



Elementary Facility Plan Citizen Task Force Outcomes from Meeting 6 – October 9, 2024

33 Task Force members in attendance

Planning/Facilitation consultants in attendance: Mark Roffers and Nick Johnson with MDRoffers Consulting; Tony Menard, John Berget, and Nate Curell with CESA 10

District staff in attendance: Cale Bushman, Interim Superintendent; Diana White, Coordinator of Communications & Marketing; Joshua Viegut, Assistant Superintendent of Operations; Julie Schell, Director of Elementary Education; Jon Euting, Assistant Superintendent of Academics; Kara Rakowski, 4K Principal and Early Childhood Coordinator; Tabatha Gundrum, Director of Human Services; Ralph Williams, Director of Technology & Media Services

Presentations: CESA 10 presented its elementary facilities assessment methods and preliminary results, focused on deferred maintenance. MDRoffers presented the first three detailed elementary facility consolidation options and tools to evaluate them, noting that at least three more would be presented at the October 30th meeting. Schools for possible closure in the first six options were all identified as “candidates” for potential closure at the September 25th meeting. The three options presented at this meeting would close Hewitt-Texas and shift its students to Riverview; close Grant and shift its students to Jefferson and Lincoln; and close Rib Mountain and shift its students to South Mountain and G.D. Jones.

Task Force Review of Options: The following summarizes individual member responses as to whether each of the first three options met each of the five evaluation criteria, delivered through small groups:

Option Evaluation Criterion	Does option meet criterion?	Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes	28	33	28
	No	2	0	2
	Not Sure	3	0	3
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes	29	28	21
	No	0	0	1
	Not Sure	4	5	11
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes	29	23	18
	No	4	5	2
	Not Sure	0	5	13
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes	29	28	14
	No	0	1	5
	Not Sure	4	4	11
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes	26	33	19
	No	5	0	5
	Not Sure	2	0	6



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A majority of Task Force members indicated that all five criteria were met for all three options. The Hewitt-Texas to Riverview and Grant to Jefferson and Lincoln options had a greater support overall. A number of Task Force members indicated they were not sure whether criterion 2, 3, and 4 were met for the Rib Mountain to South Mountain and G.D. Jones option. Reasons included the current lack of a separate gym and cafeteria at South Mountain, expected decreasing space at South Mountain given projected housing development, and some sentiment that a one-to-one Rib Mountain to South Mountain alternative may be preferred with the assumption of a classroom addition to South Mountain.

Total Task Force Member Votes Across all Five Criteria	Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
	Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/
Yes	141	145	100
No	11	6	15
Not Sure	13	14	44

The following is a complete list of all individual votes for each criterion and each option from each small group, including rationale and notes where provided.

Group 1:

Criterion	Criterion Met?	Detailed Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes	5	5	5
	No			
	Not Sure			
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes	5	5	5
	No			
	Not Sure			
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes	5	5	
	No			
	Not Sure			5
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes	5	5	
	No			
	Not Sure			5
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes	5	5	
	No			
	Not Sure			5



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Notes:

- Red Granite could move to Hawthorn
- How long are current bus times for Hewitt?
- What does it look like if Lincoln goes into Grant/Jefferson? Could Lincoln have more profit if sold?
- Add gym/cafeteria to South Mountain and kitchen.
- Need to look at where students are coming from.



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Group 2:

Criterion	Criterion Met?	Detailed Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			

Notes:

- Lincoln most likely need to add separate gym/cafeteria to accommodate students
- Will GD Jones maintain AGR status?
- South Mountain will most likely need to add separate gym/cafeteria to accommodate students.



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Group 3:

Criterion	Criterion Met?	Detailed Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes	3	3	3
	No			
	Not Sure			
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes	3		
	No			
	Not Sure		3	3
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes	3		3
	No			
	Not Sure		3	
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes	3		NA
	No			
	Not Sure		3	
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes	3	3	NA
	No			
	Not Sure			

Notes:

- Neighborhoods 49, 50, 51 option of Hawthorn or Franklin?
- Students will have better opportunity
- All students impacted
- Minimal impact to bus times likely
- Is Lincoln a good pair?
- Could all Grant students go to Jefferson?
- Could all go to Jefferson and be tight for a year or so?



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Group 4:

Criterion	Criterion Met?	Detailed Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes		4	
	No	2		2
	Not Sure	2		2
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes		4	
	No			
	Not Sure	4		4
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes		4	
	No	4		
	Not Sure			4
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes		4	
	No			2
	Not Sure	4		2
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes		4	
	No	4		4
	Not Sure			

Notes:

- Consider moving some Riverview students to Hewitt-Texas [instead]?
- Size of school Riverview too big
- Culture of school (small to large school)
- Travel time too long
- Add gym or multipurpose room to Lincoln
- Better to use Bridge Street as a new boundary (N28 to Lincoln and N30, divide at Bridge)
- GD Jones and South Mountain would be stressed
- Low capacity schools such as John Marshall and Hawthorn Hills not being discussed
- Rib has high teacher satisfaction
- [Rib to South] Highest impact of the 3 options
- [Rib to South] divides N62 and N63



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Group 5:

Criterion	Criterion Met?	Detailed Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes	4	5	5
	No			
	Not Sure	1		
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes	5	5	5
	No			
	Not Sure			
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes	5		2
	No		5	2
	Not Sure			1
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes	5	5	2
	No			2
	Not Sure			1
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes	5	5	4
	No			1
	Not Sure			

Notes:

- Red Granite moves, sell land
- Could need more discussion/change if Lincoln were to close
- [Lincoln has] lack of separate gym/cafeteria and no space to add on
- [Rib to South] Not 1 to 1 but minimal [to G.D. Jones]



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Group 6:

Criterion	Criterion Met?	Detailed Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes	4	3	4
	No			
	Not Sure		1	
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			

Notes:

- Some students close to Hawthorn Hills may want to go there instead (intra district transfer)
- Optics around giving parents choice
- Lincoln possibly need remodel or upgrade, no separate gym and cafeteria
- Are student teacher ratios impacted by any of these moves?
- South Mountain - no separate gym/cafeteria, may or may not be an issue



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Group 7:

Criterion	Criterion Met?	Detailed Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes	4	2	3
	No			
	Not Sure		2	1
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes	4	3	1
	No			
	Not Sure		1	3
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes	4	2	1
	No		1	1
	Not Sure		1	2
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes	1	4	3
	No	1		
	Not Sure	2		1

Notes:

- 1:1 entire school is moving [in Hewitt-Texas to Riverview]
- Could it be efficient closer to functional capacity
- May need upgrades to Lincoln
- Risk of South Mountain meeting capacity with Rib Mountain kids
- Possible upgrades to South Mountain



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Group 8:

Criterion	Criterion Met?	Detailed Elementary Facility Consolidation Option		
		Hewitt-Texas to Riverview	Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln	Rib Mountain to South Mountain/ G.D. Jones
1. Fiscal Responsibility	Yes	4	4	3
	No			
	Not Sure			1
2. Efficient Building Utilization	Yes	4	4	
	No			1
	Not Sure			3
3. Maintain Educational Opportunities	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			
4. Minimize Impact on Students	Yes	4	4	3
	No			
	Not Sure			1
5. Schools Close to Students	Yes	4	4	4
	No			
	Not Sure			

Notes:

- Overflow from Riverview could move to Franklin (or change boundaries if needed)
- Red Granite could move to South Mountain? Or school forest?
- Need to add to Lincoln (gym/cafeteria)
- [Village of Rib Mountain] area is only residential growth area in Wausau we are talking about
- We think BOTH Rib schools stay open
- If combined, South Mountain needs addition for cafeteria and gym
- Too many buildings left on east side where we have more declining enrollment



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Other meeting comments provided in large group setting and in “parking lot” during meeting:

- How long are current Hewitt-Texas bus times?
- Are student teacher ratios impacted by any of these moves?

Individual member written meeting evaluation responses (following meeting):

1. What do you think went well at this meeting?

- Loved the amount of time we had to talk through options. Good info from CESA 10. Good time management
- Really helpful stat with dashboards and maps. Highly appreciate work to get maintenance data. Thank you. Need to think more broadly across schools/lines could have greater financial savings.
- Discussion groups and CESA 10 presentation. Nate did a great job.
- Lively discussions, interesting audits.
- Group discussions - report out. The next layer of possibilities. Really like moving tables each week.
- Great CESA 10 presentation. Thank you.
- The groups worked well. I liked having so much time to discuss.
- Capital needs were not significant. Appreciated the comment from the consultant re: not making a decision on these items.
- Great info on upkeep costs. Group discussion.
- CESA 10 information was excellent and critical to the decision making process.
- Stayed on task. Well presented materials.
- It was good to start discussion options and help narrow down.

2. What could have gone better? How?

- Would be helpful to have a mile scale on map. Could be helpful to have number of students in 2035 next to neighborhood numbers/maps.
- Too much chatter on capital expenses - they were not overly expensive.
- More time for discussion at the tables.
- None of the options include discussions of crossing the river.
- Okay with how the meeting went. Well organized again.
- People losing focus on the big picture of which buildings best meet criteria of all 13 schools. Should not be so focused on only 3 options.

3. Any questions we can answer before or at the next meeting?

- I am very concerned that East side has more of the declining enrollment. Idea: close Marshall and send kids to both Hawthorn and Franklin (more favorable). Or, close Franklin and send kids to Hawthorn and Marshall.
- The river is not necessary barrier. Rib to South/GD Jones - neighborhoods 65 and 67 should also go to GD Jones with 62 and 66. HT to Riverview/Franklin - neighborhoods 51/50 closer



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within 2 miles to Franklin, less bussing, easier for parents. Also 35/36 make sense to group with Franklin if redrawing lines/bigger picture. Grant to Jefferson/Lincoln - Lincoln potential closure (also no space to add gym/cafeteria for extra), better across river to Franklin with separate gym/cafeteria.

- Rib Mountain - keep open, spend capital \$ to keep it going. Shift boundary lines between Franklin and Riverview. Shift boundary lines between GD Jones and John Marshall. Grant to Franklin? Don't use river as boundary.
- Could it be option to create the acreage around H-T as mini school forest instead of bussing all the way to Mosinee? Closing of Grant school - bring in community partners. Change Grant as apartments for transient families, instead of paying local hotels to house homeless families. Build a residual income that agrees with the tax basis dollar. Wausau is a great volunteer partner to be able to sustain it. Keep historical statue. Does the District need to explore potential options to repurpose the building before final closing?
- Combine Hawthorn Hills/Franklin. More kids to Marshall. Franklin land worth money to sell. Marshall has more things for the kids to use for free. Hawthorn has no room to expand based on land/rock. One road in and out. Remove the historic statues at Marshall and build a new elementary school at Marshall site.
- I want to see the following: Redrawing Riverview and closing Hawthorn Hills, receiving at John Marshall and Franklin. Why do we have so many elementary schools/ My district growing up had 1 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high, they now have 2 elementary, 1 5/6, 1 7/8, and 1 high. Same enrollment numbers as Wausau West. A good question would be if we had no schools, what would our ideal school situation look like.
- Will there be any further discussion about non-school buildings? Or is this beyond our scope?
- Would like to see situations that change east/west boundaries. Update South Mountain to accommodate all Rib Mountain kids. See options with closing Lincoln. Remap neighborhoods.
- 2 schools remain not on the "Keep" list - Franklin and Maine. Are there options looking at these two?
- Does the school district own Thom Field?
- One of the CESA 10 presenters mentioned that he believed the district would be crazy to close [certain schools]. Will that information be shared with us?
- East side with a north, central, south, not 5 (Rib, Franklin, John Marshall, HT to choice). Grant and Lincoln to Jeff and Jones - add on. Merge Rib Mountain to South Mountain - spend the money to make it the appropriate size.
- None that I can think of at this time.
- Closing Grant scenario: consider using Bridge Street as new boundary for Jefferson/Lincoln. Please give us scenario options for Hawthorn Hills and John Marshall. Please provide new % capacity of functional building use on dashboard.