

Wausau School Board Secondary Subcommittee

June 16, 2022



Our mission... advancing student learning, achievement, and success.



A background image of three young children of diverse backgrounds smiling and hugging each other. The child on the left has curly hair and is wearing a patterned shirt. The child in the middle is a boy with short hair, wearing a dark shirt with a yellow logo. The child on the right is a girl with long hair, wearing a dark jacket. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be prominent.

Welcome & Introductions

***Thank you for sharing your time and talents to support this
important work!***

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The Wausau School District's Mission



It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.

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Purpose Statement



The purpose of the secondary subcommittee is to develop recommendations for the Wausau School Board as to whether the District should restructure our high schools.

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Structure of our Meetings



1. Administration will educate members on the challenges faced by the district.
2. Administration will provide additional information required by committee members to fully explore problems and possible solutions.
3. **Committee Task:** Decide what feedback and data are needed to make an informed decision.
4. **Committee Task:** Explore the implications of restructuring schools or other possible solutions.
5. **Committee Task:** Engage and inform staff and community in strategic ways: town hall meetings, surveys, focus groups, individual outreach.
6. **Committee Task:** Make a recommendation to the full school board in September 2022.

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Our Work This Evening...

- **Review and respond**
- **Develop decision-making guidelines**
- **Consider and prioritize possible structures**
- **Plan “next steps”**

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Review: Overarching Concerns

The Wausau School Board is concerned about differences in staff, student, and family experiences based on the school one attends in the district. These differences across schools are characterized by changing enrollment trends and future projections within geographic areas; student achievement, programs and course offerings; co-curricular offerings; staffing challenges; scheduling models; physical space and facilities.

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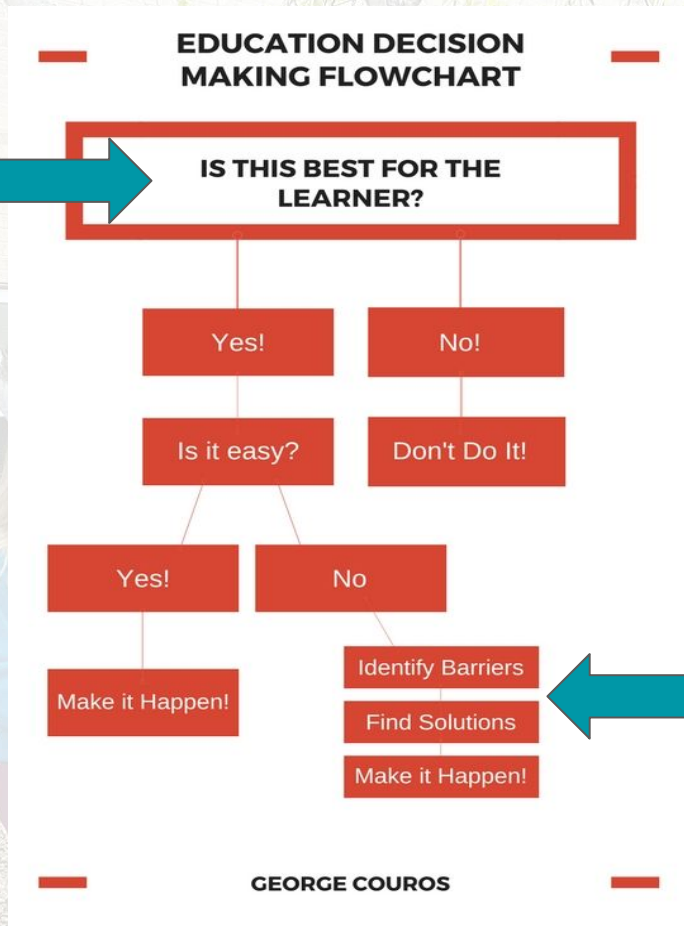
Review: Some Problems For Which We Are Seeking Solutions:



1. Inconsistent student success
2. Inconsistent student access to programs and supports
3. Inconsistent staffing across schools
4. Inconsistent staff working conditions across schools
5. Challenges with attracting and retaining quality staff
6. Declining enrollment
7. Unfavorable open enrollment trends
8. Continued long-term financial challenges

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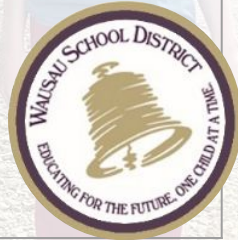
New: *Developing Decision-Making Guidelines*



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New: *Developing Decision-Making Guidelines*

Problems to Solve	Committee Feedback	Decision Making Guidelines (draft)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Inconsistent student success● Inconsistent student access to programs and supports● Inconsistent staffing across schools● Inconsistent staff working conditions across schools● Challenges with attracting and retaining quality staff● Declining enrollment● Unfavorable open enrollment trends● Continued long-term financial challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Academic Offerings★ Co-Curricular Offerings★ Transportation★ Efficiencies/Finances★ Enrollment★ School Models <p><u>(Subcommittee Notes 06-02-22)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Improve Academic Access and Experiences➔ Improve Co-Curricular Access and Experiences➔ Maintain or Improve Financial Status➔ Offer Viable Transportation Plan➔ Address intangibles: identity, traditions, culture



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New:

Decision Making Guidelines: Academic Access and Experiences



- College & Career Ready Courses AP, IB, Dual Credit
- Elective Offerings (example: Career & Technical Education)
 - Diversity of electives
 - Duplicating at multiple sites vs. specializing?
 - Would diversity of electives increase with “one school” model
- Scheduling Models (traditional, block, mod)
- Academic and Career Planning (preparation for life after high school)
 - Work-Based Learning (Youth Apprenticeship, coop, job shadow, field trips, tours, etc.)
 - CTSO
 - “Employment Skills” - communication, collaboration, job search
- Prep for/Transition to High School (Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 - life DURING high school)
- Quality (equitable?) learning/experiences for all students, including students with disabilities

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New:

Decision Making Guidelines: Co-Curricular Access and Experiences

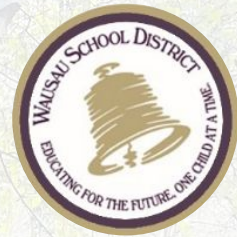


- Participation (Redefining Ready Indicators)
- Clubs/Groups/Organizations (Drama Example)
 - **CTSO**
- WIAA Sports
- Intramural Sports
- Co-Curricular Facilities - do at each school or specialize w/in dual campus
- Fundraising - competing schools/programs?
- Lifetime Recreation & Adventure-Based Activities (ex. ropes course)
- Additional (competitive) opportunities - ex. archery tournaments, mountain biking, community connections
- Activities alignment/development from elementary to middle to high schools

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New

Decision Making Guidelines: Financial Status

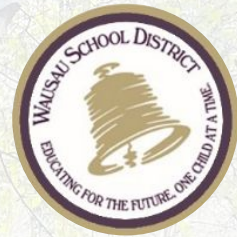


- Staffing Ratios
- Efficiencies vs. Duplication of Services
- Facilities Use (ex. Chemistry)
- Fundraising - competing schools/programs?
- Community partnerships?
- What might unify our community?
- How might we welcome community into our schools/invite them to use school facilities?
- What facilities might draw people (potential employees and businesses) to Wausau?
- What's the community's "Return On Investment" for components that add initial cost?
- How do families perceive their current options based on their attendance location (equitable opportunities)?
- Impact on school taxes (ex. Would a referendum be required to implement a model?)
- As a taxpayer, "What's in it for me?" (even if I don't have kids in school)

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New

Decision Making Guidelines: Transportation



- Route/Rider Time
- Yellow Bus Experience
- City Bus Experience
- Family/Student Driving Experience
 - Time
 - Transportation as a barrier to co-curricular participation
 - Transportation as a barrier to elective participation
- Financial Impact - district, families
- Need for district “shuttle” busses to create access to academics (also co-curriculars?)
- Safe walking/biking access to all school sites
- Access/proximity to other partners (ex. NTC, UWSP Wausau)
- Virtual Opportunities (WAVE, hybrid, etc.)

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New

Decision Making Guidelines: Identity, Tradition, Culture

- All Will Need to Note Potential Barriers to Address?
- Other Voices - students, families, staff, community?
- What might help people perceive opportunities vs. losses?
- Growth Mindset - Good to Great, not “Broken” or in need of “Fixing”



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Review: Possible Outcomes of Our Work



The subcommittee could recommend:

1. Restructuring the Wausau School District by closing and/or merging schools
2. Continuing the current structures
3. A third, as of yet unrealized, option

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New: *What Structures Might We Explore?*



- One Wausau High School, Grades 9-12
- Dual Campus, Grades 9-10 & Grades 11-12
- Junior/Senior High, Grades 8-9 & Grades 10-12
- Boundary Realignment, Balance East & West Enrollment
- Continue Current Structure

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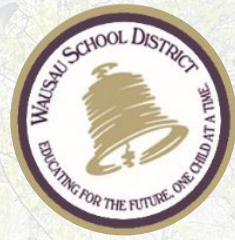
New: What If...One Wausau High School?



- **2,440 Students = Total Enrollment (Grades 9-12)**
- **2,271 Students = WI High School with Highest Enrollment**
- **~1,600 Students = Capacity of Current High School Buildings**
 - **Wausau West Building Capacity = 1,614**
 - **Wausau East Building Capacity = 1,552**

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New: What If...**Dual Campus**, Grades 9-10 & 11-12?

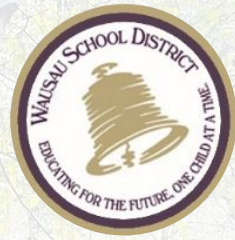


Wausau Grades 9 & 10	Wausau Grades 11-12
1,247 Students	1,193 Students
Median WI High School Enrollment = 1,086 Students Range of WI High School Enrollments = 34 to 2,271 Students (9-12 non-charter schools in the 100 largest WI districts, not including Milwaukee)	
(West Capacity = 1,614, East Capacity = 1,552)	



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New: What If...**Junior/Senior High**, Grades 8-9 & Grades 10-12?



Wausau Jr High (8-9)

Wausau Sr High (10-12)

1,221 Students

1,789 Students

Median WI High School Enrollment = 1,086 Students

Range of WI High School Enrollments = 34 to 2,271 Students

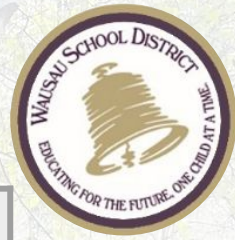
(9-12 non-charter schools in the 100 largest WI districts, not including Milwaukee)

(West Capacity = 1,614, East Capacity = 1,552)



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New: What If...Boundaries Changed to Balance Enrollment?



Wausau West

Current
Enrollment
1,479

**-259 Students
to East =
1,220 Total**

Wausau East

Current
Enrollment
961

**+259 Students
from West =
1,220 Total**

Median WI High School Enrollment = 1,086 Students

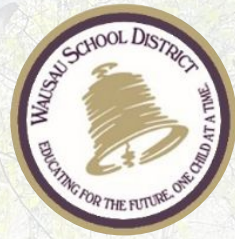
Range of WI High School Enrollments = 34 to 2,271 Students
(9-12 non-charter schools in the 100 largest WI districts, not including Milwaukee)

(West Capacity = 1,614, East Capacity = 1,552)



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New: What If...Continue Current Structure*?



Wausau West

Wausau East

1,479 Students

961

Median WI High School Enrollment = 1,086 Students

Range of WI High School Enrollments = 34 to 2,271 Students

(9-12 non-charter schools in the 100 largest WI districts, not including Milwaukee)

****Assumes no changes OR the discovery and implementation of a completely different and as of yet unrealized solution.***

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Wausau West

Wausau East

1,479 Students

961

Median WI High School Enrollment = 1,086 Students

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(9-12 non-charter schools in the 100 largest WI districts, not including Milwaukee)

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Wausau West

Wausau East

1,479 Students

961

Median WI High School Enrollment = 1,086 Students

Range of WI High School Enrollments = 34 to 2,271 Students

(9-12 non-charter schools in the 100 largest WI districts, not including Milwaukee)



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New: *Initial Prioritizing*

What models might we further investigate, and what might we (temporarily) set aside?



- One Wausau High School, Grades 9-12
- Dual Campus, Grades 9-10 & Grades 11-12
- Junior/Senior High, Grades 8-9 & Grades 10-12
- Boundary Realignment, Balance East & West Enrollment
- Continue Current Structure

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Let's Take a Break



New: *Models We Will Explore*

We have agreed to explore the following models:

- One Wausau High School, Grades 9-12
- Dual Campus, Grades 9-10 & Grades 11-12
- Junior/Senior High, Grades 8-9 & Grades 10-12
- Boundary Realignment, Balance East & West Enrollment
- Continue Current Structure



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New: *Our Decision-Making Guidelines*



- ★ Academic Offerings
- ★ Co-Curricular Offerings
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Financial Status

Please choose which one of the following areas you would like to explore in-depth and assemble with your “team”.

Reminder - Tradition, Identity, Culture relevant to ALL

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New: *Team Charge*



- **Examine each of the secondary models through the lens of your decision-making guideline(s) and identify strengths/weaknesses/tradeoffs.**
- **Present findings to the full Secondary Committee**

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New: *Team Tasks*



- Choose a “Moderator” to keep the conversation on track
- A designated staff person will serve as the team’s note-taker and helper
- Do we want to add to or modify the list of sub-issues that fall under this area?
- What data/information do we need to effectively deliberate about these sub-issues?
- How do we organize our findings?

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New: Next Steps - Planning for June 30



- Between meetings, staff helpers will collate notes and information from today's team meetings
- Between now and June 30, staff will follow up on information/data needs and organize them for each team
- The meeting on June 30 will largely focus on continuing each team's work
- Presentation by each team to the full Secondary Committee will take place on July 21.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK!



See You June 30!

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Transportation

Tied to City Bus Service - do we have to take this approach?

What would be transportation costs of a one school, two campus model?

Will facility savings through consolidation be off-set with transportation costs?

What is the cost in time & bussing resources if we merge? If we change boundaries?

What are the financial implications of the extended bussing?

Transportation - how much longer will students be on a bus during the school day? Best way to transport?

- Secondary students living less than two miles from their school are not offered busing.
- Secondary students living beyond two miles from their school are offered busing.
- This offer consists of a Metro Ride ticket if student lives near a Metro Ride route or a yellow bus outside of the City.
- If the entire footprint of the WSD would need to be delivered to both current East and West, longer rides would result with a likely transfer at one or both current secondary schools on the resident's side of the river.
- If students would routinely take classes on the opposite side of the river from their assigned schools a regularly scheduled transfer shuttle may be necessary.
- Transporting students from one school to another for a class in the middle of the day could easily use up 20 minutes in one direction.
- If a student were to simply attend a school on the other side of the river from their home, it would add the amount of time it takes to transfer to the other side of the river.
- There are so many potential issues and solutions for a variety of scenarios that First Student would have difficulty showing what the additional costs would be. If bus drivers are available, a conservative estimate would be that adding more routes including some transfers for both MetroRide and yellow busses would add \$100,000.

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Finances

What will make WSD magnetic? How much in \$\$ come with students?

What are the efficiencies gained by combining the schools? (i.e FTE that can be used in other areas such as Hmong, Chinese, sign language ect)

Would it save money to downsize to 3 schools? 10-12, 8-9, 6-7

Economic Inefficiencies - transportation, staff, business investment, donations

What is the dollar value of student open enrollment?

- Students coming into the WSD and leaving the WSD come in many different forms, and each one comes with somewhat different financial implications. If we use the full revenue limit rolling average and average it with the dollars associated with open enrollment we get about \$8375 per student. Open enrollment tuition is \$8125.
- Reducing four schools to three schools would most likely come with some operational efficiencies. A large decision would need to be made regarding the one secondary school that would no longer be used for a secondary school. Large elementary, charter school(s), alternative, maintenance and operations building, sell, other.

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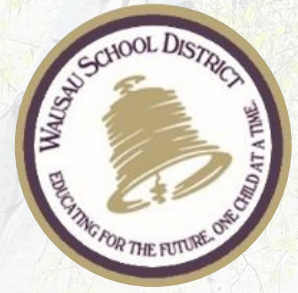
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Thank you!



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