

Committee Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Committee: BOE Building & School Facilities Committee			
Location: Superintendent's Office Chase Building/Room 158 236 Grand Street	Date of Meeting: Monday April 3, 2023	Start Time: 5:30 p.m.	Finish Time: 6:30pm

Team Norms:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All meetings will start on time 2. All team members will agree to stay on specific agenda topics 3. A specific agenda will be set for all meeting

Commissioners Present:	Staff Present:
<i>Rocco Orso, Maggie O'Brien, LaToya Ireland, and Hector Navarro.</i>	<i>N. Albini, D. Schwartz, Dr. Ruffin, M. Pabon, J. Johnson.</i>

AGENDA		MOTION	
#	Agenda Item	Time Allotted	Motion by/seconded by Vote tally
1.	PreK Expansion <i>Dr. Ruffin</i>		<i>Motion by Maggie O'Brien and seconded by Hector Navarro to receive more information for M2/op6; to meet again and with more information.</i>
	Adjournment		<i>Motion to adjourn by Maggie O'Brien/seconded by LaToya Ireland.</i>

Additional notes/minutes: *Discussion of where to place the PreK/special ed.*

Minutes prepared by: *Maggie O'Brien*



WATERBURY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Preschool Expansion

Building and School Facilities

April 3, 2023

WPS Preschool Overview

Preschool Population

	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
General Education	634	596	638	412	644	624
Special Education	211	196	196	199	207	267
Total	845	792	834	611	851	891
Busing Sites	All sites	Bucks Hill PK, Sprague & Wilson	Bucks Hill PK, Sprague & Wilson	Bucks Hill PK	Bucks Hill PK	Bucks Hill PK
Total Buses	31	20	20	15	15	15

Preschool Enrollment by Site

	Co-Taught SPED	Self-Contained SPED	Inclusion SPED	PK Non-SPED	TOTAL
Bucks Hill Annex	114	81	5	84	284
WCA	0	0	0	12	12
Wendell Cross	7	0	0	46	53
Wilson	8	0	3	53	64
Reed	8	0	0	28	36
Duggan	8	0	0	28	36
Gilmartin	7	0	1	27	35
Chase	8	0	0	10	18
Washington	5	0	0	28	33
Walsh	0	0	0	18	18
Bunker Hill	0	0	1	17	18
Carrington	0	0	2	21	23
Sprague	0	0	0	48	48
Driggs	0	0	1	34	35
Maloney	0	0	3	69	72
Rotella	0	0	4	68	72
International	0	0	1	33	34
Totals	165	81	21	624	891

Child Find

The district has worked hard on identifying students across the City of Waterbury. On or before the third birthday, the District must provide special education services for eligible students as stated in the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). All three-year-olds who are identified are provided with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and special education services (typically referral from a Birth to 3 program or a physician). Through additional Child Find efforts (ex., screening, and playgroups at the Office of Early Childhood and Community Sites), students are identified for services throughout the school year who were previously not in the system. Students coming from Birth to 3 are identified throughout the year because Birth to 3 can not continue services after age 3. Prior to age 3, students are referred to the Office of Early Childhood to determine the need for services and placement, typically at the Bucks Hill Preschool.

These efforts of due diligence has resulted in an increase in number of students being identified earlier, thus creating a space issue to accommodate all seats needed.

Student Identification

	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23 (up to February)
# of Referrals Received	215	223	152	244	218
# PPTs 1 & 2	263	230	361	442	279

The Challenge

Presently, general education students in preschool have the following options within the district:

- 3-year-olds - receive ½ day program - 5 days per week - Bucks Hill Preschool Only
 - 4 Classrooms - 72 seats (Bucks Hill Preschool only)
- 4-year-olds - receive Full-day program - 5 days per week
 - 2 Classrooms - 18 seats (Bucks Hill Preschool only)
 - Districtwide seats = 594 (all Full day - 5 days per week)

In contrast, students with special education in preschool have the following options within the district:

- 3-year-olds students with special needs receive the following options:
 - Co-Taught - ½ day only - 2 / 3 / 5 days per week - Bucks Hill Preschool Only
 - 4 Classrooms - 64 seats (Bucks Hill Preschool only)
 - Self-Contained - ½ day only - 2 / 3 / 5 days per week - Bucks Hill Preschool
 - 4 Classrooms - 40 seats (Bucks Hill Preschool only)
- 4-year-olds students with special needs receive the following options:
 - Co-Taught - ½ day - 2 / 3 / 5 days per week - Bucks Hill Preschool Only
 - 2 Classrooms - 32 seats (Bucks Hill Preschool only)
 - Self-Contained - ½ day only - 2 / 3 / 5 days days per week Bucks Hill Preschool
 - 4 Classrooms - 40 seats (Bucks Hill Preschool only)
- Total # of seats designated for students with special needs at Bucks Hill Preschool = 176
- Total # of students with special needs currently at Bucks Hill Preschool = 216

Possible Solutions

Considerations When Exploring Solutions

- As the possible solutions are discussed, the Maloney Expansion is also something to be cognizant of as we look at models. There are currently 2 inclusion classrooms at Maloney that should be relocated to better accommodate the students with more access to specialized staff.
- All options require change and the district is attempting to keep programs together as we consider access to specialized staff and siblings.
- Staffing shortages in all models are being considered.
- State Street has space for 2 self-contained classrooms.

Model 1

- 4-year-olds would attend 5 days a week - full day
- 3-year-olds would attend 5 days a week - ½ day

	# of classrooms	# of reg. teachers	# of sped. teachers	# of paras	# of BTs	# other staff
Current	10	6	10	11	2	1 Administrative Assistant, 2 Speech/Language Pathologists, 1 Social Worker, 1 Shared Maintainer with BH Main, P.E. 2 days per week, Music 3 days per week
Needed	11 Co-Taught=7 Self-Contained= 4	7	11	11	8	1 VP, 1 BCBA PK, 1 Administrative Assistant, 3 Speech/Language Pathologists, 1 School Psychologist, 1 Maintainer, P.E. 5 days per week, Music 5 days per week, Art 5 days per week.
Total	21	13	21	22	10	

Model 1/Options 1 & 2

Option 1-Lease and hook-up for 3 additional portables (4/5 classrooms per portable) for a total of 13 classrooms

- **Approximate Budget:** Transportation \$250,000, Classroom Material/Curriculum \$440,000, Staffing \$3,200,000, Portables \$500,000/yr, **Total:\$4,390,000**
- **Considerations/District Impacts:** Long range planning on Bucks Hill site, staffing shortage, hook-up of portables, traffic

Option 2-Transfer all students out of Bucks Hill Main to surrounding schools and North End. Use Bucks Hills Main for PK site and use current portables as offices/additional space.

- **Approximate Budget:** Transportation \$250,000, Classroom Material/Curriculum \$440,000, Staffing \$3,200,000, **Total:\$3,890,000**
- **Considerations/District Impacts:** Staffing shortage, transition for students to North End, bathrooms,

Model 2

- 4-year-olds in the co-taught program would attend 5 days a week full days
- 4-year olds in the self-contained program would attend 5 ½ days
- 3-year-olds in the co-taught program would attend 2 or 3 ½ days
- 3-year-olds in the self-contained program would attend 5 ½ days

	# of classrooms	# of reg. teachers	# of sped. teachers	# of paras	# of BTs	# other staff
Current	10	6	10	10	2	2 Speech/Language Pathologists, 1 Social Worker, 1 Principal, P.E. 2 days per week, Music 3 days per week
Needed	5 Co-Taught =3 Self-Contained =2	2	5	5	6	3 Speech/Language Pathologists, VP (shared), 1 BCBA (PK), P.E. 3 days per week, Music 3 days per week. Art 3 days per week.
Total	15	8	15	15	8	

Model 2/Options 1 & 2

Option 1-Lease and hook-up for 2 additional portable (4 classrooms per portable)

Approximate Budget: Transportation \$200,000, Classroom Material/Curriculum \$160,000, Staffing \$1,100,000, Portables \$325,000/yr,
Total:\$1,785,000

Considerations/District Impacts: Long range planning on Bucks Hill site, staffing shortage, hook-up of portable

Option 2-Convert Bucks Hill Main to a K-3 School and North End to be grades 4-8 for 7 total classrooms (3 classrooms of 4th grade and 3 classrooms of 5th grade, 1CBL classroom for grades 4/5)

Approximate Budget: Transportation \$200,000, Classroom Material/Curriculum \$160,000, Staffing \$1,100,000, **Total:\$1,460,000**

Considerations/District Impacts: Transition for students to North End, sharing of the main building, bathrooms, admin sharing of VP.

Model 2/Options 3 & 4

Option 3 - Transition Bilingual Program out of Bucks Hill to Walsh 10 classrooms. Bucks Hill preschool would utilize 5 of 10 open classrooms. Maloney PK (2 classrooms) will transition to Bucks Hill. The Scope program from Walsh will transition to Bucks Hill (3 classrooms).

Approximate Budget: Transportation \$150,000, Classroom Material/Curriculum \$160,000, Staffing \$1,100,000, **Total:\$1,410,000**

Considerations/District Impacts: Moving a bilingual program (transition for students), sharing of the main building, bathrooms at Bucks Hill. This would require the removal of Scope and PK classroom out of Walsh and to Bucks Hill.

Option 4 - Explore the possibility of utilizing St. Peter & Paul Convent for the additional 5-7 PK classrooms.

Approximate Budget: N/A

Considerations/District Impacts: *The site does not have the space for 7 classrooms.*

Model 2/Options 5 & 6

Option 5 - Utilizing St. Joseph's Main and Convent for the additional 7 PK classrooms

Approximate Budget: Transportation \$150,000, Classroom Material/Curriculum \$160,000, Staffing \$1,200,000, Remodeling \$85,000
Total:\$1,595,000

Considerations/District Impacts: St. Joseph's main school building does not have an elevator and there are number of stairs (considering the PK population). St. Joseph's convent MAY be able to be converted to four classrooms. They currently have four classrooms (which would need attention from Mike Konopka and Maintenance). Remodeling is necessary for the additional PK Bathrooms. The program would be separated from Bucks Hill PK and would require the traveling of specialists and dedicated admin/staff. Maloney's PK special education would remain in Maloney.

Option 6 - Explore the possibility of utilizing 7 classrooms in NEMS for the additional 5 PK classrooms from Bucks Hill and 2 from Maloney SPED.

Approximate Budget: Transportation \$150,000, Classroom Material/Curriculum \$160,000, Staffing \$1,200,000, **Total:\$1,510,000**

Considerations/District Impacts: Transition for students to North End, converting the bathrooms to be PK, may need to convert 3 houses in North End to 2 houses.