

Red Wing Public Schools
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School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Grade Configurations and Transportation Options
Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Superintendent
Anna Ostendorf, School Board Chair

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action

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Board Information or Report

Background Information

The district is reviewing grade configurations and transportation options for the upcoming school year. The top two options both include a middle school with grades 5-7 at Twin Bluff. The included preliminary transportation-related information assumes a two-tier system with younger students starting first.

A one-tier system is not recommended because of additional buses would be needed to implement the system (at least 5-6 buses for an additional cost of \$425,000-\$510,000+ plus costs associated with renegotiating the transportation contract).

If the board wants middle school and high school students to start before elementary students, routers can present estimated times at an upcoming board meeting.

Superintendent Anderson requested actual bus load counts to determine if Twin Bluff and RWHS could be served on the same tier. Additional adjustments will be considered and made accordingly.

Other factors needed to make an informed decision include personnel changes needed to accommodate budget reduction targets. Over the next two weeks, Jackie Paradis, building leaders, and district leaders will establish a rough draft for budget reconciliation plans.

Recommendation

No action will be taken.

Option 1

Schools	Grades	Rooms Available	Rooms Needed
EC & SES	K-1	20+	16
BES	2-4	24+	22
TBS	5-7	30+	22
RWHS	8-12		

Option 1 Pros:

1. Advantages of grade-level centers:
 - Boundaries not needed.
 - Easier to balance class sizes.
 - Enhanced horizontal alignment between teachers.
 - Each grade together in one building.
 - Demographics of neighborhoods do not impact demographics of schools.
 - Schools built for students assigned.
2. Advantages of middle school:
 - Programming focused on students.
 - Programming helps students explore potential interests.
 - Pathways alternative learning for 6th and 7th graders in one location.
 - 6th grade band and other activities provided in one location.
 - Access to pool for swimming instruction.
3. Other advantages:
 - 2nd graders in same building.

Option 1 Cons:

1. Disadvantages of grade-level centers:
 - Families may have students in up to four schools in a given year.
 - Numerous transitions during elementary years.
 - Bussing more complicated and costly with more transfer buses
 - Longer bus rides for many elementary students.
2. Other disadvantages:
 - 5th graders not in elementary schools.
 - 8th graders not in middle school.
 - 7-12 licensure requirements split teachers between middle school and high school.
 - There are complications if there is a bubble class at Burnside.

Option 1 PRELIMINARY EXAMPLE of Transportation Implications:

School	Grades	Bus Drop-Off	School Times	Bus Arrival
Sunnyside	K-1	7:30	7:40-2:25	2:15
Burnside	2-4	7:45	7:55-2:40	2:30
Twin Bluff	5-7	7:20	7:30-2:15	2:05
RWHS	8-12	8:50	9:00-4:00	3:50

CESO Notes:

- K-7 would ride together. Busses would drop off at TB, then SES, then BES
- Colvill would ride 2nd tier.
- St. Johns would ride 1st tier.
- Need to add busses due to time constraints.
- Students on busses for 75-80 minutes.
- Busses would start picking up kids around 6 am.

Superintendent Comments:

- CESO has been asked to reevaluate this plan to include middle school students and high school students on the same tier. This would be similar to the 2-tier system used a decade ago.
- Additional adjustments need to be made for this plan to be workable.

Costs:

- CESO's estimated costs for 21 busses: $\$8,188.32/\text{day} = \$1,392,014$ (about \$200,000 more than current arrangement).

Option 2

Schools	Grades	Rooms Available	Rooms Needed for Regular
SES BES TBS RWHS	K-4 K-4 5-7 8-12	20+ 24+ 30+	38 Included above 21

Option 2 Pros:

1. Advantages of attendance-zone schools
 - Relationships and social-emotional stability of students enhanced by being in the same building for multiple years.
 - Enhanced vertical alignment between teachers.
 - Families send their children to fewer elementary schools.
 - Transportation system less complicated. Fewer transfer buses, if any. Likely less costly if 2-tier is implemented.
 - Older students serve as role models and leaders of younger students.

2. Advantages of middle school
 - Programming focused on students.
 - Programming helps students explore potential interests.
 - Pathways alternative learning for 6th and 7th graders in one location.
 - 6th grade band and other activities provided in one location.
 - Access to pool for swimming instruction.

Option 2 Cons:

1. Disadvantages of attendance-zone schools:
 - Boundaries may shift yearly.
 - Challenging to have similar class sizes within a particular grade in each school.
 - Additional teachers may be hired to meet class size targets.
 - Imbalances between schools in providing support services such as special education services, English Learner services, Title I.
 - Demographics of neighborhoods impact demographics of schools.
 - Families close to Sunnyside may be bussed to Burnside.
 - Sunnyside built for younger students and Twin Bluff built for older students.

2. Other disadvantages:
 - 5th graders not in elementary school.
 - 8th graders not in middle school.
 - 7-12 licensure requirements split teachers between middle school and high school.
 - Assignments to SES and BES will be different compared to this year
 - Sunnyside would be a neighborhood school with many students bussed to Burnside.

Option 2 PRELIMINARY EXAMPLE of Transportation Implications:

School	Grades	Bus Drop-Off	School Times	Bus Arrival
Sunnyside	K-4	7:45	7:55-2:40	2:30
Burnside	K-4	7:40	7:50-2:35	2:25
Twin Bluff	5-7	7:30	7:40-2:25	2:15
RWHS	8-12	8:50	9:00-4:00	3:50

CESO Notes:

- K-7 would ride together. Busses would drop off at TB, then SES/BES
- Colvill would ride 2nd tier.
- St. Johns would ride 1st tier.
- Need to add busses due to time constraints.
- Students on busses for 60-75 minutes.
- Busses would start picking up kids around 6:15-6:20 am

Superintendent Comments:

- CESO has been asked to reevaluate this plan to include middle school students and high school students on the same tier. This would be similar to the 2-tier system used a decade ago.
- Additional adjustments need to be made for this plan to be workable.

Costs:

- CESO's estimated costs for 18 busses: \$7,018.56/day = \$1,193,155 (similar to this year)