

# Facility Planning

Huron City Schools  
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Any questions regarding this presentation can be emailed to  
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Or the submit on the Community Feedback link on the district's  
website: [https://bit.ly/HCS\\_Feedback](https://bit.ly/HCS_Feedback)

## Strategic Plan connection

**Vision:** A commitment to innovation. A passion for excellence. A catalyst for growth.

**Mission:** The mission of Huron Schools is to engage, equip and empower students as global citizens to positively impact the future.

**Pillar: Operations Goal:** Provide a safe and healthy learning environment that fully supports the academic and instructional goals of the district.

- Form follows function - A comprehensive major capital needs plan guides operational decisions to maximize learning and the safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- Every child's classroom has the capacity to support state of the art teaching tools and strategies.

Huron's strategic plan was first developed in 2015.

The plan includes 17 Core Values and four Pillars for Success

- Academics & Instruction
- Communication
- Financial Responsibility
- Operations

For more details please visit: <https://www.huronhs.com/StrategicPlanUpdates.aspx>

## Current State

Four campuses. Each in need of significant renovation or replacement.

Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) recommendations

- Single campus facility - based on current and projected student enrollment.
- Cost of renovation at threshold to justify replacement. (2/3rds rule)
- Long-term solution will require revenue from voted bond.

Suitability Appraisal Summary rates six areas of a school building. They are:

- School site (100 points)
- Structural & Mechanical Features (200 points)
- Plan maintainability (100 points)
- Building Safety & Security (200 points)
- Educational Adequacy (200 points)
- Environment for Education (200 points)

All schools rated “Borderline” in the appraisal summary.

Percentage of points earned both Shawnee (615 points) and McCormick (622 points) ranked the lowest at 62%. Woodlands is 69% (686 points) and HHS is 64% (637 points).

- Shawnee scored *satisfactory* for School Site, *poor* for Educational Adequacy, and borderline for all other areas.
- McCormick scored borderline for all areas assessed.
- Woodlands scored borderline for structural & mechanical features and environment for education, and scored satisfactory for all other areas.
- HHS scored satisfactory for school site and borderline for all other areas.

# Comprehensive Facility Planning

## Long-term planning

- Facilities for the next 30-50 years
- Maximize efficiencies and educational benefits.
- Engagement of internal and external stakeholders.
- Utilization of pre-bond architectural services.
- Residents support & voter confirmation.
- Time to ensure success.

## Short-term work

- Consolidation of facilities for
  - Reduced fixed expenses.
  - Increased educational benefits.
  - Experience the work on a smaller scale.
- Does not address
  - Existing facility deficits requiring investments in capital improvement.
  - Facilities fully compatible for 21st century learning.

Enrollment - Year over year decline of an average 2% annually. Current enrollment is 1166. Compared to 1534 student enrollment in the 2009-2010 school year (23.9% decrease). Classroom and auxiliary spaces of three buildings can support the current and anticipated future enrollment.

The district can reduce fixed cost of operating four buildings immediately by moving to a three building operation. McCormick has a calculated annual fixed cost of \$70,782. Shawnee has a calculated annual fixed cost of \$73,553.

This consolidation will have some one-time expenses. We continue to teach and learn in the same building environment that we have today. We will not benefit with 21st century instructional spaces beyond retrofitting current facility. Tiger Union is an example of retrofitting a building to support 21st century learning. This space allows for flexible learning where students can collaborate on project-based learning.

Consolidation is a short-term solution to allow the time needed for a long-term comprehensive facility plan.

## Stakeholder Input and Communication

- Board appointed committee
- Administrative team
- Union Leadership
- Staff with specialization

Communication through written briefs of the exploratory process and considerations.

Individual feedback and grade level/department meetings when sought.

Stakeholder participation will be needed to successfully implement the consolidation.

Stakeholder input will be sought when the long-term planning work begins.

For the current work of consolidating from four buildings to three, key stakeholders were engaged based on their experience or expertise. This was targeted stakeholder input. The administrative team provided feedback on the feasibility of both options under consideration. Union leadership provided feedback on the cost savings perspective of fixed cost opposed to personnel cost. Union leadership shared member survey information for additional input. Additional staff members were consulted based on their area of service (maintenance, technology, and performing arts).

Staff have been provided regular updates of the process and what is being considered. A few staff members have reached out directly with questions which have been addressed.

Staff will be engaged in the work of carrying out the consolidation once a recommendation is approved by the Board of Education.

Engagement of parents and the community will occur relating the the long-term facility planning.

## Initial consolidation considerations

### Close McCormick Junior High

- PK-3 at Shawnee Elementary
- 4-8 at Woodlands Intermediate
- 9-12 at Huron High

### Close Shawnee Elementary

- PK-5 at Woodlands Elementary
- 6-8 at McCormick Middle School
- 9-12 & Board Office at Huron High

Existing facilities can support either of these arrangements based on current and projected student enrollment. Classroom and auxiliary spaces for school operations. Limited capital improvement would be required for either option.

When considering long-term planning options of a single or dual campus design McCormick and Shawnee are the two buildings least likely to be included in those plans. While the long-term plan is not yet set, the High School and Woodlands have the greatest potential for renovation, and addition, if a new build is determined to not be the solution.

The desired outcome of this consolidation is to lower fixed costs now while the long-term solution is determined then implemented. The long-term project from start to use is multi-year, justifying this work for short-term gains on operational efficiencies.

## Implications for Instruction and Learning

Grade level alignment for instruction and licensure.

State mandate implications.

Student developmental alignment.

ODE licensure changes for teacher certifications.

- Primary PK - 5th grade general subjects and reading specialization
- Middle Childhood 4-9 with dual subject focus (Language Arts & Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- Secondary 7-12 with single subject specialization

3rd Grade Reading Guarantee retention or remediation requirements impact delivery of service for grades KG through 4th. If a student does not meet the requirements of the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee the student can remain with their peers while receiving reading instruction and intervention. Services are best provided when those grades are within the same building.

Grades 6, 7 and 8 can have Middle School experience compared to the current junior high model. Elements currently exists like exploratory electives that can be expanded through instructional professional development and implementation. Electives that align with student interests and academic needs (enrichment or remediation).

Collaborative planning for cross curricular lessons that help student connect and retain content. Developed over time with instructional staff and instructional leaders.

Middle school proximity to Huron High School and Huron Public Library for after school programming and partnerships. Students access Huron Public Library services after school prior to returning for school extracurricular activities or going home for the night.

## Additional considerations

Building uses beyond instruction and learning.

Transportation benefits.

Staffing assignments

Uses beyond instruction - Shawnee has limited uses beyond instruction due to the shared space (gymnasium) and square footage of common spaces and classrooms.

McCormick hosts the district's performing arts theater and a competitive gym for junior high athletics. Alternative venues would be needed to support continuation of these activities. Off-campus sites (BGSU Firelands or Sports Force) could be options. Rental cost and student transportation must be considered. Availability of these alternative facilities may not meet the demand that the district uses the facilities at McCormick.

McCormick gym is in use four to five days per week for fall (volleyball) and winter (basketball) seasons. Practice and competitions. Track will use the gym for practice in the spring during inclement weather.

The theater/stage is used every spring for the school performance and during the year for choir and band performances, whole staff meetings, and community events. According to the district performing arts staff, the BGSU firelands performing arts center is a significantly smaller venue which will limit the size of the production. Total performers and spectators both would need to be limited. Band and Choir could not perform with the full group if performing at BGSU Firelands.

Transportation - by eliminating a building for bus service creates savings in daily mileage that could expand service within the PK-8 grades.

- Currently 7th and 8th grade within 1 mile of the school are not transported. KG-6th grade offers service at zero mile radius.
- Servicing two buildings, instead of 3, may provide the additional route time to move 7th and 8th grade to a zero mile radius service.

Having a veteran staff we must be mindful of succession planning and protecting against institutional knowledge loss. Staff assignments will be considered to ensure immediate needs and future needs are addressed. Leadership assignments will consider needs of the district and strengths of the individual.



## Next Steps

~Finalize analysis to deliver a recommendation to the Board at the December regular meeting. (December 20, 2022)

~With recommendation approved, begin working with staff on the details and logistics of the consolidation.

~Questions?

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