



Elementary Building Use Task Force Report

School Committee Meeting
February 25, 2013

Two Studies

- Space Utilization Study (February 24, 2012): Identified areas of concern primarily involving specialist and common areas with Happy Hollow of greatest concern.
- Follow Up Study (June 4, 2012): Identified interior construction projects at Happy Hollow that would mitigate some space utilization problems.

The Issue

- Space is tight as it is now configured.
- Although enrollment is projected to go down, it spiked places, mostly at K (30 over) and Grade 3 at Claypit Hill (11 over).
- The district needs to be prepared, and not get caught off guard if these spikes continue.

The Charge

- The charge of the Task Force was to identify options and priorities regarding the utilization of elementary space, and conduct a cost/benefit analysis for each option to ensure an equitable, high quality educational program for all students.

Composition of the Task Force

- **3 Current Parents** – One from each Elementary School
- **3 Community Members** – One from each of the three elementary school districts as they were previously constituted.
- **3 Teachers**
- **3 Elementary Principals**
- **3 Central Office Administrators:** Director of Student Services, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent
- **1 School Committee Member**

What Went Into the Process

- **The Elementary Building Use Task Force Meetings** – Held 10, approximately 2-hour long meetings.
- **New Projections** – Don Kennedy from NESDEC conducts new analysis of enrollment projections, reflecting upward movement.
- **New Residency Maps** –Town staff developed new residency maps showing households with students by grade level.
- **Call for Public Input** – Press release yielded email correspondence from community members directly to the Task Force
- **Call for Staff Input** – Progress update to staff plus meetings with the Superintendent at each building yielded feedback for the Task Force
- **Open Public Meeting** – On October 24, presentation was made to the public regarding progress of the Task Force.

The Work: An Overview

- **Gathering Information**
- **Drawing on the Wisdom of the Task Force Members**
- **Drawing on Public and Staff Feedback**
- **Determining Variables**
- **Establishing Options**
- **Lessons from the Public Meeting**
- **Research and Analysis of Each Option's Variables**
- **Narrowing Options Using Weighted Variables**

The Variables

- Impact on the whole child, along with specific implications for children, staff, families, and community
- Overall cost
- Class size
- Staffing needs
- Future flexibility
- Implications for implementation and roll out of any changes
- Educational equity
- Resulting use of existing space & any construction requirements
- Transportation
- Feasibility given enrollment
- Redistricting

Six Identified Options

- **Grade Level Schools** – Each of the three buildings would house two grade levels: K-1, 2-3, 4-5
- **K -5 Schools** – Each building houses a K-5 school.
- **Current Configuration** – Loker: K, Claypit Hill: 1-5, Happy Hollow: 1-5
- **Current Plus a Grade 1 Split** – Loker: K + Grade 1 Students in Happy Hollow District, Happy Hollow: 2-5, Claypit Hill: 1-5
- **Lower Elementary** – Loker: K-1, Claypit Hill: 2-5, Happy Hollow: 2-5
- **Upper Elementary** – One school would be 4-5, the other two schools would be K-3

Lessons from the Public Meeting

- **Vision** – The Task Force reviewed the schools’ core value statements, the district’s mission and core value statements, and other documents to assure that the variables aligned with the vision of elementary schooling in Wayland.
- **Weighted Values** – The Task Force weighed each variable, assigning a percent value to each variable which, added together totaled 100 percent. These were averaged to arrive at a weighted value for each variable.
- **Limitations of Analysis** – The Task Force acknowledged that these were rough approximations of a scientific review and analysis, yet appropriate to the timetable at hand.

The Matrix

	Current Configuration	Grade Level Schools	K-5 Schools	Current + Split Grade I	Lower Elementary School	Upper Elementary School
	LK: K, HH: 1-5, CH: 1-5	K-1, 2-3, 4-5	K-5	LK: K and HH1, HH: 2-5, CH: 1-5	LK: K-1, HH: 2-5, CH:2-5	K-3 in two schools, 4-5 in one school
Staffing Needs						
Class Size						
Impact on the Whole Child: Children, Staff, Families&Community						
Transportation						
Educational Equity						
Cost						
6 Other Variables...						

The Matrix Worksheet

Elementary Building Use Options by Variable	
Options	Variable
Current Configuration	
Grade Level Schools	
K - 5	
Current + Split Grade I	
Lower Elementary School	
Upper Elementary School	

The Variables (Weighted)

- Impact on the whole child, along with specific implications for children, staff, families, and community (23)
- Academic Impact (21)
- Overall cost (10)
- Class size (8)
- Staffing needs (7)
- Future flexibility (7)
- Implications for implementation and roll out of any changes (6)
- Educational equity (6)
- Resulting use of existing space & any construction requirements (4)
- Transportation (4)
- Feasibility given enrollment (4)
- Redistricting (2)

Elementary Building Use Rating Sheet

(1=very negative impact, 2=negative impact, 3=neutral impact, 4=positive impact, 5=very positive impact)

Variables	Options					
	Current Configuration	Grade Level Schools	K-5 Schools	Current + Split Grade I	Lower Elementary School	Upper Elementary School
Implementation and Rollout						
Impact on the Whole Child						
Academic Impact						
Class Size						
Staffing						
Future Flexibility						
Redistricting						
Space Use						
Transportation						
Educational Equity						
Feasibility						
Total Cost						

K-5 Option

Each of the three buildings would house students in Grades K-5, within its geographic catchment area.

Lower Elementary Option

- Loker would house all K and Grade 1 students.
- Happy Hollow and Claypit Hill would each house Grades 2 - 5.

Upper Elementary Option

- One school would house all the Grade 4 and Grade 5 students.
- The remaining two buildings would each house students in Grades K – 3.

Timeline

The current enrollment projections, even after taking into consideration unexpected increases at the kindergarten level, do not require the district to make a hasty permanent change by next September.

Therefore, the recommendation of the Task Force is to hold off any permanent change -- so that it can be chosen carefully and executed judiciously -- until September, 2014 at the earliest.

Next Steps

- New School Committee Charge
- New Task Force
- Research into the 3 options
- More detailed cost/benefit analysis of 3 options
- Continued public and staff input
- Recommendation for top choice
- Recommendation for implementation and timeline
- School Committee Vote