

Red Wing Public Schools
2451 Eagle Ridge Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066

Red Wing
Public Schools
ISD # 256



Phone 651.385.4500

www.rwps.org

School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Grade Configurations
Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action
Board Information or Report

Background Information

Due to COVID, the district temporarily changed grade configurations for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. The administrative team would like to make changes for the upcoming school year, so multiple scenarios were developed and reviewed. The purpose of this workshop topic is to review and narrow options to guide preparation for future discussions.

Thanks for a grant from the Jones Family Foundation, an educational planner will be hired this spring to help with long-range planning. Ideally, this planning work would have been completed by now, but complications from COVID impacted timing.

Other significant considerations include the following:

- Instructional impact on students
- Transportation (efficiency, 1-tier or 2-tier) options are being reviewed
- Starting and ending times
- Scheduling and staffing
- Early childhood programming
- Colvill starting and ending times
- Kids Junction, including wrap-around care

Criteria for Administrator Recommendations include the following:

- Instructional impact on students
- Compatibility with long-range planning
- Preference for middle school
- Preference for 5th graders to be in elementary schools
- Relieve overcrowding at high school

Recommendation

No action will be taken during the workshop.

Option A

| Schools | Grades | Rooms Available | Rooms Needed |
|---------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| SES | K-2 | 20+ | 21 |
| BES | 2-5 | 24+ | 25 |
| TBS | 6-8 | 30+ | 21 |
| RWHS | 9-12 | | |

Option A Pros:

- 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.
- 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.
- Other advantages:
 - Supports Community Schools Model in Red Wing High School.
 - 5th graders in elementary schools and 8th graders in middle school.
 - Traditional middle school serving students in grades 6-8.
 - Strong model for Flightpaths and social-emotional supports in middle school.
 - Red Wing High School focus on grades 9-12.

Option A Cons:

- 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.
- Other disadvantages:
 - Some classes may need to be assigned from Sunnyside to either Burnside or Twin Bluff depending on students coming back from 5RO or selecting other schools.
 - This year's 7th graders move back to Twin Bluff for one year.
 - 8th grade teachers relocated to a different building.

Option B

| Schools | Grades | Rooms Available | Rooms Needed |
|---------|--------|-----------------|----------------|
| SES | K-5 | 20+ | 46 |
| BES | K-5 | 24+ | Included above |
| TBS | 6-8 | 30+ | 21+ |
| RWHS | 9-12 | | |

Option B 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.

3. Other advantages:
 - Supports Community Schools Model in Red Wing High School.
 - 5th graders in elementary schools and 8th graders in middle school.
 - Traditional middle school serving students in grades 6-8.
 - Strong model for Flightpaths and social-emotional supports in middle school.
 - Red Wing High School focus on grades 9-12.

Option B 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:
 - Some classes may need to be assigned from Sunnyside to either Burnside or Twin Bluff depending on students coming back from 5RO or selecting other schools.
 - This year's 7th graders would move back to Twin Bluff for one year.
 - 8th grade teachers relocated to a different building.

Option C

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

Option C 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 C 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 D

This was the pre-COVID configuration.

| Schools | Grades | Rooms Available | Rooms Needed |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| SES BES TBS RWHS | K-2 2-4 5-7 8-12 | 20+ 24+ 30+ | 38 Included above 21 |

Option D Pros:

- 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.
- 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 D Cons:

- 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.
- Other disadvantages:
 - 2nd graders in two locations.
 - 5th graders not in elementary schools.
 - 8th graders not in middle school.
 - 7-12 licensure requirements split teachers between middle school and high school.

Option E

| 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 E 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 E 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 F

| Schools | Grades | Rooms Available | Rooms Needed |
|---------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SES | K-5 | 20+ | 46 |
| BES | K-5 | 24+ | Included above |
| TBS | K-8 | 30+ | Included above+21 |
| RWHS | 9-12 | | |

Option F 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.

3. Other advantages:
 - Supports Community Schools Model in Red Wing High School.
 - 5th graders in elementary schools and 8th graders in middle school.
 - Traditional middle school serving students in grades 6-8.
 - Strong model for Flightpaths and social-emotional supports in middle school.
 - Red Wing High School focus on grades 9-12.

Option F 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:
 - 8th grade teachers relocated to a different building.

Option G

| Schools | Grades | Rooms Available | Rooms Needed |
|---------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| SES | K-2 | 20+ | 23 |
| BES | 3-4 | 24+ | 15 |
| TBS | 5-7 | 30+ | 22 |
| RWHS | 8-12 | | |

Option G 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 G 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 school.
 - 8th graders not in middle school.
 - 7-12 licensure requirements split teachers between middle school and high school.

Option H

This is the current configuration implemented due to COVID.

| Schools | Grades | Rooms Available | Rooms Needed |
|---------|--------|-----------------|----------------|
| SES | K-6 | 20+ | 53+ |
| BES | K-6 | 24+ | Included above |
| TBS | K-6 | 30+ | Included above |
| RWHS | 7-12 | | |

Option H 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. Other advantages:
 - After two years of constant change, this would result in the least amount of change for the upcoming year. Significant changes would occur after the long-range education plan is developed.
 - Teachers with secondary school licenses would teach in the same building, so traveling teachers are limited.

Option H 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. Red Wing High School is very tight.
 - If additional teachers added, they may need to share classrooms.
 - No options for additional support services.
 - Some specialists and services (such as English Learner classroom) not in ideal spaces.
 - Lunchroom spaces are full.
3. Other disadvantages:
 - Students in 6th and 7th grades do not have access the Pathways Alternative Learning Center in one location.
 - Programming such as 6th grade band and after-school activities not in one location.
 - Pool easily accessible only to 6th graders at Twin Bluff.
 - Difficult to provide additional instructional and social-emotional support for 5th and 6th graders because they are in multiple buildings.

Option I

This option is not viable for 2022-23 because of building improvements needed for Jefferson.

| Schools | Grades | Rooms Available | Rooms Needed |
|---------|--------|-----------------|----------------|
| JES | K-5 | 10 | 46+ |
| SES | K-5 | 20 | Included above |
| BES | K-5 | 24 | Included above |
| TBS | 6-8 | 30 | 21 |
| RWHS | 9-12 | | |

Option I 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.
3. Other advantages:
 - Supports “Community Schools Model” in Red Wing High School.
 - 5th graders in elementary schools and 8th graders in middle school.
 - Traditional middle school serving students in grades 6-8.
 - Strong model for Flightpaths and social-emotional supports in middle school.
 - Red Wing High School focus on grades 9-12.

Option I 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:
 - Additional cost of \$200,000-\$300,000/year to reopen Jefferson.
 - Additional one-time facility costs.
 - Might not be sustainable.
 - 8th grade teachers relocated to a different building.

Option J

This option is not viable for 2022-23 because of building improvements needed for Jefferson.

| Schools | Grades | Rooms Available | Rooms Needed |
|---------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| JES | EC-K | 12 | EC+8 |
| SES | 1-2 | 20 | 15 |
| BES | 3-5 | 24 | 23 |
| TBS | 6-8 | 30 | 22 |
| RWHS | 9-12 | | |

Option J 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:
 - Supports “Community Schools Model” in Red Wing High School.
 - 5th graders in elementary schools and 8th graders in middle school.
 - Traditional middle school serving students in grades 6-8.
 - Strong model for Flightpaths and social-emotional supports in middle school.
 - Red Wing High School focus on grades 9-12.
 - Jefferson could be used for expanded early childhood programming.

Option J 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:
 - Additional cost of \$200,000-\$300,000/year to reopen Jefferson.
 - Additional one-time facility costs.
 - Might not be sustainable.
 - 8th grade teachers relocated to a different building.