

Red Wing Public Schools
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School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Grade Configurations for 2021-22
Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Chris Palmatier, and George Nemanich

Nature of Action Requested by Board

Board action
Board information or scheduled report

Background Information

On December 21, 2020, the administrative team presented their recommendation for grade configurations for the 2021-22 school year:

- Sunnyside School Grades K-6
- Burnside School Grades K-6
- Twin Bluff School Grades K-6
- Jefferson School Grades K-6, if needed
- Red Wing High School Grades 7-12

Reasons for Recommendation

- We are planning based on the assumption that schools throughout Minnesota will be learning in-person throughout next school year. However, the district needs flexibility because of the changing dynamic of the pandemic. The proposed grade configurations provide that flexibility so the district can implement in-person, hybrid, or distance learning without making another significant transition this summer.
- Administrators believe that planning for long-range grade configurations should begin this summer or fall for implementation in 2022-23. We prefer having two major transitions, not three.

Timing of Decision

Administrators recommend making a decision as soon as possible so other planning and decision-making can promptly take place. For example, high school scheduling and registration, employee assignments, and budget reductions (regardless of grade configurations) should be this spring. These major efforts first need a decision about grade configurations.

Transportation

A preliminary analysis of transportation services shows that at least 1-2 bus routes could be reduced even if all K-6 students have a 1-mile No Bus Zone. Additional analysis is needed to verify assumptions, bus ridership projections, boundary zones, and service needs of students.

Long-Range Planning

Administrators do not have a recommendation for grade configurations beyond 2021-22. Instead, the recommendation is to review the previous grade level center model to see if we should return to that model or implement a new model. This process will take time that is simply not available now for a diligent review with consideration of multiple options.

Issues and Barriers

Principals surveyed staff members about next year and the proposed grade configurations. Chris Palmatier and George Nemanich will present information about major concerns expressed by staff members. Administrators also compiled other questions related to grade configurations that will be addressed with employees.

Recommendation

I move to adopt the following grade configurations for the 2021-22 school year:

- Sunnyside School Grades K-6
- Burnside School Grades K-6
- Twin Bluff School Grades K-6
- Jefferson School Grades K-6, if the board approves use of this building
- Red Wing High School Grades 7-12