

AGWSR Families and Community Members,

The AGWSR Board of Education has started the process of reviewing our current building configuration to determine what, if any, changes need to be made to the current structure. Ultimately, the board has a goal to make a decision at the regular meeting scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2024

First, I would like to remind you of the current grade configuration that has been in place since the 2014-2015 school year:

Ackley Elementary: K-2 students from the former A-G School District, all 3-5 students

Wellsburg Center: K-2 students from the former W-SR School District, all 6-8 students, 3 & 4-year-old preschool

AGWSR High School: All 9-12 students

Cougar's Den: 3 & 4-year-old preschool, Transitional Kindergarten

Secondly, a reminder of the 2 main priorities of the AGWSR Board of Education as they work through this process:

1. Enhancing the Educational Experience for all Students
2. Maintaining Financial Stability

These will be the two main factors that have led to this conversation as well as the two main factors that have led to the options that will be presented in this letter. I would also like to remind all stakeholders that no decision regarding the future of our elementary grade configuration has been made at this time. The AGWSR Board of Education has made a decision to temporarily place all kindergarten students starting in the Fall of 2024 at Ackley Elementary due to the small class size. Again, the plan is to hold a full and open conversation regarding the future of our elementary grade configuration and have a decision made during our December meeting. The following options are not presented in any particular order. They have been numbered for identification purposes.

Option #1

Keep all grade levels and sections the same as the current configuration. The only change in this option would be a discussion by the AGWSR Board of Education about classroom size. AGWSR Board Policy [606.1](#) will be reviewed and revised to include the maximum students per section. An annual review of class size will take place to determine staffing needs.

EXAMPLE (The following information does not reflect current AGWSR class size at the represented grade level)

- Ackley Elementary first grade has 30 students and Wellsburg Elementary first grade has 16 students. The board has set a maximum number of students per section at 25 for first grade. AGWSR would advertise and attempt to hire a teacher to create 2 sections of students at Ackley Elementary.

Option #2

Keep all grade levels and sections the same as the current configuration. The change in this option would include the following:

1. AGWSR Board Policy [606.1](#) will be reviewed and revised to include maximum classroom size.
2. When the maximum is reached the following will occur:
 - a. All sections in the grade level will be reviewed.
 - b. Students will be transferred between buildings as needed until sections are of equal size or until both sections are under the maximum, unless
 - c. Transferring students would cause the maximum to be reached or exceeded. In this situation, the board would need to discuss the addition of a section as well as the location of this section.

EXAMPLE (The following information does not reflect current AGWSR class size at the represented grade level)

- Ackley Elementary first grade has 30 students and Wellsburg Elementary first grade has 16 students. The board has set a maximum number of students per section at 25 for first grade. In this example, 7 students would be transferred from Ackley Elementary to Wellsburg Elementary which would give each section 23 students.
- The AGWSR Board of Education would have to create the process on how the transfers would occur.

Option #3

1. Ackley Elementary
 - a. All AGWSR kindergarten through fourth grade students
2. Wellsburg Center
 - a. All AGWSR fifth through eighth grade students

AGWSR Board Policy [606.1](#) will be reviewed and revised to include the threshold at which decisions will be made to increase/decrease sections for various grade levels.

Next Steps:

A survey will be shared to gather your feedback on the three plans. Your input is important to us. The AGWSR Board of Education will make time to discuss this topic at their regular meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month.

If you have questions or want more information, please email me at esmith@agwsr.org or call 641-847-8006. You can also contact any AGWSR Board of Education member. Click [here](#) or visit www.agwsr.org/school-board for their contact information. For more information or resources, visit www.agwsr.org/page/grade-configuration-resources

Thank you for your time and support.
AGWSR Board of Education