

Special Meeting to Render a Determination on Proposed School Building Closings - Northport High School Auditorium (Thursday, April 29, 2021)

Generated by Beth M Nystrom on Friday, May 7, 2021

Members present

David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Members absent

None

Also present

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Irene McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Dana Boshnack, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Mr. Robert Howard, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Louis Bonadonna, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

Mr. John Gross, Ingerman Smith, LLP, Board Counsel

Public Attendance: 50 people in-person, approximately 480 virtually

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Badanes called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. IF NECESSARY, THE CHAIR MAY ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION - Note: It is anticipated that the Board will meet in public in the Faculty Dining Room at Northport High School at 6:00 p.m. to act upon a resolution, upon majority vote, to immediately convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to potential litigation.

Action: 2.01 Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to potential litigation.

Motion by David Badanes, second by Allison C Noonan.

Final Resolution: Motion passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

At 7:17 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the auditorium at Northport High School.

3. Mr. Badanes led those present in the **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**; and

4. Pointed out the **EMERGENCY EXITS**

5 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUILDING CLOSINGS

Mr. Robert Banzer, Superintendent of Schools, stated that the district has been working on this for years and that he is aware of the concerns on both sides. He thanked the community for their input. The LIPA settlement is a very serious consideration along with declining enrollment. What can the district do into the future to be able to withstand the continued financial concerns that are upon us and maintain the high quality education program the community expects for the children. Mr. Banzer acknowledged the work of the Board, the administration, and the collaborative process that involved the community. The Board of Education believes in the importance of community engagement and feedback from the community.

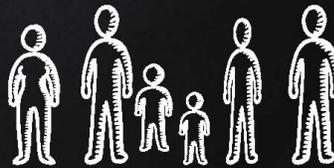
Superintendent Banzer gave the following presentation on the Educational Impact Statement.



Board of Education Meeting

District Reorganization & Building Closures

April 29, 2021
7:00 pm

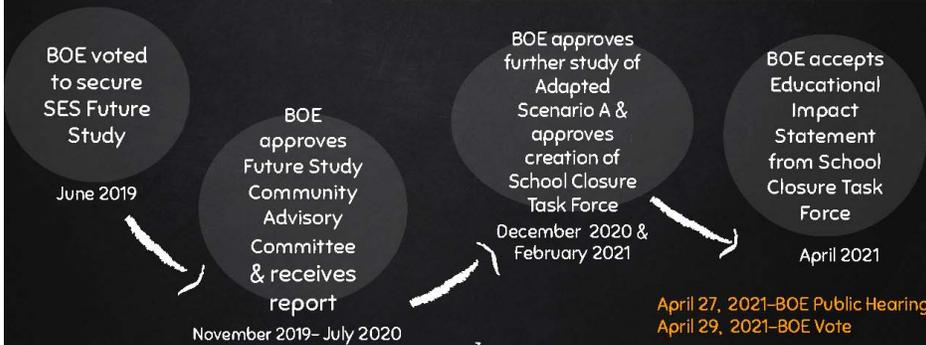


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OUR PROCESS

ENGAGEMENT
&
FEEDBACK

Board approved Committees
Information Sessions
Thought Exchange
Public Hearing



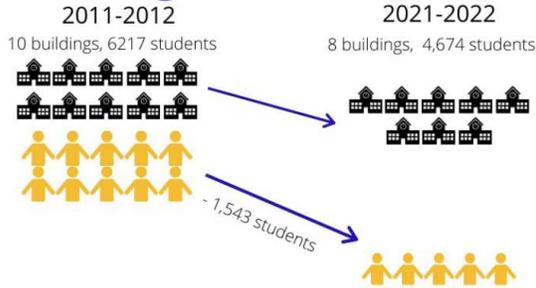
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THANK YOU!

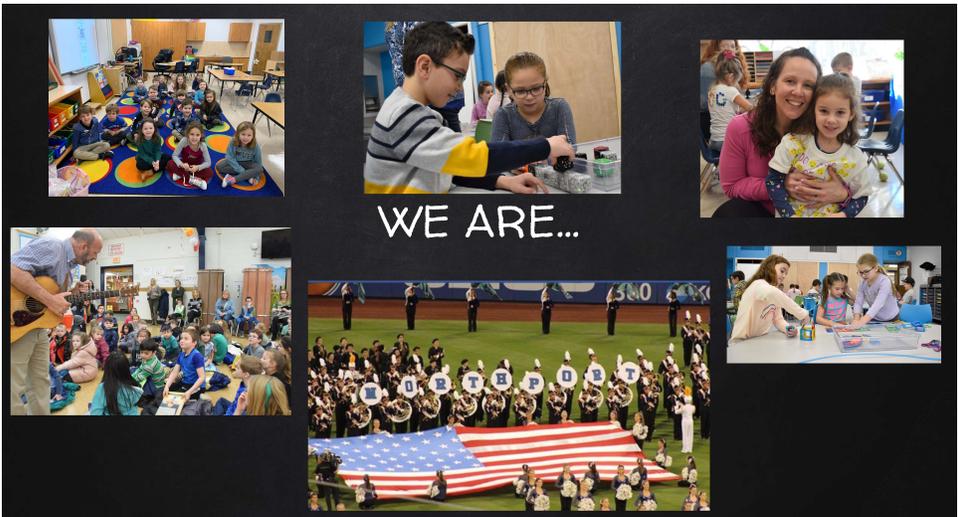
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COST TO PAUSE	FTE Adds	Per FTE	TOTAL
Teachers K-5- (Does not account for COVID Salaries & benefits included)	14	100,000	1,400,000
Clerical	4	60,000	240,000
Security	4	36,000	144,000
Custodians	4	83,170	332,680
Administrators	2	219,000	438,000
Teacher Aides (Non 1:1's)	14	46,000	644,000
Teaching Assistants	10	52,000	520,000
Nurses	2	83,000	166,000
Counselors	0	100,000	0
School Psych's	0	100,000	0
Social Worker	0	100,000	0
Special Education Teachers half day ICT	0	100,000	0
Utility Costs			63,000
Maintenance + Supply Costs			114,000
Educational Supplies & Contract Services			98,397
			4,160,077
2022-23 Costs			
Unemployment costs due to layoffs	54	13,000	702,000
Additional Considerations			
Special Education Teachers full day ICT	5	100,000	500,000

Declining Enrollment

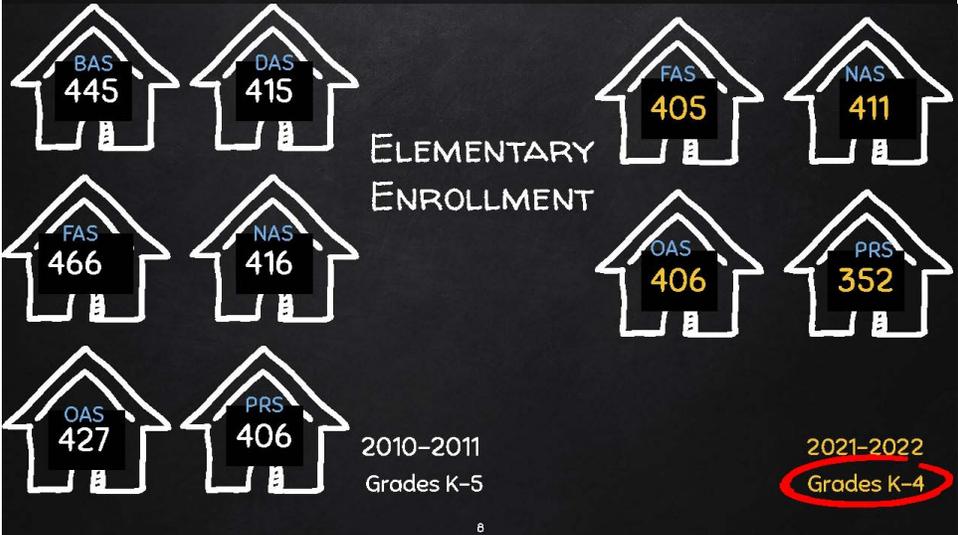


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WE ARE...

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HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



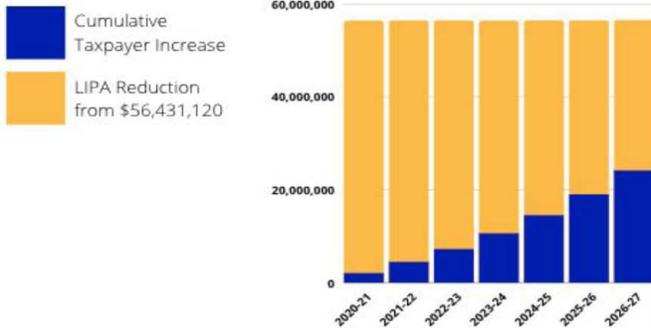
2010-2011
Grades 9-12



2021-2022
Grades 9-12

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Tax Burden Shift:



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & FEEDBACK

PER BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL
FORMATION OF TWO COMMITTEES OVER TWO YEAR PERIOD
INCLUDED:

- COMMUNITY: MEMBERS SELECTED BY DEMOGRAPHICS
- STAFF: TEACHERS, SUPPORT STAFF ADMINISTRATORS
- BOARD OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

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EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

- The “background” contains information about the work of the Community Advisory Committee and SES Study Team prior to the formation of the Task Force.
- The “district’s response to the charge” is a combination of information and data from the SES Study and the work of the Task Force, organized according to the charge.
- A brief summary and conclusion is provided in the EIS.
- The meeting agendas, summaries, and minutes are included in the full statement as well.
- The entire EIS is available for review on the district website

CONCLUSION

“THE COMMITTEE HAS DETERMINED THAT THIS SCENARIO AFFORDS THE DISTRICT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER AND ENHANCE THE EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS AND ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO MITIGATE FISCAL CONCERNS FOR THE DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY.”

Pg. 15, EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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SCHOOL VISITATIONS:

- THREE WEEK WINDOW: MAY 24TH- JUNE 11TH
- AFTER SCHOOL
- SMALL GROUP VISITATIONS FOR INCOMING FAMILIES
- COMMUNICATION WILL COME FROM BUILDING PRINCIPALS
- ADDITIONAL ORIENTATION/WELCOME IN LATE AUGUST PRIOR TO THE START OF SCHOOL

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WHAT DOES THIS PLAN MEAN FOR OUR:

K-4 STUDENTS?

- INCREASED STEM OPPORTUNITIES
- MAINTAINING SMALL CLASS SIZES
- FULL DAY INTEGRATED CO-TEACHING PROGRAM
- FULL-TIME ART TEACHER PER BUILDING
- VARIETY OF WELCOME PROCEDURES, INCLUDING IN-PERSON ORIENTATION



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WHAT DOES THIS PLAN MEAN FOR OUR:

FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS?

- WORLD LANGUAGE EXPLORATORY COURSE
- INCREASED BAND AND ORCHESTRA TIME
- INCREASED STEM OPPORTUNITIES
- INSULATED IN SEPARATE HALLWAYS & 5/6 BATHROOMS
- FULL DAY INTEGRATED CO-TEACHING PROGRAM
- FULL TIME 5TH GRADE COUNSELOR
- SUPPORT STAFF REDEPLOYED TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL STUDENTS (NURSES, TEACHER AIDES ETC.)
- IN-PERSON ORIENTATIONS



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WHAT DOES THIS PLAN MEAN FOR:

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES?

- FULL DAY INTEGRATED CO-TEACHING PROGRAM OPTIONS AVAILABLE K-4
 - OCEAN/NORWOOD
 - PULASKI/FIFTH
- FULL DAY INTEGRATED CO-TEACHING PROGRAM 5TH GRADE FOR ALL ACADEMIC CLASSES
- REDUCED RATIO OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT STAFF TO STUDENT
- DESIGNATED FULL-TIME 5TH GRADE COUNSELOR AT EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL
- SUPPORT STAFF REDEPLOYED TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL STUDENTS (NURSES, TEACHER AIDES ETC.)

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WHAT DOES THIS PLAN MEAN FOR OUR:

SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

PROVIDES STRUCTURAL CHANGE THAT:

- MAINTAINS/ENHANCES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THAT MEETS THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY
- ADDRESSES DECLINING ENROLLMENT
- POSITIONS THE DISTRICT FOR FUTURE FINANCIAL STABILITY

-SAVINGS OF \$6.9 MILLION AFTER REDEPLOYMENT OF FUNDS FOR ENHANCEMENTS

-APPROXIMATELY \$336 FOR THE AVERAGE TAXPAYER (HOUSE ASSESSED VALUE AT 3,800) FOR NEXT YEAR AND EVERY SUBSEQUENT YEAR.

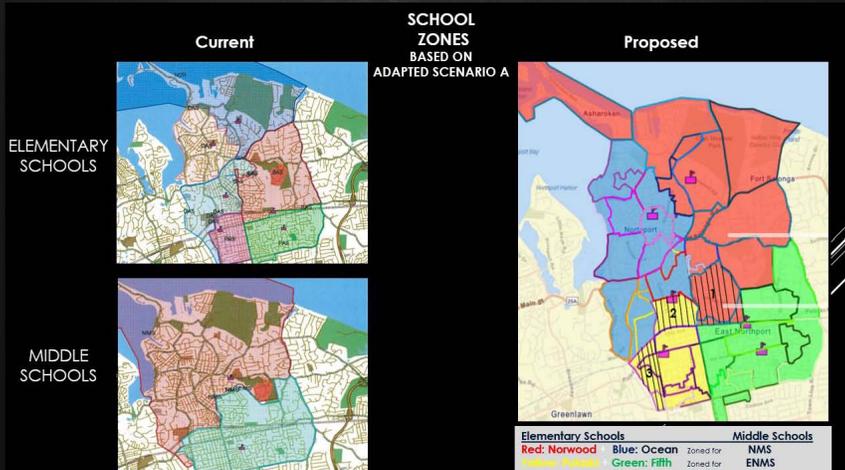
-REDUCED THE PER PUPIL COST BY APPROXIMATELY \$1,400.

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COMMON QUESTIONS:

- CAN WE CARRY OUT THIS PLAN UNDER THE CURRENT COVID-19 GUIDANCE?
 - ANSWER: YES
- WHAT ABOUT VARIANCES?
 - ANSWER: AFTER AN INITIAL REVIEW, WE EXPECT TO GRANT MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE REQUESTS. FAMILIES WILL BE NOTIFIED FOLLOWING THE APRIL 29TH BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING (WEEK OF MAY 3RD).

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SCHOOL ZONE INFORMATION
 by address:

FUTURE STUDY

Interactive School locator
 Type in address to find Elementary & Middle School

SCHOOL ZONE INFORMATION

#1
 North = Valley Rd.
 West = Vernon Valley
 South = Train tracks
 East = Vets Park

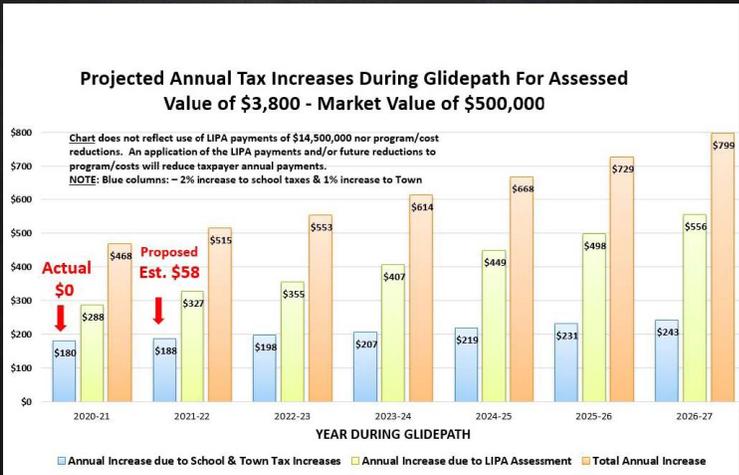
#2
 North = Dickinson Ave.
 West = Elwood Rd.
 South = Train tracks
 East = Laurel Rd.(W)

#3
 North = Train Tracks
 West = Stony Hollow Rd.
 South = Clay Pitts Rd.
 East = Elwood Rd.

Elementary Schools: Red: Norwood, Blue: Ocean, Yellow: Fulford, Green: Fifth
 Middle Schools: Zoned for NMS, ENMS

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Grades K- 4 Sample Schedule 1 Core Teacher	Grade 5 Draft Schedule - *Every Day* 2 Core Teachers	Grade 6 Draft Schedule - *A day / B day* 3-4 Core Teachers	
	Band/Orchestra	Band/Orchestra	Band/Orchestra
SPECIALS	Reading / Writing	ELA	ELA
FLEX	Reading / Writing	ELA	Math 2
Reading	LUNCH	Special	Special
Reading	Social Studies*	Lunch	Lunch
Lunch	Science*	Math	Math
Lunch	**Special (art/music)/ PE/ Lib/Health	Math	Math
Math	World Language/STEM/ Chorus / FLEX	Science	Science
Science/SS/ Band & Orchestra (1x a wk.)	Math	Elective Wheel	Elective Wheel
Writing/ Chorus (1x a wk.)	Math 2	Social Studies	Social Studies



FISCAL PLANNING IN OUR CURRENT REALITY

LIPA Settlement

SCHOOL CLOSURE
Advisory Task Force

District Reorganization & Enhanced Program

Planning for Capital Projects

Capital & Maintenance Planning

ENROLLMENT HISTORY

Enrollment Decline

PRIORITY:
Maintain the diversity and excellence of education programs.

Class size goals and program vision must be maintained. Options all ensure schools are practicable given the enrollment projections and the school district building resources available.

Stable use of Fund Balance & Reserves

State Aid

School Reopening Plans

Pandemic Planning

Tax Levy History under the "Tax Cap"

Year	Rate	Millage	% Change	1/100ths Levied
2010-11	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2011-12	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2012-13	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2013-14	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2014-15	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2015-16	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2016-17	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2017-18	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2018-19	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2019-20	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
2020-21	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000
Average	1.96%	1.96%	0.0%	11,960,000

Tax Levy Limit

Salaries & Benefits

Category	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Salaries	10,000,000	10,500,000	11,000,000	11,500,000	12,000,000
Benefits	2,000,000	2,100,000	2,200,000	2,300,000	2,400,000
Total	12,000,000	12,600,000	13,200,000	13,800,000	14,400,000

Mandated cost increases mostly offset by retirement incentive

PROJECT TOTALS	total project cost	Description
BELLEROSE	\$2,753,641	
DICKINSON	\$6,194,651	
ENMS	\$4,275,973	
5TH AVE	\$5,985,189	
HIGH SCHOOL	\$26,636,760	
NORWOOD	\$6,420,762	
NMS	\$9,148,129	
OCEAN AVENUE	\$4,376,140	
PULASKI	\$6,464,593	
WIB	\$6,108,792	
Total Building Costs	\$80,364,630	

Pupil Capacity

	Contractual Guidelines 2006	Administrative Guidelines 2009
Grade K*	23	20
Grade 1	23	22
Grade 2	23	22
Grade 3	23	23
Grade 4	26	24
Grade 5	26	25

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GRADE LEVEL	SCHOOL	AVERAGE GRADE LEVEL SECTION SIZE RANK: ORDERED LOWEST TO HIGHEST BY SCHOOL Year	NET DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LOWEST AND HIGHEST GRADE LEVEL AVERAGE CLASS SIZE AMONG THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
KINDERGARTEN	Norwood	15	Grade Kindergarten Equity Gap: 3.3 pupils. 22% difference low to high
	Dickinson	17	
	Fifth Ave	17	
	Ocean	17	
	Pulaski	18	
	Bellerose	18.3	
GRADE 1	Dickinson	14.75	Grade One Equity Gap: 7.75 pupils. 52.5% difference low to high
	Pulaski	17.75	
	Bellerose	17.7	
	Fifth Ave	17.7	
	Ocean	18.3	
GRADE 2	Ocean	16.5	Grade Two Equity Gap: 5.2 pupils. 31.5% difference low to high
	Bellerose	17.7	
	Dickinson	19	
	Norwood	19.5	
	Pulaski	20.3	
GRADE 3	Bellerose	17	Grade Three Equity Gap: 3.3 pupils. 19.4% difference low to high
	Dickinson	17	
	Ocean	17.3	
	Fifth Ave	17.5	
	Norwood	18.7	
GRADE 4	Pulaski	17.7	Grade Four Equity Gap: 4.8 pupils. 27.1% difference low to high
	Dickinson	18.25	
	Norwood	18.3	
	Ocean	19	
	Pulaski	19.25	
GRADE 5	Dickinson	16.5	Grade Five Equity Gap: 5.7 pupils. 35% difference low to high
	Fifth Ave	18.1	
	Ocean	19.3	
	Norwood	19.5	
	Pulaski	20	
Bellerose	22		

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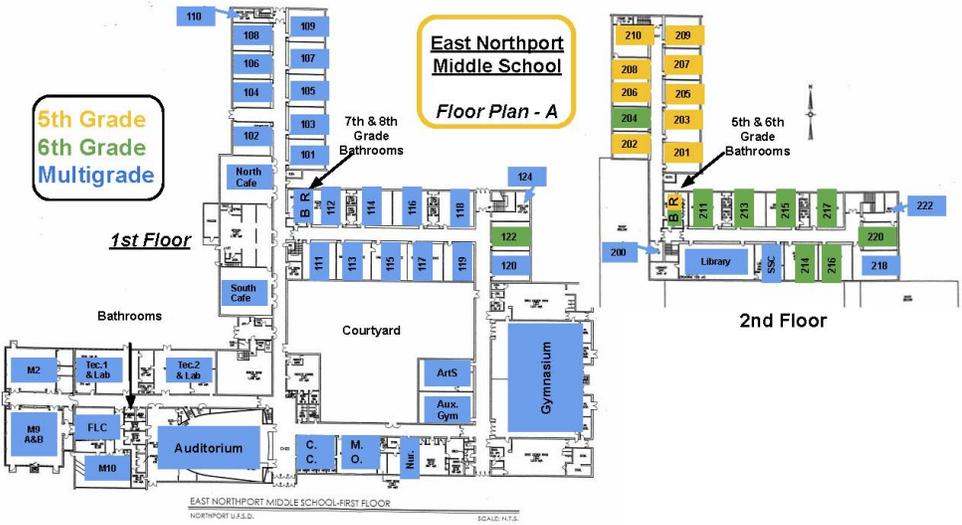
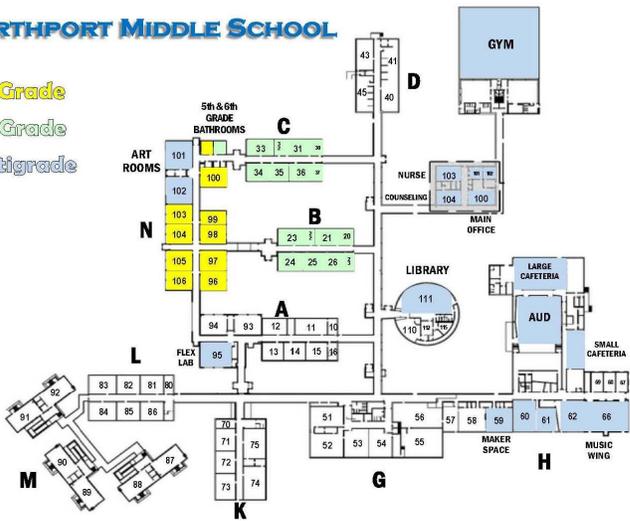
Out of the 109 class sections serving grades Kindergarten through grade 5 pupils in 2019-2020, the number of grade level sections that are:

Below the functional class size guidelines of the district	At the functional class size guidelines of the district	Above the functional class size guidelines of the district
105	2	2
96.3%	1.8%	1.8%
Below the functional class size guidelines of the district by over 10%		Above the functional class size guidelines of the district by over 10%
88		0
83.8%		0%

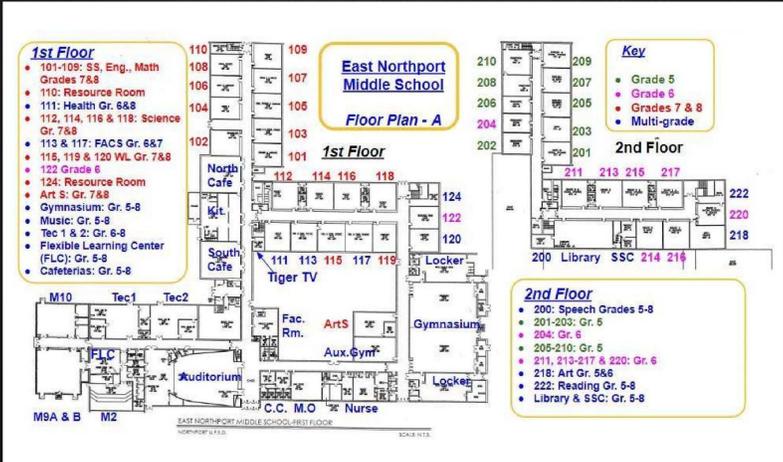
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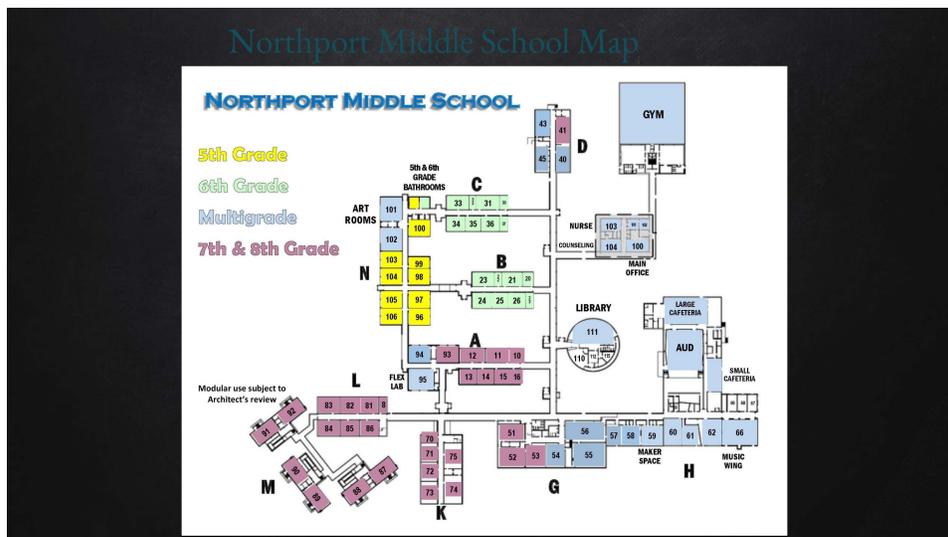
NORTHPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- Multigrade



East Northport Middle School Map





The following questions were asked of Mr. John Gross, Board Counsel.

Trustee Buscareno: Is there an expiration date on the Educational Impact Statement

Mr. Gross stated that in November the Board approved adapted scenario A suggesting the closure of two schools subject to the preparation of the Educational Impact Statement. Board policy requires the preparation of an Educational Impact Statement. Section 402A of the Education Law on school closures is the process the board can elect to undertake. The EIS is done under the recommendation of a community advisory committee appointed by the Board. If the Board were to decide to make a decision effective in a year, the advice would be to redo the educational impact statement. The Board cannot simply pause the decision. It would have to go through the community advisory committee structure and the district may have to engage SES for an updated report. To withstand a challenge, bound by policy and Education Law 402a, the primary question has to be based on a timely educational impact statement.

President Badanes: Some people have requested the public vote on the school closures. Is it permitted under New York State Education Law.

Mr. Gross stated that school boards cannot put out for public referendum matters which they have sole responsibility.

Vice President Noonan: If the Board was to accept the EIS as received, could we recommend that the EIS be phased in so we would not have to do entire process over. Such as closing one school this year and one the next year. The EIS was done during COVID and the SES report was done prior to COVID.

Mr. Gross stated that the vote the Board took in November for the school closures was for both schools and the charge the committee was given was for both schools. He would be concerned if the EIS was challenged. The focus of the commissioner would be the fact that you assigned the responsibility to the community advisory committee to make a determination. COVID closure was discussed and looked at by the committee. The SES report was a financial analysis, not one related to the impact of COVID.

Mr. Banzer reviewed the financial impact of pausing. Teachers that would have to be hired for this year would be laid off next year and the costs of unemployment would be over \$700,000. The unemployment reserve would not be able to cover the full cost. The hiring and retention of staff is something the district strategically works at. The enhancements for 4th and 5th grader would be removed. The additional support for the 5th grade with counseling would be reabsorbed into the elementary schools.

Trustee Buscareno: It is possible to hire teachers on a one year agreement?

Mr. Gross stated that the only time a school district can hire a teacher, under New York State Education Law, for less than a three year probationary appointment is as a regular substitute to fill an encumbered position.

Vice President Noonan: Will lockers be available for the 5th graders? Yes. Will 5th graders be taken out of classrooms in middle school for lunch? Yes. Where will self-contained students be located? In the 5th and 6th grade wing. Did we reach out to any real estate agents in the area regarding a higher demand for properties on Long Island.

Mr. Banzer stated that in general in terms of the market it is extremely tight. There is very little inventory. We haven't seen a significant increase in student demographics. There is a concern about kindergarten in that it is lagging behind where we were last year.

Vice President Noonan: Will 5th graders be escorted through hallways? Yes. Will there be bus matrons on the 5-8 buses? No. Did the EIS committee reach out to any 5-8 programs in other districts? Administration did. STEM program and world language, would that take place in the 2021-2022 school year? Yes. Will there be a full-time counselor for each middle school 5th grade? Yes. Will there be recess for 5th graders and can there be playground equipment added to the budget? Mr. Banzer said they could look into it.

Trustee Buscareno: Have we reached out to local preschools regarding their enrollment?

Trustee McNaughton stated that there has been a precipitous drop in preschool enrollment.

Trustee Loughran thanked the entire community who supports the school district year after year. He thanked Dr. Boshnack and Ms. McLaughlin for their leadership on the committee, and thanked the Superintendent and the previous board for shepherding this process. Declining enrollment has been going on this district for about 40 years. It is every unfortunate but it is where we are at. He was a student in the district the last time we went through a reorganization. As a result of that he met one of his best friends in middle school. It is uncomfortable to be in that position but in short order it becomes day to day. Mr. Danbusky said the following at the last graduation ceremony "the brick and mortar structure behind me is not your school, the experience you have in it and the experiences with your peers and community, that's your school." An extraordinary amount of work went into this and he thinks it is quite overdue. He has faith in the school district to proceed with this plan and proceed with is expertly to impact students, families and this community in the least destructive way possible. He will be supporting this motion.

Trustee Buscareno stated that in 1992 she was part of the first 9th grade class at the high school. This has been a very challenging decision. As a trustee and a special education teacher, she thinks about the kids first. She is very wary of the situation the district is in and has real concerns. COVID was such a challenging time and she in a building every day with kids. It has been hard not only on the kids but on everyone. She would like to take this scenario and hold it off for a year after seeing what effects COVID will have on our children. She could not put another stress on our students. She is asking the Board to look at the entire picture and stated that excellence and high quality cannot be seen if we are not meeting the basic needs of students.

President Badanes stated that he has listened to everyone's comments and has read every email. It is abundantly clear that closing two schools is the right choice. We no longer need six elementary schools; four will be more than efficient. For geographic reasons, Bellerose and Dickinson are the obvious choices. He does not see any logical reason why we should wait. Change is never easy and fear and anxiety are real. The district had two events that demonstrate that we can and will handle change. The 8th graders had to move to the high school and some students had to be moved to Norwood. He has no issues with having 5th graders in the same school as 8th graders. He completely disagrees with the notion that the district

should close Northport Middle School. This process started in 2019 and there was plenty of time for the community to be involved. He is 100% in favor of closing two elementary schools, Bellerose and Dickinson.

Trustee Stein stated that he agrees more generally with Mr. Badanes and Mr. Loughran and thanked the EIS committee members and the future study committee members for their work. He agrees with Mr. Badanes that not now or has there ever been a reason to close Northport Middle School. There are approximately 36,000 residents, approximately 15,000 taxable homes, and over 10,000 over the age of 60. It is the fiduciary responsibility of the board to make sound financial decisions for all residents. It is impossible to ignore the fact that we need to insure the preservation of what we hold dear in these schools and the fiduciary responsibility. COVID does present complications and he has read every email on this issue from both sides and has had countless personal conversations. We have to do what is in the best interest of the entire community. His children will not only be losing their beloved schools but as 4th and 5th graders will be at the forefront of this transition. He asked that the district look into having physical apparatus geared towards the 5th and 6th graders at the middle schools, have acceptable transportation solutions, escorting 5th graders around the building without giving them a sense that they are being sequestered, hold traditions such as field day and other elementary activities that they would ordinarily do in 5th grade, and give the students a sense of ownership and pride in their new buildings.

Trustee Licopoli stated that he agrees with many components that have been expressed. He has been a superintendent for 24 years and has been in Mr. Banzer's seat four times speaking to the community about right sizing and school district. He has heard similar issues and concerns for and against closing schools. He has taught in a 5-8 middle school model. The board has a contract with the entire community and are responsible to them that the tax dollars are being used in an efficient manner and assure quality education. The plan presented is exceptional. It is innovative, providing students with opportunities. It is hard to turn back on something we know will benefit students. Teacher relationships are what make a difference. The students will be going into places that will welcome them. Once the students get into a pattern the angst and anxiety will reside. He shares the concerns about the social emotional issues of the pandemic. He feels confident in supporting the recommendation and resolution to close the two schools

Vice President Noonan stated that she agreed that change is difficult. The enhancements are something that all students will benefit from. With the backdrop of COVID being in classrooms everyday students will need real intervention just for the trauma. We are responsible for all members of the community. The students and community needs to be made whole. We need to see how much we are going to have to mitigate and remediate due to COVID before students can take advantage of the enhancements. Students suffered an extraordinary loss over the last year and a half. When looking at all of this she doesn't really see the savings that will enable her to say we need to move forward with it this year.

Trustee McNaughton thanked everyone who participated on the committees. There is no one that sits up on the board and does not think about the impact on kids. She asked if the plan goes through, would all variances that have been requested be satisfied. Stated that it is a terrible thing to promulgate a falsehood and hopes that questions about Northport Middle School can be put to bed and we can move forward. Stated that we know a lot more about COVID than we did a year ago and asked if we close two schools can we accommodate students. Mr. Banzer replied yes. Asked when teachers typically find out if they have to move. Mr. Banzer stated that contractually it is 30 days before the end of school. Trustee McNaughton agreed with the playgrounds at the middle schools with the 5-8 model. It is important that we advance curriculum and eliminate waste and she will be supporting the school closings.

Action: 5.01 Resolution Rendering a Determination on Proposed School Building Closings

Recommendation to approve the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, opportunities to realize increased efficiencies within the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District have been under close study by the Board of Education for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, continued enrollment decline, rising costs associated with the underutilization of school buildings, increasing personnel costs, increasing fixed costs, and new State mandates relating to various educational initiatives and programs have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the recent settlement of certain tax certiorari court proceedings brought by the Long Island Power Authority ("LIPA") and others against the Town of Huntington concerning the assessed value of the Northport Power Plant, which is located within the boundaries of the District, have been a concern for the past decade, and which settlement will significantly diminish tax revenue received from the Long Island Power Authority shifting in large measure school tax burdens to the residential taxpayers of the school district; and

WHEREAS, at the June 20, 2019 Board meeting, the Board unanimously voted to approve an Independent Professional Services Agreement between the District and SES Study Team, LLC ("SES Study Team") for Enrollment Projection/Demographic Study, Pupil/Facilities Capacity Analysis, Program Delivery Study of Options and associated services. SES Study Team to provide research, direction, and facilitation through a guided process that emphasized a data-driven analysis with community involvement to identify possible options to serve pupils in the future, answering the question "Are there options that might provide cost-effective ways or patterns to organize how the Pre-K-12 program is implemented/delivered over the next three years?"; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2019, by resolution the Board established a Community Advisory Committee for the Future Study comprised of forty-six (46) members consisting of a cross-section of the community who met with the consultant functioning as a steering committee from November 2019 through June 2020 to review/discuss data, offer perspectives and insights, and ask clarifying questions respecting the SES study; and

WHEREAS, the findings of the SES Study Team were submitted to the Board of Education on or about July 31, 2020 (the "SES Report"). While not making a recommendation regarding the closing of a particular school(s), the SES Report provided five (5) different school closing scenarios for Board and community study that are educationally sound and cost-effective avenues to pursue given the data and inferences gained throughout the research for the Study; and

WHEREAS, during the fall of 2020 the District presented the findings of the SES Report, sought and received extensive community feedback and thereafter a sixth scenario, known as "Adapted Scenario A" was developed in consultation with the SES Study Team and reviewed by the Community Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2020, the Board voted to approve Adapted Scenario A and to direct the Administration to take all necessary actions to proceed including, but not limited to, the preparation of an educational impact study, for the 2021-22 school year and to complete all task without unnecessary delay, and

WHEREAS, New York State Education Law §402-a authorizes and recommends that School Boards establish an advisory committee when school closings are under consideration to investigate the educational impact of school closings and prepare a comprehensive Educational Impact Statement for Board of Education consideration of proposed school closings; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2021, consistent with the authority vested in the Board of Education by Education Law §402-a, the Board of Education established the School Closure Task Force to further and

appropriately study the Board’s initial determination to implement Adapted Scenario A and to prepare an Educational Impact Statement, to be filed with the Board on or before April 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2021, the Board of Education gave the School Closure Task Force the following formal charge:

To investigate the educational impact of implementing “Adapted Scenario A”, and to draft, in accordance with NYS Educational Law Article 9 Section 402- A, “Procedures for Closing a School Building” and to prepare with the assistance of the School District administration and file an Educational Impact Statement with the Board not later than April 8 13, 2021.

In connection with the foregoing, the School Closure Advisory Task Force shall take into consideration the following factors in its preparation of an Educational Impact Statement:

- a) The current and projected pupil enrollment, the prospective need for such building(s), the ramifications of such closing(s) upon the community, initial costs and savings resulting from such closing(s), the potential disposability of the closed school(s);
- b) Possible use of such school building(s) for other educational programs or administrative services;
- c) The effect of such closing(s) on personnel needs, and on the costs of instruction, administration, transportation and other support services;
- d) Type, age and physical condition of such building(s), outstanding indebtedness, maintenance and energy costs, recent or planned improvements for the building(s), and such buildings’ special features;
- e) Ability of the other schools in the affected district to accommodate pupils if such school building(s) close(s); and
- f) Possible shared utilization of space in such school building(s) during or after regular school hours, as permitted in section four hundred fourteen of the education Law

In addition to foregoing factors the School Closure Advisory Task Force shall review and rely upon the information and data provided in the July 31, 2020 SES Study Team, LLC and the “Future Study Community Advisory Committee” Report; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2021, the Board approved the appointment of twenty-two (22) individuals to the School Closure Advisory Task Force which met on seven (7) occasions between February 12, 2021 and April 12, 2021 to carry out the charge of the Committee; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2021 the Board of Education approved an amendment regarding the School Closure Advisory Task Force that was adopted at the January 21, 2021 public meeting of the Board of Education, to extend the time by which the School Closure Advisory Task Force must file its Educational Impact Statement with the Board of Education from April 8, 2021 to April 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2021 the Board of Education accepted the School Closure Advisory Task Force’s Educational Impact Statement dated April 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Impact Statement has been accessible to the public since April 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, beginning on or about April 14, 2021, the Board circulated notice to the community and elected state and local public officials who represent the affected communities that it proposed to close Bellerose Avenue Elementary School and Dickinson Avenue Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, after providing the public with the appropriate notice, the Board conducted a public hearing on April 27, 2021 to evaluate the impact of the proposed closing of Bellerose Avenue Elementary School and Dickinson Avenue Elementary School on the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that after careful consideration of the SES Report, the Educational Impact Statement, and comments and concerns raised by the public during the public hearing, the Board of Education approves the closing of Bellerose Avenue Elementary School and Dickinson Avenue Elementary School effective August 31, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education herewith adopts the attached elementary pupil redistricting plan, which plan is required as a result of the determination of the Board of Education to close Bellerose Avenue Elementary School and Dickinson Avenue Elementary School."

Motion by David Badanes, second by David Stein.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, David Stein

No: Victoria Buscareno, Allison C Noonan

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, FINANCIAL - FOR BOARD ACTION

Action: 6.01 Property Tax Report Card

Recommendation to approve the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section 1716 of the Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District hereby authorizes the submission of the attached Property Tax Report Card to the State Education Department"

Motion by David Badanes, second by Allison C Noonan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Action: 6.02 Lewis Brisbois, LLP

Recommendation to approve the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute an Engagement Letter with Lewis Brisbois, LLP, subject to final review by Ingerman Smith, LLP and the Board in Executive Session, wherein Lewis Brisbois is appointed as Special Counsel to the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District ("School District") at the rate of \$225 per hour for the purpose of representing and defending the School District in connection with a lawsuit captioned as Dominic Baldi v. ABB, Inc., New York County Index No. 190217/2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute a Joint Representation Disclosure and Consent Agreement with Ingerman Smith, LLP, agreeing to joint representation as to counsel and guidance of the School District with other school districts named in the lawsuit in the form attached hereto on behalf of the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the Engagement Letter and Consent to Joint Representation with Lewis Brisbois, LLP agreeing to joint representation in the defense of the School District with other school districts named in the lawsuit in the form attached hereto on behalf of the Board of Education."

Motion by David Badanes, second by Allison C Noonan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Larry Licopoli, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

7. ADJOURNMENT - Board policy requires adjournment by 10:30 pm, unless meeting is extended by vote.

Information: 7.01 Upcoming Meetings

PUBLIC HEARING ON FINALIZED BUDGET

Thursday, May 6, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Northport High School Auditorium

BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING TO ACCEPT VOTING RETURNS

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Approximately 9:30 p.m.

William J. Brosnan School Cafeteria

Action: 12.02 Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn the meeting

Motion by David Badanes, second by Allison C Noonan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: David Badanes, Victoria Buscareno, Thomas Loughran, Donna McNaughton, Allison C Noonan, David Stein

Not Present at Vote: Larry Licopoli

At 9:12 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk