

# Middle School Reconfiguration

Why and  
What It Might Look Like  
February 24, 2009

# Original Middle School Design

---

- Up to 600 students
- Six teams with 4 sections each (24)
- 13 Unified Arts positions
- Six certified support positions
- Eight special needs teachers

# Our Current Configuration

---

- Was designed in 2003-2005
- Works with our current population
- Two parallel middle schools
- Grade 6 has 3-member teams
- Grades 7 & 8 have split-grade looping teams

# Now We Face

---

- Substantially restricted revenue
  - Economic downturn
  - State Aid frozen at best
  - Property Tax cap
  - Substantial losses in town revenue
- Need to capture all possible efficiencies

# Where Is Our Budget At Risk?

- State Aid
  - Projected level – 10% is one million \$
- Property tax Appropriation
  - Goal of a 2% increase - level is one million \$
- Health care
  - Up to \$1 million potentially available
  - Trending negatively through mid-February

# Federal Stimulus

- Still no certainty
- 2006 maintenance of effort (\$ 9,948,816)
- If you assume –
  - Earlier distribution is used
  - State does not seek maintenance waiver
- We end up about where we are budgeted

# In Our Current Configuration

- 23% student decline
- 25% reduction in classroom teachers
- 13% reduction in special education teachers
- 8% reduction in unified arts teachers
- 0% reduction in certified support positions
- 16% overall reduction

# Where are the Savings?

---

- No reductions in classroom positions
- Two support positions
- Five unified arts positions
- Two special needs positions
- Non-certified support positions



# How Can We Make Proportional Reductions?

- Part time personnel
- Split staff between schools
- Reorganize

# Original vs. Grades 7/8 School

- Up to 600 students
  - Six teams with 4 sections each (24)
  - 13 Unified Arts positions
  - Six certified support positions
  - Eight special needs teachers
- 572 students
  - Six teams with 4 sections each (24)
  - 13 Unified Arts positions
  - Six certified support positions
  - Eight special needs teachers

# Grade 6 vs. Grades 7/8 School

- 290 students
  - 12 sections – hybrid structure
  - Five Unified Arts positions
  - Three certified support positions
  - Four special needs teachers
- 572 students
  - Six teams with 4 sections each (24)
  - 13 Unified Arts positions
  - Six certified support positions
  - Eight special needs teachers

## In the Grades 7/8 School

- Retain team structure, basic schedule
- Can keep looping
- Split (grades 7 & 8) teams unnecessary
  - Ending requires break in loop for half
  - Students retain cohort with change in team
- Is it better to integrate the school populations?
- Add one Unified Art (math support?)

# Creating a Grade 6 School

- Hard to replicate current model in a smaller school due to unified arts
- Seeking increase in math instruction time
- Better in a middle school?
  - Specialized rooms
  - Core facility
  - Community needs gymnasium
  - Slightly higher utility costs

## One Option

- “Pods” of two teachers (literacy and math) serving three student sections
- Every two “pods” share one social studies and one science teacher
- Supported by one reading and four special needs teachers (reading teacher has no UA responsibility)

# Grade Six School Team Organization

Section	Math	Literacy	Social Studies	Science
1	Math 1	Literacy 1	Soc St 1	Science 1
2	Math 1	Literacy 1	Soc St 1	Science 1
3	Math 1	Literacy 1	Soc St 1	Science 1
4	Math 2	Literacy 2	Soc St 1	Science 1
5	Math 2	Literacy 2	Soc St 1	Science 1
6	Math 2	Literacy 2	Soc St 1	Science 1
7	Math 3	Literacy 3	Soc St 2	Science 2
8	Math 3	Literacy 3	Soc St 2	Science 2
9	Math 3	Literacy 3	Soc St 2	Science 2
10	Math 4	Literacy 4	Soc St 2	Science 2
11	Math 4	Literacy 4	Soc St 2	Science 2
12	Math 4	Literacy 4	Soc St 2	Science 2

# Grade 6 Student Schedule

Block	Schedule 1 (day, week, eighth)	Schedule 2 (day, week, eighth)
One	Math	Math
Two	Literacy	Literacy
Three	Social Studies	Science



# Classroom Teacher Schedule

- Subject specialists
  - (literacy, math, social studies science)
- Three daily instructional blocks of approximately 75 minutes each
- Three sections of students seen daily
- One preparation each day

# Unified Arts Staffing

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Music	0	0	0	0.5
Band, etc.	1	1	1	1
PE (Health?)	1.2	2	1.4	1.2
Guidance	1	0.5	1	1
Library	0.6	0.6	1	1
Art	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5.3</b>

# Option Variables

---

- Option A
  - provides contractual requirement for elementary schedule
- Option D
  - Provides common planning time to meet 2012 state middle school regulatory requirements (4 sessions of 30 minutes per week)

# Unified Arts Schedule

7:43	8:10	Learning Center/Advisory
8:13	9:13	Period 1
9:16	10:16	Period 2
10:19	11:19	Period 3
11:22	12:52	Period 4 and lunch
12:55	1:55	Period 5

# Support Staff

---

- 1 Administrator
- 1 School Nurse-Teacher
- 1 Reading Specialist
- 4 Special Needs Teachers

# Middle School Regulations

- As much like a MS as possible
  - Individual Learning Plan
  - Advisory
  - 15 hours professional development
  - Weekly common planning time
  - *Four sessions CPT by 2012*
  - *No reductions in current CPT*