

## **Option 1: Remain As Is: K-4, 5-8, 9-12 and renovate current buildings**

### ***Pros***

- There would not be a major community backlash as perhaps with other options.
- Each community would still have a local school for its elementary children to attend.
- The transportation program would not have to be altered.
- Keeps the same grade configuration.
- There would be no split of siblings as with other options.
- There would not be the possibility of staff lay-offs.
- Younger students would have a shorter bus ride as compared to other options.

### ***Cons***

- No fiscal savings would be realized.
- Would not offer an opportunity to improve the transportation program by having a centralized elementary campus.
- Class sizes would not be equal across buildings.
- We would still have old buildings despite investing \$47 million
- Palermo is not on municipal water and is on septic.
- This option does not address space issue in New Haven.
- There would need to be building expense due to renovations.
- Building maintenance and upkeep is still an expense (would not be reduced as possible with other options).

**Option 2: Develop a grade center plan by having New Haven Elementary as a PK, 2-4 building and Palermo a PK-1 school. The other schools remain as is.**

***Pros***

- All three elementary communities will still have a school locally.
- Greater efficiency of staffing and saving of money
- Easier to balance the class sizes between the two buildings.
- It would be easier to develop curriculum and do staff training; and staff could specialize.
- No duplication of special education services.
- Keep section sizes?

***Cons***

- Transportation would become more complex with perhaps a shuttle system between the two elementary schools.
- Some students would ride the bus longer; particularly elementary children.
- There would be one more transition in the K-12 sequence for New Haven and Palermo students.
- There would be a transition for PK students in New Haven when they enter kindergarten (not smooth).
- Alters the grade configuration people are used to.
- Transportation issue with PreK students.
- Parent involvement will decrease.
- Possible split of families with children close in age (i.e., open houses).
- We would still have old buildings.
- Housing for specials, cafeteria.
- Staffing-care/cuts.
- Will it overwhelm students?
- Transportation: Number of buses/number of drivers needed
- Class sizes would increase (not an improvement); 25-26 are large sections
- Scheduling-housing specials.
- Doctor appointments/ER pick-ups a difference for parents.

**Option 3: Close New Haven and Palermo elementary schools and centralize all the elementary grades at Mexico Elementary School with an addition.**

***Pros***

- Much greater efficiency in staffing
- Financial savings
- Easier to balance elementary class sizes for all sections
- Easier to provide transportation (all to one school) and possible transportation savings
- Keeps the same grade configuration.
- Could sell both Palermo and New Haven elementary schools; perhaps create senior care facility in Palermo
- Possibly put two elementary schools back on the tax rolls.
- Would reduce maintenance cost and save money on grounds, clerical and administrative costs.
- All students and families and all elementary staff would be together.
- All grade levels would become a more cohesive unit through collaboration.
- Would permit better mixing of students with academic & personality similarities/differences.

***Cons***

- Community concern and backlash in Palermo and New Haven due to school closings.
- Question about what to do with closed elementary schools; are there alternate uses?
- Some students would have to ride the bus longer- particularly younger children.
- Too tight spaces; would have to figure out how to house and schedule special area classes, lunches, library, etc. (common area spaces).
- There would be disruption during the construction of addition; existing Mexico elementary staff and students would be displaced and then there would have to be post-construction reorganization.
- The lunch line would be too long.
- There would be an adjustment for students.
- Would there be enough space if in the future new sections of grades were added?
- It would be a large elementary school.
- Emergency evacuation would be complicated.
- There would be difficulty with parking spaces (for staff and family events) and traffic flow (bus loading).
- Green space would be lost.

### **Other Options Proposed**

- Close one elementary school (either Palermo or New Haven) and change the grade configuration to PK-2 (at either Palermo or New Haven), 3-4 (at Mexico Elementary), 5-8 (Middle School), and 9-12 (High School).
- Redistrict the current elementary attendance boundaries to better balance school enrollments and class sizes.
- Close New Haven and Palermo and realign the grades as follows: PK-3 (Mexico Elementary), 4-8 (Mexico Middle School), 9-12 (High School).
- Close all three elementary schools and build a new elementary school on the Middle School campus.
- Develop a grade center plan across all three elementary schools (for example, PK-1, 2-3, 4)
- Realign the grades as follows: PK-2 (all three elementary schools), 3-6 (Middle School), 7-12 (High School).
- Close all the district schools and build a new K-12 facility to house all grades.