Summary of School Organization Community Forums

Butler Area School District
February 2019

Executive Summary

We are developing our facility plan for the Butler Area School District. Many of our schools need capital improvements -- some more than others. Prior to investing money into all eleven schools, we decided to solicit the communities thoughts, ideas and insights about how we are organized and what we should look like in the future. We invited all stakeholders to share their thoughts and ideas with us through eight school organization community forums.

To help facilitate this conversation, I generated a number of school organization scenarios, which were displayed and open to feedback at the forums. In addition other scenarios were added that were brainstormed by community members. One of the scenarios will reflect keeping our schools organized as they currently are today. This will be used as a baseline to compare any option(s) moving forward.

Participants at the forums were asked to rank order the scenarios and comment on the following prompts for each scenario:

What are the advantages worth mentioning?

How would this impact learning?

What are the challenges to ponder?

This document provides a high level review of the thoughts, ideas and insights provided by participants of the school organization community forums.
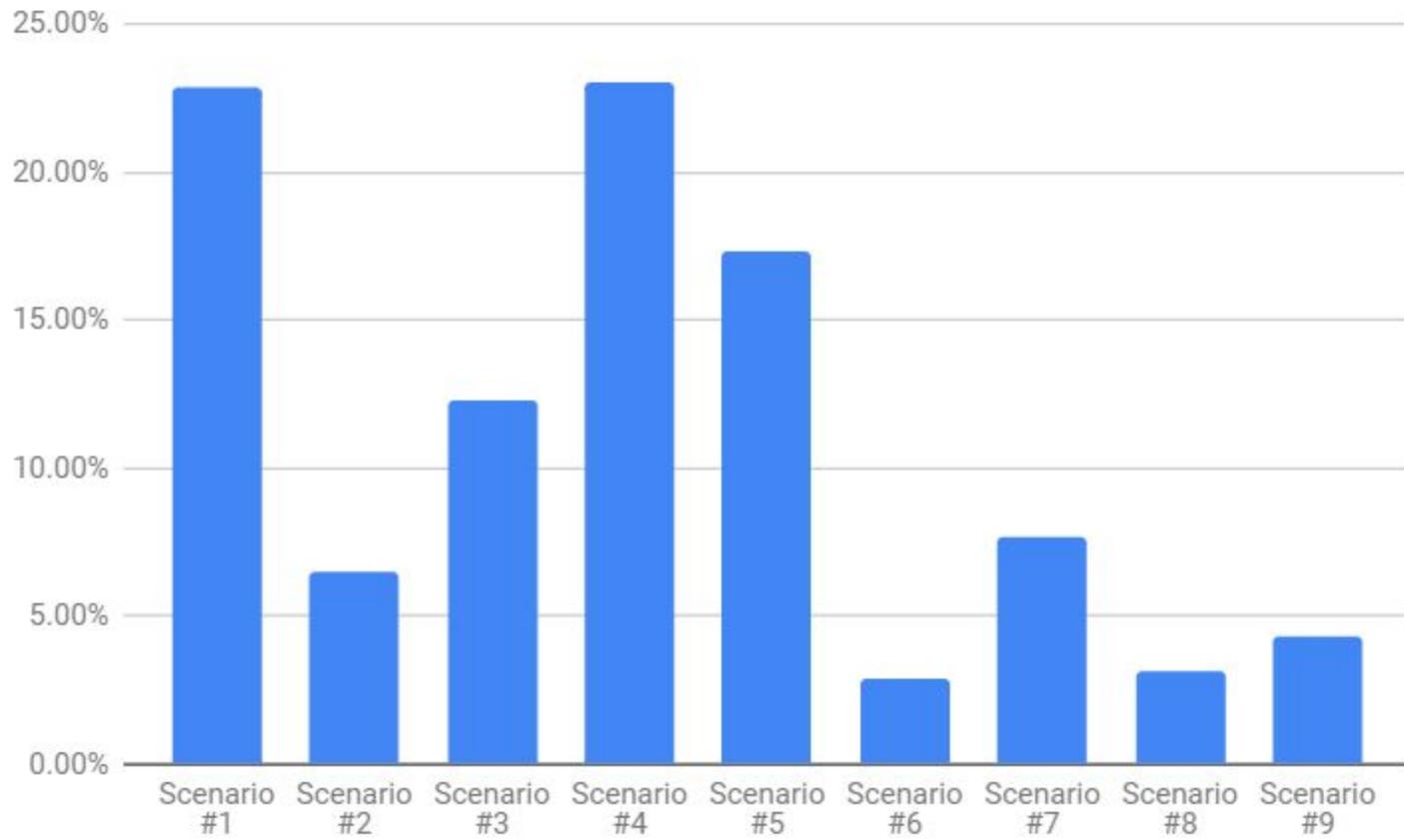
The first bar chart displays the participants' preferences based upon the rankings of the scenarios. To arrive at this data, each rank of 1 was counted as 3 points, rank of 2 was counted as 2 points, rank of 3 was counted as 1 point. All other rankings were counted as a zero points.

The second chart that provides a dashboard display is a "Sentiment Analysis" of the comments provided. The comments were assessed to be negative or positive. The number represents the intensity of positive or negative, meaning the higher the number, the more positive or more negative the sentiment is. Sentiment analysis tools use natural language processing (NLP) to analyze comments and determine deeper context - positive, negative or neutral.
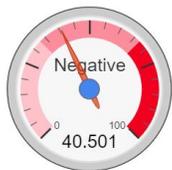
The full comments will be further reviewed and analyzed as we determine which scenarios merit further study.

Possible School Organization Scenarios

Scenario #1	Current: K-4 Elementary, 5-6 MS, 7-9 IHS, 10-12 SHS	Scenario #1 would keep our schools functioning exactly how they are currently set up. This means we would have 6 elementary schools for students in kindergarten through 4th grade, one middle school for students in 5th and 6th grade, one intermediate high school for students in 7th through 9th grade, one senior high school for students in 10th through 12th grade, and Center Avenue Community School.
Scenario #2	K-6 Cluster Option	Scenario #2 is the cluster option. In this scenario, we would have 8 elementary schools for students in kindergarten through 4th grade. Four of our elementary schools would also serve as middle schools for students in 5th and 6th grade. Some students would end up attending the same school from kindergarten through 6th grade, while others would changes schools between 4th and 5th grade. There would be no change to the intermediate high school (7-9) and senior high school (10-12).
Scenario #3	K-6 Elementary, 7-9 Intermediate HS, 10-12 Senior HS	In Scenario #3, we would have 8 elementary schools for students in kindergarten through 6th grade. After 6th grade, students would move to the intermediate high school for grades 7-9 and then the senior high school for grades 10-12.
Scenario #4	K-5 Elementary, 6-8 Middle School, 9-12 High School	In Scenario #4, we would have 8 elementary schools for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. The current intermediate high school would become our new middle school for students in grades 6-8. Then students would attend the senior high school for 9th through 12th grade.
Scenario #5	K-4 Elementary, 5-6 Middle Schools, 7-9 IHS, 10-12 SHS	In Scenario #5, we would have 6 elementary schools for students in kindergarten through 4th grade. Although we currently have 6 elementary schools, two of them would be different buildings. We would then have two middle schools for students in 5th and 6th grade. There would be no change to the intermediate high school (7-9) and senior high school (10-12).
Scenario #6	Open Template	Do you have a different idea? Feel free to propose a different scenario of the open template.
Scenario #7	K-4 Elementary, 5-8 IHS, 9-12 SHS	In Scenario #7, we would keep the elementary schools as they are now and Center Avenue would remain our community school. Students in grades 5-8 would attend school at the current intermediate high school and students in grades 9-12 would attend school at the current senior high school.
Scenario #8	K-3 Elementary, 4-6 Elementary, 7-9 IHS, 10-12 SHS	In Scenario #8, elementary students in grades K-3 would attend one of our five K-3 elementary schools. In grade 4, students would then move to one of three 4-6 elementary schools. The intermediate high school and senior high school would remain as they are today with grades 7-9 at the IHS and 10-12 at the SHS.
Scenario #9	K-5 Elementary, 6-8 at the SHS, 9-12 at the IHS	In Scenario #9, we would have 8 elementary schools for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. After 5th grade, students would move to the current senior high school building for grades 6-8 and then move to the current intermediate high school building for grades 9-12.

	Description	Advantages worth mentioning?	Impact on learning?	Challenges to ponder?
Scenario #1	Current: K-4 Elementary, 5-6 MS, 7-9 IHS, 10-12 SHS	Positive 71.442	Positive 5.492	Negative 11.554
Scenario #2	K-6 Cluster Option	Positive 65.769	Negative 6.384	Negative 29.496
Scenario #3	K-6 Elementary, 7-9 IHS, 10-12 S HS	Positive 59.347	Negative 13.883	Negative 5.59
Scenario #4	K-5 Elementary, 6-8 Middle School, 9-12 High School	Positive 60.008	Positive 16.905	Negative 30.092

Scenario #5	K-4 Elementary, 5-6 Middle Schools, 7-9 IHS, 10-12 SHS	Positive 54.933	Positive 8.772	Positive 29.126
Scenario #6	Open Template			
Scenario #7	K-4 Elementary, 5-8 IHS, 9-12 SHS	Positive 51.117	Positive 30.505	Negative 55.187
Scenario #8	K-3 Elementary, 4-6 Elementary, 7-9 IHS, 10-12 SHS	Positive 71.921	Positive 8.469	Negative 58.711
Scenario #9	K-5 Elementary, 6-8 at the SHS, 9-12 at the IHS	Positive 64.846	Positive 2.892	Negative 40.501

When interpreting the results of both the rankings and the sentiment analysis of the comments, it is important to recognize this is not the data we'll use to determine what scenario should be implemented, but rather the information conveyed will determine which scenarios should be further studied. It is also important to note that scenarios 7, 8 and 9 were added after the first school organization forum based on community feedback. About 50% of the participants attended the first forum.

We will now start the process of diving deep into a few of the scenarios. Some examples of what we will be looking at include the student impact, academic impact, staffing impact, financial impact, enrollment impact, transportation impact.