

School Configuration

**Community Forum
December 2011**

Forum Plan

We will present some background information on the configuration topic.

We will outline some of the current challenges we are facing with our current configuration, and district financial condition.

We will then present a summary of the findings from the Facilities and Finance Committee, and some committee members will share their thoughts.

Finally, We will review the timeline for making this decision before taking time for questions and comments.



Introduction/Background

Why are we here?

We all want the best possible education for all our children in District 24.

Our current configuration presents challenges in delivering an equitable education across the district.

Our district faces extraordinary financial challenges.

We want to answer the following question, “Will an alternate grade configuration allow the staff to deliver the best education possible for all of our students on a daily basis?”

The Process

The School Board initiated the strategic planning process.

The Strategic Planning Process revealed the need to investigate the possibility of alternative grade configurations.

The Facilities and Finance Committee was formed and was charged with the investigating the topic as a portion of their goals.

The Facilities and Finance Committee presented their findings to the Board on December 5.

The School Board will make a final decision at the January 18 Board meeting.



Current Challenges

K-8 Model

Class Size Balancing Across the District



A reduction of 2 homerooms from 2011/12

					Central				West			
K	130	32.50	4	2012/13	K	95	31.67	3	K	35	35.00	1
1	124	31.00	4		1	87	29.00	3	1	37	37.00	1
2	136	27.20	5	K-5 Enroll	2	104	26.00	4	2	32	32.00	1
3	177	29.50	6	928	3	128	32.00	4	3	49	24.50	2
4	172	28.67	6		4	122	30.50	4	4	50	25.00	2
5	189	31.50	6	6-8 Enroll	5	135	33.75	4	5	54	27.00	2
6	212	35.33	6	586	6	145	36.25	4	6	67	33.50	2
7	197	32.83	6		7	141	35.25	4	7	56	28.00	2
8	177	35.40	5		8	112	37.33	3	8	65	32.50	2
Totals	1514	31.54	48		Totals	1069	32.39	33	Totals	445	29.67	15

This slide shows what would likely happen for next year in each grade level if we maintain our current student to teacher ratio. The Kindergarten numbers are an ESTIMATE based on the Lake County birthrate to the average attendance ratio at Millburn.

Class Size Balancing Across the District

					Central				West			
K	130	26.00	5	2012/13 K-5 Enroll 928 6-8 Enroll 586	K	95	23.75	4	K	35	35.00	1
1	124	24.80	5		1	87	29.00	3	1	37	18.50	2
2	136	27.20	5		2	104	26.00	4	2	32	32.00	1
3	177	29.50	6		3	128	32.00	4	3	49	24.50	2
4	172	28.67	6		4	122	30.50	4	4	50	25.00	2
5	189	31.50	6		5	135	33.75	4	5	54	27.00	2
6	212	35.33	6		6	145	36.25	4	6	67	33.50	2
7	197	32.83	6		7	141	35.25	4	7	56	28.00	2
8	177	35.40	5		8	112	37.33	3	8	65	32.50	2
Totals	1514	30.28	50		Totals	1069	31.44	34	Totals	445	27.81	16

This slide shows the impact of what would happen for next year if we maintain 50 homeroom sections as we have this year. The difficulty becomes where to place staff members to help in areas of greatest need relative to class size. Note the discrepancy between the first grade section at West and the first grade section at Central, and the discrepancy between the Kindergarten sections.

Section Inequities in Middle School



The number of students in class sections have wide ranges
are significantly discrepant from the number of students
in sections between schools.

The number of sections offered at each grade level is larger at
Millburn Central than Millburn West.

Middle School Sections – 6th

SUBJECT	CENTRAL	WEST
SCIENCE	27, 33, 36, 38	25, 26
SOCIAL STUDIES	31, 34, 34, 34	22, 24
MATH	19, 22, 23, 32, 34	12, 18, 22
LITERATURE	16, 16, 30, 32, 33	9, 21, 21
LANGUAGE ARTS	30, 32, 33, 36	26, 26

The range is from 9 to 26 at West.

The range is from 16 to 38 at Central

Middle School Sections – 7th



SUBJECT	CENTRAL	WEST
SCIENCE	27, 27, 29, 30	30, 32
SOCIAL STUDIES	27, 27, 34, 28	30, 32
MATH	24, 27, 27, 32	21, 22, 18
LITERATURE	25, 27, 27, 31	30, 32
LANGUAGE ARTS	24, 26, 29, 32	32, 28



The range is from 18 to 32 at West.

The range is from 24 to 34 at Central

Middle School Sections – 8th

SUBJECT	CENTRAL	WEST
SCIENCE	25, 27, 28, 29	21, 24, 26
SOCIAL STUDIES	25, 26, 27, 31	21, 24, 26
MATH	14, 16, 20, 28, 29	15, 15, 19, 23
LITERATURE	22, 26, 28, 30	22, 22, 24
LANGUAGE ARTS	26, 26, 27, 27	21, 24, 23

The range is from 15 to 26 at West.

The range is from 14 to 31 at Central

Service Delivery Inequities K-8

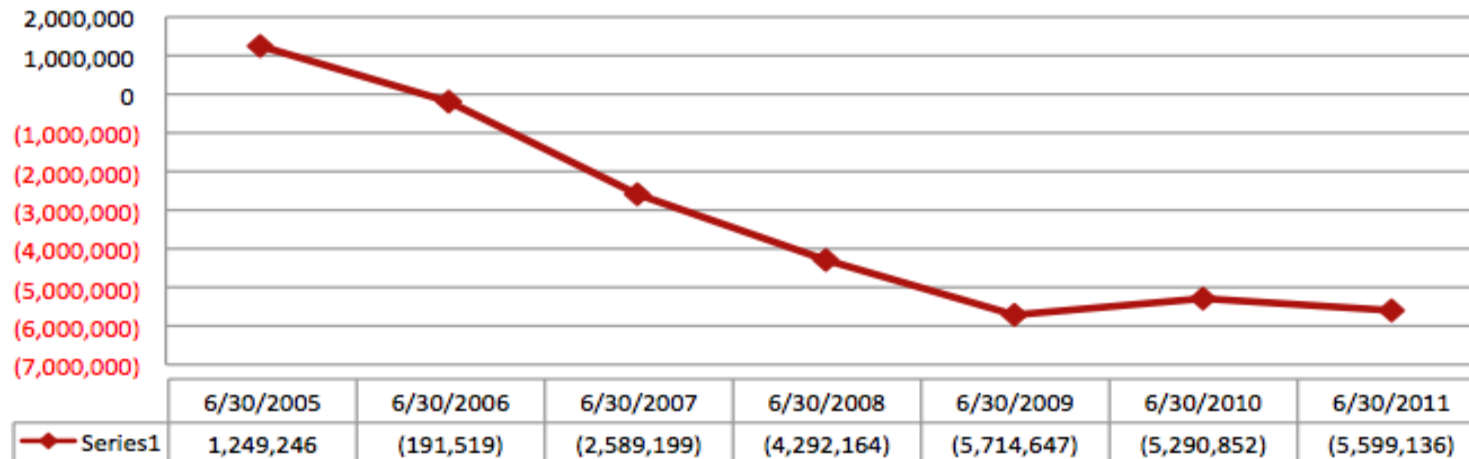
Students in AIM at West may have limited opportunity to be in groups with like-minded peers. (only 2 AIM students in one grade)

Students in accelerated math at West may be in groups with a wider ability range.

Students with high math ability at Central may not qualify for accelerated math.

Current Financial Condition

Millburn District 24 Operating Funds Ending Balance Modified Accrual Basis As of June 30, 2011





Facilities and Finance Committee

Summary of Findings

Facilities & Finance Committee

- ◆ Group of eleven volunteer community members including parents from both West and Central as well as teachers and administration members

Facilities and Finance

Goal #1 – Objective #1

- ◆ Maximize the utilization of facilities and faculty to enhance and/or maintain quality of student learning
 - ◆ Complete a comprehensive investigation of both financial and non-financial costs associated with the building configurations

School Configuration

Financial Considerations

Transportation Costs

Staffing Efficiencies

Activities/Electives

Required Transformations/Building Updates

Efficiencies in Building Utilization

Elimination of Duplicate Resources

School Configuration

Non Financial Considerations

Scheduling

Educational Experience

Electives/Activities and
Specials

**Parent Involvement and
Community Impact**

Instructional Time

Time at School and on Bus

Social and Emotional Impacts

Property Value

Discipline

Expansion Flexibility

School Configuration

Advantages of K-8 Configuration

Students and parents have a higher comfort level

Performance tends to drop when a transition to a new building occurs, however the effects for most students are not long term

Some sixth and seventh grade students have shown greater improvement in math/reading in a K-8 configuration, but these same studies show the groups had identical testing results in ninth grade

Older students act as role models for younger students

School Configuration

Advantages of K-8 Configuration

Students may participate in peer mentoring programs

K-8 schools tend to maintain higher levels of parent involvement

Fewer suspensions and better attendance in K-8 school

All children in a family on the same daily schedule

School Configuration

Advantages of Grade Level Center Configuration

There is financial benefit of approximately \$225,000

Allows Millburn families to unite under same school structure

Distributes resources and student population more equitably

More classrooms per grade means more opportunities to match students to teachers according to learning and teaching styles

Opportunities for teacher collaboration or mentoring

Improved elementary and middle school scheduling

School Configuration

Advantages of Grade Level Center Configuration

Greater opportunity for elective or exploratory courses

Reduce lower grade exposure to poor upper grade behavior

Grading periods will be uniform within each building (trimesters / quarters)

Services to special education students are more consistent in a grade level center configuration

Middle school allows opportunity to build positive relationships; this bonding is the groundwork for future academic success and personal/social development

School Configuration

Other Areas of Consideration

Rezoning within the current district boundaries

Consolidating into one building

School Configuration

Summary

Changing the school configuration alone will not significantly improve the financial position of our School District.

For the current school year, the budget for the operating funds is anticipated to be in the black. However, from FY 2006 – FY 2009, the district had an annual deficit ranging from (\$1.4) to (\$2.4 million). The cumulative deficit on a modified accrual basis as of 6/30/11 was (\$5.6 million).

Community support is critical to the success of any changes within the district. It is imperative the community be educated on our financial situation, specifically, the lack of revenue and any possible additional reductions.

School Configuration

Summary

The community has a vested interest not only for their children, but their property values are directly affected by school performance, also.

School performance is influenced by:

- Family socioeconomic status

- Quality of teaching staff and staff development

- School Leadership

- Instructional programs and supplemental services

Decision Making Timeline



The School Board initiated the strategic planning process during the 2010-11 school year.

The topic of grade configuration emerged as an important issue as a result of a community survey and community engagement day on May 21.

The Facilities and Finance sub-committee was formed in August of 2011, and they were charged with investigating the grade configuration topic.

Timeline Cont.

The Facilities and Finance Committee began meeting on September 7th to investigate the ideal grade configuration for Millburn.

The Community provided direction to the Committee during the September community forums.

The administration and school board asked the committee to present the results of their investigation to the School Board at the December 5 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The School Board was asked by administration to have the decision made in January of 2012 in order to make plans for the upcoming school year.

The Facilities and Finance Committee presented their findings to the school board at the December 5 meeting.

Next Steps

The Board has received feedback from the Facilities and Finance Committee, the teaching staff, and the administration.

The Board has received feedback from the community in the form of a survey, and community forums.

The Board would like to receive additional feedback from the community after the community has been given additional information.

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