

ThoughtExchange Themes

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Questions & Information Requests (75 Thoughts, 3.7 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.3	11	Making a change before the March 1, 2025 deadline is unrealistic considering the lack of tangible data provided to the BOE @ the 1/13 meeting Up to this point there has been no financial projections attached to each option and a detailed breakdown of the current budget has not been provided
4.2	27	Another bullet with no context: "Considerations and benefits for both 6th grade as elementary and middle level." What are the considerations? What are the researched and data supported benefits and drawbacks? How can the BOE make a decision when they don't have the information needed?
4.2	28	Elementary teachers should be asked to provide completely anonymous feedback on the options presented. If the teachers anonymously favor an option, I would feel more comfortable with it than only hearing Administration's subjective and pre-approved comments.
4.1	52	Is this review in enrollment purely for financial reasons? If so, why all of a sudden is this a concern? What are the financial impacts? It's important because if this is for financial reason it should be clearly stated - what is the potential impact on the tax levy?
4.1	56	What will happen to the staff? Teachers, administrative positions, teacher aids, lunch/recess staff etc The staff at each of these facilities is important not only to the school district, but also the community as a whole.
4.1	60	The administration needs to prepare complete and thorough impact analyses of each option, including financial, community, and academic impacts. Base analyses on long term studies with relevant data observed in the last 5 years. Every study referenced is pre-2018, limiting current relevance.
4.1	62	The BOE needs reliable, accurate data for each option based on actual research. Brainstormed feelings don't provide rationale for such large changes. Actual facts, data, and researched impacts are needed for the BOE and public to properly vet and compare options.
4.1	63	Please provide a way for teachers to anonymously give feedback on options. I'd love to know what they think about "economies of scale," class size plans, grade banding, consolidation, leveling of IEPs in classes, etc. But, they need to be able to speak freely with no chance of retaliation.
4.1	55	Small and equitable class sizes across all the schools are important Are there ways to achieve this without grade-level banding or closing a school?
4	107	The EDC's Pupil Capacity Analysis document contains a discrepancy in JDG enrollment numbers. Accurate and complete data is needed. The BOD cannot make a fair and reasonable decision with inaccurate information.
4	83	If shutting down a school, how it will impact travel to schools that could potentially be further away If banding, how having a child in each building could impact families negatively
4	96	How will transportation work? How will the school accommodate busing? How long are the projected bus rides for young children going to be? My children currently have about a 5-10 min bus ride. I would imagine riding to another elementary school would significantly increase their ride

4	106	In addition to transportation costs associated with grade banding, the BOE needs to evaluate on bus time for kids. My kids already are on the bus for 1.5 hours a day when we live 5 minutes from the school. How would on bus times increase for children in grade banding?
4	109	How will you take care of the transportation aspect if you consolidate or close a building? I feel this could mean spending more money on transportation, more busses and fuel more \$ spent. And very long bus rides for some students.
3.9	141	VVS taxpayer and parent of three VVS graduates, with one buying in VVS with their 3 kids because of the schools. All of us are planning to move if VVS administration doesn't put the kids and families first. When is the contract up so salaries of administration can be reviewed?
3.9	125	What will be the impact on students of a potential closure? They are the reasons why we do what we do. Transportation and class size influence how students learn.
3.9	140	School zone map would be helpful It would be helpful to see the district map with Elementary School zone lines.
3.9	155	What are the projected impacts to the budget for each option being considered?
3.9	162	Has Mr Pompo found any good grants? Are there grants out there that can be used to hire additional teachers which will directly impact class sizes?
3.9	167	More transparency in what options they are considering prior to public meetings and a vote. Will our taxes be reduced if enrollment is decreasing and both staff and facilities will be reduced in the future?
3.9	171	Transparency on how imputed savings from recommended courses of action are being calculated Transparency and full cost disclosure will lend credibility to the process
3.9	173	How did VVS exceed the state average proficiency in 3-8 math testing? Smaller class sizes? Early interventions? Strong resource teachers? How do these options affect those strategies when class sizes will increase, staff will decrease, and resources will be reduced and overburdened?
3.9	178	Another bullet: "Targeted interventions close gaps quicker." Aren't the schools already doing targeted interventions? Aren't we already focusing on early literacy and numeracy? The question is how is this continued with higher class numbers and fewer resources so kids don't slip through cracks.
3.9	150	What happens when the enrollment starts to increase? Will the plan still work and make sense or will the district be sent into this dilemma all over again?
3.9	174	Options need clear and identified budget impacts that reduce the \$4M deficit. Without disclosed, targeted budget impacts, deadlines must be delayed. Why do we trust the people who created a \$4M deficit to make massive changes without proof of the budget improvements?
3.8	221	When is the community going to be given the list of budget cuts in each option? Shouldn't the community be given the financial data that supposedly supports each option so we can see why the BOE and administration's actions would potentially be justified, if justified?
3.8	187	Loss of jobs for school staff? Job loss creates a cycle of declining demand, business contraction, and financial instability that can take years to recover from.
3.8	202	What is the impact to resource positions (extra help in reading, math, speech, etc) Will teachers still be able to see the same amount of kids? My child currently receives extra help -

		will consolidating put an extra strain on resources for kids?
3.8	203	All of my friends (many) are all moving to Sherrill and we all have children going into elementary school. Did you account for that increase? I have a lot of people who like myself left Oneida because of the school system and are looking for vvs education because it didn't change like Oneida
3.8	205	What will happen to after school activities? Will consolidating reduce these activities? How will there be enough gym space to accommodate everyone? My kids play many after school activities that use gym space in each of the elementary schools. Scheduling is already challenging - now worse.
3.8	207	What can be done to make VVS more appealing? There are solutions to improve the future. How can we increase enrollment rather than accept a decrease. Use this as an opportunity to improve VVS.
3.8	209	The EDC facility capacity document does not break out the middle school capacity separate from the high school capacity. This info is crucial for any decision involving adjusting the middle school grade bands.
3.8	211	The EDC presentation includes a lot of potential benefits from closing a school and grade banding that would require new funding. Obviously, there is no funding to add new things. So, what's being taken away to save money and how does that affect the children, their learning, and their environment?
3.8	215	New extracurriculars was mentioned as a benefit of grade banding. If we cut resources and teachers, who will support these new extracurriculars? Focus on preserving the academic structures. Keep teachers, replace retirees, keep aides, keep resource levels. Focus on a quality education.
3.8	216	Please define "duplicated resources." If an outcome of grade banding is the reduction of "duplicated resources," is this really just a reduction of resources? All schools now need resources and seem to have resources at appropriate (or too low) levels. What exactly is duplicated that will be cut?
3.8	217	Have non-academic expenses been reviewed for potential cuts? Before the BOE starts cutting teachers, resource supports, and academic budgets, it needs to review non-academics for cuts.
3.8	199	What is the cost of doing nothing? Does that truly outweigh the cost of change? If there is time to "wait and see" for more data points and to see how major things like the casino expansion, micron, and wolf speed coming to the area tie into enrollment. Housing is locked what happens with movemt
3.7	258	How will the final decision impact future enrollment. Will families leave the district/chose not to move here due to the "solution" that is decided. All change has future impacts. Will the final decision slowly make enrollment worse or is there a solution that can help draw people in.
3.7	242	How much money (if any) would be saved by rearranging the schools into a grade level configuration? While class sizes may become more equitable, would any money be saved when you have to bus many students across the whole district?
3.7	252	A lot of the board questions about the EDC work were about financial impacts. While the \$4M deficit certainly requires a financial response, the BOE has to weigh qualitative impacts. What are the data supported qualitative impacts with grade banding, 6th grade in MS, and straight consolidation?

3.7	254	The EDC included a bullet, "Considerations for both gradual implantation vs. all at once" but has no research or data to support either approach. The BOE needs researched, factual, recent information to evaluate a stepped approach or a single effective date.
3.7	259	Have local businesses,/school Unions/ local&county govt/ religious orgs/students/alumni/area service groups/recreation groups been engaged? All stakeholders who also give and receive value from the educational buildings across VVS..build transparency of impact of decision beyond \$4m goal
3.7	260	NYC schools are required to reduce class sizes to 20 for K-3, 23 for 4-8, and 25 for 9-12. NYC is required to prioritize high poverty schools, too As a low income district, why does the BOE think class sizes higher than NYC's max are acceptable?
3.6	295	If BOCES leaves Verona, as rumored, what is the budget impact? What are the capacity impacts in the building?
3.6	265	Governance Who will oversee educational standards once schools are integrated to ensure same or better standards, not cater to lowest common denominator.
3.6	266	School condition If this is a cost measure will the savings be put towards needed air conditioning in all schools?
3.6	268	Ways to increase enrollment If the enrollment in the district is decreasing, have we considered ways in which to increase it? Make VVS more desirable for families?
3.6	269	How any changes might affect the children, property value and taxes Schools have an effect on the community
3.6	277	How would an alternate building/grade span arrangement offer more opportunities for students and provide for more efficient delivery of services. Despite decreased enrollment, more opportunities and increased efficiency is ideal.
3.6	278	Community Impact on Closing an Elementary Building - Maintenance/ Grounds/Play Equipment If an elementary is shut down, who will be responsible for maintaining the grounds? Will it still be for public use and in good condition?
3.6	289	What is the plan for appropriately sizing classes, leveling IEPs among classes, and allowing higher ability students to grow? The class size goals of the BOE are unreasonable, limiting student achievement, increasing disruptions, and reducing outcomes. What plans exist to ensure quality education?
3.6	292	How does it work to share administrative services? Isn't there a way to use BOCES for some administrative work? Are there cost savings there? The unresearched and data-free EDC presentation shows us we're not receiving appropriate value for our administrative cost. Look into alternatives.
3.6	293	Why were there all of the significant capital investment projects when there is declining enrollment? The equivalent is as a parent and homeowner, knowing my teen kids are leaving the house soon, I still take out a 2nd mortgage to add on to my house.
3.6	299	VVS website: Board members "sign an oath of responsibility as an agent of NYS for the education of all children and youth of the state." Education quality is not being discussed at all. How do these changes affect the children's education? Proposed changes are not being mapped to better learning.
3.6	298	What happened to the budget for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond that created such large deficits. VVS managed to create a \$15M general fund before that. Why are we

		suddenly running large deficits and risking our schools? Property taxes and revenues have increased each year.
3.5	311	What are the numbers? I dont see the current enrollment numbers and the decline by school. To understand how drastic the enrollmejt has declined.
3.5	313	Grants?? Are there grants that can assist in hiring more teachers to allow for smaller class sizes??
3.5	316	If the district is truly losing enrollment, then why are houses selling so quickly and people moving into the area so fast?
3.5	321	If one average teacher is \$80k salary and ~\$160k in total comp, you'd need to cut more than 10 teachers to make a dent in the \$4M deficit. Is the BOE planning to cut that many teaching positions? What are the long term effects of such drastic quality changes in our kids' education?
3.5	322	Only 33% of 2023-2024 3rd graders and only 42% of 4th graders tested as proficient in ELA. Grade 5 tested at 36% proficient in science. Math scores are better that the state average but can improve, too. How will proficiency improve with larger classes, fewer teachers, and fewer resources?
3.4	336	Does the district plan to make a decision that will go in affect for the 2025 - 2026 school year?
3.4	340	When I attended VVS, class size was approx. 240 and there were a lot less wings on main campus. Now, it is significantly less, why did VVS add on?
3.4	341	Has VVS contracted with outside (Independent) consultant to research potential trends and options for this study? This will provide unbiased and research-based solutions. I'd think it is difficult to see when you're right in the thick of it. ASK FOR HELP!
3.4	349	How long have class size inequities been happening in the 3 elementary schools and what has been done in the past to deal with it?
3.3	353	How many students have been un-enrolled to pursue home-schooling because families have lost their trust in public education? U.S. Stats:  2016= 2.1 Million homeschooled... 2024= 3.7 Million. NYS has the second highest growth rate (178%) in homeschoolers in the past decade!
3.3	362	Academic opportunities like STEAM labs were touted as a pro to grade banding. With the \$4M deficit, projects like that would not happen. What are realistic benefits to grade banding that can occur near term and with our \$4M deficit?
3.3	357	Can collaboration with the local governments of VV&S help influence housing policies that attract more families? Can we attract more families and young couples to move to our district?
3.3	367	Take accountability and fix it? Public schools caused the decrease in enrollment take a look at the increase in homeschooling stats. What can be done to get families to come back? Speaks volumes that families would rather pay taxes AND pay to home school AND sacrifice income to stay home with them.
3.2	375	If schools go to banding how will teachers be placed.
3.1	378	If this happens will taxes go down ? No maintenance means less taxes that gets raised every year
3.1	381	Explain what that title means in simple English. What are demographics? Information needs

		to be clear and concise so we can trust it
3.1	385	From the VVS website: "School boards gather input from concerned citizens and explain controversial decisions." When will the BOE start truly gathering input and explaining these options and the motivation behind them? Seems like the board is ignoring the public
3	389	What positions has the district looked at eliminating? Digital writing, computer science, ELA and math coaches. All these should be looked at
2.8	404	Since the building closure idea started circulating, have any interested parties contacted the district to buy or rent facilities? Is there immediate potential "to repurpose or sell a building" for positive cash flow? And what would the new purpose be?

Class Size & Equity (82 Thoughts, 3.8 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.5	2	Keeping class sizes manageable for both teachers and students. Overcrowded classes detract from learning and add stress for teachers and students.
4.3	4	Class sizes We don't want class sizes unmanageable for teachers and our children will do better with fewer students/ class.
4.3	5	Avoid overloading teachers. All children deserve a quiet, well controlled classroom for learning.
4.3	8	Small class size is valuable for k-6 students Allows interaction time between students and teacher
4.3	9	Maintaining low numbers in classrooms Too many students in a classroom limits a teachers ability to have more focused lessons especially for students that might be behind.
4.3	10	The amount of children in classrooms and their ability to learn with a smaller number of students vs large. There are many students that need extra help and when the class is so much bigger I believe it could be harder to reach all those students.
4.3	6	It's all about the KIDS! The sole purpose of VVS is education. This is not a money making business. All decisions should be based on what is best for the kids, which is not larger classes, longer bus rides and divided families.
4.2	12	Figuring out ways to become more efficient without sacrificing class size/schools.
4.2	16	Classes at the MS/HS that are above the 26-student "decision point" due to inadequate department staffing need to be fixed by hiring more teachers. Large class sizes limit a teacher's ability to make connections, provide individual support, and maintain safe well supervised environments.
4.2	21	Class sizes at JDG are too big! Adding additional teachers to each grade level would be beneficial for student learning as well as teacher moral. Stop moving or getting rid of teachers when student numbers are "lower" for the upcoming year. Studies show lower class sizes equal higher student success
4.2	25	High class sizes Children need supportive learning and supervision
4.2	19	Smaller class sizes are beneficial to children's learning. Closing a school and increasing class sizes is not putting children's education first.
4.1	49	I hope that the district keeps in mind that some residents chose where they live based on the schools. Class sizes and transportation times are huge factors.
4.1	55	Small and equitable class sizes across all the schools are important Are there ways to achieve this without grade-level banding or closing a school?
4.1	29	Class sizes, security concerns Smaller classes ensure no one is left behind, all students needs are being met and the children are safe in an environment that promotes learning
4.1	32	Class sizes Despite "declining" enrollment, some classes exceed recommended board policy
4.1	35	Class size Ensuring small class size so our kids can learn

4.1	36	Class sizes need to be looked at more in depth Data given is misrepresented; you can't look at the average of a grade's class sizes across 3 buildings. Schools need to be looked at individually!
4.1	41	Class sizes Class sizes should remain smaller so quiet, well behaved children that are struggling don't slip through the cracks.
4.1	58	With JDG students already doubling up classes for a single PE period, how would specials be handled with additional classes in the school? Need to ensure adequate facilities and scheduling to maintain standards, quality education, and legal compliance.
4.1	57	Affects on the children- more time on a bus, that is already to long. Larger class sizes negatively impacting learning.
4.1	59	Over crowed classes and kids not getting the help they need, longer transportation.
4.1	61	The BOE policy max class sizes are unrealistic with the needs profile of students. Class sizes >20 with multiple IEPs and AIS needs create failure. Huge classes with heavy IEP loads, large ability differences, and students who need lots of extra attention, set the teacher and class up for failure.
4.1	64	Classroom size The smaller class sizes makes learning easier and doesn't allow for children to slip easily through the cracks
4	67	Having smaller class sizes would be beneficial for the children and the teachers to have more one on one attention. Having one on one attention for children would allow less children to fall behind. We should have less administrative positions and more teaching.
4	91	Keep class sizes small Keep 3 elementary schools
4	76	Closing a school will inevitably increase class sizes. That is what makes VVS such a desirable and sought after school district. Increasing class sizes is NOT looking out for the best interest of our students. Don't alter our children's futures over money!!
4	85	Keeping our class sizes small is one of the great things about this school district. Merging schools would be inconvenient for many people. I moved here specifically so that my child could go to school where the class sizes provide a better education. Don't ruin what sets us apart.
4	94	Potentially doing this and increasing class sizes will lower the personal attention that each student gets now. The personal attention and low class sizes is why so many people value the VVS District.
4	72	Class sizes Right now classes sizes are big especially at the primary level where there need to be more individual instruction for children
4	73	Class sizes Staff : student ratio
4	84	Inequity across our district elementary buildings JDG is busting at the seams. There are classrooms with 25+children. How can a student in these classrooms get the same education as those in Vn/Sh??
4	97	Class sizes and effective learning If we lose a school that will cause more kids to be in a class which will give less one on one time with teachers and can directly impact learning
4	114	Class size needs to remain small Unless there is a teacher plus a certified aide in the class room class sizes should not be bumped up

4	69	Keep all the schools opened! Bigger classrooms aren't going to be effective! It's important for all students to be able to learn with the one on one from the teacher than it is to be part of a bigger classrooms!!!
4	70	Keep smaller class sizes for elementary, keep consistency of building differentiation for elementary, keeping prek-6 students together. Elementary age students thrive on consistency, younger students look up to older students, middle school marks the beginning of autonomy.
4	103	Closing a school is a horrible idea. It is going to increase the student to teacher ratio, disrupt our children and our daily lives.
4	108	The bullet point that "Parents [sic] concerns may not align with students' concerns" is utterly tone deaf for a decision affecting kids as young as 4. Don't rezone kids away from friends/family and don't double class sizes are pretty safe issues that affect young children and parents universally.
3.9	133	Keeping our class sizes small is one of the perks about this school district. Merging schools would be inconvenient for many people. We chose to live here because of the small schools and how localized and accessible it is to get to our children and having them all at one school.
3.9	119	Reduce the number of students per classroom at JDG My 3 elementary aged children have over 20 students in their respective classrooms, each with students of varying needs, some being very significant
3.9	176	Providing equitable instruction to students across the district in different buildings. Our goal as a school should be to meet the needs of our students with the greatest emphasis being placed on student support within the classroom class
3.9	120	The primary consideration has to be the education of the students in the district and choosing the most efficient way to utilize our resources. We have strong inequities across the district that result in differing experiences for students. Student education has to be the focus.
3.9	135	Combining schools will be a night mare. Not only are you taking children/families out of their routine, but larger classes means less 1x1 time. Not fair to the children or teachers.
3.9	164	Combining schools will increase class sizes and cut teachers. How does this help students?
3.9	123	Student teacher ratio is too large Reduction in an elementary school will worsen this. Focus on performance and if one school has more kids, consider a change in district lines.
3.9	172	retention of staff- maxing out classes we might lose valuable teaching staff. Our class sizes now are very beneficial for students that seem to have higher needs than ever.
3.8	213	A school recently posted a picture of a grade of kids in AIS reading. The number of kids from one grade in one school using AIS reading support surprised me. I was unaware how prevalent it is. The BOE needs to make sure these kids have appropriate support, resources, and class sizes to thrive.
3.8	195	We will be homeschooling if you Jam Pack three schools into two. Large classes, bullying increases, more funding needed for the transport mess, impossible to pick up, losing valuable teachers, breaking up families.
3.8	214	Age banding will increase class sizes The edc is trying to state that it will provide equity across classes, it will only increase class sizes and lessen resources for individual students.
3.8	223	Will over enrollment happen due to consolidation? Class size can create fewer interactions

		between teacher and students.
3.7	233	I think it would be wise to start with redrawing the district lines. JDG is packed and overflowing. Class sizes are too big, while some Vernon classes have 11 kids in a class. JDG also has way more needs.
3.7	232	Class sizes When a district downsizes their buildings, they tend to downsize staffing too.
3.7	235	There is too much inequality in class sizes among the 3 elementary buildings. Smaller class sizes have a positive impact on student learning. Students at JDG are in classrooms with 20+ students...
3.7	241	Large class sizes at JDG.... If I had wanted 26 or more kids per class, we would have stayed in Rome City Schools! We moved here so my child would be in a smaller class, with more intimate and personal learning can exist. The classes sizes are a disappointment.
3.7	243	Equity It is important to provide equitable experiences to all of our children in the district, regardless of their address.
3.7	246	Class Size I believe something needs to be done in JD George. Classes are too big. This will create more issues with a closure. There are other options.
3.7	250	Looking at the IEP stats among the elementary schools, there needs to be equity among the distribution of IEPs to ensure attention and resources. Heavy IEP levels at certain elementary schools affect learning for all students and limit attention and resources for those with IEPs.
3.7	253	Making things more equitable across each building. because we shouldn't have classes of 29 in one building and 15 in another.
3.6	264	Somewhat equal class sizes Verona has much larger class sizes than any other elem building. Not fair for students or teachers.
3.6	301	Ridge Mills school in Rome has class sizes >25. A lot of families have to pay for private tutoring to get kids to grade level or let the kids fail. How does the BOE expect VVS kids to learn in similar class sizes when other schools show large classes do not work?
3.6	302	Test scores are already terrible. Why would the BOE think bigger classes will help anything. Extensive research shows class sizes of <18 provide the best learning environment for elementary school with higher test scores and educational gains that persist into high school. Smaller classes matter!
3.6	303	I am concerned about proper learning capabilities. And the commute to another school. Bigger classrooms causes problems for less one on one learning. My daughter benefits from this very much.
3.6	274	Redrawing the school lines and spreading special education into other buildings, we should not be having special education at JDGeorge the change of lines will help all the schools out. Changing special ED to show up in all schools shows students they don't need to be separated
3.6	291	Class size Class sizes may be smaller in some buildings, needs of students are greater. Being in the edu field, I have seen student needs increase significantly
3.6	304	Inequity in class sizes and student needs between the elementary schools Students at JD George have class sizes approaching 30 and high needs, while other elementary schools have classes under 20 and less need.

3.5	308	Buildings need equity! JDG class sizes are at “decision points” of 26+ in a class while the same grade level in Vernon has 11 students per class People come here for the smaller class sizes! It's a HUGE draw. Redraw lines to balance out the class sizes. There's too much inequity.
3.5	305	Equity among elementary schools integration of students with special needs
3.5	312	Functional capacity should be the capacity utilized in planning Policy, contracts, & BAUs should be ignored unless less than FC - the number of students who can work comfortably in a classroom is most important.
3.5	323	Impact changes have on education of the student and graduation rates and employment rate of graduates Class sizes
3.5	319	How to be more equitable across elementary buildings. How we can address the financial deficit.
3.5	329	Elementary special education services are almost exclusively offered at JDG. This leads to a concentration of the highest-need students at JDG (already with largest class sizes) compared to the other elementary schools.
3.5	330	The study overview document uses data from last school year to measure equity gaps, which does not reflect the current large class sizes at JDG. We need to consider what students are currently facing, i.e. current class sizes that include students receiving special ed services
3.4	333	Redistricting elementary lines allows the district to create larger class sizes across all elementary schools by cherry picking the kids and schools. It will disproportionately punish a handful of kids, give admins the ability to create the large class sizes they want, and result in fewer teachers.
3.4	334	Equity and inclusivity in resource allocation Long term planning and facility utilization/ understanding trends and enrollment projections to optimize capacity and costs
3.4	338	The disproportion of elementary schools. As a teacher, I have a hard time telling a family, “there's not room” in ONE special education classroom that is housed in ONE building.
3.4	344	Class sizes Equity in educational opportunities across the district
3.3	369	Class sizes of 20 would be manageable if the district can get control over the disciplinary issues. Banding and putting more kids the same age together will create more issues. Why banding? Stronger leadership. Consistency in punishment. Separate High school and middle school principals
3.3	370	Current class sizes at JD George exceed the district Functional Operating Capacity, with some meeting the pupil capacity Decision Point Class sizes at JDG need to be decreased.
3.3	371	class sizes need to include any child that comes to that class. any child that has a desk in that room. even if they leave for ela or math even though class enrollment is down, needs (academic and behavioral) are way up
3.2	374	For the grades that need class size equity between schools, offer the families in those grades a choice to switch schools. Some families may prefer other schools, smaller classes, or different classmates. Then, no one is harmed by forcing involuntary school changes.
2.9	397	Before the district even considers banding, it needs to get a handle on the current disciplinary issues. Taking a grade of 40 kids and making it into 120 is not the answer and will cause more issues. More kids = more kids that aren't going to get along. I hear horror stories from

		my middle and high
2.8	402	The inequity in enrollment at each building needs to be addressed. There needs to be redistricting or grade banding to address the inequity. Class sizes are inconsistent throughout the district due to enrollment inequities. This creates animosity among faculty and staff.

Transportation & Geographic Size (48 Thoughts, 3.9 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.2	20	Closing a school and adding longer bus routes is a poor choice Does not support needs of children and families.
4.2	13	Please consider what a large area this is. The houses in Verona and Vernon are far apart because that's all Country land. This is going to call for a Very long bus ride, and these children in elementary school are exhausted when they get home as it is.
4.2	22	Distance from home to school should be a consideration. Long bus rides are difficult especially for younger students.
4.2	15	VVS is 130 sq miles while Oneida is 40 sq miles. If it's a disaster for Oneida it absolutely will be for VVS!
4.1	57	Affects on the children- more time on a bus, that is already to long. Larger class sizes negatively impacting learning.
4.1	59	Over crowed classes and kids not getting the help they need, longer transportation.
4.1	40	Bus ride duration Our district is vast. Some kids already have up to 45min bus ride one way. Sending these kids to a differentschool will add even more bus time
4.1	44	Transportation times Transportation needs to be a priority so children are not on the bus for excessive times in the morning or afternoon.
4.1	38	Longer distance from home to school will be hard on some families. Some live close to the elementary school & depending on on that. Longer distance to school will make it difficult for getting kids on and off the bus or picking them up.
4.1	39	long bus rides for students in elementary will be hard for both kids & families if they combine schools by grade levels. Bussing Verona to Vernon etc This will be a long ride for students who already have a long ride. Students will be frustrated & tired. Busses will arrive earlier & kids home later
4.1	45	Closing one of the elementary schools is not the thing to do. We moved specifically to this district because of how solid and great the district is. My little one is in the bus for almost an hour now as it is. If he had to go to another school how long would these kids be on the bus?
4.1	50	While I realize the expense of keeping open school buildings, I ask you to consider the sizable cost and impracticality of grade level banded building . The cost of busing students across the entire district to all schools is immense and highly impractical and time-consuming.
4.1	53	Do not merge schools The teacher to student ratio is already high. This would not benefit the children. The bus routes are to long as it is.
4	68	I am concerned with my three kids all being in separate schools. Having my family in one school close to home is very important should an emergency occur and also to keep the bus routes as short as possible.
4	81	spreading kids throughout the district, longer bus rides, transportation issues, bus driver fatigue. Our family relies on school transportation, bus drivers are key in education & children Safety. One family with kids in each school.
4	77	Keeping children as close to their homes and supporting individuals with special

		needs/students that need more help. It is important to keep the transportation time down and familiar faces and support systems consistent for children who already have them
4	82	Siblings should share the same school and be able to walk or bike to school if they are able to. Knowing our young children are together in the same building is extremely important for us and them. It is also great for transportation purposes.
4	83	If shutting down a school, how it will impact travel to schools that could potentially be further away If banding, how having a child in each building could impact families negatively
4	96	How will transportation work? How will the school accommodate busing? How long are the projected bus rides for young children going to be? My children currently have about a 5-10 min bus ride. I would imagine riding to another elementary school would significantly increase their ride
4	106	In addition to transportation costs associated with grade banding, the BOE needs to evaluate on bus time for kids. My kids already are on the bus for 1.5 hours a day when we live 5 minutes from the school. How would on bus times increase for children in grade banding?
4	109	How will you take care of the transportation aspect if you consolidate or close a building? I feel this could mean spending more money on transportation, more busses and fuel more \$ spent. And very long bus rides for some students.
4	74	Geographic Limitations Families balance their childcare choices and work obligations with location in mind.
4	79	The increase in time that students may spend on the bus Can be mentally tolling on the students after spending a full day at school if they spend more time on the bus due to combining schools
4	93	My child already has a considerable bus ride to get to a building 5 minutes away. Restructuring may cause small children who are already on the bus for around 40 minutes to be on even longer.
4	80	VVS needs to keep the 3 elementary schools. It will keep students close to home and they won't have to have longer bus rides.
4	104	Transportation issues with grade banding Oneida is 40 square miles, Verona is 140. It will be impossible to set up transportation that isn't a disaster for grade banded schools.
3.9	146	Space and transportation Oneida has no space in their buildings after closing one and some students are on the bus until almost 5
3.9	117	Incoming students in the next few years. My daughter is going to be 3 and will be attending school Long bus rides, issues with childcare providers for our elementary schools.
3.9	130	Would be absolutely stupid to do this! It's bad enough my child gets home so late on bus to make them go to another town is not right
3.9	143	Bus routes and bus length times We have children that could potentially travel over an hour on a bus given their location. Say durhamville to sherrill
3.9	154	Distance younger kids will have to travel to school It would put them on a bus for significantly longer periods of time
3.9	163	My main concern is the amount of time students will be spending on a bus to get to their school. Our district is already very big.

3.9	118	Keeping three elementary schools. My children attended in the 1980s when students were bussed back and forth from Vernon to Sherrill. Too much time was spent on buses and not in class
3.9	124	The importance of keeping siblings in the same school and closest to their home. There is no benefit to sending siblings to different schools and there is no benefit to making kids travel farther to another school.
3.9	151	Bus transportation time. Student to teacher ratio increasing. Capacity of the middle school to accomodate the 6th graders? Longer bus rides for all students. Teachers can only teach so many students at once, especially younger ages.
3.9	177	If grade banding increases bus ride maximums from the current 1.5 hour roundtrip, that would not be a reasonable change for elementary kids. Factors beyond cost need to be evaluated. Long bus rides impact family lives enough already. Do not create longer bus rides for grade banding.
3.8	195	We will be homeschooling if you Jam Pack three schools into two. Large classes, bullying increases, more funding needed for the transport mess, impossible to pick up, losing valuable teachers, breaking up families.
3.8	191	Transportation is my first thought. Having littles on the busses for so long is a big concern.
3.8	196	This is a large geographic district. We need to try to keep busing times to a minimum. I e. Bussing students from Vernon to Verona makes no sense. Keeping transportation costs down and making sure the younger kids are not on the bus for extended times.
3.8	201	Transportation This will increase transportation costs, time for students on the bus, fuel costs, wear and tear on vehicles and will not save money or benefit family
3.8	218	Keeping families together - transportation, community Families that cannot provide their own transportation could potentially face long bus rides, pick up and drop off at multiple schools would be hard.
3.7	231	Transportation Family dynamic
3.7	249	Busing is a big component. If you close one of the elementary schools, busing costs will increase due to more miles traveled daily. See answer above.
3.5	320	I am not against grade banding. There are positives to it, especially for higher ability students. I am against daily on bus times that exceed the 1.5 hour limit, class sizes >20 considering the high needs of many students, and reducing any student resources/programs from current baselines.
3.5	318	Transportation Building size and environment
3.3	360	If you close a school, you will be losing more students Many of us are about to move to home schooling our children if this school closing occurs. Bus rides would be long and grades will drop
2.7	410	Busing and time constraints. I was part of split time between Sherrill and Vernon in the 80's and had no issues as a student.
2.2	420	I think the bus routes should be looked but some of these other comments are just sad. Yes, I would like my child to not be on the bus for an hour but I grew up in a large school district and my commute was also 45-50 minutes on the bus. That is typical. Stop winning and realize we have had it easy.

Grade Banding (46 Thoughts, 3.6 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.1	38	Longer distance from home to school will be hard on some families. Some live close to the elementary school & depending on on that. Longer distance to school will make it difficult for getting kids on and off the bus or picking them up.
4.1	39	long bus rides for students in elementary will be hard for both kids & families if they combine schools by grade levels. Bussing Verona to Vernon etc This will be a long ride for students who already have a long ride. Students will be frustrated & tired. Busses will arrive earlier & kids home later
4.1	50	While I realize the expense of keeping open school buildings, I ask you to consider the sizable cost and impracticality of grade level banded building . The cost of busing students across the entire district to all schools is immense and highly impractical and time-consuming.
4.1	30	I would like to see the least amount of hardship on families as possible. It is important to keep elementary age families in the same school when possible so families don't have to run from school to school for activities.
4.1	40	Bus ride duration Our district is vast. Some kids already have up to 45min bus ride one way. Sending these kids to a differentschool will add even more bus time
4	86	Do not close Schools Increased travel time, wear and tear on busses, difficulty for families being further from their children. Each building is important
4	104	Transportation issues with grade banding Oneida is 40 square miles, Verona is 140. It will be impossible to set up transportation that isn't a disaster for grade banded schools.
4	75	If you separate kids in families by grade you are going to be duplicating resources. If You have a second grader and a third grader from the same Family and one goes to Wetzel and one goes to JD George. You will have two different buses going to the same place. That doesn't save anything.
4	111	Parent pickup could be a huge issue if they have student in multiple buildings if you grade band the buildings. You are looking at parent potentially needing to pick up at 2 or 3 elementary buildings at the sametime.
4	112	coordinating multiple young children between different school buildings Just is logistically hard on Parents
4	68	I am concerned with my three kids all being in separate schools. Having my family in one school close to home is very important should an emergency occur and also to keep the bus routes as short as possible.
4	81	spreading kids throughout the district, longer bus rides, transportation issues, bus driver fatigue. Our family relies on school transportation, bus drivers are key in education & children Safety. One family with kids in each school.
4	105	Keeping elementary children in the same family at the same school and local to their homes. I don't think it is fair to families to have young kids in two or three different buildings especially if they start the day at the same time.
3.9	149	I would like the district to strongly consider the difficulties their decision would place on families In the end this will be a factor that may drive down enrollment even further

3.9	177	If grade banding increases bus ride maximums from the current 1.5 hour roundtrip, that would not be a reasonable change for elementary kids. Factors beyond cost need to be evaluated. Long bus rides impact family lives enough already. Do not create longer bus rides for grade banding.
3.9	144	Parents who have children in different grade levels. It may be hard for some parents to have kids in different schools
3.9	153	Please Do Not Separate by Grade Level Separating schools by grade is a nightmare for families. Having kids split b/t multiple buildings complicates transportation, school events, etc.
3.9	156	It is extremely challenging to families when children are in different buildings across the district. Scheduling events to attend, meetings, teachers to visit, volunteer opportunities to participate in, becomes much harder across mult buildings
3.9	168	The thought of grade level buildings make me sad that students and teachers cannot keep a long connection as they work through elementary school.
3.9	116	Sending siblings to different schools or shutting down a school provides zero benefit to families or students. It only creates problems. Explain your reasoning for considering these options. If it is money, we need a complete breakdown of the schools budget
3.9	127	Change in schools by grade. All siblings to be in the same elementary building. Pre-k. Thru 6. Separating siblings at a young age is not ideal mentally for them.
3.8	214	Age banding will increase class sizes The edc is trying to state that it will provide equity across classes, it will only increase class sizes and lessen resources for individual students.
3.8	190	Kids in different buildings but ame start time and pick up time. I can't be in two places at the same time I can't puck up both kids at the same time uf they are in different places.
3.8	200	It is extremely challenging to families when children are in different buildings across the district. Many families plan to have children with close ages, partially with the intention of them growing up and going through school together
3.8	185	Before schools are closed/turned into grade band buildings families should be taken into consideration. Siblings shouldn't be separated BTW schools.
3.7	237	Going to grade band specific schools is very detrimental to our family. We have students across several grade levels. Please do not do this. Separating students within a family by grade level is not best practice and decreases family unity. Families are the bedrock of our district.
3.7	239	Keep our children who have siblings together in the same school! (Pre-k-6th). Our younger children need the help of older children in the school and the comfort of knowing their older brothers and sisters are there with them!
3.7	257	For grade banding: "Some monies may need to be diverted initially to other supports" means what? Which monies, which supports, and diverted from where Vague and potentially misleading claims like this show that the administration has not done the needed research to support the options.
3.6	282	The board has a difficult decision to make, it will be unpopular, but grade level banded buildings is the worst choice Consider redistricting a closed building before you disrupt every single member of the VVS community
3.6	294	Is this about equity or money? If this is about money, banding grades does nothing because

		we will still have 3 elementary buildings. If it's about equity, let's see how many families would be interested in changing elementary schools before making it mandatory for everyone.
3.6	275	Forget long bus rides...what if I need to pick 3 kids up from school one day...who will be paying for my gas and time to drive to 3 different schools? As it is, I already have to pick them up from school just to make it to their sports practices on time.
3.6	276	Grade banding should not be the next step. Transportation and feeling of community is lost. Being able to be in one building for all of elementary builds a feeling of community and friendship. Allows for older kids to be leaders.
3.5	320	I am not against grade banding. There are positives to it, especially for higher ability students. I am against daily on bus times that exceed the 1.5 hour limit, class sizes >20 considering the high needs of many students, and reducing any student resources/programs from current baselines.
3.4	348	DO NOT grade band VVS tried this in the 1980's and ended at the request of parents due to excessive transportation times
3.3	358	Redistricting your smallest school would be more beneficial than grade level banded buildings There are more reasons than I can fit in the character limit. Cost being primary, Retaining community for most, and least disruptive outcome.
3.3	363	Another "benefit" for grade banding: "Specialized Principals." If the elementary principals can't currently handle a 5 year old in a developmentally appropriate manner vs a 10 year old, we need new principals. Either this is a serious issue with the current principals or is a made up benefit.
3.3	369	Class sizes of 20 would be manageable if the district can get control over the disciplinary issues. Banding and putting more kids the same age together will create more issues. Why banding? Stronger leadership. Consistency in punishment. Separate High school and middle school principals
3.2	373	Elementary Building Structures It is difficult to create engaging and appropriate learning spaces in each building that are suitable for 3 & 4 year olds vs. 11 & 12 year olds.
3	387	Safety of children, ability for students to grow together from a young age. VVS is divide and real change won't happen until our kids become friends at a young age.
2.8	399	The only answer if people don't want to change configurations is to raise taxes. Those are the only choices.
2.8	402	The inequity in enrollment at each building needs to be addressed. There needs to be redistricting or grade banding to address the inequity. Class sizes are inconsistent throughout the district due to enrollment inequities. This creates animosity among faculty and staff.
2.7	407	Lower and upper elementary Services for common grades can be centralized.
2.6	413	Combined grades would facilitate community as well as giving students a chance to meet their peers before Middle School. There is no loss of community having children mixed together. And as for separate buildings , they eventually end up in MS regardless.
2.4	416	Grade banding seems impossible but not a horrible idea. But this is the time to make all elementary schools even. Bring down class sizes. 6th grade should move to middle school.
2.4	417	As a VVS taxpayer, I would support combining schools. I think it would be good for my 6th grader to be more independent and responsible. We make due by bringing our kids to a

		different MS/HS. If it is for the better of the kids then I will drive the additional time to the other building.
2.3	418	Being in the elementary buildings daily, the board should consider combining the students into grade level buildings. Services would be so much easier and more beneficial since the students are paired together.

Keep Community Schools (44 Thoughts, 3.7 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.2	24	It seems obvious reading these that the community wants 3 functioning elementary schools listen to the people paying the taxes
4.1	54	It's important to me and my family not to close down or consolidate neighborhood elementary schools. Nearby elementary schools, in close proximity to students homes, decrease time spent on buses and create a stronger sense of community for families.
4.1	53	Do not merge schools The teacher to student ratio is already high. This would not benefit the children. The bus routes are to long as it is.
4.1	48	I bought a house specifically for this school district Want my kids to get a good education
4.1	47	As taxpayers who are helping to fund the schools, listen to their wishes. If they ask to keep the schools local for their children, please find a way These taxpayers have as legitimate monetary interest in the schools. They have accepted every increase asked of them, they ask for this in return
4.1	49	I hope that the district keeps in mind that some residents chose where they live based on the schools. Class sizes and transportation times are huge factors.
4	88	What is the best for the children which may not be the most economical for the district. Keeping the children in the school in their local community. Ultimately the duty of the district is to have best interest of the students in mind when making decisions.
4	105	Keeping elementary children in the same family at the same school and local to their homes. I don't think it is fair to families to have young kids in two or three different buildings especially if they start the day at the same time.
4	77	Keeping children as close to their homes and supporting individuals with special needs/students that need more help. It is important to keep the transportation time down and familiar faces and support systems consistent for children who already have them
4	82	Siblings should share the same school and be able to walk or bike to school if they are able to. Knowing our young children are together in the same building is extremely important for us and them. It is also great for transportation purposes.
4	98	The district is supposed to be a district of distinction! Changing the distinct and unique characteristics of this district will be detrimental. This takes away our sense of community, and the distinction between the 3 communities hence the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill in the district name.
4	99	Community-Based Schools Need to stay It is easier for schools to be able to build relationships with families when they are with the same families for 6/7 years.
3.9	169	VVS tends to have some larger families. Splitting children up would make a logistical nightmare for parents. Family matters above all. Children feel comfort when they are familiar with that surroundings and are in the same location as their siblings.
3.9	124	The importance of keeping siblings in the same school and closest to their home. There is no benefit to sending siblings to different schools and there is no benefit to making kids travel farther to another school.
3.9	161	Sense of community as it relates to the elementary schools and where those children reside.

		Families need to feel more connected to where they directly live and that has proven for more successful outcomes when students are struggling.
3.9	128	I don't want us to lower the buildings in our district because I think children should stay close to home when young.
3.9	145	Keep open all schools Our schools are community hubs. Removing them will have an extremely detrimental effect on each respective community within our district.
3.9	147	Family and community's built together in their districts What makes our district great is the families built within our buildings. My kids teachers spend more time a day with them than I do during the week
3.9	157	Community bonds Each school has special bonds
3.9	159	Many families have moved to specific neighborhoods with the goal and promise of their young children going to school in that small community Encouraging especially young children, to bond with their neighbors builds a much deeper rooted sense of community and benefits them later
3.9	175	Young students need to remain in their home school. Parents choose communities to live in based largely on the school environment. They make choices that allow them to be there for their kids.
3.9	133	Keeping our class sizes small is one of the perks about this school district. Merging schools would be inconvenient for many people. We chose to live here because of the small schools an how localized an accessible it is to get to our children and having them all at one school.
3.8	179	Ability for parents to participate in school events. I like participating in my child's school activities and do not want the change in location to impact how often I am able to attend school events.
3.8	183	Identity of individual communities and unique personality of each elementary school. The faculty and staff of each school have created environments and special traditions that are valued by students and families.
3.8	184	Keeping children in the community they live in for elementary school. To create a sense of community.
3.8	198	Having our children attend schools based on location from home is ideal. the added length of time to travel for pickup drop off to school can be a burden to parents who already drive 45 minutes to Syracuse (or Utica)
3.8	222	I would pay higher taxes just to keep all of my children in the same school and within walking distance to my home. Also to keep 6 grade out of the ms and avoid long bus routes. All reasons we moved here in the first place.
3.7	238	I chose my house based on being in the Verona school. Don't redraw lines and force my kids to leave their school and their friends. Don't punish a few families by forcing school changes. Staff each school appropriately based on enrollment and <20 kids per class.
3.7	228	There will be a loss of community. Right now Vernon, Verona & Sherrill all have a strong community as individual schools & come together as 1 in ms. It's important to have that sense of community and pride. It's what makes us VVS.
3.7	236	These are 3 separate and different communities. We need to ensure those communities keep their identities. School pride, even at the elementary level gives children a sense of pride and

		belonging.
3.7	256	A sense of community is vital for young children. The bond children make in elementary school can last a lifetime. Knowing all your peers is special vs. trying to know almost 100 peers at a young age
3.7	226	I am really upset to hear rumors of our beloved sherrill school closing The students benefit from small class room sized and a close knit community
3.6	276	Grade banding should not be the next step. Transportation and feeling of community is lost. Being able to be in one building for all of elementary builds a feeling of community and friendship. Allows for older kids to be leaders.
3.6	297	Separating siblings in elementary school My younger child relies heavily on his older brother to take him to class and breakfast every day, and will not go by himself.
3.5	326	The people of the district clearly do not want schools to change. Fine a different solution!
3.5	328	What's actually best for the children and their families. EAM is a cornerstone of the community. Small class sizes, a walkable neighborhood, and close proximity were critical to our decision to be in the dist
3.4	335	I am concerned the value of my home will decrease should the school near mine close. We purchased a home in Sherrill largely due to McAllister.
3.4	346	Don't close Sherrill!! I moved the to Sherrill for the school district and the close knit community bro to be bussed to another area. My children look to there other siblings for help in schooling if separated which they would be would drastically affect them in a negative way!
3.3	352	heritage & tradition foundational to community
3.3	368	DO NOT close a community school Community schools are essential so that young students are not taken out of their community and put on long bus rides
3.1	377	Community based schools Ability to pool resources
3.1	386	Location I love the location of mccallister. It is in the heart of Sherrill and makes my kids so happy.
3	392	We moved from camden to sherrill across the st from mcallister for the closeness and community that it offers. This school dis. has been far superior in supporting our 5 childrens needs. If you close mcallister, we will homeschool and you will lose more students, less families will move to Sherrill.
2.8	406	Isnt the school with the smallest class sizes, also the school with the least IEPs, largest sense of community and highest success rate? Why would you close McAllister which has the benefits of walking opportunities and parks close by? NO apartments that would draw low income families to sherrill!

Administration & BOE (28 Thoughts, 3.7 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.2	23	Get separate high school and middle school principals, 1 principal is not enough. Stricter discipline is necessary. We need more people, in the schools, supporting our kids and less people getting paid to "research" and talk about what to do in Admin.
4.2	17	VVS is top heavy regarding administration compared to surrounding school districts. We are the only school that has a superintendent, two assistant superintendents and two directors. That's five people with six figure salaries.
4.1	33	I would like the BOE to consider the many administrative positions and secretaries with high salaries before cutting teachers or programming. Educating our children is most important
4.1	42	Keep things the way they are and stop spending money on administration VVS would be in a better spot financially if administration wasn't receiving large raises like \$25,000 within the last couple years.
4.1	46	We should not be considering closing a school. Reduce the administrative staff and speak with the OIN about their fiscal responsibility given the influx of casino employed families in our schools.
4.1	51	VVS pride is diminishing. Listen to the community and keep 3 schools. The tax payers should have the choice. If it is cost - stop raising your administrators salaries - what are they? Show transparency
4	101	Keep prek-6 in 3 schools. If the budget is the issue than shave some money off the top in Admin. How much do the Superintendents make?
4	66	Pay freeze on administrators would support cost savings and help in making an economic decision comparable to the three communities it serves Most administrators pay raises are more than the median income in the district. If we need to cut costs start there
4	67	Having smaller class sizes would be beneficial for the children and the teachers to have more one on one attention. Having one on one attention for children would allow less children to fall behind. We should have less administrative positions and more teaching.
4	89	I read every thought ~ the community wants all 3 elementaries to remain open. a high school principal that is tougher and a middle school principal and pay freeze on administrative positions ~ view salaries at see through ny. superintendents salaries are ridiculous.
3.9	174	Options need clear and identified budget impacts that reduce the \$4M deficit. Without disclosed, targeted budget impacts, deadlines must be delayed. Why do we trust the people who created a \$4M deficit to make massive changes without proof of the budget improvements?
3.9	138	Cost for building maintenance & transportation shouldn't exceed student investment. Top heavy admin and showy busses (electric) and flashy schools(turf) are not the priorities
3.9	152	I don't see taxes changing, and they cover salary so reduce class size, keep teachers and schools The kids are more important than the administration. If money is needed, and any cuts are sought, an administrator should be one of them.
3.9	129	If finances is an issues why don't the salaries of the superintendents and their secretaries be readjusted?

3.8	204	Our superintendent makes \$209,000 a year with 1800 kids. Larger districts make similar with 10-12,000 kids. Consider cutting her salary to save money! If the district needs to save money, this is a good way to start. Her secretary makes \$80k a year also, We are a top heavy district, start there!
3.8	220	Is the BOE evaluating the competency of the administration? The current administration ate away at the district's reserves with the poor planning while forcing massive and rushed decisions with no data to support any options, it's time to look for competent replacements or outsourcing.
3.7	245	Reduce the number of useless administrative positions in the block house Reduce the pay for the remaining administrative staff in the block house
3.7	247	If the district is so tight on money, we should consider removing the additional senior tax breaks and consider the outrageous salaries of upper admin These tax cuts and high salaries cuts will allow money to be put back into the education of students.
3.7	248	If the superintendent and board make a decision like this, against clear resident wishes. They should all be removed We, the tax payers have clearly spoken. It is the superintendent and BIE's responsibility to uphold the tax payer decisions and best support students
3.7	255	get rid of most of the admins. In the private sector, they do this with getting rid of middle management. If enrollment is declining, then how does the district justify keeping the same amount of admins.
3.6	290	having the current superintendent, who makes 250K per year, retire would free up lots of financial resources for the students. A younger superintendent will have fresh ideas, will be paid less, and not be indoctrinated in the toxic culture. Money will go towards students
3.5	327	Make better budget choices to avoid this One administrator retiring isn't enough from the top. Cut the fat.
3.4	342	Cut the waste! Get rid of excess staffing that are overpaid! Our district needs more working staff like teachers and aide and less administrative useless staff
3.3	361	The purpose & task the BOE has is to help set the vision along with the Superintendent on how best to educate all students now and into the future It is the Board's and Supt.'s most important role - must think big picture while considering finances, student enrollment and structure of buildings
3.1	385	From the VVS website: "School boards gather input from concerned citizens and explain controversial decisions." When will the BOE start truly gathering input and explaining these options and the motivation behind them? Seems like the board is ignoring the public
3	391	Many people seem to be saying "cut the admin" and that will help. The admin are the ones that have to address issues. Issues that are a result of Poor student behavior. If everyone was on the same page with holding kids accountable district staff would be able to focus on the real priorities.
2.9	395	The Board makes decisions with everyone's input. They seem to be following a good process No one knows everything. So how could "the board" "decide.?" They are "gatherers". It's good
2.7	411	Keep all the schools open, change district lines, way overpaying the superintendent for a district of this size and way too many admin- assistants Obvious

Closing a School (25 Thoughts, 3.7 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.2	19	Smaller class sizes are beneficial to children's learning. Closing a school and increasing class sizes is not putting children's education first.
4.2	18	I have recently retired from a district where downsizing was conducted after an efficiency study was conducted via a person employed out of district. After schools were closed, the remaining space was jam packed. It was very difficult to teach the neediest learners. This is SO sad 😞
4.2	20	Closing a school and adding longer bus routes is a poor choice Does not support needs of children and families.
4.2	24	It seems obvious reading these that the community wants 3 functioning elementary schools listen to the people paying the taxes
4.1	46	We should not be considering closing a school. Reduce the administrative staff and speak with the OIN about their fiscal responsibility given the influx of casino employed families in our schools.
4.1	54	It's important to me and my family not to close down or consolidate neighborhood elementary schools. Nearby elementary schools, in close proximity to students homes, decrease time spent on buses and create a stronger sense of community for families.
4	95	If a building needs to be closed, consider changing the district lines instead of turning buildings into age based groups. Keeping siblings together is important to parents. For bussing, pickup/dropoff, safety, etc.
4	69	Keep all the schools opened! Bigger classrooms aren't going to be effective! It's important for all students to be able to learn with the one on one from the teacher than it is to be part of a bigger classrooms!!!
4	103	Closing a school is a horrible idea. It is going to increase the student to teacher ratio, disrupt our children and our daily lives.
4	102	Keep the current schools open. Overpopulating a school building never works in favor of anyone, regardless of how much it can potentially cut a budget monetarily. It is wrong.
4	86	Do not close Schools Increased travel time, wear and tear on busses, difficulty for families being further from their children. Each building is important
4	91	Keep class sizes small Keep 3 elementary schools
3.9	116	Sending siblings to different schools or shutting down a school provides zero benefit to families or students. It only creates problems. Explain your reasoning for considering these options. If it is money, we need a complete breakdown of the schools budget
3.9	165	Closing schools won't save money. Funding will just be reallocated to the remaining schools. The buildings kept open will have increased expenses. Cost per student is still the same, buildings still need to be maintained, heated and supplied electric unless the district intends to sell them.
3.9	160	Redistricting and closing an elementary school will raise class sizes and force children to lose relationships they've built with peers and teachers VVS supposedly prides itself on being a district of distinction and creating positive relationships either the community. this will hurt the

		children.
3.8	212	Closing a building or banding the grades do not solve any issues. To equal enrollment throughout the school, town lines need to be reviewed . Making classroom sizes bigger by closing a building is not going to help anyone and banding grades is not successful in Oneida. Why would it be for us
3.7	226	I am really upset to hear rumors of our beloved sherrill school closing The students benefit from small class room sized and a close knit community
3.6	282	The board has a difficult decision to make, it will be unpopular, but grade level banded buildings is the worst choice Consider redistricting a closed building before you disrupt every single member of the VVS community
3.4	332	The need for one location Students shouldn't be housed at the three different elementary schools. Closing one would upset the community balance.
3.4	343	Not closing Sherrill school
3.3	356	Capacity vs. Need for Repairs If a building needs to close, McAllister has the smallest capacity. However, is McAllister or Wettel in better condition? JDG must stay due to size.
3.3	360	If you close a school, you will be losing more students Many of us are about to move to home schooling our children if this school closing occurs. Bus rides would be long and grades will drop
2.4	415	Move 6th to Middle School & Close One Building at ~43% under-utilization of buildings (using Functional capacity), we should move 6th to MS, close McAllister, and rezone Wettel so some attend JDG.
2.2	419	Combining schools/ BOCES Move 6th Grade to Middle School. Distribute Vernon Students to Verona and Sherrill. Move all BOCES, High School and Verona to Vernon.
2.2	421	It's been said that enrollment is declining at Wettel in Vernon. Why close that school when it's larger than McCalister in Sherrill? Close the smaller school and allow the district to have some room for growth in the future. Why limit the district with the smaller school?

Student Support and Increased Student Need (24 Thoughts, 3.8 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.5	1	Enrollment as in numbers may be declining, but the needs of the students continue to increase. Fewer students does not mean fewer support needs The amount of time, energy, and attention individual students require must be taken into account, rather than sheer numbers on a roster.
4.3	7	Declining enrollment but GREATER needs These children have huge needs- speech, ot, pt, mental health, behavior issues, IEP's, 1 on 1's. Let's think about needs not just numbers.
4.2	18	I have recently retired from a district where downsizing was conducted after an efficiency study was conducted via a person employed out of district. After schools were closed, the remaining space was jam packed. It was very difficult to teach the neediest learners. This is SO sad 😞
4.1	61	The BOE policy max class sizes are unrealistic with the needs profile of students. Class sizes >20 with multiple IEPs and AIS needs create failure. Huge classes with heavy IEP loads, large ability differences, and students who need lots of extra attention, set the teacher and class up for failure.
4.1	31	I've seen firsthand from many people I know in Oneida these kids are exhausted coming home so late. we need to add that stress to our children. So many kids these days, struggle with mental health and anxiety. There is a reason we live in this district. Please don't make a bad decision.
4	87	It is a challenging time for this new generation and more then ever they need more hands on learning and one on one interactions with teachers Because it seems our kids are falling behind in learning VVS has always been one of the top schools in our area that should hold true going forward
4	100	Get the schools back to the VVS pride we knew Pre-covid. the kids don't need change. they need structure and support. Better leadership is key
4	113	I'm very concerned with these upcoming changes. Mainly because of the student's especially the younger children in Elementary school. As a parent of a child with Anxiety, having the small school atmosphere she has at Wettel works very well for her and for other students as well.
3.9	172	retention of staff- maxing out classes we might lose valuable teaching staff. Our class sizes now are very beneficial for students that seem to have higher needs than ever.
3.9	119	Reduce the number of students per classroom at JDG My 3 elementary aged children have over 20 students in their respective classrooms, each with students of varying needs, some being very significant
3.9	176	Providing equitable instruction to students across the district in different buildings. Our goal as a school should be to meet the needs of our students with the greatest emphasis being placed on student support within the classroom classr
3.8	197	Please take into consideration the emotional and social impacts on these children. While they are a resilient bunch, these kids have already been through the ringer. (Covid, remote learning, etc) please address and have a plan for these impacts.
3.7	261	provide students with a quality education. So students will be successful in life.

3.6	291	Class size Class sizes may be smaller in some buildings, needs of students are greater. Being in the edu field, I have seen student needs increase significantly
3.6	272	How much change these children have already been through with COVID Not creating more change and disruption.
3.6	279	Parent concerns with curriculum, administration and student accountability to entice students going to public school versus home school Because what's absolutely necessary for life and further education, staff support for students with extra needs, and accountability for behaviors
3.6	280	Keeping the current resource help
3.6	300	Continuity of Student Relationships with Support Staff Students build relationships with social workers, nurses, therapists, etc, to make school a safe place. Should try not to disrupt unnecessary.
3.5	309	Special education numbers increasing COVID put a lot of students behind and separating them from their siblings set the student up to show they aren't as important as others
3.5	310	what about special needs children? Who do better in smaller groups if not 1 on 1 supports. You'll be forcing families to homeschool. My children won't be going to school if this actually becomes real. It's just not feasible, the cons out weigh the pros. I won't put them through that
3.5	325	Strong academic program that can meet the needs of diverse students. We want our students to be prepared for their future but we must remember not all students want to go to college.
3.3	371	class sizes need to include any child that comes to that class. any child that has a desk in that room. even if they leave for ela or math even though class enrollment is down, needs (academic and behavioral) are way up
3.2	376	Continuity of care
2.6	412	in this post covid period we've an opportunity to make changes if the #s show it makes fiscal sense & meets the social emotional needs of the students

Do What's Best for Kids, Families, and Staff (19 Thoughts, 3.9 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.5	3	Do what is best for the students
4.3	6	It's all about the KIDS! The sole purpose of VVS is education. This is not a money making business. All decisions should be based on what is best for the kids, which is not larger classes, longer bus rides and divided families.
4.2	26	The most important factor to consider is what is best for the students. Will consolidating school facilities and/or classrooms benefit students? It's important because that should be every educators main goal - to make decisions based on what's best for the students - to foster their growth
4.1	43	Put the families first. I have friends in the oneida district and they are having to figure out how to get their children to multiple schools on time. Most parents also work. Just don't make things more difficult for people
4	110	Look at all possible options. Keep a common sense approach and keep the well being of the children a top priority. Consider all options available. Complex problems require creative solutions.
4	88	What is the best for the children which may not be the most economical for the district. Keeping the children in the school in their local community. Ultimately the duty of the district is to have best interest of the students in mind when making decisions.
3.9	131	Priority should be on the students and what will impact them and the families the most. This study is cited due to decreased enrollment, impacting families to make things harder will also impact enrollment if they choose another district.
3.9	142	What is best interest for our children Keeping siblings together
3.9	141	VVS taxpayer and parent of three VVS graduates, with one buying in VVS with their 3 kids because of the schools. All of us are planning to move if VVS administration doesn't put the kids and families first. When is the contract up so salaries of administration can be reviewed?
3.9	149	I would like the district to strongly consider the difficulties their decision would place on families In the end this will be a factor that may drive down enrollment even further
3.9	169	VVS tends to have some larger families. Splitting children up would make a logistical nightmare for parents. Family matters above all. Children feel comfort when they are familiar with that surroundings and are in the same location as their siblings.
3.8	185	Before schools are closed/turned into grade band buildings families should be taken into consideration. Siblings shouldn't be separated BTW schools.
3.8	181	Please try to find a compromise and do what's best for students, families and the community. Don't just let the loudest negative voices get their way.
3.8	193	Consider the families and children. Making huge changes will effect a lot of these kids, and negatively at that
3.8	206	Support of families district-wide To take into consideration the need for support for working families with children.
3.8	210	Best interest of employees and students

3.7	229	Cut the waste! We have people in positions that are worthless and don't look out for the best interest of children. We need to ensure our children get the best education possible and have people in roles that know what their are doing. Stop hindering the teachers
3.7	237	Going to grade band specific schools is very detrimental to our family. We have students across several grade levels. Please do not do this. Separating students within a family by grade level is not best practice and decreases family unity. Families are the bedrock of our district.
3.7	239	Keep our children who have siblings together in the same school! (Pre-k-6th). Our younger children need the help of older children in the school and the comfort of knowing their older brothers and sisters are there with them!

Budget/Finance (20 Thoughts, 3.4 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
3.9	129	If finances is an issues why don't the salaries of the superintendents and their secretaries be readjusted?
3.8	182	What is the budget shortfall exactly? We should hire an independent consultant to review allocations and make recommendations on how to improve spending.
3.8	208	4 million dollar deficit!?! Why do we have a 4 million dollar deficit? Maybe cut backs to administration would help. Just raised taxes and haven't seen progress with all the mone
3.8	219	Change is needed to address the deficit. I would feel more comfortable if admin had time to logistically plan for the change(s) for a smoother Transition. Maybe we should make changes a little at a time.
3.8	221	When is the community going to be given the list of budget cuts in each option? Shouldn't the community be given the financial data that supposedly supports each option so we can see why the BOE and administration's actions would potentially be justified, if justified?
3.7	244	Efficiency It is important that we provide/create structures that allow for budget efficiencies as well as using teachers' time purposefully and efficiently.
3.7	262	Finances The school needs to stay solvent.
3.6	298	What happened to the budget for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond that created such large deficits. VVS managed to create a \$15M general fund before that. Why are we suddenly running large deficits and risking our schools? Property taxes and revenues have increased each year.
3.5	327	Make better budget choices to avoid this One administrator retiring isn't enough from the top. Cut the fat.
3.5	319	How to be more equitable across elementary buildings. How we can address the financial deficit.
3.4	345	Enrollment is not down Based off of the #s provided enrollment is only down by small %, Please stop masking the true issue, which is overspending and poor money management.
3.3	355	Consider that these EDC studies are prescribed by NY State. Data provided is linear, in reality no trend is linear. NY already cut funding for rural districts; the studies are prescribed by the same entity that doesn't want to fund rural schools.
3.3	364	The balance between providing opportunities for students and the fiscal responsibility to the community should be considered over time. School districts must make decision with both there heart and heads with the needs of both equally as important
3.3	354	Underutilized space in schools can be subleased. Financial concerns have been cited. Subleasing space in schools could help retain costs/maintenance without closing buildings.
3.2	372	Keep our school great! We have useless staff and "administrators" that would rather combine school than take a hand look at the waste there is in deadbeat employees.
3	388	The cost of maintaining the current systems in place Busing
2.8	399	The only answer if people don't want to change configurations is to raise taxes. Those are

		the only choices.
2.8	405	Impact on community taxes
2.6	412	in this post covid period we've an opportunity to make changes if the #s show it makes fiscal sense & meets the social emotional needs of the students
2.4	414	Seems Unavoidable It seems unavoidable to close one school due to decreased state aid. I appreciate the district's efforts to involve the constituents in planning.

Keep Three PK-6 Elementary Buildings (18 Thoughts, 3.9 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.1	51	VVS pride is diminishing. Listen to the community and keep 3 schools. The tax payers should have the choice. If it is cost - stop raising your administrators salaries - what are they? Show transparency
4	70	Keep smaller class sizes for elementary, keep consistency of building differentiation for elementary, keeping prek-6 students together. Elementary age students thrive on consistency, younger students look up to older students, middle school marks the beginning of autonomy.
4	80	VVS needs to keep the 3 elementary schools. It will keep students close to home and they won't have to have longer bus rides.
4	99	Community-Based Schools Need to stay It is easier for schools to be able to build relationships with families when they are with the same families for 6/7 years.
4	65	Keeping the schools the way they are right now helps property values and makes it a desirable location for young families. If we want to bring enrollment up or keep VVS a desirable school district we should focus on adding more teachers and less on closing schools.
4	71	Keeping the 3 schools open and re-district town lines to even the enrollment between the three schools. It's important to leave the buildings open but to even out the classrooms so the education and attention for the students does not suffer.
4	101	Keep prek-6 in 3 schools. If the budget is the issue than shave some money off the top in Admin. How much do the Superintendents make?
3.9	118	Keeping three elementary schools. My children attended in the 1980s when students were bussed back and forth from Vernon to Sherrill. Too much time was spent on buses and not in class
3.9	127	Change in schools by grade. All siblings to be in the same elementary building. Pre-k. Thru 6. Separating siblings at a young age is not ideal mentally for them.
3.9	121	Keeping our schools as is. Do not combine schools Other schools who have done this are having a very hard time. The bus routes would be terrible
3.9	134	Not combining schools. Keep each elementary school as it is. Having to travel to the next town for one child in another elementary school is going to hard on the children and parents.
3.9	137	Keeping the structure of an elementary school the same. It builds a school community and makes the city community stronger.
3.9	139	Grade banding should be a last resort. I have seen this first hand as a teacher, and I do not feel that having buildings separated by grade level is beneficial.
3.9	161	Sense of community as it relates to the elementary schools and where those children reside. Families need to feel more connected to where they directly live and that has proven for more successful outcomes when students are struggling.
3.8	189	do not close a school, keep them all open. People move to Sherrill to have their children attend Sherrill school, not be on a long bus ride to Verona or Vernon.

3.7	227	I believe we should keep all the schools as they are and have floating teachers based on the needs each year. There are many families with multiple aged children and it would add a lot of stress to the families to be able to do pick up and drop offs.
3.7	230	Keep the current elementary schools. Community togetherness
3.3	366	not enough space to complete a thought here. will the district even listen? i think it's clear that the parents and taxpayer don't want banding. Keep preK-6 at 3 schools that build community bonds. Keep middle school 7/8 and get a principal. Keep high school 9-12 and get a principal and vice

Attendance/Town Lines (19 Thoughts, 3.5 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4	108	The bullet point that "Parents [sic] concerns may not align with students' concerns" is utterly tone deaf for a decision affecting kids as young as 4. Don't rezone kids away from friends/family and don't double class sizes are pretty safe issues that affect young children and parents universally.
4	71	Keeping the 3 schools open and re-district town lines to even the enrollment between the three schools. It's important to leave the buildings open but to even out the classrooms so the education and attention for the students does not suffer.
4	95	If a building needs to be closed, consider changing the district lines instead of turning buildings into age based groups. Keeping siblings together is important to parents. For bussing, pickup/dropoff, safety, etc.
3.9	123	Student teacher ratio is too large Reduction in an elementary school will worsen this. Focus on performance and if one school has more kids, consider a change in district lines.
3.9	160	Redistricting and closing an elementary school will raise class sizes and force children to lose relationships they've built with peers and teachers VVS supposedly prides itself on being a district of distinction and creating positive relationships either the community. this will hurt the children.
3.8	212	Closing a building or banding the grades do not solve any issues. To equal enrollment throughout the school, town lines need to be reviewed . Making classroom sizes bigger by closing a building is not going to help anyone and banding grades is not successful in Oneida. Why would it be for us
3.8	188	Where kids are located and how the zoning pertains to them attending the school Kids should get the best schooling they can and vvs provides that
3.7	224	Change town lines Look at changing town lines as a way to decrease enrollment at Verona and make things more equitable.
3.7	225	If enrollment in one particular school is an issue, could bus routes for that school be looked at to see if it's easily extendable into the next town? The Vernon elem. bus route comes all the way down 31 up until almost to H.S. Could you get extra enrollment for Vernon there as opposed to Verona?
3.7	233	I think it would be wise to start with redrawing the district lines. JDG is packed and overflowing. Class sizes are too big, while some Vernon classes have 11 kids in a class. JDG also has way more needs.
3.7	238	I chose my house based on being in the Verona school. Don't redraw lines and force my kids to leave their school and their friends. Don't punish a few families by forcing school changes. Staff each school appropriately based on enrollment and <20 kids per class.
3.6	274	Redrawing the school lines and spreading special education into other buildings, we should not be having special education at JDGeorge the change of lines will help all the schools out. Changing special ED to show up in all schools shows students they don't need to be seperated
3.5	308	Buildings need equity! JDG class sizes are at "decision points" of 26+ in a class while the same grade level in Vernon has 11 students per class People come here for the smaller class sizes! It's a HUGE draw. Redraw lines to balance out the class sizes. There's too much

		inequity.
3.4	333	Redistricting elementary lines allows the district to create larger class sizes across all elementary schools by cherry picking the kids and schools. It will disproportionately punish a handful of kids, give admins the ability to create the large class sizes they want, and result in fewer teachers.
3.3	358	Redistricting your smallest school would be more beneficial than grade level banded buildings There are more reasons than I can fit in the character limit. Cost being primary, Retaining community for most, and least disruptive outcome.
3.1	382	School district lines and options of enrollment Because families should have an option
2.9	393	People are afraid of change, so any changes, especially closing or rezoning buildings has to be done in a way that the community can understand People need to understand that this may have growing pains but it could have a significant positive impact on academics and instruction.
2.8	400	VVS numbers are down but Rome is experiencing overcrowding... Consider moving district lines to help our neighbor? Seems like a win-win?
2.7	411	Keep all the schools open, change district lines, way overpaying the superintendent for a district of this size and way too many admin- assistants Obvious

VVS Pride (17 Thoughts, 3.9 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.2	14	Continue the high caliber of staffing. I am proud to say I am the parent of 7 VVS graduates. I want my grandchildren in the district to have the same positive professional educators as they
4.1	45	Closing one of the elementary schools is not the thing to do. We moved specifically to this district because of how solid and great the district is. My little one is in the bus for almost an hour now as it is. If he had to go to another school how long would these kids be on the bus?
4.1	48	I bought a house specifically for this school district Want my kids to get a good education
4	98	The district is supposed to be a district of distinction! Changing the distinct and unique characteristics of this district will be detrimental. This takes away our sense of community, and the distinction between the 3 communities hence the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill in the district name.
4	65	Keeping the schools the way they are right now helps property values and makes it a desirable location for young families. If we want to bring enrollment up or keep VVS a desirable school district we should focus on adding more teachers and less on closing schools.
4	76	Closing a school will inevitably increase class sizes. That is what makes VVS such a desirable and sought after school district. Increasing class sizes is NOT looking out for the best interest of our students. Don't alter our children's futures over money!!
4	85	Keeping our class sizes small is one of the great things about this school district. Merging schools would be inconvenient for many people. I moved here specifically so that my child could go to school where the class sizes provide a better education. Don't ruin what sets us apart.
4	87	It is a challenging time for this new generation and more then ever they need more hands on learning and one on one interactions with teachers Because it seems our kids are falling behind in learning VVS has always been one of the top schools in our area that should hold true going forward
4	94	Potentially doing this and increasing class sizes will lower the personal attention that each student gets now. The personal attention and low class sizes is why so many people value the VVS District.
4	100	Get the schools back to the VVS pride we knew Pre-covid. the kids don't need change. they need structure and support. Better leadership is key
3.9	158	Keeping high standards for the students education
3.9	148	Going to grade band specific schools in Oneida has been a disaster according to many parents. Bus ride times have increased / teacher morale lowered. We have a great product right now in VVS. Why mess with it?!
3.8	188	Where kids are located and how the zoning pertains to them attending the school Kids should get the best schooling they can and vvs provides that
3.8	186	Continue to offer a wide array of courses at various levels to allow all students opportunities within subject areas. Our students receiving a comprehensive basic education is important for their success and will also help us as they make choices about where to settle

3.6	288	sustaining quality and equity of curriculum across all buildings VVS has an excellent, long standing reputation to guard. While allowing for the autonomy of individual teachers, robust and common curricula is a must
3.4	337	That vvs is a model district Maintain respectability
3.2	372	Keep our school great! We have useless staff and “administrators” that would rather combine school than take a hand look at the waste there is in deadbeat employees.

Regional Grade Banding Challenges (17 Thoughts, 3.9 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.2	15	VVS is 130 sq miles while Oneida is 40 sq miles. If it's a disaster for Oneida it absolutely will be for VVS!
4.1	34	Other districts around the area have closed schools and combined and have received significant negative feedback for it. We should be learning from what didn't work well from other districts. We are seeing it first hand.
4.1	37	Learn from Oneida Has anyone in the district talked to anyone who works at Oneida? Or any other district who has made changes? We could learn a lot from them.
4.1	31	I've seen firsthand from many people I know in Oneida these kids are exhausted coming home so late. we need to add that stress to our children. So many kids these days, struggle with mental health and anxiety. There is a reason we live in this district. Please don't make a bad decision.
4.1	43	Put the families first. I have friends in the oneida district and they are having to figure out how to get their children to multiple schools on time. Most parents also work. Just don't make things more difficult for people
4	78	The Oneida school district switched to aged based schools and per conversations with the teachers, students and parents it is not effective. Bullying has increased significantly due to the aged based schools. Families are being split and pick up and drop offs are extremely difficult.
4	92	Look at neighboring schools who have grade level banded, it has been extremely contentious and wildly unsuccessful I encourage you not to speak, not just with administrators of those districts, but families, students, and faculty of those districts
3.9	148	Going to grade band specific schools in Oneida has been a disaster according to many parents. Bus ride times have increased / teacher morale lowered. We have a great product right now in VVS. Why mess with it?!
3.9	132	We do not want to see the elementary students sent to different buildings based on grade level. It has been a complete nightmare for the Oneida School families who have more than one child at home.
3.9	136	Do not close a school or change bus routes. We are not Oneida. It is not working for them nor did it work for VVS years ago. One of my children will begin pre k this fall. I intentionally moved back to Verona for this school district & specific elementary school.
3.9	170	I want them to consider how this same situation played out in Oneida. It was not great for the district, as I am a current employee there. As a resident of Sherrill, I was thrilled to know that VVS would not be doing the same thing as Oneida. It is disheartening to see the same results.
3.9	121	Keeping our schools as is. Do not combine schools Other schools who have done this are having a very hard time. The bus routes would be terrible
3.9	146	Space and transportation Oneida has no space in their buildings after closing one and some students are on the bus until almost 5
3.7	251	I have heard that faculty in Oneida that have to work together now aren't held to task to make sure all students get the same educational experience I would HOPE VVS Admin would

		make SURE it doesn't happen as it's NOT FAIR to students; same grade-same school
3.6	281	We are VVS, not Oneida, STOP TRYING TO BE ONEIDA! Support our district and our students. Do what community residents ask. We are not Oneida and are separate districts for a reason.
3.6	285	Historic examples and similar districts What can we learn from similar situations in the past for VVS or other school districts that have faced similar challenges and taken various approach
3.1	383	I don't like how Oneida has done things so either putting them in one building or leave it. Too confusing the way Oneida does it. One big building at the high school location might be best then sell the other buildings

Moving 6th Grade to Middle School (17 Thoughts, 3.2 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
3.9	151	Bus transportation time. Student to teacher ratio increasing. Capacity of the middle school to accomodate the 6th graders? Longer bus rides for all students. Teachers can only teach so many students at once, especially younger ages.
3.9	115	Keep 6th grade at elementary level They're still very young and do not need the influence of older kids. Also they can't participate in middle school sports even if they moved up.
3.9	122	Mixing 6th grade with high schoolers on bus Kids are largely unsupervised on the bus as driver focuses on the road. Bullying and bad behavior by older kids impact younger kids.
3.8	222	I would pay higher taxes just to keep all of my children in the same school and within walking distance to my home. Also to keep 6 grade out of the ms and avoid long bus routes. All reasons we moved here in the first place.
3.6	270	Keeping 6th grade in elementary school Keeping kids innocent and not involved in middle school issues/drama
3.6	287	The middle school can't handle adding the 6th graders. There are already kids eating lunch at 10:30 am because they don't have the space. The high school is the same way. 10:30 lunch, come on???
3.6	296	6th graders are not old enough to start middle school and there is a big benefit to all the children of the same family being in the same building
3.5	324	Putting children into middle school who have had no preparation for transition As a 5th grade parent, I'm concerned my son is nowhere near ready to move into a new school or transition smoothly. I worry about his mental health.
3.4	339	Maturity of 6th graders These students are not mature enough to be in a middle school and handle the additional freedom. This is one thing our district does correctly now!
3.3	359	The MS does not have room for additional students or classes. This will increase MS class sizes and result in classes being combined This offers less choices to our children and will make scheduling more difficult. Tbere is also enough available space for all the 6th graders.
3.1	380	6th graders do not belong in middle school. Kids grow up fast enough without exposing them to middle school a year earlier.
2.9	394	Moving 6th grade up to middle school. And keeping 3 teachers per grade in higher enrolled elementary school like JD George or McClaster. Leave Wettle with 2 teachers per grade.
2.9	396	6th grade should be moved to the middle school. Especially now that we have full day PreK. Student safety.
2.4	415	Move 6th to Middle School & Close One Building at ~43% under-utilization of buildings (using Functional capacity), we should move 6th to MS, close McAllister, and rezone Wettel so some attend JDG.
2.4	416	Grade banding seems impossible but not a horrible idea. But this is the time to make all elementary schools even. Bring down class sizes. 6th grade should move to middle school.
2.4	417	As a VVS taxpayer, I would support combining schools. I think it would be good for my 6th grader to be more independent and responsible. We make due by bringing our kids to a

		different MS/HS. If it is for the better of the kids then I will drive the additional time to the other building.
2.2	419	Combining schools/ BOCES Move 6th Grade to Middle School. Distribute Vernon Students to Verona and Sherrill. Move all BOCES, High School and Verona to Vernon.
3.9	151	Bus transportation time. Student to teacher ratio increasing. Capacity of the middle school to accomodate the 6th graders? Longer bus rides for all students. Teachers can only teach so many students at once, especially younger ages.

Proposed Solutions (14 Thoughts, 3.3 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
3.8	180	Start with small changes There are certainly ways to cut costs without closing a school. Possibly develop a pilot program for one school year before making drastic changes.
3.8	194	I would like the board to consider taking students out of district that pay tuition if they are residents of Vernon Verona or Sherill VVS schools are closer and many parents that have students in districts like Oneida may want to pay to have their students attend VVS.
3.7	225	If enrollment in one particular school is an issue, could bus routes for that school be looked at to see if it's easily extendable into the next town? The Vernon elem. bus route comes all the way down 31 up until almost to H.S. Could you get extra enrollment for Vernon there as opposed to Verona?
3.6	294	Is this about equity or money? If this is about money, banding grades does nothing because we will still have 3 elementary buildings. If it's about equity, let's see how many families would be interested in changing elementary schools before making it mandatory for everyone.
3.5	317	Instead of disrupting and harming students already established in an elementary school, shift students among schools at their initial registration. Balance class sizes as kids register. Not years later when they are established with friends and relationships in a school.
3.3	354	Underutilized space in schools can be subleased. Financial concerns have been cited. Subleasing space in schools could help retain costs/maintenance without closing buildings.
3.3	357	Can collaboration with the local governments of VV&S help influence housing policies that attract more families? Can we attract more families and young couples to move to our district?
3.3	365	Consider amenities at different campuses Sidewalks, community places for walking field trips, proximity to parks are non-school perks that enhance student experiences.
3.2	374	For the grades that need class size equity between schools, offer the families in those grades a choice to switch schools. Some families may prefer other schools, smaller classes, or different classmates. Then, no one is harmed by forcing involuntary school changes.
3.1	379	If overcrowding in classrooms is an issue, offer tax cut incentives to families to switch schools. Or tax increases for individuals to stay in-district Provide incentives, rather than punishing families/children.
3.1	384	Consider hiring and utilizing aides for supervision of hallways and study halls. Many secondary teachers have a reduced class load due to other responsibilities. This might help reduce overall class size by creating more sections.

2.8	403	Could you build a new building with new technology that is more energy efficient so the building lasts longer and sell the other ones. The buildings being sold and converted even into apartments in the end could bring more residents. Also having one building could make busing easier
2.8	398	Since BOCES is rumored to be consolidating their footprint into the N Broad school next year, does that free up enough space in Verona for everyone? Verona used to hold ~700 students. Can we consolidate all 3 elementary schools and save enough money to keep all the teachers and small classes?
2.8	400	VVS numbers are down but Rome is experiencing overcrowding... Consider moving district lines to help our neighbor? Seems like a win-win?

Future Implications (10 Thoughts, 3.7 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4	90	How micron may soon influence enrollment. How the major expansion of the casino, increased jobs, and families moving into the area may soon + #s These are major area events occurring in the next 5 years with the potential to increase enrollment substantially
3.9	150	What happens when the enrollment starts to increase? Will the plan still work and make sense or will the district be sent into this dilemma all over again?
3.8	199	What is the cost of doing nothing? Does that truly outweigh the cost of change? If there is time to "wait and see" for more data points and to see how major things like the casino expansion, micron, and wolf speed coming to the area tie into enrollment. Housing is locked what happens with movemt
3.8	192	The future growth of enrollment. If you take something away now, it's going to cost you down the road.
3.7	234	Future numbers... would building additions need to be made if population rises Hard to close a school and then find our additions will need to be made to remaining schools
3.7	258	How will the final decision impact future enrollment. Will families leave the district/chose not to move here due to the "solution" that is decided. All change has future impacts. Will the final decision slowly make enrollment worse or is there a solution that can help draw people in.
3.6	271	Enrollment might go up with the casino expansion With all of the new jobs the casino is going to bring it could make enrollment jump back up
3.6	283	The expansion of Turning Stone Resort and Casino and the Micron development. Both of these projects will bring more people and families to this area. We could definitely see a boom in the coming years.
3.4	347	It is important to begin thinking about what our students need in learning environments that will support them in the future. The classroom has not changed in the last 120 years, work environments have and we need spaces for our students that will help them succeed.
3	388	The cost of maintaining the current systems in place Busing

Separate Middle and High School Principal (8 Thoughts, 3.7 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
4.2	23	Get separate high school and middle school principals, 1 principal is not enough. Stricter discipline is necessary. We need more people, in the schools, supporting our kids and less people getting paid to "research" and talk about what to do in Admin.
4	89	I read every thought ~ the community wants all 3 elementaries to remain open. a high school principal that is tougher and a middle school principal and pay freeze on administrative positions ~ view salaries at see through ny. superintendents salaries are ridiculous.
3.9	166	We need a separate middle school principal. One person doing both jobs is not working well. Student safety. Teacher safety.
3.7	240	Reinstating a separate High School and Middle School Principal It's too big of a job for 1 person
3.7	263	The middle school needs its own principal. Lack of authority presence is leading to greater disciplinary issues. The high school needs its own principal too - and a vice principal. Negative behaviors are increasing where a strong leadership presence is necessary
3.6	267	Two principals for High School and Middle school. Students need the care and concern they get at the Middle School level. High School needs more of a tough love principal.
3.3	366	not enough space to complete a thought here. will the district even listen? i think it's clear that the parents and taxpayer don't want banding. Keep preK-6 at 3 schools that build community bonds. Keep middle school 7/8 and get a principal. Keep high school 9-12 and get a principal and vice
3.3	369	Class sizes of 20 would be manageable if the district can get control over the disciplinary issues. Banding and putting more kids the same age together will create more issues. Why banding? Stronger leadership. Consistency in punishment. Separate High school and middle school principals

BOCES Space Rental (6 Thoughts, 3.3 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
3.6	284	First, try to make VVS students the priority. BOCES in our buildings use a lot of VVS resource. Which, admittedly or not, affects our students using VVS resources on VVS students. BOCES uses SPO, Administration, cleaners, make our class sizes big by integration. It may have pos affect
3.6	295	If BOCES leaves Verona, as rumored, what is the budget impact? What are the capacity impacts in the building?
3.5	315	Get rid of Boces in JD George and add more teachers. We have plenty of space but we are renting it out to boces. Move boces to a school that doesn't have such a high population and add a few teachers.
3.3	350	if you put all of BOCES' rentees into 1 building, you may have the space needed for VVS students and needs BOCES are throughout our buildings and for continuity for VVS students needs it would be helpful
2.8	398	Since BOCES is rumored to be consolidating their footprint into the N Broad school next year, does that free up enough space in Verona for everyone? Verona used to hold ~700 students. Can we consolidate all 3 elementary schools and save enough money to keep all the teachers and small classes?
2.8	401	It's imperative to hold taxes flat, or reduce spending, why do we have more facilities for fewer students? Get rid of the BOCES students in the buildings. Spread out existing VVS programs to existing VVS facilities - the time has come to stop renting out

Change (5 Thoughts, 3.0 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
3.6	273	Change is inevitable. Don't be afraid Change is not the important thing to fear. Loss of jobs and children's programs is much worse
3.5	306	I like the way everything is currently Change isn't always good
2.9	393	People are afraid of change, so any changes, especially closing or rezoning buildings has to be done in a way that the community can understand People need to understand that this may have growing pains but it could have a significant positive impact on academics and instruction.
2.7	408	What worked in the past does not need to be continued simply because it worked in the past. The world is changing and we need to adjust and adapt.
2.4	414	Seems Unavoidable It seems unavoidable to close one school due to decreased state aid. I appreciate the district's efforts to involve the constituents in planning.

Childcare (3 Thoughts, 3.8 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
3.9	117	Incoming students in the next few years. My daughter is going to be 3 and will be attending school Long bus rides, issues with childcare providers for our elementary schools.
3.9	126	Before and after school care Options for childcare are limited as is and can be difficult to rearrange based on availability, location of school and location of workplace.
3.5	307	We need more daycare, I love Vernon school but it sucks I can't find any before/after school care. I love the class sizes though and my son has thrived I work a full time job now not at home. This makes it hard to be able to do that with out steady care.

Miscellaneous (5 Thoughts, 3.4 Star Average)

Stars	Rank	Thought
3.6	286	The formatting of this survey is very poor. It does not allow the surveyor enough space to adequately convey a thought. The poor design of this survey leads me to believe that the school district does not actually care about the concerns and/or responses.
3.5	314	I think that we need to make some upgrades to all of the school buildings like putting in air conditioning. It's hard for students to learn and for teachers to teach when it is so hot in the classrooms.
3.4	331	The limit on characters in this survey is really not helpful if you want a thoughtful answer.
3.3	351	Impact on Community
3	390	Why present to the board before community cafes Seems like voices will not be heard at the cafes as you've already presented findings. Cafes are a formality so you can say you reached out.