Reconfiguration Working Committee Meeting Summary

October 13, 2026

The Medina City Schools Reconfiguration Working Committee met on October 13 to review proposed staffing arrangements, instructional schedules, transportation plans, and student services for the 2027–2028 school year.

District administrators shared the current planning framework for the Board-approved reconfiguration, which will bring fifth- and sixth-grade students together at A.I. Root and seventh- and eighth-grade students together at Claggett. Committee members provided feedback and raised questions about how the transition will affect students, staff, and families.

Staffing and Personnel

The district outlined preliminary staffing assignments and its approach to anticipated personnel reductions.

- **General education teachers** will move with their current grade levels to Root or Claggett. Specific teaching assignments will be determined as planning continues.
- **Counselors and school psychologists** are expected to remain in their current buildings.
- **Intervention specialists**, including special education, reading, and gifted intervention teachers, will be assigned based on student needs and alignment with the students they currently serve.
- **Encore teachers** will generally remain in their current buildings, with adjustments as needed to support programming and enrollment.
- **Support staff**, including secretaries, custodians, and food service employees, will remain in their current buildings.
- **Paraprofessionals** will remain in their current buildings whenever possible, with reassignment based on student needs.

The district acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding potential staffing reductions and emphasized its commitment to minimizing layoffs through attrition, including retirements and other natural vacancies. Staffing decisions will follow applicable state requirements and negotiated agreements, including provisions related to licensure, evaluations, and seniority. These decisions could affect positions beyond Root and Claggett.

The district's goal is to communicate staffing assignments in January 2027, earlier than its typical spring timeline. Following initial assignments, employees will have an opportunity to

express interest in different positions through the district's established process. Direct job switching between employees will not be permitted. Any requested reassignment must follow established district procedures, including the appropriate application and interview process, and will depend on available positions and staffing needs. Classroom moves will be coordinated and supported by the district.

A.I. Root: Grades 5–6

Administrators presented an upper elementary model designed to support students' academic and developmental needs while preparing them for the transition to seventh grade.

School Day and Instruction

- School hours will remain 7:35 a.m.–2:35 p.m.
- The school will operate on a trimester grading system.
- Fifth-grade students will generally receive instruction from two core content teachers, with some groups potentially having three.
- Sixth-grade students will receive instruction from four core content teachers, allowing teachers to specialize in one content area.
- Students will remain in classroom cohorts as they move between core subjects, with additional opportunities to interact with other students throughout the day.
- Class transitions will be teacher-directed; there will not be any bells.

Student Programming

- Each day will begin with a 15-minute social-emotional learning (SEL) morning meeting followed by a 30-minute intervention and enrichment (IE) period.
- IE time will provide targeted academic support and enrichment, with opportunities for students to work with different teachers based on their learning needs.
- Encore offerings will include art, physical education, seminar, and general music.
- Students will continue to have opportunities to participate in band, orchestra, and choir through small-group and large-group instruction.
- Advanced math and science pathways will continue.

Teacher Planning and Student Services

- Teachers will have an individual planning period and Teacher-Based Team (TBT) collaboration opportunities on a proposed five-day rotation.
- Teachers will also receive four workdays during the school year, consistent with the elementary model.
- Special education services will primarily use in-class support, with pull-out instruction and specialized programs available as required by students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Administrators emphasized that the cohort structure is intended to provide a gradual transition from elementary to middle school. Opportunities for students to interact beyond their assigned cohorts will continue to be explored.

Claggett: Grades 7–8

Claggett will maintain its current middle school structure, with adjustments to scheduling, academic programming, and electives.

School Day and Instruction

- School hours will remain 7:35 a.m.–2:35 p.m.
- Students will continue receiving quarterly report cards.
- Each grade level will have three academic teams consisting of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies teachers.
- Students will have an eight-period academic day, with classes lasting approximately 44–46 minutes.
- Language arts and mathematics will move from extended instructional periods to single periods.
- Lunch will be a separate 30-minute period, and seventh- and eighth-grade students will no longer have recess.
- Bells will continue to signal class transitions.

Academic Programming and Electives

- Math Plus and Science Plus will continue to provide advanced coursework.
- A separate ELA Plus course will no longer be offered. Advanced language arts instruction will instead be provided through differentiation within regular classrooms, supported by gifted intervention services.
- Proposed seventh-grade electives include physical education, art, music, health, Medical Detectives (Project Lead The Way), exploratory world language, and career exploration.
- Eighth-grade electives may include world language, music, psychology, and continued career exploration.
- Claggett's proximity to Medina High School may create opportunities for eighth-grade students to access advanced high school courses.

Teacher Planning and Student Services

- Teachers will continue to have individual and team planning periods.
- Special education services will primarily use a co-teaching model, with individualized pull-out support and specialized programs provided according to students' IEPs.

The proposed career exploration courses are intended to connect with the district's developing high school career pathways.

Transportation

The district shared preliminary transportation plans and acknowledged that it is still developing additional details.

- Root and Claggett will retain their current start and dismissal times.
- The proposed transportation model includes combining transportation for students in grades 5–12 where routes permit.
- The district anticipates approximately six additional bus drivers and routes.
- The district has conducted preliminary route reviews with a transportation routing company to evaluate feasibility.
- The district has not finalized specific routes, school drop-off procedures, or arrangements for students of different ages riding together.

Committee members raised concerns about transportation logistics, particularly the developmental differences between younger and older students, bus supervision, and families transporting children to multiple buildings.

District administrators indicated they will share additional information as transportation plans are refined, with input from the Transportation Department.

Committee Discussion and Feedback

Following the presentations, committee members participated in an anonymous ThoughtExchange focused on the proposed scheduling frameworks, helping identify topics that need further discussion.

Several key concerns emerged:

- **Staffing reductions:** Members requested greater clarity on how many positions may be eliminated, how reductions will be determined, and when affected employees will receive information.
- **Teacher collaboration:** Concerns were raised about whether the proposed Root schedule provides sufficient time for teachers to collaborate, coordinate intervention and enrichment, and discuss individual student needs.
- **Student cohorts:** Members questioned whether keeping fifth- and sixth-grade students in consistent classroom groups would limit social interaction, independence, and opportunities to develop new friendships.
- **Sixth-grade experience:** Discussion focused on ensuring sixth-grade students have age-appropriate opportunities for independence and preparation for the transition to Claggett.
- **Transportation:** Members requested more detailed information about bus routes, student groupings, supervision, and arrival and dismissal procedures.

- **Building identity:** Questions were raised about whether Root will be designated an upper elementary or intermediate school. No decision has been made.

Administrators responded to several questions and explained that some elements of the proposed schedules have already been adjusted based on staff feedback, including the sixth-grade content-area teaching structure.

Next Steps

The district will review feedback from the committee's ThoughtExchange, along with information gathered during voluntary staff meetings. Responses to frequently asked questions and additional clarifications will be shared as they become available.

Planning will continue in several areas, including staffing assignments, teacher collaboration, student scheduling, transportation, and transition activities.

Administrators emphasized that the committee's role is to provide feedback on implementing the Board-approved reconfiguration plan, rather than reconsidering the approved grade-level structure.

As the process moves forward, the district will continue balancing three priorities: the student and family experience, staff needs, and financial responsibility. Committee members were encouraged to identify practical solutions and opportunities to improve the proposed framework while keeping those priorities in mind.

The presentation and additional reconfiguration information will be available on the district website under the Reconfiguration tab at the top of the homepage. The next committee meeting will be Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 5:00 PM at Garfield in the Professional Development Center.