How did you make information visible to future school members (my daughter is currently in Nursery school)? How do you project data #s pre-pandemic (which changed the community drastically) ?
How are you accounting for the new families who have moved here since the pandemic with preschool children?
Are there any student/family recruitment endeavors planned or taking place?
What about parts of Woodstock zoned as Kingston? Are we working with the Kingston district to understand enrollment trends with West Hurley & Woodstock?
I see the public response to the community survey was quite overwhelming in favor of one plan. I'd like to understand what information the BOE would value heavily enough to make a decision overruling such categorical feedback from the community.
Has the recent influx of younger residents/first time parents in our district been considered in the enrollment forecast?
How does this 4 million number for Woodstock match the need to have/nice to have list which seemed minimal for Woodstock ?
Where does universal pre-k fit? Why not put them in underutilized schools?
Could Bennett be used for UPK or special Ed services?
What will the process be for determining any future use for a building if the BOE decides to close any of the elementary schools? Thinking along the lines of preventing a West Hurley Elementary situation, will you be working with towns to find a path forward before students are no longer in those buildings? This seems like it is also a big part of the process that requires a lot of planning to get it right.
Why were more specific options not presented in the survey? For example, why wasn't there an option to close Phoenicia and keep Woodstock and Bennett open for K-5 students? I understand not wanting to pin communities against each other, but having more specific data would be helpful IMO.
Baughman stressed the importance of costing out options with architects both when he was hired and when he presented his survey results. What are the construction costs for each option?
Please address Baughman's suggested use for Bennett as administrative offices.
How many staff will be excessed with each option?
What thought about equity among the towns?
Rephrasing - what about equity among the towns?
The slides that summarize Dr. Baughman's report on pages 13-15 seem to focus on highlighting the beneficial aspects of Scenario D, without mentioning the drawbacks of that scenario or any benefits of other options. It omits, for example, Dr. Baughman's finding that the only scenario with net positive sentiment from those surveyed in 2019 was Scenario A. This creates a perception among some community members that the Board has already made up its mind. Given that the survey respondents primarily supported Scenario A (both in 2019 and 2023), how is this community input being weighed against the Board's preferences? Is the Board concerned that the public will not support any construction bond associated with Scenario D?
Could you please explain how the survey themes were determined quantitatively? Some of the themes for the Bennet only option felt like they were more of a "pitch" from the district than community feedback.

Can you talk about the community Budget Advisory Committee report 2007? It got lost in BOE change 2008. Update on electric buses and who will operate them. Why are we buying property for a contractor to operate. Are realtors promoting the housing as related to the schools. Seems like people are buying houses specifically for a school area.
Why have you made this such a controlled event instead of an actual forum? Blocking people from seeing each other's questions just begs the question "what are you hiding?' This is a sham and you are not fooling anyone.
Dr. Baughman notes in his report that this District does not have a Strategic Plan – that is, a "detailed list of needs and aspirations with accompanying strategies and a timeline." Report at 67. Shouldn't this be accomplished first so that the District's goals are clear, before adopting a particular course of action that would shut down at least one school?
Why are we unable to see how many ppl are in attendance to this meeting and what questions have been asked already?
What is the timeline for implementation for each of the three scenarios?
When will the decision be made?
There's a lot of useful data here. Great job gathering and presenting. Can you please provide insight into how factors (cost savings, community input, capacity etc.) will be weighted into the ultimate decision?
have you considered offering exceptions to the families in woodstock who were zoned for kingston when the zena school closed?
What now? What does the majority vote mean for future next steps ?
curious how many people are logged into this webinar
can you talk about timing for each of these scenarios? it seems like no matter what happens, work needs to get done onthe buildings for this to work out.
Has the Board identified any impediments to counting pre-K students in its enrollment numbers?
When will we know which scenario will be chosen and focus n the end result
Hello! The live birth data does not capture my 3.5 year old son (who is zoned for woodstock elementary) because we lived in Greene County when he was born. I imagine others will be in a similar situation. How can these future students be captured in the data?
What is the date of the most recent birth data used? What efforts are being done to measure future enrollment for students not yet in the school system (<5) AND who have moved to the area?
What reasons have been identified for the decline in new teacher applications, both in the Onteora district and statewide? And what might be done to entice more teachers?
How many postcards were sent out and how many people responded to the questionnaire?
Dr. Baughman noted that "To move forward in this process and garner community support and maintain trust, district officials would need to consider the school-community general concerns shared in the survey. District officials would need to ensure a clear and transparent process for decision making, and how and who would be involved." He then lists actions that should be done, like an architectural review. This raises a few questions: What efforts has the BOE made to address concerns raised in the 2019 survey? Will it review architectural options for each scenario, or just one? Will municipalities with schools on the chopping have a voice in this process?

What is the best way to count prospective students who are too young for those daycare and Pre-K sites?
What are the long term planning impacts?
i don't love the idea of my kindgergartner sharing a campus with high school kids for both saftey reasons and because it won't give them a true elementary experience. what would the plan be to keep them separate?
You spoke about teacher retention, but what happens to the principals if all three schools move to Bennett?
What will be done with the annual savings from school closures?
Are you exploring other ways of increasing enrollment similar to what Rhinebeck and Red Hook do - allow non-residents to enroll?
What are the development costs for all of the scenarios?
The existing class sizes on page 24 of the slides seem pretty close to the desirable range (within one student per class) for all except third grade. The small class sizes in this District seem like a huge advantage for attracting families and keeping kids in the public school system. With that in mind, what would new classroom sizes be for each of the three proposals under consideration? Are you concerned this district will be less attractive to new families and teachers — which it sounds like we will be competing for — if class sizes increase?
Would Onteora ever consider an out of district program, allowing students from other districts for a tuition, similar to Rhinebeck?
Are there tax implications to community residents, including those that might occur from a capital construction project? Would any of the hypothetical savings in these plans be returned to taxpayers?
Re: soliciting enrollment for Kindergarten — can the board help facilitate prospective enrollment/identification for future generations (i.e. 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029) to allow parents to identify newborns/young children who we intend to enroll currently have no place to 'show' exist as future students?
Why were 2 distinct options (closing just Woodstock or closing just Phoenicia) combined into one option in the community survey?
Understanding the purpose of the committee is to make a recommendation to the full board about a go-forward plan, what is the board relying on for that recommendation and how are they weighing the various factors? How will that recommendation be formalized and made public, and when can we expect that?
What would occur if the BOE decided on a central campus and then voters did note vote yes on that budget?
How do you account for the children who were born out of district before their families moved here and/or those who may have been born out of district/in another county/state/country, while living here?
Will you be looking at the potential impact of increased commute time for teachers and staff and how it might impact retention.
What is the timing of the reconfiguration plan roll out? When is the board looking to make a decision?
Certain other districts in the area permit out-of-district students to attend their schools for a tuition fee. Has the Board considered this? Has it reached out to those districts for an analysis of whether those programs are successful in boosting enrollment?
You keep referring to children who have moved here since the pandemic. How can you account for children born here since the pandemic before you make the decision to close one or more schools?

How did the board decide who to send communication? his week's emails to? At the 3/21 board meeting it was shared that there is no email list to share emailed communications. There are many families who did not receive the emails this week.
Isn't the UPK Program based on a lottery?
Will there be an opportunity to consider other options to keep the village schools open and increase enrollment - such as universal Pre K or opening to local kids outside the district?
To piggyback on the previous question about families who live in Woodstock but are zoned for Kingston and Saugerties school, what would the process be to reverse that placement- so that these families who pay Woodstock property taxes are able to actually send their children to Onteora?
**Correction/typo to my last Q: how does the Board decide who to send communications: mailers and emails. Not every resident in the District has received these communications.
Where are the current upk programs located?
Is the district considering and/or developing virtual educational program options that may serve to stabilize/increase student enrollment?
can we have an open town hall or something so we can ask follow up questions and actually have an exchange about this.
Is this meeting the entire extent of a 'community forum'? Will there be ANY opportunity for a dialogue session?
The presentation mentioned that it was previously recommended that middle school have their own building. Why was that not implemented and is it still being considered at all in this restructuring?
Would you be open to community support, including professionals in this area with a lot of experience, to design a comprehensive data collection surveying all residents, a mini-census, to get an accurate and CURRENT baseline of incoming students?
I commend you all for taking on this very difficult and essential task. The information you have presented tonight appears to favor having Bennett as the elementary school for the entire district for boh educational and financial reasons. The parents in Woodstock and Phonecia that are objecting to closing those schools eventually will have students that age out ot the elementary schools. Parents of West Hurley students adapted. The realities the district is facing must be addressed in an informed, thoughtful and non-emotional way.
Why is the West Hurley School still empty? Are there plans for the building? Is there a risk of another empty building with these options?
Shouldn't the Baughman report be refreshed? These plans are based on stale, obsolete and unrepresentative data. Shouldn't a reassessment of the current future student base be done? Dr. Baughman got 8 months to do his report yet this seems to want to be an expedited decision making process?
We're on a long delay from question ask to question visibility. I'm not sure how repetitive some questions I have are. Is there a way to make them visible in real time?

Why don’t we know a hard date on when these proposals will be voted on?
After seeing how west hurley just rotted in the small town of west hurley, how do you explain how two empty schools in two small towns isn’t so depressing?? The idea of having an empty school with no children in it makes both town so less appealing. A thriving town has schools.
when are you making a decision on this and when will it start to be rolled out? and will be be given an opportunity to vote on it?
Has or will the BOE worked with a design team on this whole process and longterm planning, or are they unilaterally making these decisions on their own without any expert support?
Have we asked the children what they think and want?
How does this all relate to the upcoming electoin?
Can projections be made about the district’s future population? At a recent town meeting, some short term rental owners stated they would not be able to afford their homes without being able to rent them. If this were strictly enforced and second home owners leave, how would this affect our population and tax base in light of the housing market and recession.
I'm confused about why each scenario wouldn't have a projected time and cost associated with it.
What will happen if the reconfiguration doesn’t support incoming future student population? If the incoming students are mis-projected and there’s not enough room to house them?
Some other districts allow enrollment for non-residents for a fee - so not sure if what Victoria answered for the other question about Kingston families applies? If they are paying an incremental fee to attend a school not in their district but still paying taxes in their current district why can’t that work?
now that the world cafes are over, what is the projected time line for the board to vote. there has been discussion that 4/18 was a suggested date for the vote. has that changed?
Would you consider assembling a community committee to help support any data / information gathering needed?
What is the tuition rate?
Before deciding to reduce taxes, would you consider investing the money into mental health services due to the current youth mental health crisis?
Hello. If I read correctly; the survey of student population was done in 2019. Has there been any conversation about the huge influx of families from the city within the last few years? I am in Shokan. Just on my block three families, including my own, have moved in with 4 children in the district total and within the next five years will be three more. That is 7 children on one block. Thank you, Bill
Understaning that there is not a projected date for a vote on which plan to choose, does the BOE have a timeline/process in place for how they will proceed with exploring the options and making the final decision?

Monica mentioned that with the cost savings of closures you'd love to lower tax levy but what is the probability of that happening? Was the tax levy lowered with West Hurley closure? What was done with that annual cost savings?
For a decision that is being driven by financial considerations, wouldn't it make sense for the board to be able to review and consider the full financial consequences (e.g., construction costs, cost savings) associated with each of the plans before they make such an important decision? I understand that there will be preliminary estimates, but it seems there should be something more firm for a decision of this import.
Have you received input from Woodstock or Phonecia Town governments as to how they would like to see thei school buildings used?
What will happen to the principals and other support staff if you close Woodstock and Phoenicia?
Are there plans to conduct an economic impact study to more fully understand the long term impact of closing schools? As far the impacts on local businesses, home values, population growth, etc?
Have you considered how school closures in Woodstock and Phoenicia may impact present & future families wanting to move to the area (people like schools in their community when they buy property - I did), further strengthening a vacation location/Airbnb mentality and less of a full time community mentality
Screenshot taken in case.
How do you expect to reach or query people who don't regularly check emails, maybe even aren't on socials or online altogether, or aren't caught up on their mail?
Will the public receive any data on increases in class sizes under each scenario?
Will the recording of this meeting be made public?
Will all of the questions asked tonight be made public?
How were the World Cafe groups designed and how was the number of participants decided?
Will there be a capital expense estimate attached to each scenario before a scenario decision is made?
Yes! This type of decision making that impacts communities, reshapes communities, involves dialogue and isn't in lecture-format as today's meeting is.
Tried to send anonymously.
How easy is it to make decisions that will be rolled out and have impacts long after the current board's attrition?
Thank you
Thank you!