

Reconfiguration questions and answers from January 8, 2017 meeting of the School Board

- Q: Why were the buildings upgraded by a bond issue if reconfiguration was a possibility?
- A: The buildings were in desperate need of improved security and technology and the Board felt the need was urgent enough to warrant seeking community support for the bond at that time. While reconfiguration had been discussed, the Board felt the need for improved safety for the students was the primary need.
- Q: Can the district change school boundaries?
- A: Yes, the district can adjust boundaries for the elementary schools. Redistricting in this case does not resolve the issues of balancing class sizes and equitable allocation of resources.
- Q: How much money will the district lose if reconfiguration is put off for now?
- A: The district will not lose money, rather, the district will lose the flexibility of where and how it spends those dollars to support students. Given that we want to provide excellent educational opportunities for all students, we do not favor any plan that would result in lost educational services/programs for students.
- Q: What are the long-term projections for student enrollment?
- A: Annually, the district contracts with a firm that prepares enrollment projections for many districts around the state. While there can be small variances between projections and actual enrollment, the projections show that our enrollment will continue to decline. Over the past five years, the district lost about 10% of the students and is projected to lose another 10% over the next five years.
- Q: Why were other plans discarded?
- A: At a previous meeting, Dr. Hall reviewed eight plans that were considered and discarded. Those plans included making no changes at this time, seeking a bond issue for a new central elementary school, and six other configurations.
- Q: Will there be enough gym time and space for eight graders at the high school and fifth graders at the middle school?
- A: Yes, however, it will be easier to accommodate fifth graders at the middle school.