

Facility and Enrollment Study

June 2, 2015



Committee Members

Board of Education

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Central Office

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Principals

Barbara Gasparine, Principal
Head O'Meadow

Dr. Kathy Gombos,
Principal
Sandy Hook

Anne Uberti, Principal
Reed Intermediate

Thomas Einhorn, Principal
Middle School

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Principal
High School

Problem of Practice

To examine present and projected enrollment and how this study will influence facility needs



Assumptions and Projections

Sandy Hook, Newtown High School, Reed Intermediate

The committee took the following information into consideration:

- Sandy Hook Elementary School will open in 2016–17
- Newtown High School will not be considered for school closing
- Reed Intermediate School will not be considered for school closing
- November 2014 recently completed Enrollment Study represents the most accurate information for the committee to make decisions pertaining to the Problem of Practice
- Projections within the enrollment study were based on the “medium growth” longitudinal data
- Decisions pertaining to facilities were based on “best for students.” The opportunity to maintain and/or enhance education must be present in addition to realized cost savings.

K-3 Options

3 Elementary

RIS

MS

HS

- ▶ K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12
- ▶ K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12
- ▶ K-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-12

K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12

Eliminates one elementary school

▶ Positive:

- Early assembly of cohort grade-level
- 2016-17 projecting 923 students at RIS; attainable without compromising teaching & learning and without the use of portable classrooms (*largest enrollment in 2005-06; 915 students*)
- Projected space constraints are non-existent
- Offers more student opportunity to one of the district's premier school buildings
- Maintains intermediate teaching & learning philosophy

▶ Negative:

- Reconfiguration will require redistricting
- Reconfiguration will close an elementary school

K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12

Eliminates one elementary school

▶ Positive:

- Early assembly of cohort grade-level
- 2016-17 projecting 579 students at RIS; attainable without compromising teaching & learning and without the use of portable classrooms

▶ Negative:

- Offers fewer students the opportunity to be housed in one of district's premier school buildings (*RIS would be at approximately 60% capacity*)
- Reconfiguration will require redistricting
- Reconfiguration will close an elementary school
- Certification concerns grades 6-8
- 2016-17 grade 6-8 enrollment at NMS; 1,089 requires portable classrooms to appropriately support teaching & learning (*largest enrollment in 2007-08; 930 students*)

K-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-12

Eliminates one elementary school

▶ Positive:

- Early assembly of cohort grade-level
- 2016-17 projecting 579 students at RIS and 694 students at Newtown Middle School; attainable without compromising teaching & learning and without the use of portable classrooms
- Possible enhanced opportunities for eighth-grade students

▶ Negative:

- Reconfiguration will require redistricting
- Reconfiguration will close an elementary school
- Certification concerns for grades 6-7
- 2016-17 grade 8-12 reconfiguration will increase enrollment to near capacity; 2,057 (*largest 4-year cohort in 2012-13; 1,764 students*)

K-4 Options

3 Elementary

RIS

MS

HS

▶ K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12

4 Elementary

RIS

HS

▶ K-4, 5-7, 8-12

K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12

Eliminates elementary school

▶ Positive:

- Recognizes declining enrollment
- Greater student capacity at new SHS to consolidate four elementary schools to three

▶ Negative:

- This configuration does not support present enrollment projections
- Reconfiguration will require redistricting
- Reconfiguration will close and elementary school
- Immediate space concerns in three existing elementary schools

K-4, 5-7, 8-12

Eliminates Middle School

▶ Positive:

- Maintains integrity of four elementary schools
- Fewer transitions within the district
- Possible enhanced opportunities for eighth-grade students

▶ Negative:

- Projected 2016-17 grade 5-7 enrollment; 989 students which causes instructional concern and the need for portable classrooms
- Certification concerns pertaining to 5-7 reconfiguration
- 2016-17 grade 8-12 reconfiguration will increase enrollment to near capacity; 2057 (largest 4-year cohort in 2012-13; 1764 students)
- Potentially compromises state-funded, school-based health center
- Limited flexibility for future expansion

K-5 Options

4 Elementary

RIS

HS

▶ K-5, 6-7, 8-12

4 Elementary

RIS

HS

▶ K-5, 6-8, 9-12

K-5, 6-7, 8-12

Eliminate middle school

▶ Positive:

- Eliminates redistricting
- Fewer transitions within the district
- Possible enhanced opportunities for eighth-grade students

▶ Negative:

- Certification concerns for grades 6-7
- Grade 8-12 reconfiguration will increase enrollment to near capacity; 2057 (*largest 4-year cohort in 2012-13; 1,764 students*)
- Delays assembly of grade-level cohort
- Potentially compromises state-funded, school-based health center

K-5, 6-8, 9-12

Eliminates middle school

▶ Positive:

- Maintains integrity of four elementary schools
- Eliminates redistricting
- Fewer transitions within the district

▶ Negative:

- 2016-17 projected enrollment grade 6-8; 1089 requires portable classrooms to appropriately support teaching & learning
- Certification concerns grades 6-8
- Delays assembly of grade-level cohort
- Potentially compromises state-funded, school-based health center



COST SAVINGS/COST AVOIDANCE

IF there was to be a school closing, THEN the following information represents the BOE completely relinquishing the property back to the Town.

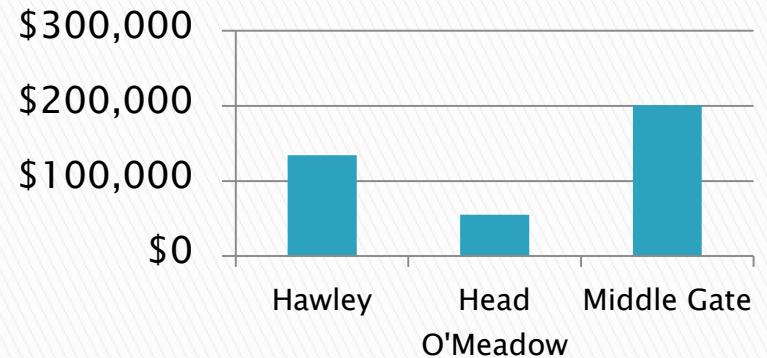
Elementary School Closing Considerations

Cost Avoidance
(projects and CIP)

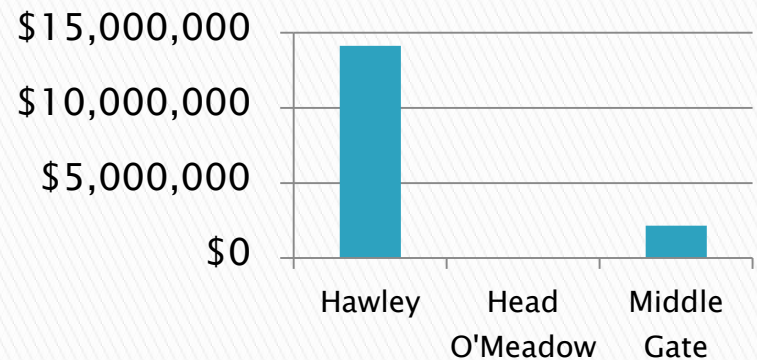
Proximity to New Sandy Hook School
(limited re-districting)

Physical & Environmental
(quality of teaching & learning)

2016-17 Projects



CIP



Hawley Elementary School

▶ Cost Savings/Cost Avoidance

Cost Savings

- Instructional
 - 7.0 FTE classroom savings
\$514,079
 - 2.6 FTE specialists savings
\$179,679
- Non-Certified Salaries
 - \$199,772
- Purchased Services & Plant Operation
 - \$219,050
- Transportation
 - Limited potential to reduce vehicles due to HS/NMS combination

Cost Avoidance

- 2016-17 Projects
 - \$134,500
- CIP Projects
 - 2017/18
 - Roof Replacement
 - \$800,000
 - 2019/20
 - HVAC Phase II
 - \$3,700,000
 - Phase III A
 - \$2,650,000
 - Phase III B
 - \$6,990,000



\$332,474 will be due to the State if closed and building is not re-purposed. (addition project)

Newtown Middle School

▶ Cost Savings / Cost Avoidance

Cost Savings

- Instructional
 - 2.00 FTE classroom savings
\$146,880
 - 6.10 FTE specialists savings
\$458,179
- Non-Certified Salaries
 - \$591,637
- Purchased Services & Plant Operation
 - \$619,030
- Transportation
 - Potential to reduce vehicle(s)
\$62,200


Cost Avoidance

- 2015-16 Projects
 - \$56,000
- 2016-17 Projects
 - \$177,000
- CIP Projects
 - 2017/18
 - Professional services, new boilers & re-piping
 - \$2,200,000
 - 2019/20
 - Ventilation renovations
 - \$4,805,000



\$855,861 will be due to the State if closed and building is not re-purposed. (roof project)

Conclusions

- ▶ Committee endorsement with instructional alignment: (K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12)
 - ▶ Committee endorsement with enrollment projection: (K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12)
 - ▶ Committee endorsement with projected capital needs: (K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12)
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Next Level of Work

- ▶ Continued BOE Conversation/Costs Associated to School Closing
 - ▶ Shared Conversation: Town Officials
 - ▶ Shared Conversation: Municipal Building Strategic Plan Committee
 - ▶ Community Forums
 - ▶ Hawley Fund Fiscal Impact
 - ▶ Further Investigation: Hawley Redistrict
 - ▶ Further Investigation: Transportation
 - ▶ Further Investigation: School Start Time
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