

MEMORANDUM

To:	Ed Frenette	Date:	6/10/2015
From:	Ed Bourget	Project No.:	15024
Project:	Warwick Public Schools Comprehensive Master Plan		
Re:	Outreach Workshop #5		
Distribution:	(MF)		

Below is a list of questions that were asked at the fifth 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 V
 June 8, 2015

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

- Will need to make some choices tonight; to try and narrow down to a final selection
- 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
- Workshop IV: Narrowing down the Master Plan from 2 or 3 to 1
- Possible addition of a new final Master Plan: Alternative 10- Super Middle School; which would have over 2,000 students and would rank as one of the largest in the Nation. Energies and costs would go into breaking down social units within the school and configuring physical space for teaming areas.
- The full power point presentation is available on-line.

1. **Does the annual cost savings (shown in the slide) include the costs of running the closed facilities?**

Anthony Ferucci: *Yes, it even covers the utilities of each facility. The differential is about \$6 million regardless which of the options are chosen. **Ed Frenette Response:** \$20 million is about the cost of an inexpensive elementary school; it is not a lot of money for the entire district (or at least the secondary schools). I would recommend that the majority be used for educational enrichment and then move toward cost savings.*

2. **Perhaps there should be a 4 rating for parity for Alternative 5, since we believe that this approach would be able to provide the same as the other alternatives.**

That may be the case, we can change that number from 2 to 4. These numbers are simply a guide to having a discussion, they are not an end-all.

3. **Who would implement Alternative 7; seems complicated. I don't think that we could do this without help. It seems the most vulnerable of the approaches.** *There are different levels of implementation and it would be based on schedule. We could be involved to help the District.*
4. **How did we get back to number 10? We already seemed to have vetted this idea; seems like too many children together.** *It is simply an option provided for thought and discussion with the Group.*
5. **What do you plan to do with Winnman in the new Option 10? Under Alternative 10, this would be converted or repurposed to admin and other functions. Option 10 would be a social disaster. It is hard enough to integrate; would require two principals.** *The idea for Alternative 10 came from the community; this is not a forgone conclusion, it is simply an idea that has been presented.*
6. **I am a recent graduate and think that the 2 High and 2 Middle Schools is a good idea.** *This would allow more students in each school and should result in additional class offerings. In general: this would provide more class options for students and more competitive sports and diversified afterschool programs.*
7. **How could the 2+2 and the 2 high and one super middle school be the same price?** *It would be at least the same as Alternative 5 + the cost of addition. The final numbers are not yet known for Option 10, since we only learned of it on Friday afternoon.*
8. **You referenced Alternative 7 had a technology enrichment but did not mention this in Alternative 5, why?** *You should implement an education rich approach in all. In my opinion you should do it in both. The City master plan may have to be rethought; magnet schools going to all districts, would "fit" with the basic intent. We are providing ideas in order to illicit responses.*
9. **I think that fit with the City master plan is a reason to go with Alternative 7. Alternative 10 would be a hardship for children from certain communities, due to distances. What do you mean by change the curricula for Alternative 7?** *The delivery method would change but the curricula would more or less be the same or similar. As far as Alternative 10: I do not know anyone who has done a school like this but I need to present it as an option. The group needs to be open and willing to be open.*
10. **I am a freshman at Pilgrim and I found it as a culture shock when I transition to middle school and have a special needs brother and I can't imagine him dealing with a 2000 student middle school. Option 10 would be overwhelming for most students and especially hard on special needs students.**
11. **I know that numbers can be manipulated. You provided #s for staff in relation to students; I can tell you that local private schools have ratios closer to 6:1 to 8:1. Also, Alternative 10 was discussed as one of the largest middle schools in the country; probably not a good idea for the smallest state. I do not see Alternative 10 as a viable option. The 2 + 2 requires extensive redistricting. I personally support Alternative 7. I think that although Alternative 7 requires the most change for educators, it may actually represent the least change for parents and students.**
12. **I believe that Alternative 5 would be the less expensive and allow the additional money to go toward education. I have three children in Warwick schools and believe that this approach would be best for them.**

13. **My concern with magnet schools is that with three; we will not be able to provide sufficient basic educational programs. What is the % of special ed in Warwick and how does that impact the numbers provide. We can only do this by combining schools together. Whether you end up with 3 magnet schools or none, it doesn't change the need for consolidation.**
14. **I think that a lot of the statements are contradicting. I think that we should not go down to a single middle school and single high school. A super middle school will not work; I work at a middle school and can tell you that this approach will be detrimental. I previously asked you what would you think the time frame would be and you avoided my question; why are we learning tonight about a school closing in the fall? We need to make decisions piece by piece and keep focused on master plan decisions.**
15. **I understand that RIDE requires that paperwork for closing schools must be submitted 6 months prior to closing.**
16. **Can money be made by renting out space for solar farms, wind turbines or cellular towers? In Woonsocket, they had too many people and RIDE required them to build two separate buildings. Most buildings that we renovate or build new have solar, or geothermal or other sustainable characteristics.**
17. **I am not convinced that the number of students will continue to go down. I do not think that you will have parody with one school at one end of the city and one at the other. Our Demographer found no evidence that the diminishing trends will change moving forward but it is difficult to determine beyond 10 years out. But the road to get there is pretty clear.**
18. **Why has there not been a traffic study done yet, why are we waiting until after a decision is being made. We have made preliminary observations but not a definitive study with results. It is simply cost prohibitive to do studies for all site beforehand.**
19. **This is an emotional decision. We need to get behind our school committee and our committee needs to get behind our kids. If we go with the 3 school model, we need to provide more extensive offerings.**
20. **Assistant principal at Pilgrim High School and I think that any educator would think that Alternative 10 is not a sound approach. I am in favor of 3 schools but not bring the 6th graders up. We need to keep neighborhood schools open.**
21. **What is the schedule? Let's not consider schedule until we have a master plan chosen.**
22. **Are the ratios for secondary or district wide? May be too focused for the secondary school discussion tonight. The numbers are for district wide. The goal is to get to industry standards. I will put the source of all the statistics on the slide so you can follow up.**
23. **What is your personal favorite and feeling for schedule? I have been trying to keep things neutral as possible. My bias is for Alternative 7; it provides many opportunities and challenges and it is distinctly different than what everyone else is doing in the district. I am concerned with parody with Alternate 5.**

There is no proposal that wouldn't work, we are simply providing alternatives and understanding your values. Implementing a first phase a year from now but longer and we will lose attention.

- 24. I would like to talk about parody. There is a specific area that always seems to go “without” and the three school option would hopefully avoid this. Bring on middle schools.**
- 25. I think that each of the high schools have a specific personality which would continue to be reflected in the 3 campus approach. There are three distinct personalities in those areas of Warwick.**
- 26. Vote to remove Alternative 10:** all Committee members voted to remove the newly proposed Alternative 10.
- 27. Vote to move forward Alternative 5 and Alternative 7:** all Committee members agree to move forward with considering these two options.
- 28.** A vote on the final Master Plan selection will occur at the Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday June 9th.