
WI
WEST ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Office of Curriculum & Instruction
930-1558

TO: Richard Simon
FROM: Bernadette Burns
DATE: June 7, 2011
SUBJECT: Study Group Update – Task Group C

Task Group C has been charged with investigating Options 5 & 6. The team discussed the pros and cons of both options.

Option 5:

Keep the six elementary schools but adjust the grade structure to K-6. Combine all district seventh and eighth graders into one middle school. Close the other middle school. Keep the high school as is. (Closes one middle school)

Pros:

- Socio-emotional and educational research is inconclusive, but tends to support keeping students with their elementary peers, as they may be easily impressionable by adolescent seventh and eighth graders.
- Containing all seventh and eighth grade students in one building provides for a more controlled environment that can address the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of this early teen population.
- The closed building would likely be a desirable lease.
- By 2016 and beyond, the total middle school population (grades 7 and 8) will be the same as each middle school is today.

Cons:

- Access to athletic teams and certain clubs and activities may be limited if only one team can be fielded in each sport.
- If multiple teams were to be fielded, indoor and outdoor facilities would need to be expanded, including locker room space.
- Until the population decreased substantially below 800, the remaining middle school would not be able to provide mandated instruction in Technology and Home and Careers to all students eligible due to a lack of classroom space.
- Parking for staff during the school day, as well as for school activities in the evening, would be limited.

Other implications:

School start times would need to be adjusted so buses would be able to get back and forth to the north and south of town.

Option 6:

Follow the Option #5 concept for elementary and explore if a 7-9 junior high structure would work, running either one junior high or two. The high school would become 10-12. (Maybe closes one middle school)

Pros:

- None

Cons:

- The remaining middle school facility would always be over-utilized (except possibly Beach Street in the last two years).
- The high school would be grossly underutilized.
- For students participating in high school level sports activities, busing would need to be arranged.

The task group is presently investigating the actual cost/savings to Option 5, and anticipates being able to provide an estimate for the next meeting.