6-8 Middle Schools

- Region 15
- Fairfield
- Granby
- Greenwich
- Madison
- Monroe
- New Fairfield
- South Windsor
- Trumbull
- West Hartford

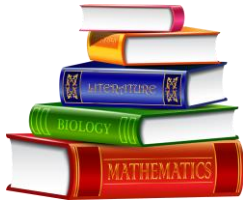
Other DRG B Configurations:

- Avon 5-6, 7-8
- Brookfield 5-8
- Cheshire PK-6, 7-8
- Region 5 7-8
- Farmington 5-6, 7-8
- Glastonbury 6, 7-8
- Guilford 5-6, 7-8
- Newtown 5-6, 7-8



SPS K-12 Administrator & Teacher Feedback

Curriculum



Learning
Environment



Facility



Social
Emotional
Supports

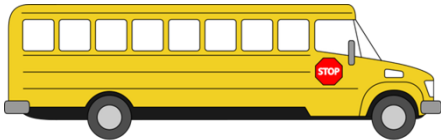


Student & Parent Thoughts

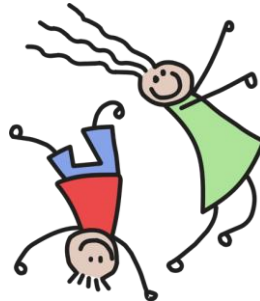
Independence



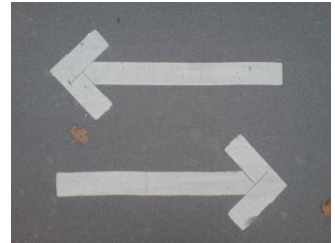
Bus



Staying Young



Transition



Leadership

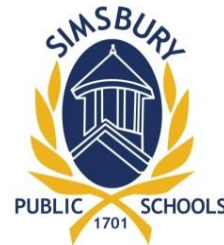


What is gained by bringing 6th to HJMS?

- Teaming / Collaboration
- Consistency of content delivery overseen by department supervisors (Health/Wellness)
- Access to facilities designed for the middle level learner
 - Nurse, Library, Media Center, Maker Lab, Auditorium
- Three years at the middle school:
 - Gradual transition to the high school
 - Connections to the school
 - Staff/student investment
 - Connections with families
- Social/Emotional focus of the school on the early adolescent
- Special Education / High Needs Students
 - Specialized supports targeted to adolescent learning and social /emotional development
- 1:1 Chromebooks
- Age appropriate clubs, activities, and intramurals
- Increased grade 8 leadership opportunities

Middle Level Education

SPS Public Forum
March 4, 2020



Recent action from the **Board of Education...**

- Removed 5-6 Option from Consideration
- Continue to focus on what is best for the students and community long term while addressing the immediate need strategically.
- Communicate the opportunities and challenges of educational models being considered
- Continue to welcome and digest community feedback



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