

Red Wing Public Schools
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Red Wing, MN 55066



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www.rwps.org

School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Open Forum regarding Grade Configurations
Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Superintendent
Anna Ostendorf, School Board Chair

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action

<input type="checkbox"/>
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Board Information or Report

Background Information

The purpose of this open forum from 6 pm – 7 pm is to hear from community members about possible grade configurations for next year.

Administrators developed and presented numerous to the school board on February 7th. A preference for a middle school model was expressed. The two currently preferred grade configuration options—along with pros and cons—are outlined in this document. Options presented to the school board along with two additional options are included as an extra.

Recommendation

No action will be taken during the public forum.

Option 1

Schools	Grades	Rooms Available	Rooms Needed
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 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.