

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCEPT
FOR THE
RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**



TO CONSIDER A GRADE 7-8 MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

The Middle School would be at Union School.

The K-Center and the High School would remain as currently organized.

Option I: Washington, Lincoln, and Pierrepont would be 1-6 schools.

Option II: Washington and Lincoln remain as currently organized. Pierrepont becomes a 4-6 school.

THE BENEFITS OF OPTION II

Greater focus on developmental needs of students.

No realignment needed.

Less movement of furniture, equipment, and staff.

HISTORY



The district had a “Junior High School “ for grades 7-8 until the 1976-77 school year.

At various times (1999 , 2002, 2013) the concept of a middle school has been explored.

In 2013-14, a survey of the community indicated support for a Middle School concept but not for a referendum to add the space needed for a 6-8 Middle School at Pierrepont. The lack of an auditorium, cafeteria, and adequate size gym would require construction at that site.

Increased enrollment in Pierrepont in 2016-17 would require an additional portable classroom or the relocation of students.

HISTORY



In 2014 -15, a committee was formed to determine if a middle school could be created without the need of a referendum.

The lease/purchase of modular units was considered.

Since Union School had a larger multipurpose lunchroom and an auditorium, it was chosen as a possible site for the 6-8 middle school.

In order to meet the needs of grades 6-8 students at Union School, six modular classrooms and a multi- purpose room would need to be acquired. The estimated cost is \$5.9 million dollars. This amount of money would be difficult, if not impossible, to manage within the budget

THE BENEFITS OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR RUTHERFORD



There would be greater focus on the appropriate developmental needs of the students. The guidance counselor and SAC can more effectively address middle school issues.

Electives, including STEM and the arts, will be dramatically increased.

World Language teachers will no longer have to travel between schools, making the scheduling of those courses and the availability of the teachers for extra help more effective.

Art and music can be scheduled more effectively.

Instrumental music and choir can be part of the normal school day.

THE BENEFITS OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR RUTHERFORD



Health and PE classes can be taught in a similar manner as at the high school where students take PE classes five days a week for three quarters of the year and health for one quarter. Nurses would no longer need to teach health classes.

Depending on the “bell schedule” chosen, math can be a 60-minute block (what “Math in Focus” requires).

A stronger co-curricular program (clubs, the arts, athletics) can be developed.

THE DILEMMA



To create a 6-8 school at Union would cost nearly six million dollars.

To create a 6-8 school at Pierrepont would cost nearly sixteen million dollars (estimate in 2013).

The enrollment in Pierrepont in 2016-2017 will create an overcrowding condition.

The benefits of a middle school are documented in research.

THE SOLUTION



A grade 7-8 Middle School at Union School

There would be no need for additional space since the total number of students in the building would be less than the current enrollment.

The 7-8 Middle School is done in many districts including Hackensack, Nutley, Secaucus, Midland Park, Cliffside Park, West Essex, Belleville, New Providence, and Roxbury.

THE BENEFITS OF REORGANIZATION



Grade six students would have another year before transition to a departmental schedule.

Current enrollment in those three schools is 1103. Projected enrollment in 2016-2017 is 1165. The school can accommodate this increase since Pierrepont will not be following a departmental schedule.

There will be room for a Pre-K disabled class.

PROJECTIONS/CAPACITY



Projections

16-17 - 1165 students average 24.2 students for 48 sections

17-18 - 1169 students average 24.3 students for 48 sections

18-19 - 1151 students average 23.9 students for 48 sections

19-20 - 1133 students average 23.6 students for 48 sections

PROJECTIONS/CAPACITY

Union School projected enrollment as a 7-8 School

16-17 - 388 students

17-18 - 394 students

18-19 - 439 students

19-20 - 446 students

Current enrollment as a 4-8 school is 484 students.

TRANSPORTATION



The furthest point from Union is 2.3 miles.

The furthest point from Pierrepont is 2.09 miles.

Students living beyond 2 miles are entitled to be bused.

TRANSPORTATION



Once those students are bused, the district would have to bus students who attend private schools more than 2 miles away from elementary and middle schools and 2.5 miles away from their high school. Either a bus route needs to be provided or the parents would be reimbursed \$882.

The state provides a small percentage of funding.

We are estimating that we would have 39 eligible students this year at a district cost of \$34,398, minus any state reimbursement.



TASKS TO COMPLETE

Decide on a bell schedule

Determine certificated staffing needs based on required staff and certifications

Determine support staff needs

Determine administrative staff

Verify that Union is the better choice for a middle school

TASKS TO COMPLETE



Geographically realign district for the 1-6 schools if option I is chosen

Research transportation costs for private school students

Confirm enrollment projections

Develop a needs assessment of any equipment and materials needed and the cost of moving items from school to school

Visit grades 7-8 schools in their area

Simultaneously make a decision regarding preschool

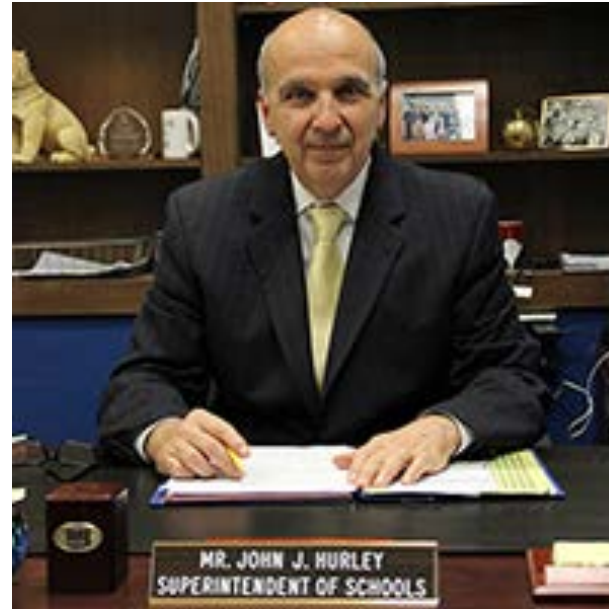
TIME LINE

May 21—
Superintendents
Roundtable



June 15—Update to BOE

Sept 14—Final Report/
Proposal to BOE



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