

School Facilities and Grade Organization Study

Oneida City School District

Advisory Committee

October 4, 2023



Castallo and Silky LLC
Stephen Bocciolatt, Consultant

Agenda

- Review and Discuss Minutes from 9/19/2023 Meeting
- Continued Discussion: Possible Options – Closing an Elementary School
 - ❖ Three Elementary School Buildings
 - Option 3 - Three K-5 Neighborhood Schools
 - Option 4 - Three Grade Center Schools
 - Transition to a Grade Center Plan (Grades K-1; 2-3; 4-5)
 - (1) School - Grades K-1
 - (1) School - Grades 2-3
 - (1) School - Grades 4-5
 - ❖ Delivery and Location of Special Education Services in each option
 - ❖ Location of Pre-K Program in each option
 - ❖ Location of Support Services in each option
 - ❖ Location of Art and Music classrooms (including Band and Chorus) in each option
- Community Communication – Website, FAQs, Community meeting(s), Other
- Public Questions/Comments
- Next Meeting Date/Location/Topics

Purpose of the Study/Critical Question

”In considering a number of options, is there a better way educationally and fiscally to reconfigure the grades and facilities to provide a sound instructional program now and in the future”?



Two Common Approaches to Organizing Elementary Attendance Zones

- A. Neighborhood School Concept-Each elementary school contains all elementary grades and is generally organized around “neighborhoods.”
- B. Grade Center Concept (Princeton Plan)-Each elementary school is generally organized around grades, often creating primary schools and intermediate schools within a school district.



Grade Configuration Options

Four Elementary School Buildings

- Option 1 - Status Quo - (4) K- 5 Neighborhood Schools
- Option 2 - Transition to a Grade Center Plan (Grades K-2; 3-5)
 - (2) buildings - grades K-2
 - (2) buildings - grades 3-5

Three Elementary School Buildings

- Option 3 - Close an Elementary School - (3) K-5 Neighborhood Schools
- Option 4 - Close an Elementary School - (3) Grade Center Schools
 - Transition to a Grade Center Plan (Grades K-1; 2-3; 4-5)
 - (1) School - Grades K-1
 - (1) School - Grades 2-3
 - (1) School - Grades 4-5

Other Possible Options, if any – To Be Determined

Grade Organization

- Most school districts consider reorganization due to changes in available space – too much or too little capacity in their schools.
- Virtually any possible grade configuration can be found somewhere in school districts in New York and across the country.
- The most common grade configuration pattern in NYS is K-5, 6-8, 9-12.



Grade Organization

- K-4, 5-8, 9-12 grade configuration is common in suburban school districts.
- Some school districts have adopted a grade center plan, with all K-2 students in one building and all 3-5 students in another building.
- The K-8, 9-12 grade arrangement is still found in many small rural school districts.
- Urban schools recently have moved more toward a K-8, 9-12 grade configuration.
- Over the past 40 years there has been a shift from the K-6, 7-9, 10-12 grade pattern to a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 arrangement due to the middle school movement.



Grade Organization

- Researchers agree there is no “one best way” to arrange the grades.
- A general conclusion of most researchers is that “what” a district does with the grade configuration, not “which” grade configuration it uses, is what determines student success.
- Common issues with grade re-configuration include the cost and length of a bus ride for students, impact on parent involvement, grouping students of similar developmental levels, interaction of students, and number of transitions.

Grade Configuration: Key Questions

- Is it prudent to keep four elementary school buildings?
 - Educationally
 - Financially
 - ❖ If so, in which configuration?
 - ❖ If not, which elementary school should the district close?
- If an elementary school is closed, should the district
 - Keep it for district use (i.e. Pre-K; district offices, other)
 - Lease it to another organization
 - Sell it

Elementary Class Size

- In 2017-2018: student enrollment – 48 sections, 858 students
 - DV: 12 sections, 252 students, average class size, 21.0
 - NB: 12 sections, 257 students, average class size, 21.4
 - SS: 12 sections, 200 students, average class size, 16.7
 - WP: 12 sections, 149 students, average class size, 12.4
- In 2022- 2023: student enrollment – 40 sections, 733 students
 - DV: 12 sections, 217 students, average class size, 18.1
 - NB: 10 sections, 173 students, average class size, 17.3
 - SS: 12 sections, 203 students, average class size, 16.9
 - WP: 6 sections, 141 students, average class size, 18.5
- In 2023- 2024 student enrollment (as of 10/04/2023) – 38 sections, 752 students
 - DV: 12 sections, 217 students, average class size, 18.1
 - NB: 8 sections, 151 students, average class size, 18.9
 - SS: 12 sections, 231 students, average class size, 19.3
 - WP: 6 sections, 107 students, average class size, 17.8

2023-2024 Pre-K-5 Grade Configuration

2023-2024 Class Sizes for each Elementary School – 38 Sections As of 10/04/2023

Grade		Current Number of Sections and Class Size of Each Section				
	Total # of Students by Grade	Durhamville	North Broad	Seneca Street	Willard Prior	# of Sections
Pre-K		-	-	-	72*	
K	114	18,18	19	19,20	20	6/19.0
1	103	16,17	19	19,19	13	6/17.2
2	117	20,21	19	19,21	17	6/19.5
3	131	18,19	18,19	20,20	17	7/18.7
4	127	16,16	16,16	21,20	21	7/18.1
5	109	16,17	25	16,16	19	6/18.2
K-5 Total	701 Students	12 Sections 212 Students (17.7 avg.) Total with Special Education 222 Students	8 Sections 151 Students (18.9 avg.)	12 Sections 231 Students (19.3 avg.)	6 Sections 107 Students (17.8 avg.) Total with Special Education 148 Students	38 Sections 701 Students (18.4 avg.) Total with Special Education 752 Students

Note: * The Pre-K program is a full day program. Pre-K students are not included in the total number of students.

Pre-K-5 - Close One of the Elementary Schools

2023-2024 Student Enrollment with 3 Elementary Schools Assuming an Equal Distribution of Students 36 Total Sections (12 Sections Per School)

Grade	Total # of Students by Grade	# of Students Per School	Willard Prior	North Broad or Seneca Street	Durhamville	# of Sections
Pre-K	72*					
K	114	38	19,19	19,19	19,19	6/19.0
1	103	34 or 35	17,17	17,17	18,17	6/17.2
2	117	39	20,19	20,19	20,19	6/19.5
3	131	43 or 44	22,21	22,22	22,22	6/21.8
4	127	42 or 43	21,21	21,21	21,22	6/21.2
5	109	36 or 37	18,18	18,18	19,18	6/18.2
K-5 Total	701	232, 223, 236	232/12 Sections	233/12 Sections	236/12 Sections	36
Average			Avg. = 19.3	Avg. = 19.4	Avg. = 19.7	Avg. – 19.5

* Full day Pre-K Program

Grade Center Configuration (K-1;2-3;4-5)

Close One of the Elementary Schools

2023-2024 Student Enrollment
Possible Grade Center Configuration with 3 Elementary Schools
(K-1; 2-3; 4-5)
36 Total Sections (12 Sections Per School)

Grade	Total # of Students by Grade	Willard Prior	North Broad or Seneca Street	Durhamville	# of Sections/ Avg. Section Size
Pre-K	72*				
K	114	114/6 Sections			6/19.2
1	103	103/6 Sections			6/17.2
2	117		117/6 Sections		6/19.5
3	131		131/6 Sections		6/21.8
4	127			127/6 Sections	6/21.2
5	109			109/6 Sections	6/18.2
K-5 Total	701	217/12 Sections	248/ 12 Sections	236/12 Sections	36/19.5
Average		Avg. = 18.1	Avg. = 20.7	Avg. = 19.7	

* Full Day Pre-K Program

Grade Configuration

Three Elementary Schools

Space Utilization: Total # of Full Size Classrooms: 52-54

- 36 Grade Level Classrooms (12 Sections per Building)
- 3 Art Classrooms
- 3 Music Classrooms
- 3 Special Education Classrooms (12-1-1)
- 1 Special Education Classroom (6-1-1)

(46 Classrooms)

- 4 Pre-K Classrooms

(50 Classrooms)

- 5-9 Special Education Classrooms Remaining

(Would be Over Building Capacity)

Grade Configuration Three Elementary Schools

Space Utilization For Special Education

➤ Current # of Full Size Classrooms Used: **13**

- (3) 12-1-1 Classrooms (1) K-1; (1) 2-3; (1) 4-5
- (1) 6-1-1 Classroom (K-1)

-
- (3) 15-1-1 Classrooms (1) K-1; (1) 2-3; (1) 4-5
 - (2) 8-1-1 Classrooms (1) K-2; (1) 3-5

(9 Classrooms)

- (1) ENL/Resource Room
- (1) Resource Room

(11 Classrooms)

+ (1-2) OT/PT/Speech

(12-13 Classrooms)

Grade Configuration

Three Elementary Schools

Space Utilization For Special Education for 13 Classrooms

- Future Delivery and Location of Current Full Size Classrooms

- Considerations:

- Keep Four Separate Classrooms

- In District

- (3) 12-1-1 Classrooms (1) K-1; (1) 2-3; (1) 4-5

- (1) 6-1-1 Classroom (K-1)*

- Eliminate Four or Five Separate Classrooms

- In District (Through Inclusion): Eliminate Two or Three Separate Classrooms

- (3) 15-1-1 Classrooms (1) K-1; (1) 2-3; (1) 4-5*

- BOCES (Move Program Location): Eliminate Two Separate Classrooms

- (2) 8-1-1 Classrooms (1) K-2; (1) 3-5

- Move (1) Resource Room to smaller space and/or move students in classroom through inclusion (push in vs pull out mode)

- Move (1-2) OT/PT/Speech rooms to smaller spaces

Summary of Elementary Full Size Classrooms

2023-24 Summary of Elementary Full Size Classrooms by Building As of 10/04/2023

School	Grade Levels	# of Students	# of Full Size Common Branch Classroom	# of Full Size Special Education Classrooms	# of Other Full Size Classrooms	Total # of Full Size Classrooms
Durhamville	K-5	212	12	3	2	17
North Broad	K-5	151	8	0	9	17
Seneca Street	K-5	231	12	0	3	15
Willard Prior	Pre-K-5	107 (+ 72 Pre-K)	6 + Pre-K (4)	5 + 1RR	4	20
Total	K-5	711 (+ 72 Pre-K)	38 + Pre-K (4)	9	18	69

Moving Forward

- Delivery and Location of Special Education Services
- Delivery and Location of Pre-K Program
- Location for Band and Chorus location
- District Office
- Implications for Transportation – Depending on grade configuration
- Update of Financial Savings
- Community Communication
 - Website
 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
 - Community Meeting(s)
 - Other
- Timeline for Recommendation(s)
 - Timeline for Implementation Strategies

Questions????

