

The Facilities Study Committee III, as was the case with studies I and II, has thoroughly studied the implications of Scenarios I, 2, and 3 as identified in the Charge to the committee. Additionally, the Unified Arts sub-committee, as requested by the Board, has provided a thorough analysis of the current Unified Arts Programs, specifically the World Languages program, as well as a comprehensive set of recommendations with regards to current and potential Unified Arts programs.

In addition to each sub-committee's findings, the full committee made recommendations that we believe provide the School Board with a set of essential actions that are necessary prior to determining any reconfiguration of the Derry schools; most importantly, a clearly articulated plan for the future of the Derry School District, through an updated Strategic Plan that identifies what the schools should look like in both the short and long term. Additionally, the committee recommends a thorough review of the technology infrastructure of the district as articulated in the Technology sub-committee report.

Recommendations made by the full committee or any of the sub-committees, are based on the information reviewed and are simply that- recommendations. While the committee feels strongly about those recommendations, we understand that any actions based on them clearly rests with the Board.

Following the presentation of our Final Report and Recommendations on October 10th the Board requested a Fact Sheet outlining the Pros/Cons and projected costs of implementing Scenario 2 which includes the grades 5-6/7-8 model. The Core Curriculum sub-committee met on Tuesday, November 17th to review Scenario 2 and determined that implementation of that scenario, while achievable, confronts us with many factors that must be considered prior to implementation scenario 2, or any of the scenarios studied by the committee. These factors have been identified on the Fact Sheet.

During the course of our discussion on Tuesday, the sub committee reviewed the enrollments for the district and found that, in the short term, both GHH and WRB would be able to accommodate grades 5-6/7-8 using both middle schools in the school year 2019-20. However, because of the higher enrollment numbers in the near term, both GHHMS and WRBMS would be at, or near, capacity. On further review the sub-committee determined that after the 2020-21 school year both schools would be under populated in terms of space available because of the "bubble" that currently exists in grades 5 & 6 (total of 818 students). It should be noted that if we were to remain with our current 6-8 middle configuration, the middle schools will be even more under populated at that time as a result of only having three grade levels enrolled as opposed to four grades 5-6/7-8.

In the short-term, the grades 5-6/7-8 model may work if the details of curriculum adjustments, school renovations (WRBMS), redistricting, etc. can be resolved. In the long-term, however, that model would result in challenges in how to use the additional classrooms space that would become available at both middle schools following the elimination of the "bubble".

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