

# Wausau School Board Secondary Subcommittee

June 30, 2022



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



A background image of three young children smiling and looking towards the camera. The child on the left has curly hair and is wearing a patterned shirt. The child in the middle has short hair and is wearing a dark shirt with a yellow logo. The child on the right has short hair and is wearing a dark shirt. The text is overlaid on this image.

# ***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...***

- Proposed plan to expand input
- Update on a possible, single 9-12 high school
- New organizational tool
- Review academic and co-curricular strengths and weaknesses of 2 models:
  - 9-10 and 11-12
  - 8-9 and 10-12
- Review finance and transportation at a later date

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# ***Proposal to Expand Input***

- Staff input: surveys/ focus groups in August & September
- Student focus group in September
- Open community meeting with full Board
- Meeting dates TBD
- Live discussion coupled with a Qualtrics survey that attendees complete during the session

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# What About creating a single 9-12 high school at the current West site?



Nexus identified huge physical challenges with this path:

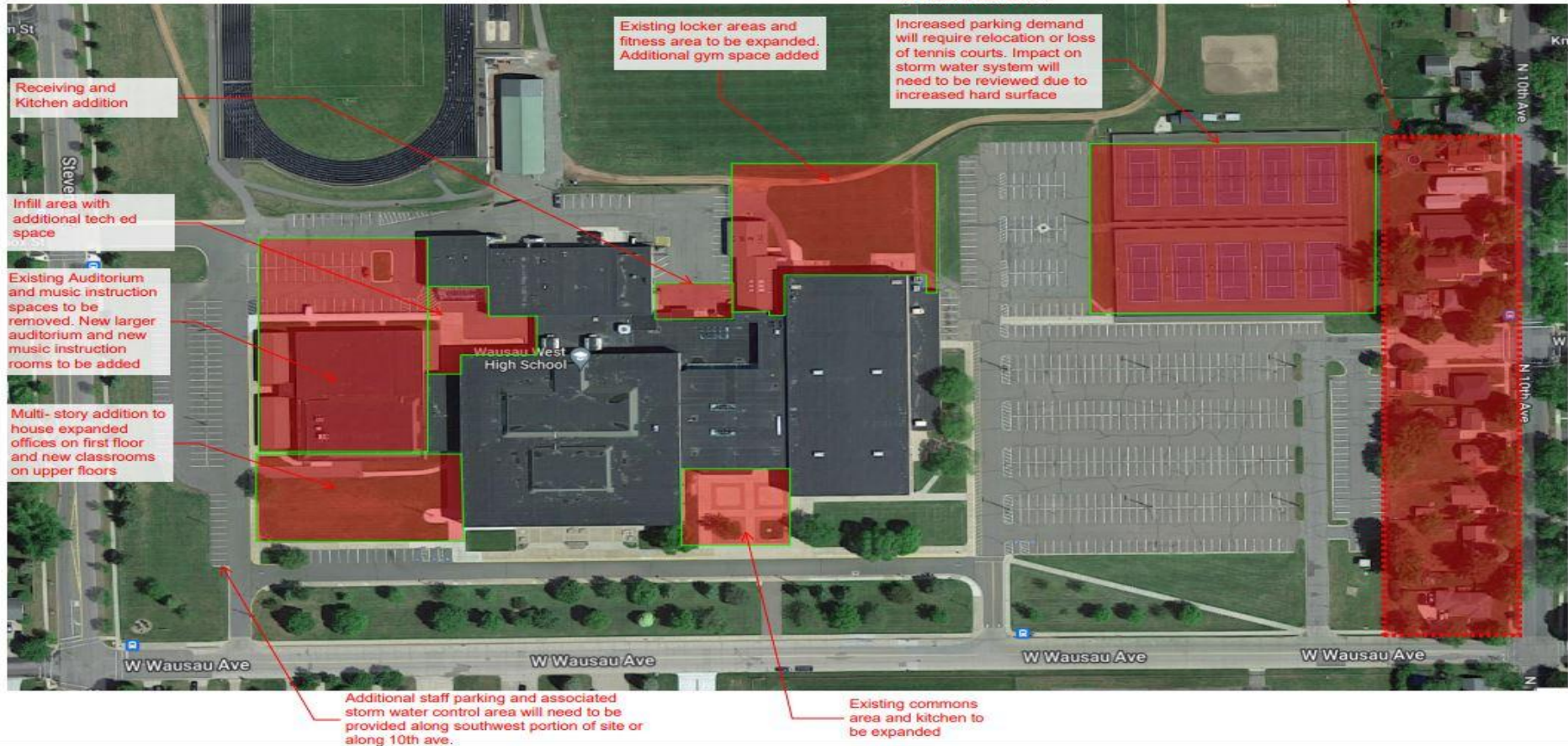
- Larger gymnasiums and locker rooms
- Larger auditorium
- Increase the number of classrooms
- Increase the number of CTE, music, fine arts, and lab spaces
- Increase the size of the parking lot (Tennis courts need to be removed)
- More athletic field spaces
- Need to purchase adjacent land
- What happens to the East campus?

Nexus indicates this is not a viable structural option.

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Current School Capacity: Approx 1,700 students / 345,450 SF / Approx 205 SF per Student  
Target School Capacity: 2,400 students / 492,000 (targeted) SF / Maintains 205 SF per Student  
Approximate Increases: 700 Students / 146,550 SF



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Could Wausau East serve as a 9-12 high school?

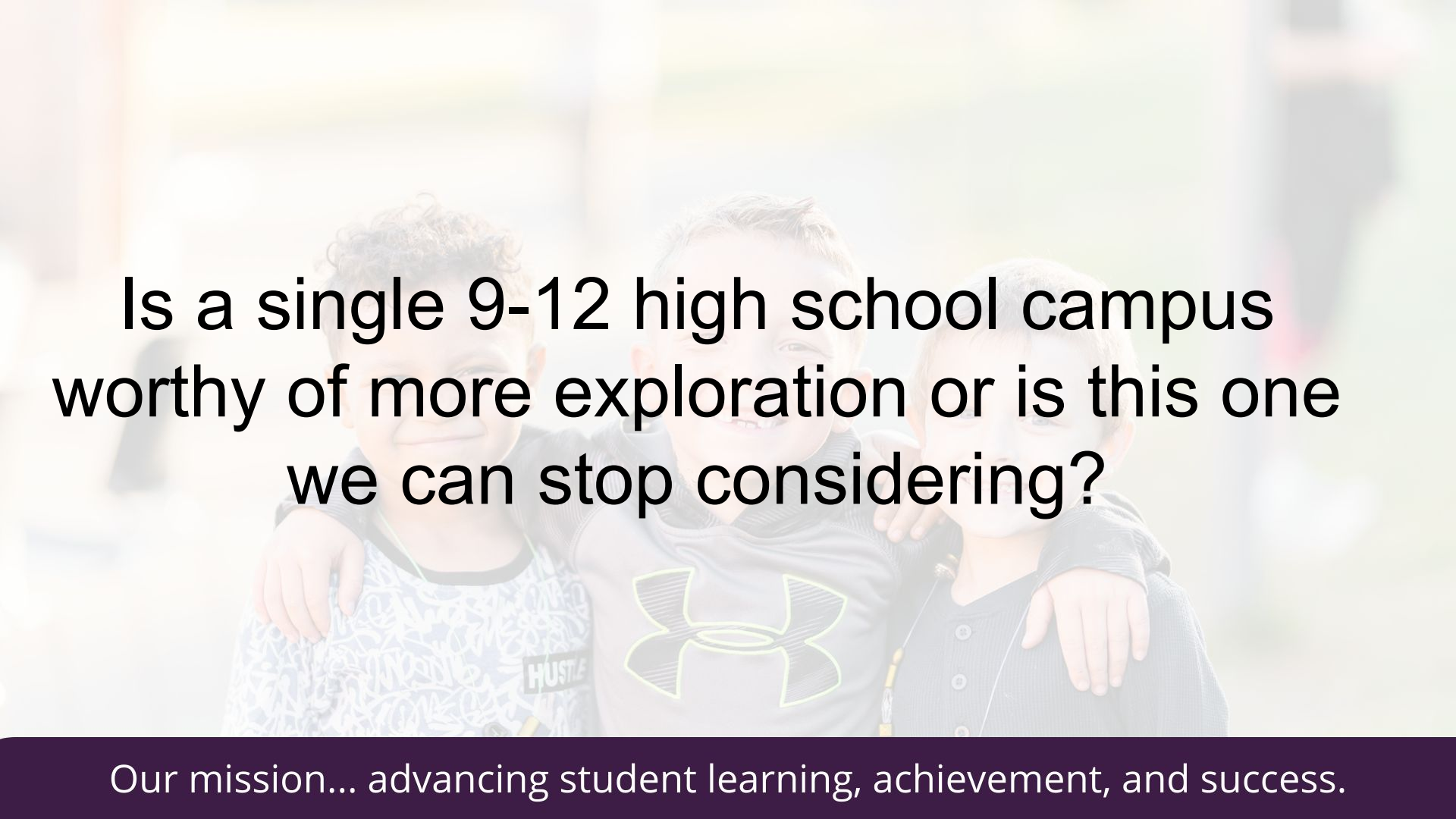
Wausau East would require similar changes to enable it to serve 2,400 students.

- Would require a referendum to do the expansion work.
- Would we want our only high school on the East side of town?
- We still have the problem of what to do with the West building



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A background image of three young children standing in a school hallway. The child on the left is a girl with curly hair wearing a patterned shirt with a 'HUSTLE' tag. The child in the middle is a boy with short hair wearing a grey Under Armour shirt. The child on the right is a boy with short hair wearing a dark blue button-down shirt. They are all smiling and have their arms around each other. The text is overlaid on this image.

Is a single 9-12 high school campus  
worthy of more exploration or is this one  
we can stop considering?

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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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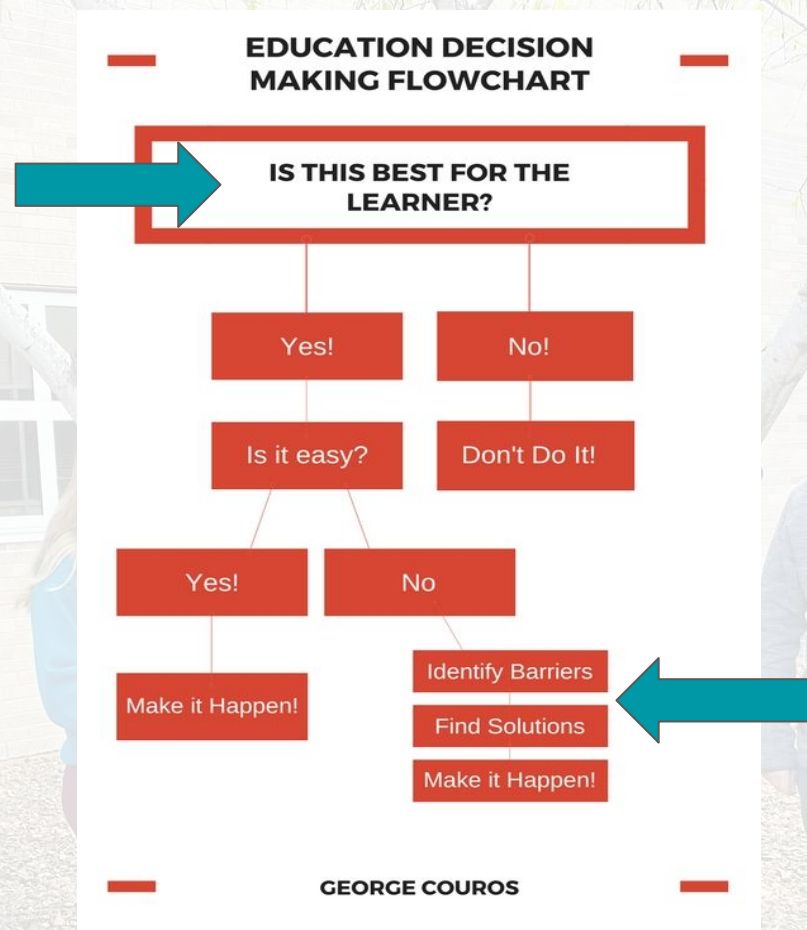
# ***Review: Some Problems For Which We Are Seeking Solutions:***



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*

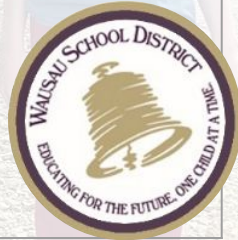


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# New: *Developing Decision-Making Guidelines*

Problems to Solve	Committee Feedback	Decision Making Guidelines (draft)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inconsistent student success</li><li>● Inconsistent student access to programs and supports</li><li>● Inconsistent staffing across schools</li><li>● Inconsistent staff working conditions across schools</li><li>● Challenges with attracting and retaining quality staff</li><li>● Declining enrollment</li><li>● Unfavorable open enrollment trends</li><li>● Continued long-term financial challenges</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Academic Offerings</li><li>★ Co-Curricular Offerings</li><li>★ Transportation</li><li>★ Efficiencies/Finances</li><li>★ Enrollment</li><li>★ School Models</li></ul> <p><a href="#"><u>(Subcommittee Notes 06-02-22)</u></a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Improve academic access and experiences</li><li>→ Improve co-curricular access and experiences</li><li>→ Maintain or improve financial status</li><li>→ Offer viable transportation plan</li><li>→ Address intangibles: identity, traditions, culture</li></ul>



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# Planning Tool Example



ISSUE: ACADEMIC ACCESS and EXPERIENCES		SCHOOL MODEL: 8-9 and 10-12
Model Description:		How might the creation of a junior high school with grades 8-9 at the current East campus and a 10-12 senior high school at the current West campus impact the ACADEMIC experiences in our high school?
Sub-Issue:		elective offerings

Sub-Issue Data	Strengths	Weaknesses

## QUESTIONS

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Let's review  
our progress  
after 45  
minutes to  
make sure we  
are staying on  
track to review  
both models.



45:00

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# Clarifying questions about the “Academy” model

- Does the committee envision two 9-12 high schools or some merger of grade levels as we are currently exploring?
- Does the committee envision two schools that offer specialized courses of study that support specific career paths?
  - West offers Engineering, Agriculture, Education etc., while
  - East offers different paths such as Autos, Business, IT, etc...?

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK!



## See You June 30!

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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***

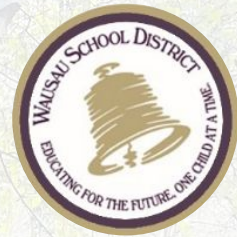


- Participation (Redefining Ready Indicators)
- Clubs/Groups/Organizations (Drama Example)
  - **CTSO**
- WIAA Sports
- Intramural Sports
- Co-Curricular Facilities - do at each school or specialize w/in dual campus
- Fundraising - competing schools/programs?
- Lifetime Recreation & Adventure-Based Activities (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***



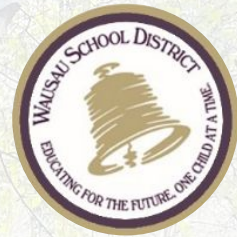
- Staffing Ratios
- Efficiencies vs. Duplication of Services
- Facilities Use (ex. Chemistry)
- Fundraising - competing schools/programs?
- Community partnerships?
- What might unify our community?
- How might we welcome community into our schools/invite them to use school facilities?
- What facilities 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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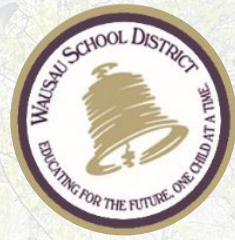
## **New: What If...One Wausau High School?**



- **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?**

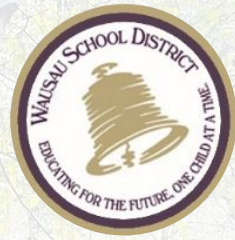


Wausau Grades 9 & 10	Wausau Grades 11-12
1,247 Students	1,193 Students
Median WI High School Enrollment = 1,086 Students Range of WI High School Enrollments = 34 to 2,271 Students (9-12 non-charter schools in the 100 largest WI districts, not including Milwaukee)	
(West Capacity = 1,614, East Capacity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

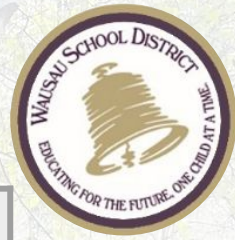
(West Capacity = 1,614, East Capacity = 1,552)



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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

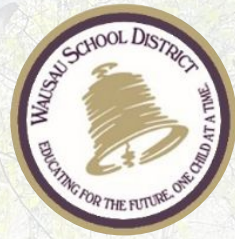
Range of WI High School Enrollments = 34 to 2,271 Students  
(9-12 non-charter schools in the 100 largest WI districts, not including Milwaukee)

(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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# **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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# ***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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*Thank you!*



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