

**MIDDLETOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADDITIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

October 17, 2019

Board Members in attendance: Mike Corradi, Dr. Julie Gomboc-Turyan, Dr. Brian Keating, Christopher Lupp, Linda Mehaffie, John Ponnett, Jr., Jennifer Scott

Board Members not in attendance: Melvin Fager, Jr., Darnell Montgomery

Staff/Public in attendance:

District Administration: Dr. Lori Suski, Superintendent of Schools; David Franklin, Chief Financial Officer/Board Secretary; Dan Borrelli, Kunkel Elementary Principal; Earl Bright, Middletown Academy/Raider Academy Principal; Mike Carnes, MAHS Principal; Marie Drazenovich, Fink Elementary Principal; Bill Meiser, Director of Operations; Krystal Palmer, Director of Special Education; Trevor Saylor, Reid Elementary Principal; Jack Steiner, Director of Technology

District Staff: Laura Adkins, Dave Coffey, Cherie Fake, Eric Fisher, Lana Greinermiller, Jodi Jackson, Zach Kepler, Kathryn Korsak, Sierra Lenker, John Wilsbach, Jody Zorbaugh

Candidates for Employment: none

Interested Students and Citizens: Andy Blandon, Stan Bortner, Brittany Bradford, Barbara Cimino, Scott Cousin (Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates), Barbara Florence, Amanda Geesaman, Lynne Gomboc, Jake Hottenstein, Leah Hottenstein, Sara Hughes, Andy Kinsey, Pam Matesevac, Thomas Schaaf, Heather Sharp, Steve Sharp, Todd Truntz, Sondra Wilkins, Dr. Fred Withum (Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates), Tom Williams

Reporter: Phyllis Zimmerman

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Mehaffie called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Large Group Instruction Room of the Middletown Area High School. Mrs. Mehaffie asked those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent meditation.

2. Roll Call

Mrs. Mehaffie asked the Secretary, David Franklin, to call the roll. A quorum was present as noted above.

3. Presentations

a. Elementary Level Building Planning Historical Timeline, Guiding Principles & Attendance Boundaries

Dr. Suski provided a historical timeline of events that led to the discussion occurring tonight. Dr. Suski said the timeline began when the District received word in 2016 that the Pennsylvania Department of Education would institute a moratorium on construction projects that would be eligible for state reimbursement beginning July 1, 2016. Dr. Suski noted that the District's feasibility study indicated that Kunkel Elementary School was the next building in need of renovations after building the new Middletown Area High School. Dr. Suski noted the last

renovation at Kunkel Elementary School occurred in 1996 and the building is in need of system upgrades. Dr. Suski said the School Board voted to file PlanCon Parts A & B for a Kunkel Elementary renovation project and addition of ten classrooms on May 15, 2016 in advance of the moratorium being instituted. Dr. Suski said the School District has experienced growth at the elementary level since the PlanCon documents were filed. Dr. Suski also noted the District has continued to program for special needs students in its own school buildings rather than place these students outside of the School District. Dr. Suski noted these additional special education classes decrease the available space for regular education classrooms. Dr. Suski also noted the movement toward flexible grouping to improve academic achievement and to meet the varied needs of learners at the elementary level. Dr. Suski said a survey approximately five years ago resulted in a 50/50 split among staff regarding whether a center-based model would better suit the needs of the District. Dr. Suski said no action came from the survey results as it was not possible to program for center-based instruction within the existing three elementary buildings unless additional classroom space were added in one or more buildings. Dr. Suski said that as the deadline approached to move forward with a project under the PlanCon timeline, the School Board held a special meeting on November 28, 2018 to review various options. Dr. Suski said approximately 100 people attended the meeting at the Kunkel Elementary School. Dr. Suski said options were presented by Scott Cousin from Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates. Dr. Suski said the feedback/concerns raised that evening included traffic on the campus, neighborhood vs. center-based philosophy, accuracy of enrollment data provided by PDE and used by architect, desire to retain Kunkel at its current location, and desire to have Fink Elementary remain since it is the only school in the Borough of Middletown. Dr. Suski said the School Board met on December 18, 2018 and discussed the feedback that was received and a survey was recommended of stakeholders to further define the priorities of parents, community and staff. Dr. Suski said a recommendation was made in January 2019 to contract with DecisionInsite to develop enrollment projections based upon superintendent discussions with Mechanicsburg Area SD and West Shore SD who were dealing with similar issues. Dr. Suski said survey results were reviewed in February and the results indicated that 60% of respondents favored retaining the neighborhood school model. Dr. Suski said the top priorities gleaned from the survey were safety and security and smaller schools. Dr. Suski said the School Board requested cost estimates for the renovation of both Kunkel Elementary and Fink Elementary Schools. Dr. Suski said the administration presented research at the February 2019 meeting regarding the center-based model and concluded that there was no evidence to indicate that a center-based model improves achievement, although it does make instructional delivery simpler. Dr. Suski said at the next School Board meeting in February 2019, Crabtree Rohrbaugh presented costs for renovations at both elementary schools and also introduced the concept of a hybrid model where Fink and Kunkel would house students in kindergarten through third grade and Reid Elementary School would become a center for fourth and fifth grade students. Dr. Suski said one of the concerns raised about an additional school on the campus involved the impact to traffic. Dr. Suski said the administration presented three proposals to conduct traffic studies at a March 2019 School Board meeting. Dr. Suski said no action was taken to pursue a traffic study as the results from DecisionInsite's enrollment study had not been finalized. Dr. Suski said DecisionInsite data was presented at the first Board meeting in April 2019. Dr. Suski said the

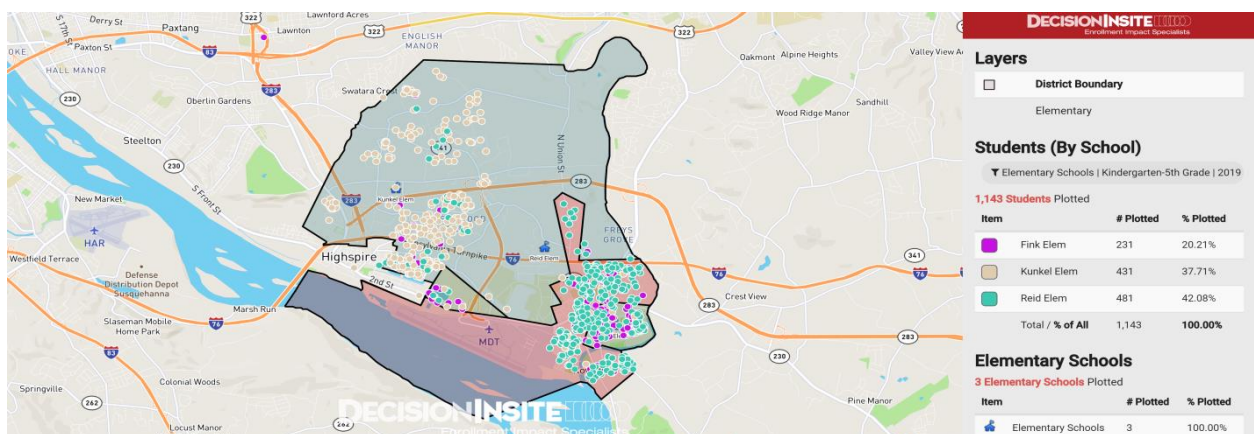
study indicated that enrollment growth would occur in the Borough of Middletown rather than Lower Swatara Township; therefore the School Board discussed whether additional classroom space should be added at Fink Elementary instead of Kunkel Elementary. Dr. Suski said at that same meeting information was shared about an out-of-state developer's plans to purchase the Williams farmland surrounding Kunkel Elementary School and convert it into warehousing space. Dr. Suski said the School Board tabled all action pending further information regarding the sale of the Williams farm that surrounded Kunkel Elementary School. Dr. Suski said the District learned that the developer rescinded its offer to purchase the Williams farm at the June 2019 Agenda Planning meeting. Dr. Suski said the District also learned that the deadline to act on the PlanCon project that had been filed was extended until July 2021. Dr. Suski said the School Board decided to resume discussions regarding the elementary buildings. Dr. Suski said the DecisionInsite agreement was renewed for an additional year at the August Agenda Planning meeting in order to update any enrollment projections.

Dr. Suski reviewed the following guiding principles for decision-making regarding an elementary project. Dr. Suski said the purpose of developing guiding principles is that it allows the District to look at "who we are" and "what we value most."

1. **Consistency:** MASD believes that curricula and program offerings should be consistent across all elementary buildings so that equitable opportunities exist for all learners.
2. **Flexible Grouping:** MASD believes that instructional delivery is more efficiently and effectively delivered in a setting that allows for flexible grouping across sections in a grade level to enable students to receive intervention or enrichment commensurate with their learning needs.
3. **Secure Setting:** MASD believes that secure school buildings allow students to feel safe so they can focus on learning and academic achievement.
4. **Class Size:** MASD believes that an appropriate public education is best delivered in a classroom setting where enrollment thresholds typically do not exceed 22 students in grades kindergarten through second grade and 25 students in third through fifth grade.
5. **College & Career Ready:** MASD believes that its mission is to prepare all students to be college and career ready and that District facilities should be equipped with the educational spaces and technology necessary to create, problem-solve, and work collaboratively.
6. **Fiscal Responsibility:** MASD believes that the Board and Administration should strive to meet the needs of its students in the most fiscally responsible manner.
7. **Comfortable Environment:** MASD believes that its school facility systems should operate efficiently and effectively to provide a consistently comfortable learning environment.
8. **Efficient Transportation:** MASD believes that when student transportation is required it should be done in the most efficient and effective manner and that student travel time should be minimized as much as possible.
9. **Transitions:** MASD believes that the number of times a student changes school buildings in his/her career should be minimized as much as possible so that there is stability and the opportunity for relationships to be developed.

Dr. Suski said review of the various options that will be presented tonight will be analyzed against the guiding principles at a School Board meeting in November. Dr. Suski said the exercise will help take some of the emotion out of the process. Dr. Suski acknowledged the understandable emotional attachment that exists to buildings and noted that she served as the Kunkel Elementary Principal prior to becoming the Assistant Superintendent for the District.

Mr. Franklin reviewed current attendance boundaries and said they have remained relatively unchanged for many years, although they have not been adhered to as the District has prioritized balancing class size over adherence to attendance boundaries. Mr. Franklin noted that the plotting of students on the map indicates that there are students in every elementary school that are outside of their attendance zone.



Mr. Franklin reviewed potential attendance boundaries for the various options that will be presented by Mr. Cousin:

- Option 1: center-based – there would be no need for attendance zones as all students would attend the same school for each grade level.
- Option 2A: neighborhood schools, addition at Kunkel – Fink’s attendance zone would be southeast of Main Street and Union Street. Kunkel’s attendance zone would be northwest of Route 283 and the Airport Connector. Reid’s attendance zone would be the area between Fink and Kunkel attendance zones.
- Option 2B: neighborhood schools, addition at Fink – Fink’s attendance zone would include the area in option 2A plus all of Royalton Borough. Kunkel’s attendance zone would be west of the Airport Connector and Route 441. Reid’s attendance zone would be the area between Fink and Kunkel attendance zones.
- Option 3: hybrid – Fink’s attendance zone would be southeast of the Turnpike and the Airport Connector except for a small pocket to the east of Vine Street. Kunkel’s attendance zone would be the remainder of the District. Both schools would house students in kindergarten through third grade. Reid’s attendance zone would be the entire District as it would house all of fourth and fifth grade.

b. Elementary Level Building Planning Options

Mr. Scott Cousin, Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, reviewed four goals related to elementary level facility improvements: the project should 1) accommodate projected enrollment, 2) include an upgrade to aging facilities components & systems at Fink and Kunkel if they are used in the plan, and any classrooms in the basements of those buildings should be relocated to an upper floor, 3) incorporate flexible & collaborative 21st century educational spaces, and 4) maintain current level of special education programs. Mr. Cousin also noted that consideration had been given to create similar sized graded groupings, which references the fact that Fink Elementary is smaller than Reid and Kunkel Elementary and is unable to house the same number of grades in that building. Mr. Cousin said that a large number of options were reviewed and considered prior to narrowing the focus down to the three options that are being reviewed tonight. Mr. Cousin reviewed floor plans of the existing elementary schools and discussed building utilization. Mr. Cousin said that Fink Elementary is able to accommodate two sections at every grade level except one. Mr. Cousin said the functional capacity of the building is 257 students. Mr. Cousin noted that the MATES program is housed at Fink Elementary. Mr. Cousin said Kunkel Elementary is able to accommodate three sections at every grade level and can even accommodate a fourth section in two grades. Mr. Cousin said the functional capacity of the building is 470 students. Mr. Cousin said Reid Elementary is able to accommodate four sections at every grade level except one. Mr. Cousin said the functional capacity of the building is 542 students. Mr. Cousin noted the District-wide MDS and Autism classrooms are housed at Reid Elementary. Mr. Cousin commented on how each building is sized differently and the capacity is different. Mr. Cousin summarized the capacity and commented that there is a utilization factor that needs to be applied as students won't be able to be evenly distributed into each available classroom space. Mr. Cousin said a 90% utilization factor is applied, which results in the ability to program for 1,142 students at the elementary level. Mr. Cousin said application of the utilization factor results in the District being very close to maximum capacity. Mr. Cousin reviewed enrollment projections developed by DecisionInsite. Mr. Cousin noted the varied enrollment projections that have been provided by PDE from the time when the PlanCon filing occurred to the projections several years later and noted that both PDE projections differed from what DecisionInsite showed last spring. Mr. Cousin noted the current kindergarten class was larger than projections, so DecisionInsite's work was updated to see if there were any changes needed to future enrollment projections. Mr. Cousin mentioned that DecisionInsite does a moderate and a conservative projection and recommends that the moderate projection is used for building decisions. Mr. Cousin said that although DecisionInsite projects enrollment for the next ten years it is better to focus on the projected enrollment in five years as there are considerable variables that could impact data that is much further out than that. Mr. Cousin said the highest projected enrollment in the next five years would have a kindergarten enrollment of 210 students and a total elementary enrollment of 1,270 students. Mr. Cousin indicated that DecisionInsite's projections after that five-year period declined slightly, which would seem to indicate that programming for the maximum enrollment in the next five years should accommodate future needs. Mr. Cousin compared the maximum projected enrollment of 1,270 with the current elementary enrollment of 1,105 and equated that to a 165 student increase or approximately 27.5 students per grade. Mr. Cousin said the maximum projected enrollment would translate to

the need for additional sections per grade level. Mr. Cousin reviewed the options. Mr. Cousin said option 1 is a center-based option that involves closing Kunkel and Fink Elementary, constructing a new building for grades 2-5 on the campus (or even on the Kunkel site), and converting Reid Elementary to a building for kindergarten and 1st grade. Mr. Cousin said option 2A is a neighborhood option that involves renovations to both Fink and Kunkel with an addition to Kunkel as well. Mr. Cousin said there would also be minor renovations at Reid Elementary. Mr. Cousin said option 2B is also a neighborhood option that involves renovations to both Fink and Kunkel with an addition at Fink instead of Kunkel in order to have three elementary buildings that are more similar in size. Mr. Cousin said option 2B would also have minor renovations at Reid Elementary. Mr. Cousin said option 3 is a hybrid option with renovations at Fink and Kunkel to convert them to buildings housing kindergarten through third grade. Mr. Cousin said there would be an addition at Fink in order to accommodate enrollment needs and results in two primary buildings that are more equal in size. Mr. Cousin said there would be renovations at Reid Elementary in order to accommodate its conversion to a 4th & 5th grade building housing all District students. Mr. Cousin reviewed layouts of each building under the different options and discussed projected capacity information for each building and total cost information.

Capacity Comparison:

CENTERS BASED OPTION (1)		NEIGHBORHOOD OPTION (2a)		NEIGHBORHOOD OPTION (2b)		HYBRID OPTION (3)	
REID K-1	440	REID K-5	564	REID K-5	564	REID 4-5	500
NEW 2-5	970	KUNKEL K-5	564	KUNKEL K-5	423	KUNKEL K-3	455
K-5 CAPACITY	1,410	FINK K-5	282	FINK K-5	423	FINK K-3	455
Utilization Rate	90%	K-5 CAPACITY	1,410	K-5 CAPACITY	1,410	K-5 CAPACITY	1,410
TOTAL CAPACITY	1,269	Utilization Rate	90%	Utilization Rate	90%	Utilization Rate	90%
		TOTAL CAPACITY	1,269	TOTAL CAPACITY	1,269	TOTAL CAPACITY	1,269

Projected Cost Comparison:

CENTERS BASED OPTION (1)					NEIGHBORHOOD OPTION (2b)				
FACILITY	GRADES	LOW RANGE	HIGH RANGE		FACILITY	GRADES	LOW RANGE	HIGH RANGE	
Reid	94,487 SF K-1	\$ 265,000	\$ 331,250		Reid	94,487 SF K-5	\$ 215,000	\$ 268,750	
New School	143,789 SF 2-5	\$ 34,724,065	\$ 37,016,239		Kunkel	83,746 SF K-5	\$ 16,338,756	\$ 17,749,239	
	238,276 SF Total	\$ 34,724,065	\$ 37,016,239		Fink	79,176 SF K-5	\$ 16,924,923	\$ 18,334,916	
						257,409 SF Total	\$ 33,478,679	\$ 36,352,905	

NEIGHBORHOOD OPTION (2a)					HYBRID OPTION (3)				
FACILITY	GRADES	LOW RANGE	HIGH RANGE		FACILITY	GRADES	LOW RANGE	HIGH RANGE	
Reid	94,487 SF K-5	\$ 215,000	\$ 227,500		Reid	94,487 SF 4-5	\$ 182,000	\$ 227,500	
Kunkel	109,928 SF K-5	\$ 24,144,331	\$ 26,193,038		Kunkel	83,746 SF K-3	\$ 16,924,923	\$ 18,334,916	
Fink	58,201 SF K-5	\$ 11,301,791	\$ 12,220,337		Fink	78,266 SF K-3	\$ 16,924,923	\$ 18,334,916	
	262,616 SF Total	\$ 35,661,122	\$ 38,640,875			256,499 SF Total	\$ 34,031,846	\$ 36,897,331	

c. Elementary Level Building Planning Enrollment Projections & Classroom Teacher Costs

Mr. Franklin reviewed how the enrollment projections correlate with the options presented by Mr. Cousin using redrawn attendance boundaries. Mr. Franklin noted that option 1 does not require redrawn attendance boundaries as all students in each grade will attend the same school building under a center-based model. Mr. Franklin said that the highest enrollments in option 1 would occur in 2024-2025 and Reid Elementary (K5-1 building) would have 419

students and the new building (2-5) would have 852 students with 419 students in the 2-3 half of the building and 433 students in the 4-5 half of the building. Mr. Franklin said the highest enrollments in option 2A would occur in 2023-2024 at Fink with 249 students, in 2026-2027 at Kunkel with 476 students, and in 2025-2026 at Reid with 534 students. Mr. Franklin said the highest enrollments in option 2B would occur in 2024-2025 at Fink with 382 students, 2026-2027 at Kunkel with 382 students, and in 2025-2026 at Reid with 498 students. Mr. Franklin said the highest enrollments in option 3 would occur in 2023-2024 at Fink with 427 students, in 2024-2025 at Kunkel with 408 students, and in 2024-2025 at Reid with 433 students. Mr. Franklin calculated the estimated classroom teacher costs under the various options using the projected enrollment information. Mr. Franklin said the average teacher salary in the District with benefits is currently \$120,398.70. **Note: Mr. Franklin discovered an error in his calculation subsequent to the School Board meeting. The average combined salary and benefits for a District teacher should be \$100,772.81.**

	Option 1	Option 2A	Option 2B	Option 3
K	10	10	10	10
1	10	10	10	10
2	10	10	10	10
3	9	10	10	9
4	9	10	10	9
5	9	10	10	9
Total # of Classes	57	60	60	57
Cost per Teacher	120,398.70	120,398.70	120,398.70	120,398.70
Total Cost	6,862,725.90	7,223,922.00	7,223,922.00	6,862,725.90
Average Class Size	21.6	20.3	20.4	21.5

Mr. Franklin said that option 1 allows for fewer teachers because all students in the same grade level are located in the same building, which allows for fewer sections in grades 3-5 while still falling within the desirable class size. Mr. Franklin said option 3 also allows for fewer teachers because all students in grades 4 and 5 are in the same building and students in grades 3 are only divided between two buildings instead of three. Mr. Franklin said option 3 allows for fewer sections in grades 3-5 just like option 1. Mr. Franklin said the total estimated classroom teacher cost in options 1 & 3 is \$6,862,726 compared with \$7,223,922 in options 2A and 2B. Mr. Franklin noted this was a difference of \$361,196. Mr. Franklin said the average class size in all scenarios is well below 25 students. **Note: with the correction to the total average salary and benefits, options 1 & 3 would have a total classroom teacher cost of \$5,744,050.17 and options 2A & 2B would have a total cost of \$6,052,962.60. The difference between the options is \$308,912.43 instead of \$361,196.**

Mr. Franklin said that in addition to looking at the classroom teacher cost, utilities and transportation would be evaluated in looking at the total cost of operation. Mr. Franklin said the utility cost should be relatively easy to estimate considering that the older buildings would be renovated and the operational costs should be relatively the same under all scenarios. Mr. Franklin said the transportation cost would potentially vary under the different scenarios, but that cost has not yet been estimated.

4. Unfinished Business

a. Operations: Elementary Level Building Planning

Discussion Item: The School Board asked questions about the information provided during the presentations regarding elementary level building planning.

Mrs. Mehaffie asked Mr. Cousin to define his intent in referencing building design for 21st century learning spaces. Mr. Cousin said these are spaces that allow for collaboration.

Mrs. Mehaffie asked about the coordination of collaboration with security. Mr. Cousin said once the perimeter is secured, a policy needs to be developed to address security in any open spaces. Mr. Cousin noted that the District may not want an overabundance of fear lead to a prison-like atmosphere. Mr. Cousin said it is more ideal to feel secure without necessarily being able to see it.

Mrs. Scott asked if the estimated PlanCon reimbursement could be shared again. Dr. Suski said she thought the amount was approximately \$3 million, but noted the PlanCon reimbursement is only available under scenarios that were originally included in the filing for Kunkel Elementary. Mr. Cousin suggested that the potential for PlanCon reimbursement should not influence decision-making too strongly as the funds may not be there to be paid by the state. Mr. Franklin noted that the PlanCon reimbursement is not paid all at one time and estimated that when distributed over a 20-year time period the amount would be closer to \$150,000 annually.

Mrs. Mehaffie asked if the District is receiving reimbursement for the MAHS project. Mr. Franklin responded that reimbursement is occurring as the debt is paid.

Mr. Ponnnett asked for clarification on the reimbursement available for this project. Mr. Cousin said the Kunkel filing was for a renovation/addition or new construction on the Kunkel site and that PlanCon reimbursement would only occur if one of those were pursued. Mr. Franklin noted there are only 54 teachers at the elementary level currently, so all of the scenarios involve an increase in costs – approximately \$360,000 for options 1 & 3 and \$720,000 for options 2A & 2B. Mr. Franklin contrasted this with the potential of \$150,000 in PlanCon reimbursement. ***With the correction to the average salary and benefit cost, options 1 & 3 would require a cost increase of \$302,318 and options 2A & 2B would require a cost increase of \$604,637.***

Mrs. Mehaffie asked if there is any additional information available on the center-based model,

such as whether there has been any change in the preference of District staff since the survey was conducted years ago that resulted in a 50/50 split. Mrs. Mehaffie asked if the preference is now 60/40 against center-based. Dr. Suski said the 60/40 ratio was the preference from the survey conducted approximately one year ago and would include data from all respondents. Dr. Suski said if there is interest in surveying just the teachers she could see that a survey is done.

Dr. Gomboc-Turyan asked if the survey results were compiled by municipality. Dr. Suski indicated that they were not. Dr. Suski said that data could be asked in another survey and questioned whether there was interest in another survey being conducted. Mrs. Mehaffie said that if there is another survey there should be a detailed explanation of what a center-based model entails.

5. Public Comment

Mrs. Mehaffie opened the floor to anyone wishing to make public comment or ask questions.

Steve Sharp, 5 Cobble Court, Middletown: Mr. Sharp said he has looked at data available for the Future Ready PA Index. Mr. Sharp said there appears to be a difference in socio-economic status in the buildings. Mr. Sharp suggested this looks like historic residential segregation. Mr. Sharp encouraged the School Board to look at the center-based model as this might provide greater equity for all students. Mr. Sharp said he appreciated that fiscal considerations were provided and wanted to know whether other staff costs were reviewed beyond just classroom teachers. Mr. Franklin said the administration has looked at special education staffing and the review conducted at this point indicates that all options would require the same level of staffing.

Laura Adkins, 34 Oak Hill Drive, Middletown: Ms. Adkins asked if there is a timeframe that is being used for when a decision needs to be made because the discussion has occurred for some time. Mrs. Mehaffie said the School Board is just trying to make the right decision. Dr. Suski said the MAHS design phase lasted for 18 months and it took two years to construct that building, so from the standpoint of the Administration if the option selected involves use of the PlanCon reimbursement for Kunkel Elementary then a decision will need to be made very soon. Dr. Suski recalled that the PlanCon reimbursement requires that bids would be awarded by July 2021.

Mr. Meiser, Director of Operations, said that if an option is being considered that involves any construction on the campus then it would be beneficial to look at having the traffic study conducted. Mr. Meiser said it may be beneficial to do this very soon as we may not want to consider an option that is not logistically possible. Mr. Cousin said the feasibility of option 1 does require a traffic study and noted there are options for alternate egress in the case of an emergency. Mr. Cousin said it would take 1-2 months to complete a traffic study from start to finish. Mr. Cousin said if alternate roadways are considered in the traffic study additional time would be needed.

Mrs. Scott asked how it is possible to know if the proposals reviewed are the best cost. Mr. Cousin said there are two ways to go about a building design – determine what you want to achieve and then design a building that meets those guidelines or determine what you want to spend and

develop a building that lives within that fiscal constraint. Dr. Suski said after a decision is made on the option bid specifications would be developed and a revised cost estimate would be obtained.

Andy Blaydon, 19 Messick Drive, Middletown: Mr. Blaydon asked if the information presented will be available for review. Dr. Suski said it would be posted on the District website. Dr. Suski also noted that John Wilsbach has recorded the presentations tonight and will air them on WMSS.

Barbara Florence, 1874 O'Hara Lane, Middletown: Ms. Florence said there has been a lot of concern about the Williams farm being up for sale. Ms. Florence asked how a decision about Kunkel is going to be impacted by that. Dr. Suski said the challenge is that there is no information available about what will happen with the Williams farm now that the developer has pulled its offer. Dr. Suski said at the community meeting held almost one year ago there were people that expressed no concern about the property potentially becoming warehouses. Dr. Suski said comments were made by the public that the District could just put a wall around Kunkel Elementary. Dr. Suski said it is a consideration that the Board will need to make on whether it wants to put money into the Kunkel property when the properties surrounding it are going to be sold – potentially to a commercial developer. Ms. Florence said she is a little more on the side of not caring about future neighbors for Kunkel, but recognizes it needs to be thought about on a broader sense. Ms. Florence said there has been discussion about elementary enrollment increases and wondered if this would also be an impact at the middle school level. Dr. Suski said MAMS is not at capacity, but noted the schedule is impacting class size. Dr. Suski said one of the District's goals is to study the middle school schedule this year and make recommended changes.

Tom Williams, 2402 Fulling Mill Road, Middletown: Note: Mr. Williams did not identify himself when he spoke, but he identified himself after the meeting. Mr. Williams asked if the District has considered working with Lower Swatara Township to buy the Williams farm. Mrs. Mehaffie said consideration has been given to how Lower Swatara Township could help the District accomplish its site goals whether that is related to the Williams farm or even the Greenfield soccer fields that are located adjacent to the District campus.

Laura Adkins, 34 Oak Hill Drive, Middletown: Ms. Adkins asked if special education teachers were included in the information presented. Mr. Franklin said they were not. Mr. Franklin said the number of regular education classroom teachers was calculated because that is the staffing that is dictated by enrollment and the number of sections that would be required to accommodate that enrollment.

Pam Matesevac, 1849 Lakeside Drive, Middletown: Ms. Matesevac asked if co-teaching was being considered. Mrs. Palmer said that was not part of the estimation.

Mrs. Scott asked if any other schools are using the center-based model. Dr. Suski said Mechanicsburg Area SD has just recently moved in that direction. Dr. Suski said she understands that parents love the model now, although there had been concern initially. Dr. Suski said Derry Township SD has always operated using a center-based model.

Steve Sharp, 5 Cobble Court, Middletown: Mr. Sharp asked if any model would provide more access to staffing. Dr. Suski said the District would want to provide access to appropriate services regardless of the model selected. Mr. Franklin said it may be easier to share services between buildings if all buildings are located on the same campus.

Leah Hottenstein, 1798 Bonnie Blue Lane, Middletown: Ms. Hottenstein said there seems to be a lot of discussion about body count and questioned whether there is any actual data that would indicate which model is better. Ms. Hottenstein said MAHS has flexible spaces (21st century learning spaces) and she understands those spaces are not even used because additional staff would be needed to accompany them in those spaces. Ms. Hottenstein said she finds it difficult to take emotion out of the decision-making as Dr. Suski suggested should be done. Dr. Suski said the Board needs to look at the whole picture and it is difficult for everyone involved to completely remove emotion. Dr. Suski said the data in the Future Ready PA Index would indicate that there is a dichotomy in the District because of the attendance zones and said Kunkel Elementary has typically performed at a higher level. Dr. Suski said the potential to bring all students together could help see achievement increases. Dr. Suski said this would also ensure that the curriculum is taught uniformly. Dr. Suski said she has seen students and teachers using the flex spaces at MAHS. Dr. Suski said there would be an even greater likelihood for the use of collaboration spaces in an elementary building.

Barbara Florence, 1874 O'Hara Lane, Middletown: Ms. Florence referenced the previous elementary configuration when Fink Elementary housed fourth and fifth grade. Ms. Florence asked if it were possible to go back and look at test scores and see if performance was higher. Dr. Suski reviewed the history of how the decision was made by the School Board to have three elementary buildings housing kindergarten through fifth grade after MAMS was built. Dr. Suski said the scores can be reviewed, but there are too many variables to make a valid comparison, especially because the tests have changed.

Jodi Jackson, 1021 Pennsylvania Avenue, Middletown: Ms. Jackson said she had the privilege of growing up in Middletown and working in Middletown. Ms. Jackson said she has seen the changes within the District. Ms. Jackson said she grew up with this divide between the Borough and the Township and said she finds herself frustrated that this seems to still continue. Ms. Jackson said the comments made by Mr. Sharp have resonated with her. Ms. Jackson said she began teaching at Kunkel Elementary and was transferred to Fink Elementary this year. Ms. Jackson said that has been helpful to her. Ms. Jackson said she hopes the Board takes to heart the importance of bringing unity to the District.

6. Roundtable

Dr. Suski thanked Mr. Cousin and Dr. Withum from CRA for their attendance and presentation.

7. Adjournment

Mrs. Scott moved and Mr. Corradi seconded a motion to adjourn the Additional School Board Meeting. The vote to approve the motion was 7 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

David A. Franklin, Board Secretary