

Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District
School Administrative Unit #63

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TO: The WLC School Board
FROM: Bryan Lane
DATE: 11/20/18
RE: Strategic Planning Recommendation

The Strategic Planning Committee has been discussing the possibility of changing the middle school structure to allow greater flexibility for students in the eighth grade to earn high school while still in grade 8.

The four options discussed were:

1. To make no changes
2. To create the change in the schedule with the reduction of two teachers.
3. To create the change in the schedule with no reduction in staff
4. To create the change in schedule with no reduction in staff and create a program for grades 6 and 7 for enhancement or remediation within the scheduled day.

The Strategic Planning Committee has voted to recommend consideration of changing the middle school model we are currently using and reducing staff by two teachers by a vote of 3 to 2.

Using enrollment numbers as of today next year the class size by grades are as follows:

Grade 1	54	Grade 7	44
Grade 2	40	Grade 8	30
Grade 3	44	Grade 9	49
Grade 4	41	Grade 10	46
Grade 5	44	Grade 11	46
Grade 6	41	Grade 12	33

This plan maintains the concept of middle school for grade 6 and 7. One teacher from each major discipline will teach 2 sections of 6th grade and 2 sections of 7th grade. They will have a fifth period in which they can plan remediation, homework catch up, and accelerated topics 5 days per week.

Eighth grade would be blended in to the high school schedule where appropriate.

- The eighth grade would share classes in math and foreign language as they do now. This would expand into physical education, technical education, computers, art, band and chorus.
- We would look to hire a dual certified English/Social Studies teacher to handle the two sections of 8th grade English and Social Studies. The fifth period would be blended in with the middle school teachers to help with remediation and accelerated activities.
- The second math teacher from the middle school would teach 8th and 9th grade math and help with remediation and accelerated activities with the middle school or high school students.
- We would have a reduction in force of two middle school teachers.
- Depending on retirements and a teacher returning from a leave of absence teachers who are currently on our staff and meet the needs of the district could be retained.

The effect on students would be:

- Sixth grade classes in the four major subject areas physical education, health, world languages and music would be 22. Lab unified arts classes in art, family and consumer science, technical education, and computer education will have a class size of 14.
- Seventh grade classes in the four major subject areas physical education, health, world languages and music would be 22. Lab unified arts classes in art, family and consumer science, technical education, and computer education will have a class size of 15.
- Eighth grade class sizes in all subject areas will be 15 or less. Eighth grade students will be able to integrate into Algebra 1, French, Spanish, Band, Chorus and some electives with high school students and be eligible to earn high school credit with the potential of earning up to 3 credits toward graduation while still in grade 8. By earning high school credit and meeting graduation requirements, student will have more flexibility in their high school schedule to take different or more advanced classes.
- For high school students, there would be a lessening of flexibility in the schedule for science in particular.

The effect on teachers would be:

- A reduction of two teachers.
- Middle school team structure would maintain its' integrity in grades 6 and 7.
- Grade 8 teachers could be part of overall team meeting but the continuity of 8th grade teaming would be lost.
- There would restriction in the high school schedule with two sections of science being covered by a high school teacher or a middle school teacher only being able to teach 3 high school sections.
- IF we used this year's schedule as a model, most likely there would be a reduced section of high school chemistry and one section of biology. These teachers would pick up engineering and environmental science electives currently taught by the integrated science teacher. While sections would still be less than 18 this would lessen the flexibility in the master schedule.
- Elective teachers currently fully scheduled during the last two periods of the day would be able to teach additional sections of high school electives.

The Strategic Planning Committee also considered changing the opportunities for eighth grade students without reducing staff If that were the case:

The effect on students would be:

- Sixth grade classes in the four major subject areas physical education, health, world languages and music would be 14. Lab unified arts classes in art, family and consumer science, technical education, and computer education will have a class size of 14.
- Seventh grade classes in the four major subject areas physical education, health, world languages and music would be 15. Lab unified arts classes in art, family and consumer science, technical education, and computer education will have a class size of 15.
- Eighth grade class sizes in all subject areas will be 15 or less. Eighth grade students will be able to integrate into Algebra 1, French, Spanish, Band, Chorus and some electives with high school students and be eligible to earn high school credit with the potential of earning up to 3 credits toward graduation while still in grade 8. By earning high school credit and meeting graduation requirements, student will have more flexibility in their high school schedule to take different or more advanced classes.

- For high school students, there would be a lessening of flexibility in the schedule for science in particular.

The effect on teachers would be:

- Middle school team structure would maintain its' integrity in all three grades with the exception of two teachers not being able to have common planning time with the other six.
- Elective teachers currently fully scheduled during the last two periods of the day would be able to teach additional sections of high school electives.

The Strategic Planning Committee also heard a proposal without reducing staff that created the ability to create enhancement and remediation for grades 6 and 7 while allowing 8th grade students the ability to earn high school credit for electives and math.

There are two scenarios:

Two sections in each middle school grade.

- Sixth grade classes in the four major subject areas physical education, health, world languages and music would be 21. Lab unified arts classes in art, family and consumer science, technical education, and computer education will have a class size of 14.
- Seventh grade classes in the four major subject areas physical education, health, world languages and music would be 22. Lab unified arts classes in art, family and consumer science, technical education, and computer education will have a class size of 15.
- Eighth grade class sizes in all subject areas will be 15 or less. Eighth grade students will be able to integrate into Algebra 1, French, Spanish, Band, Chorus and some electives with high school students and be eligible to earn high school credit with the potential of earning up to 3 credits toward graduation while still in grade 8. By earning high school credit and meeting graduation requirements student will have more flexibility in their high school schedule to take different or more advanced classes.

In this scenario, a teacher in each discipline would have a period for both sixth and seventh grade to co-teach, push in, or pull out students who are ready for more intense curriculum or help to remediate students who are struggling. This would take some planning and time to create the advanced curriculum over the summer months. This concept addresses the concern that we do not have a curricular program available to challenge students with strong academic capability in the middle school grades.

Three sections of sixth grade, two sections of seventh and eighth grade.

- Sixth grade classes in the four major subject areas physical education, health, world languages and music would be 14. Lab unified arts classes in art, family and consumer science, technical education, and computer education will have a class size of 14.
- Seventh grade classes in the four major subject areas physical education, health, world languages and music would be 22. Lab unified arts classes in art, family and consumer science, technical education, and computer education will have a class size of 15.
- Eighth grade class sizes in all subject areas will be 15 or less. Eighth grade students will be able to integrate into Algebra 1, French, Spanish, Band, Chorus and some electives with high school students and be eligible to earn high school credit with the potential of earning up to 3 credits toward graduation while still in grade 8. By earning high school credit and meeting graduation requirements student will have more flexibility in their high school schedule to take different or more advanced classes.

In this scenario, a teacher in each discipline would have one period to split between sixth and seventh grade to co-teach, push in, or pull out students who are ready for more intense curriculum or help to remediate students who are struggling. This would take some planning and time to create the advanced curriculum over the summer months. This concept addresses the concern that we do not have a curricular program available to challenge students with strong academic capability in the middle school grades but not as efficiently as in scenario 1.

A concern was raised by the public in discussing this that high school students would be able to graduate early. The majority of students would be able to earn a maximum of two elective credits. Two credits would not push students over the required credits. For those student who are advanced, they could earn three credits but these students will need the flexibility in their schedules in their junior and senior year to take AP classes, dual enrollment classes or internships. By earning credits early, those students who fail a class will not be burdened with the need to take a full load of seven classes as a senior which jeopardizes their ability to graduate on time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REORGANIZATION WITH 2 SECTIONS OF GRADE 6 TWO PUSH IN /PULL OUT PERIODS NO REDUCTION IN STAFF							
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7
Bujak- English	PUSH IN/PULL OUT GRADE 6 ENGLISH	PREP	PUSH IN/PULL OUT GRADE 7 ENGLISH	PREP	Remediation/ Enhancement	Eighth Grade Team A – 15 students	Eighth Grade Team B- 15 students
Natusch- English	Sixth Grade Team A- 21 students	Sixth grade Team B- 21 students	Seventh Grade Team A- 22 students	Seventh Grade Team B- 22 students	Remediation/ Enhancement	COMMON PLANNING TIME	PREP
Lhotsky- Social Studies	Sixth Grade Team B- 21 students	Sixth grade Team A- 21 students	Seventh Grade Team B- 22 students	Seventh Grade Team A- 22 students	Remediation/ Enhancement	COMMON PLANNING TIME	PREP
Moore- Social Studies	PREP	PUSH IN/PULL OUT GRADE 6 SOC STUDIES	PREP	PUSH IN/PULL OUT GRADE 7 SOC STUDIES	Remediation/ Enhancement	Eighth Grade Team B- 15 students	Eighth Grade Team A- 15 students
Blais Science	PUSH N/PULL OUT GRADE 7 SCIENCE	Eight Grade Team A- 15 students	Eighth Grade Team B- 15 students	PUSH IN PULL OUT GRADE 6 SCIENCE	Remediation/ Enhancement	COMMON PLANNING TIME	PREP
Fox- Science	Seventh Grade Team A- 22 students	Seventh Grade Team B- 22 students	Sixth Grade Team A- 21 students	Sixth grade Team B- 21 students	Remediation/ Enhancement	COMMON PLANNING TIME	PREP
Withee- Math	Sixth Grade Team B- 21 students	Seventh Grade Team A- 22 students	Sixth Grade Team B- 21 students	Seventh grade Team B- 22 students	Remediation/ Enhancement	COMMON PLANNING TIME	PREP
Miller - Math	PUSH IN PULL OUT GRADE SIX MATH	Eighth Grade Team B- 15 students	Eighth Grade Team A-15 students	PUSH IN/PULL OUT GRADE 7 MATH	Remediation/ Enhancement	COMMON PLANNING TIME	PREP
	8 TH GRADE ELECTIVES			8 TH GRADE ELECTIVES	8 TH GRADE ONLY GOES TO PERIOD 5- 4 DAYS	GRADE 6 AND 7 UNIFIED ARTS	GRADE 6 AND 7 UNIFIED ARTS