

A look at what Curriculum would look like if we idled Jordan Small Middle School, transferred the 5th Grade Class to Raymond Elementary School and transferred Grades 6-7-8 to Windham Middle School.

September 27, 2010

Sandy Prince, Chris Howell, Sandra Caldwell, Randy Crocket, Hal Shortsleeve and Mike Duffy

The committee examined the needs of what a combined middle school population (800 students) would require for staffing. It was determined that the number of teachers in the core areas as well as the applied arts would be required in order to maintain current class sizes and programs. The only reductions in staff would be in the Custodial and Food Service areas. The group members concluded that there would not be any changes to the core subject areas. The committee also discussed the administrative needs of the larger middle school. With a total of 800 students at a Middle School level, a second Assistant Principal may be needed.

The committee discussed the current student to teacher ratios for each of the two buildings and the student to teacher ratios for a consolidated building. The tables below summarize current student populations, staffing levels, and student teacher ratios

Jordan Small Middle School – 9/10/10 – Student/Teacher ratio 18/1

Grade Level	Students	Teachers	Student/Teacher ratio
5	44	2	22/1
6	48	3	16/1
7	53	3	18/1
8	54	3	18/1

Windham Middle School – 9/10/10 – Student/Teacher ratio 24/1

Grade Level	Students	Teachers	Student/Teacher ratio
6	187	8	23.4/1
7	244	10	24.4/1
8	218	9	24.2/1

The committee discussed projected student populations and staffing levels for a combined middle school. The table below summarizes the predicted student/teacher ratios for the 2012 school year

Combined middle school - 9/2012 – Student/Teacher ratio 22/1

Grade Level	Students	Teachers	Student/Teacher ratio
6	261	12	21.8/1
7	231	10	23.1/1
8	297	14	21.2/1

A combined middle school would result in an increase in the student/teacher ratio from 18/1 to 22/1 for Raymond students. For Windham students, the ratio would drop from 24/1 to 22/1.

The committee examined current differences that occur within the instructional programs in each of the schools. Until a final schedule of student classes is built, it is difficult to determine whether or not the current schedule for either or the buildings could be replicated in a consolidated middle school. Examples of current program similarities and differences are highlighted below

- Windham Middle School students currently receive more English Language Arts instruction per week due to a 78 minute ELA block.
- Jordan Small students receive 2940 minutes of physical education a year. Windham Middle school students receive 3600.
- Health education is consistent between the two buildings and could be maintained within the proposed structure
- Jordan Small Middle School students receive music instruction during their applied arts schedule. Windham Middle Schools students receive instruction during block 5. As a result of the scheduling difference, JSMS students receive more music instruction than WMS students.
- Windham Middle School offers Industrial Technology and Jordan Small Middle School does not. IT would need to be restructured to accommodate the additional 150+ students and no specific option was discussed. It could possibly eliminate IT in Grade 6 and offer IT to all 7th and 8th grade students but nothing was firmed up at this time.
- Jordan Small Middle school offers grade 6 exploratory foreign language in grade 6 and Spanish 1 over a 2 year period in grades 7 and 8. Windham Middle School offers exploratory foreign language in grades 6 and 7. Spanish 1 and French 1 are offered in grade 8. At a minimum, foreign language classes would be maintained at current levels with a possibility of increasing the number of sections offered to students.

- Due to difference in the current school populations, the gifted and talented program in both buildings looks very different. Current state statute calls for the identification of 3% to 5% of the population for gifted and talented services. In Windham, the 3 to 5% translates to 10 to 11 students per grade level for services. In Raymond, the 3% to 5% translates to 2 to 3 students per grade level. Windham GT students are currently provided with a pull-out accelerated program for English Language arts and Math in grades 6, 7, and 8. Raymond students receive some pull-out instruction and some consultation services.
- “Looping” that now exists in Raymond would be eliminated

The committee also discussed changes that would need to be made to the building and the schedule in order to accommodate the increased population at Windham Middle School.

- Cafeteria would need to go to a 4th lunch at WMS.
- Portable units would need to be purchased to accommodate; Special Education- 1 unit; Music-1 unit; Replacement of existing blue portable-1 unit; and bathrooms-1 unit. These additions would bring the amount of portables necessary from 6 units to 10 units.
- Suggestion to research the placement of portables from the current Field Allen School along the street to the back of the existing Middle School Gym.
- The change would increase the staff level at WMS to approximately 125 and the student level to approximately 800. Additional staff parking would be needed in back of the existing WMS.

Athletics would be affected by Raymond students experiencing try outs and cut for some of the teams such as soccer, baseball, softball, basketball which they do not now experience. Team sports such as cross country, track would not have students cut from teams. Raymond students would now be eligible for swimming, skiing.

Students from JSMS would have additional access to clubs and activities.

Raymond students would see an increase in class size from approximately 18 students per class to approximately 22 students per class.

Other items for further exploration

- What is the impact on the bus schedule for Windham and Raymond students? Would the bell times need to adjust for Windham High School and the new consolidated middle school?
- What are the additional costs for the physical move from Jordan Small Middle School to WMS?
- We need to consider the cost of removing the network from JSMS and installing it at WMS in order to support the laptops in grades 6-7-8.

- What are the additional savings that may be achieved through current material and software licenses?