

Oneida City School District

Community Forum on Facility Study

Discussion Question #1

The Facility Study explored four options for the school district.

Option 1 – Status Quo

Option 2 – Grade center plan

Option 3 – Close an elementary building now or in the future

Option 4 – Combine sections at Willard Prior

- A. What are your thoughts about all four options?
- B. Is there an option that you prefer and why?
- C. Is there an option that you think we should explore that was not provided? Please explain.

Discussion Question #1 Part A: What are your thoughts about all four options? Answers:

- Would hate to see another school building closed. It is hard for the community and populations can fluctuate
- No
- Status Quo is not an option; A grade center plan doesn't make sense unless all of Grades Pre-K – 2 and all of grades 3-5 each in their own buildings together; If we close an elementary building it should be an option combined with redistricting Oneida and redrawing the lines;
- Status Quo would not work financially; Grade center plan undesirable/inconvenient for families, additional bus routes; Option 3 not an option at this time, if over a period of 10 years the classroom sizes district wide continue to decline without hope of bouncing back; Option 4 makes the most sense and should be applied district-wide in combination with redistricting to even out class sizes;
- Combine sections as needed; Redistrict; Admin Bldg sell? And move them into a school ex. Willard Prior; reversible in case population growth wrong/changes
- 7-12 building – access to academic opportunities – access to music, athletics and art that may not be readily available; create an elementary campus at Wampsville or Durhamville (although prohibits families from getting there); redistrict and see if we can have 3 buildings
- In terms of long term planning, I think closing a building would be most fiscally responsible. My biggest concerns are student class size and teacher retention. Ensuring that students can participate in the same or more extracurricular activities and non-required curriculum (i.e. art? Music?) are also important. Having 3 children in the school system, I do not see any problem with the grade center plan. I think more combinations of dividing the grades should be analyzed if this course is sought. Whatever plan is chosen, I think the admin building should be moved.
- Oneida Castle has been sold; closing a school would be the least palatable option;
- For all options, should be robust and reversible in case population projections are wrong; stakeholders should include Chamber of Commerce, IDA
- Affect teacher retention? Transportation/early drop off/free breakfast/afterschool activities – would it matter if 15 mins late?;

- \$40 million to do one building K-5; veto closing a school

Discussion Question #1 Part B: Is there an option that you prefer and why? Answers:

- Option 4 makes a lot of sense due to lower enrollment at Willard Prior
- Option 3 plus redistrict; 3 grade centered? K-1, 2-3, 4-5; why not do 7-12 and Wampsville elementary?
- I prefer redistricting. I think there is something to be said for community schools
- Option 4 and 5 in combination
- Option 4 combining sections allows for flexibility if population growth were to happen
- Option 4, option 1, then option 3

Discussion Question #1 Part C: Is there an option that you think we should explore that was not provided? (Please explain) Answers:

- Redistricting – It has been done before. “Mixing up” the community can be beneficial because people meet new people. We could “even out” enrollment without closing a school.
 - Why not redistrict? Why not combine district offices with a school? Why not move pre-K?
 - Redistricting; Moving District Office
 - Redistrict and close 1 elementary building; Put District Office at a school; 7-12 building?
 - Redistrict; District Offices move to Willard Prior or Seneca Street; 7-12 school; close building and redistrict;
 - Sell Administration building and move them into another facility ex. Willard Prior – that has decreased enrollment and also redistricting
 - How often rezone? Why not redistrict? Sell Administration Building instead
 - Redistricting should also be explored, especially since much of the population movement has been centrally located in and near “the flats”. If transportation is an issue for the grade center plan, be sure to check the long term projection of household demographics – how many families have multiple children, age distribution?
 - Redistricting bus routes for balance; combine as needed; selling admin building; 6th grade back down to elementary or 8th grade to high school; build out at Durhamville or Willard Prior
 - Consider moving district offices to Willard Prior when combining sections
 - Rezoning for neighborhood schools; sell Admin bldg. on Sayles St and move Admin office into a school
 - Redistrict; move District Office to Willard Prior and sell current D.O. building; 7-12 building;
 - Like the idea of selling Admin building; redistrict; maybe divide grades differently;
 - Selling district building housing them at Willard Prior
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Discussion Question #2

The Facility Study provided 6 recommendations for the school district. One of the recommendations was to convene a facility planning committee, comprised of staff and community members, whose role it will be to develop and monitor long term facilities plan for the district.

- A. What should the Facility Vision Team consider and look at other than enrollment and the condition of our facilities?
- B. Are there any recommendations regarding who should be on a Facility Vision Team?
- C. What methods should we employ to garner feedback from our stakeholders regarding our facilities?

Discussion Question #2 Part A: What should the Facility Vision Team consider and look at other than enrollment and the condition of our facilities? Answers:

- community garden, Imaginarium at NB
- Tuition – consider it?
- Even playing field for all schools. Bring all schools together instead of each school separately make it even/equal – will redistricting help this? Will redistricting be optional or mandatory?
- FEMA buy out bad for enrollment – anything government can do financially to help ease the hit?
- Look at Oneida Nation/other employers
- “State of the Art” auditorium for larger groups to meet
- Community Center – 21st Century
- Imaginariums “like classrooms” in all buildings for every child
- Durhamville has children with more special needs – bigger class size may be ok because of more aides
- Every student’s needs – whether it’s every school has what every student needs
- Consider social & emotional needs, academic opportunities
- Consider economic conditions that might generate population growth
- Interactions between schools for social events – not doing just by school, WP – most, NB – Kallet Thanksgiving dinner;
- North Broad Imaginarium – modern educational spaces
- Community garden
- When you look at class size do we look at class and student needs? Resources to all schools?
- Campaign Theme “Oneida 2022”
- If a building closes how do we still upkeep play ground area – part of community
- Bussing maps
- Build an entire elementary complex
- Large employer coming into district
- Knowing the long term economic plans of the City of Oneida would be important to know/consider. Getting local business, including the Oneida Nation ventures, to get a sense of what their employees need, are there incentives for employees to move into Oneida, etc. What are the longterm plans if a facility closes? This needs to be considered if the full benefit/drawback of closing a facility would be. What is the local ratio of renters to homeowners and how is that impacting student movement in/out of the district? How would these options impact student health – access to free/reduced meals during the school year and

during the summer? Would closing a facility or grade center plan impact student health and safety?

- Academic opportunities, special ed services, music/art opportunities, social/emotional needs
- All students' needs, equal distribution of opportunities
- Individual student needs, the needs of local families and parent's ability to accommodate children going to multiple schools, board of education members
- Services, academics, family and social needs
- Academics, sufficient services at each school, emotional help, etc.
- It is imperative that we also look at socioeconomic needs of our students' families
- Academics even opportunities – sports
- Family/development needs – smaller classes better for our needy students
- Consistency across elementary schools – what is our district "culture"? This can attract families to our district. Community – what do school neighbors want to see?

Discussion Question #2 Part B: Are there recommendations regarding who should be on a Facility Vision Team? Answers:

- Indian Nation
- Parents, teachers, alumni, business leaders
- teachers, parents, students, recent grads, Chamber of Commerce & IDA (tie into whether businesses are coming that might impact population trends), rotary
- provide daycare at meeting to pull in more parents
- library board, Madison County IDA, Chamber of Commerce
- politicians, business owners, cross section of people
- rotary, staff, parents, community members, Chamber, Madison County IDA, students, recent grads
- Chamber of Commerce, teachers, parents, politicians, recent graduates, rotary
- local politicians, business owners, better rep of parents
- parents, business owners, teachers, full cross section of parents, politicians
- a true representation of Oneida: teachers, parents from all parts of our school district
- better cross section of community – teachers, politicians, blue collar
- make sure wider community is aware and involved (similar to shared decision making), business owners may be willing to donate/sponsor

Discussion Question #2 Part C: What methods should we employ to garner feedback from our stakeholders regarding our facilities? Answers:

- Use Facebook more, advertise better: FB page, newspaper, flyers sent home in folders;
- put surveys at open house;
- Students interested? Insert in newspaper, mailings – postcards
- Facebook, advertise meetings more efficiently, survey at Open House
- Surveys at open houses and school events, meeting was not well advertised, additional meetings (?), social media
- Flyers, rotary, citizens groups, recent grads, students

- Gaining feedback via an online system, through print questionnaires, having public meetings in other community spaces, would all be helpful.
- Facebook, survey monkey, newspaper press release
- Facebook live broadcast
- Survey monkey, email, Facebook, stream meeting online
- Phone surveys – third party, door knockers
- Surveys (possibly 3rd party)
- Community meetings at respective school buildings, surveys
- Phone poll, surveys, accurately poll the community
- Dedicated website/campaign that is simple, catchy, easy to access. Enable public to submit comments, link to surveys (look at what Oneida Library did for new building campaign, Oneida City Center Committee)

