

West Islip

Office of Human Resources

TO: Richard Simon
FROM: Louis M. Zocchia, Jr.
DATE: June 9, 2011
RE: Study Group Update – Group B

Group B has been discussing the pros and cons of Options 1 and 4.

Option 1:

Keep the present grade structure and number of schools with plans for significant necessary budget reductions. *Does not close a building.*

Pros:

- No disruption to the present configuration.
- All students remain in current home schools.
- Parental support of budget if their home schools stay intact.
- Continued continuity in staffing, school activities and school “culture”.

Cons:

- Budgetary constraints for 2011-2012 will put further burden on taxpayers of West Islip if no reductions or eliminations within the school community are initiated.
- Potential for cuts in school programs and increased class sizes to offset funds needed to support unfunded mandates and continued maintenance cost of all buildings.
- Pressure from the taxpayers to close a building as they hear about other districts going in that direction to save money.

Option 2

Keep the current grade structure but close one elementary school and redistrict as needed. *Closes one elementary building.*

Pros:

- Maintenance cost savings including but not limited to fuel and custodial reduction.
- Savings as a result of reduction in staff.
- Possible use of closed building to generate income from outside groups i.e. BOCES, private business, etc.

Cons:

- Disruption of status quo for students (home school philosophy).
- Possibility of building remaining vacant, aesthetic implications.
- Discouragement of prospective home buyers with children.
- Continued need to minimally heat building and upkeep grounds (if building is not outsourced).
- Affected parents possibly not supporting budget.
- Although preliminary calculations do reflect a cost savings, the committee agreed that the amount was not as great as one may think, and the overall ramifications may not be worth it in the long run.