

Good Morning,

Last evening, the Board of Education continued its discussion of the recent facility study options. As was shared with you in a prior communication, they did vote last evening to unanimously remove Option 4 and Option 5 from consideration. They also voted unanimously to amend option 6 to include one high school and two middle schools.

[Restructuring Plan Options](#)

The Board of Education also asked that the consultants revise the financials for Option 6 based on the revision. District administration and building administration will meet with the consultants the first week of January to review Option 3. The goal of this meeting is to help the consultants in preparing financial estimates based on the following two options:

1. maintaining both high schools with present programming at each school (such as culinary at Lyman Hall High School and medical careers at Mark T. Sheehan High School)
2. maintaining both high schools with identical programming (such as culinary and medical careers) at both schools

This information, as well as the revised financials for Option 6, will be developed by the consultants and then shared with the Board of Education at a meeting in January. The date and time of this meeting will be communicated once a timeline for this new information has been provided by the consultants.

I want to thank everyone who continues to participate in the conversation. I am sure everyone would agree that the students who have spoken have demonstrated incredible maturity, sincerity, and passion. It is a credit to themselves, their families, and their teachers. Everyone's comments have been very meaningful and help the Board of Education process their next steps.

Also I stated last evening, the Board of Education has Public Comment on the agenda of each of its three regularly scheduled meetings each month. Knowing that it may be difficult to attend a specific meeting, please feel free to come and share comments at any or all of these meetings. Your input is essential in ensuring this process remains open and transparent.

As I have also previously stated, this is a long process. Below are outlined the steps for us to consider as we move forward as a community.

1. This study was conducted based on recommendations in the Town's Plan for Conservation and Development for the District to conduct a facilities master plan.
2. This initial study is a very high level study. The alternatives are preliminary and intended to provide a general understanding of whether the underlying concept meets the District's educational and operational objectives. Any of the alternatives involving construction projects would need further study and planning to develop educational specifications and design, and to consider phasing and implementation. Through that refinement process, variations on an alternative may develop and more specific educational, enrollment and financial impacts can be examined.

[Wallingford Public Schools Facility Study](#) - November 5, 2018 Meeting

[Wallingford Public Schools Facility Study](#) - December 10, 2018

3. Any option chosen, with the exception of option #1, would not realistically occur for 5 years due to the following:
 - A second level of study needs to be conducted
 - Approval by Town Council to move forward with any plan is needed
 - An architect/design firm needs to be hired
 - Educational specifications need to be developed
 - Initial review by local and state authorities would need to be conducted
 - Town Council would need to officially approve project funding
 - Final plans would need to be submitted to State for official approval
 - Final State authorization would need to be to start work
4. Once the options are narrowed, a survey from the consultants will be disseminated to the school and greater Wallingford Community.
5. The survey results will be shared with the Town Council with the intended outcome being the Town Council would support the Board of Education moving forward with a second level (deeper dive) study.
6. If the Town Council supports the second level study, the Board of Education would seek additional outside services.

7. That report and more detailed findings would be then shared with the Board of Education and Town Council for next steps.

Again, my goal in sharing this again is not to be too repetitive; but rather, to ensure clear communication remains essential while such an important topic is being discussed.

Sincerely,

Salvatore F. Menzo
Superintendent