

Options for Possible Reorganization



Brunswick School Department

February 11, 2015

7:00 PM

Projected Enrollment

We began this journey in September 2013 when projected enrollment at HBS for 2014-2015 was 716 students and the discussion was brought to the school board in October 2013.

Researching 5th Grade Option

We agreed to research several scenarios. Mr. Wallace, Mr. Caron and staff from HBS and the Junior High spent the next five months researching the opportunity of having 5th grade at the Junior High School.

Researching 2nd Grade Option

Mr. Ciembroniewicz worked with Mr. Caron and staff on an opportunity to move the second grade to Coffin School. This included removing the portables in front of the building and eliminating the safety issue of students crossing the road.

Researching K-5 Option at Hawthorne

Based on past experience I brought forward the idea of developing a K-5 option at Hawthorne School and moving the central office to town hall.

Options

At a School Board meeting on February 12, 2014 we provided four options to the School Board for consideration

- Move the 5th grade to the Junior High
- Move the second grade to Coffin School
- Develop an option K-5 at Hawthorne for up to 130 students
- Remain with 700+ students at HBS

More Information

The School Board asked for more information on moving the 5th grade and moving the 2nd grade. Concern with the second grade option was the price tag of the large portable unit, as we had to buy it rather than lease it.

Two K-5 School Options

On May 7, 2014 presentations on the gathered research were presented to the School Board. At the School Board meeting on May 14, 2014 the option of making Coffin and HBS two K-5 schools was added.

5th Grade Option Chosen

At the School Board meeting on May 28, 2014 the former School Board chair, presented information to the School Board. The 5th grade option was chosen 7-2 after votes on the other options failed.

Multi-Age Option

As this discussion was going on we brought forward the idea to increase the Multi-Age Program at Coffin School and the School Board approved it. This action decreased HBS student population by 17.

Fast Forward

Fast forward to today (1-29-15)

School	Number of students
Coffin	381
Harriet Beecher Stowe	699
Brunswick Junior High	473
Brunswick High School	796

HBS Projections

Projections for HBS student Population

Year	Number of students
2015-16	683
2016-17	678
2017-18	676
2018-19	668

This assumes that there will be 4 Multi-age classrooms at Coffin and no unforeseen influx of students.

Coffin Projections

Projections for Coffin student Population

Year	Number of students
2015-16	393
2016-17	396
2017-18	396
2018-19	396

This assumes that each new Kindergarten Cohort at 180 students and no unforeseen influx of Students.

Brunswick Junior High Projections

Projections for Brunswick Junior High School student Population

Year	Number of students
2015-16	479
2016-17	505
2017-18	547
2018-19	522

Based on 1-29-15 numbers.

Brunswick High Projections

Projections for Brunswick High School student Population

Year	Number of students
2015-16	743
2016-17	701
2017-18	654
2018-19	656

Based on 1-29-15 numbers.

Option

Three assumptions that jump out while looking at this data

- If one accepts a large elementary school there is no urgency to move students
- We have room to reach out to other districts for tuition students at the secondary level
- If one does not accept a larger elementary school the timing is right to look at different options due to the possible bond to repair buildings and the School Board starting a strategic planning process

Let's look at where we are presently

Currently we are engaged in transition work to move the 5th grade to the Junior High School. We have strong community opposition as witnessed at our January School Board Meeting

Let's look at where we are presently

The 5th grade transition would involve changing the environment for 182 students 8 classroom teachers and to be determined diversified arts and support personnel. It would leave us space to consider other options for Coffin, including the opportunity to remove the portables.

Let's look at where we are presently

Moving half of the fifth grade as suggested in January could be done with half of the change. A determination on how students would be placed would need to be developed. There would be no guarantee that 50% would choose to stay at HBS and 50% would go to the Junior High.

Move 5th grade Facilities

Estimated costs to move the 5th grade from HBS to the Junior High.

- I will not have solid numbers until we are ready to move forward. Availability of buildings will determine costs.
- Access controls are planned regardless of this option. 25% of 2015/2016 budget request is for this area.
- Play/activity area needs to be re-evaluated regardless of this option
- Estimate based on building sitting on gravel pad per approval from codes office.
- Total costs reflect 8 years of use.
- The end of use year will need an estimated \$20,000.00 for tear down and clean up.

Move 5th grade Facilities

Estimated costs to move the 5th grade from HBS to the Junior High.

5th grade option	1st year	Total after 8 years
Facilities rental & install costs	\$28,759	\$49,647.00
Tear down costs		\$11,538.00
Power cabling	\$20,000	\$20,000.00
Data Cabling	\$7,500	\$7,500.00
Telephone cabling	\$7,500	\$7,500.00
Renovations in existing building	\$10,000	\$10,000.00
Site work	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Water/Sewer	\$100,000	\$100,000.00
Relocation costs	\$5,750	\$11,500.00
Access (.25 of budget)	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Play area	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Fencing	\$10,000	\$10,000.00
	\$285,509	\$323,685.00

Move 5th grade Technology

Estimated costs to move the 5th grade from HBS to the Junior High.

	Must Have	Like to have	Same as HBS	Total
Printers - High Volume	750			750
Wireless Access Points	2700			2700
Analog Phones - New Mobile Units	250			250
24 Port POE Switch	3000			3000
Sub Total				6700
Desktops	6000			6000
Document Camera		6000		6000
Ceiling Projector		11990		11990
Table Top Speakers		250		250
Sub Total				44490
Interactive whiteboard			15490	15490
Wall speakers and teacher mic			11000	11000
installation and Cableing			9180	9180
Sub Total				35670
			Total	86,860.00

Cost would come out of the normal budget process and would take 3 years to complete.

Move 2nd Grade To Coffin School

We can revisit moving second grade from HBS to Coffin School. The second grade transition would involve changing the environment for no student as they would already be there as first graders. It would involve change for 7 classroom teachers and to be determined diversified art and support personnel.

Move 2nd Grade Facilities

- I will not have solid numbers until we are ready to move forward. Availability of buildings will determine costs.
- Access controls are planned regardless of this option. 25% of 2015/2016 budget request is for this area.
- Play/activity area needs to be re-evaluated regardless of this option
- Estimate based on building sitting on gravel pad per approval from codes office.
- Value of resale is dependent on a suitable buyer. Some districts have struggled to resell buildings.
- Total costs reflect 8 years of use.

Move 2nd Grade Facilities

2nd grade option	1st year	Total after 8 years
Building cost (Bond?)	\$1,034,598	\$1,034,598
Site work	\$60,000	\$60,000
Tear down costs (resale option)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Power cabling	\$25,000	\$25,000.00
Data/Tel Cabling	\$15,000	\$15,000.00
Electrical	\$25,000	\$25,000
Plumbing	\$15,000	\$15,000
Relocation costs	\$5,750	\$11,500
Play area	\$80,000	\$80,000
Additional parking	\$32,000	\$32,000
Demolition of existing	\$32,000	\$32,000
	\$1,324,348	\$1,330,098

Move 2nd Grade Technology

	Must Have	Like to have	Same as HBS	Total
Printers - High Volume	1500			1500
Wireless Access Points	4500			4500
Analog Phones - New Mobile Units	225			225
24 Port POE Switch	3000			3000
Sub Total				9225
* Desktops		4800		4800
* Document Camera		3200		3200
* Ceiling Projector		9592		9592
Laptops PC for cart		0		0
Table Top Speakers		225		225
Sub Total				17817
Interactive whiteboard				13941
Wall speakers and teacher mic				9900
installation and Cableing				8262
Sub Total				32103
			Total	59,145.00

Cost would come out of the normal budget process and would take 3 years to complete.

* existing equipment in portables can be moved

2 K-5 Schools

We can revisit making Coffin and HBS K-5 Elementary Schools. Our current number of classroom sections is 21 at Coffin and 32 at HBS. Here is a breakdown based on 1-29-15 numbers

Coffin		
Grade	Sections	Number of Students
K	4	72
1	3	56
Multi	2	36
2	3	66
3	3	60
4	3	66
5	3	67
	21	423

HBS		
Grade	Sections	Number of Students
K	6	105
1	4	75
Multi	2	37
2	4	86
3	6	122
4	5	116
5	5	116
	32	657

2 K-5 Schools

The K-5 transition would involve changing the environment for 293 students and 24 classroom teachers. To be determined would be diversified arts and support personnel as well as the placement of special education programs. Consideration would also have to be redistricting to determine which students would go to which schools. The libraries would have to be refitted to a greater degree, back to where they were in 2011.

2 K-5 Schools Facilities

- Moving costs 24 to 30 classrooms
- Storage space \$5,500.00
- Container costs \$1,000.00
- Misc. costs \$1,000.00
- Moving Labor \$10,000.00
- Staff time, (moving out and into new space) ? ?
- Rest room adjustments at HBS
- Sink & toilet adjustments \$30,000.00
- Sink adjustments will be more of a platform fix. They will not be ADA for the smallest students. I hesitate to remove the sinks from the tiled walls to be lowered.

2 K-5 Schools Technology

- Interactive whiteboard in the 5 rooms that do not have them at Coffin cost \$13,000.
- Document Camera \$6,300

Total \$19,300

2 K-5 Schools

Student Split

- Estimated number of students in a north/south option as well as east/west
- North/South using the train tracks
- South = 1440 students of which about 600 are K through 5.
- North = 918 students of which about 440 are K through 5.
- East/West using Maquoit Rd. and Main St. as the divider
- East = 1372 students of which about 634 are K through 5
- West = 987 students of which 444 are K through 5

Thoughts

- It has been only 3 ½ years since we melded three K-5 Schools in to two schools.
- We can no longer afford the operational cost of a third elementary school. Legislation since 2011 has seen our cost for education diverted to other areas such as charter schools, teacher retirement, and training to meet standards based on the common core and proficiency diplomas.

Thoughts Continued

- We have an opportunity to utilize our repair project bond to include any costs that bring a solution to the issue.
- A new school is minimally close to a decade away and without state funding possibilities, the burden to solve the facilities of the School Department will fall at the local level.

Recommendations

- Table any move of staff or students until at least the fall of 2017.
- Allow the 5th grade Transition Process to continue and report its findings
- Gather information from staff and the community about these options before the end of June 2015 to determine if any financial implications associated with any changes should be reflected in the bond request.