

Modified Alternatives and Options to Consider

Goal: To address the necessary short-term budget cuts, maximize efficiency in operations and increase the long-term stability of our District.

- 1) Unfortunately, substantial budget cuts are necessary for the upcoming year. Thus, the Administration's proposed closing of East Elementary (K-2) this summer appears to be the most viable option at this point to cut the \$800,000 figure that apparently needs to be cut from the budget.
- 2) Proceed with short-term realignment plans while preparing the long-term solution to be in place by 2011 or 2012 at the latest.

Realignment for 2010-2011 School Year:

- 1) For the 2010 school year only, proceed with the Administration's recommendation to have K – 2 at West, 3 – 6 at Middle School and 7 – 12 at current High School.

Proposed Alignment for 2011 School Year:

- 1) Construct wing onto South side of West Elementary making the facility a K-5 Elementary building. K-5 students attend new Elementary School starting in Fall of 2011.
- 2) Construct High School Wing onto the South side of Middle School. The current Middle School location becomes a 6-12 Secondary Education building. Grades 6–8 continue to use existing Middle School area, while Grades 9–12 occupy the new addition.
- 3) Proposed wing for High School may need to be a two-story building to reduce construction costs and maximize existing space. High School Wing will include regulation-size gymnasium and auditorium. Middle School locker room can serve as overflow for events to reduce # of new locker rooms needed for High School wing.
- 4) Upon completion of new High School Wing, immediately close High School which is our least efficient, most outdated and costly facility to operate. Per the Old High School Committee's recommendation in the Fall of 2008, the old High School should be leveled and turned to green space.

Funding for Reconfiguration:

- 1) Sell approximately 80 of the 92 acres of the previously acquired land. These funds are required to go back into SILO funds (i.e., it is our understanding State law prohibits the District from selling the land to reduce budget cuts). The estimated proceeds of \$400 - \$500 K can be allocated to help pay for part of the construction projects.
- 2) Use a combination of additional SILO funds, a private fundraising campaign and bond proceeds to build these additions.

Pros:

- 1) 7 – 8th graders are only at current High School for 1-2 years at the most.
- 2) Only two school buildings to maintain and operate (instead of four) starting in 2011 or 2012. Elementary School for grades K-5; and joint High School / Junior High for grades 6-12.
- 3) Potentially only two principals required (one for each building) with an assistant Principal / AD for the High School / Junior High building.
- 4) Central campus achieved, which provides many logistic and educational advantages to students, parents & teachers.
- 5) Middle School is currently geo-thermal ready, therefore, a more cost effective heating system can be utilized by incorporating geo-thermal when the High School Wing is added to the Middle School.
- 6) Substantially reduces transportation costs between buildings due to central campus.
- 7) With fewer buildings to maintain and operate, there are less maintenance and repair obligations. Overhead costs, such as utilities, are also reduced, particularly given the new High School / Junior High will be entirely geo-thermal and highly efficient.
- 8) Proactively addresses long-term budget and facility needs and reduces strain on General Fund. The less strain on the General Fund, the more funds we have available for programming.
- 9) Most importantly, the community wants to know the District's plan (whether this one or another option) to provide hope to the students, parents and staff that the upcoming budget cuts are part of the long-term plan for efficiency, stability and better education.

Cons:

- 1) Construction and realignment will require a 1-2 year transition period while the expansion “wings” are constructed.
- 2) Cost estimates need to be obtained from architects so that all options available can be explored and evaluated.
- 3) Once new construction begins, the current building(s) may need to be brought up to some code. This is not necessarily a bad problem, but could require more resources.

This is *only* an option to explore and consider for reducing the strain on the General Fund and maintaining our District's solvency in the future. Other options should be encouraged and presented to the School Board for consideration and evaluation.

To view this plan, the District's proposed budget cuts and to provide feedback, please visit www.people4progress.org.