

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Ed Frenette  
From: Ed Bourget  
Project: Warwick Public Schools Comprehensive Master Plan  
Re: Outreach Workshop #4  
Distribution: (MF)

Date: 5/27/2015  
Project No.: 15024

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Below is a list of questions that were asked at the fourth Warwick Outreach Workshop at Toll Gate auditorium along with a brief answer. Unless otherwise noted, all questions were answered by Ed Frenette.

Warwick Public Schools  
Workshop IIII  
May 27, 2015

Ed Frenette presented a power point presentation that began with these points:

- Will need to make some choices tonight; narrow down master plans from 9 to 2 options
- Hope we've established the idea that we're trying to get to an answer that will work best for Warwick
- Workshop I: Understanding Warwick's demographics
- Workshop II: Understanding the capacity analysis
- Workshop III: Recap and Understanding Facility Assessments
- The full power point presentation is available on-line.

1. **The Two High and Two Middle schools option appears less attractive than the 3-2 school campuses since there would be less space?**

*Actually the sqft is the same for both schools. Socially, the schools would be separate, so there would not be savings on admin or bussing. The bigger the populations the bigger the offerings you can provide.*

2. **Is the bond cost for example at the three two-school campus \$142,757,663 inclusive of the costs to create these?**

*Yes, this is inclusive of those costs. There is also a mistake with the numbers in this category, which will be corrected for the next meeting.*

3. **Length of time implement previously indicated as 3-5 years, and now you indicate that it could start immediately. Which is it? We have been working hard on the scheduling and it would be disruptive to start immediately.**

*A decision should be made on education delivery but we could have the same start date to begin the process, if desired. **We are concerned that this may happen too quickly, if September is chosen.** We just want to remove road blocks to make decisions. **We should not discount the super schools options immediately on cost. A super school would be more palatable to the city.** I would be shocked if the State and the City would back this option and you would be throwing away 6 school buildings. The big numbers indicated for the super schools would be the largest numbers spent on schools in RI*

4. **The CTC should be its own school and not considered a magnet school.**

*It is its own school and is simply considered a geographical draw.*

5. **When you talk about starting the process, surely the first step is not to close schools and move children?**

*With alternative 5 and 7; when that decision is made, everyone will go into overdrive. Perhaps a year from September is when actual moves will begin. Summer slammers would occur to begin the ground work. Working sessions would occur to discuss pros and cons. **So start date does not mean moving students? It means starting the process?** It could mean moving students. Super-overdrive would mean looking at packages. **I would like to recommend against super-overdrive.***

6. **Where is the bond money coming from?**

*You would have to vote for it and RIDE would have to approve it. A year from September is still overdrive; the City would need to talk to the State.*

7. **Anthony Furrucci Statement: Savings are for staff reductions; reduction in redundancy. On the bond costs for schemes 5 and 7 is \$112,100,664 vs \$142,757,663. This is a big difference; \$3 million annual. It would cost the community \$1.8 million in debt service after reimbursement. There is a moratorium at the state level; keep in mind that RIDE reimbursement is year behind and that differential would happen for one year. My fear is that the \$7 million paid for space is being taken away from students and programs.**

8. **Where is the school district going and where is the leadership that will implement this? The team is not in place.**

*Every organization has change and we have many team players and this team can rise above and implement whatever is chosen. The decision should not be dependent on one person. The group is acting in a leadership position. The clock stops for no-one.*

9. **Could you clarify the meeting with the Fire Marshal meeting?**

*We need to return on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> to update them on progress. If there is no decision, we need to make the repairs as needed. If there is a master plan decision that involves closing Aldrich and Gorton, it is thought that there would be willingness to work with the district for future time extension. **Are the admin buildings included in the Facility Assessments?** Yes.*

- 10. How can you consider closing schools without having a discussion with City officials first? Can the buildings be sold and what would come back to the school department?**

*We have indicated previously that we are working with the City, will partner with them and try and get the most out of the closed building. We are all trying to create a win-win situation.*

- 11. Audience Statement: 5 steps for responsibly closing schools: prepare facility plans; redistricting; transitioning planning; implementation; on-going staff and support. Time frame would be based on # of schools closings. Average time frame would be 1 to 1-1/2 years. Following this path would be responsible and reduce anxiety.**

*That was a well thought out comment. I am trying to get architecture out of the way; the faster the schedule, the more stress is created especially on the client side of the table.*

- 12. Can you clarify the two middle and two high schools approach in alternative 5? What schools would be impacted/closed?**

*It would be the same two schools in both; Aldrich and Gorton.*

- 13. Pilgrim is a neighborhood school; is the plan shown feasible?**

*This would have to be looked at in layers; this is the first step (what is shown). The next layer of questions will need to be answered, there will not be a single answer but many answers to be decided on.*

- 14. Would the move of children begin this September or later? We are all concerned about moving too quickly.**

*I am not trying to sell you a schedule; the decision is yours. It could start immediately or it could take 5+ years.*

- 15. What if we reuse the existing high schools and land?**

*We have thought of this and agree; all of our plans re-use the high schools.*

- 16. Are you leaning toward the 2 high and 2 middle schools?**

*No, but I think that 5 and 7 are reasonable to put in front of the community. No plan is perfect but we are trying to reach consensus on what is best for the community.*

- 17. Could we cut out bussing by redistricting and realize savings?**

*I think that some redistricting would be required with any choice made.*

- 18. Alternative 7; why is Vets considered as a JR High?**

*It is based on geography. Toll Gate HS is in the north east and Pilgrim in the south east and the middle schools in the middle. **I think that 3 campuses fits Warwick culture best.** We are providing options that can be evaluated, including the 3 campus option.*

**19. Audience Statement: We have ignored issues that have existed. We need to address the secondary schools now and we need to do it on an educational basis.**

**20. What is the impact on elementary schools when going to the middle school model? Is that a decision for now or down the road?**

*Taking 6<sup>th</sup> graders out, would provide an additional (approx.) 18% of capacity to the elementary schools. Additional schools would likely need to be retired based on capacities and demographics but this would likely be phased. It would be about the same number of schools. Will we have more discussion about primary schools after a decision is made? There will likely be another phase and an agenda would have to be created.*

**21. Mr. Nadeau Statement: I feel that we are on the right track and a long term plan must endure for at least 10 years. I am satisfied with the information but everything comes down to money. We know what we have to do and this is the right move to make. I believe firmly that one of these plans are doable and we want to make a decision that keeps the education and safety of our children at the forefront.**

**22. Which option would provide the greatest options for the students?**

*The most potential comes from two high schools and two middle schools but if you change schedules and move toward a different approach in curriculum could also occur for the 3- two schools.*

**23. Changes in schedule and curriculum; have you had this discussion with Administration?**

*Change schedule and curriculum would require negotiations; The 2 and 2 option would work easiest without negotiations.*

**24. What would set us apart from the rest, with the least amount of challenges?**

*If you did the 2 and 2 and embrace the enrichment elements: 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy; special offerings; middle school- that approach would be commensurate with some of the best districts in New England. You don't want to continue to do the same with a different environment. If you make the 3-school campuses work correctly, people would be interested in this district. But there may be a need for more concession and possibly more risk.*

**25. Committee Member votes for Master Plan Options; Ms. Furtado: 5 and 7; Mr. Nadeau: 5 and 7; Ms. Bachus: 7; Ms. Medeiros: 5 and 7. Ms. Ahearn; 5 and 7. Can we see a deeper dive for the two schemes.**

**26. We will refine the graphics and schedule another meeting. Informational meeting at Pilgrim? Thursday of next week on the 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Workshop date: Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> for the next workshop at 6pm Toll Gate auditorium.**