



Enlarged City School District

# Facilities Work Session

CECSD Board of Education

4.3.18

# Our Question

*“Now and in the future, is there a better way to arrange the grades and school buildings to maintain, and perhaps enhance, the education of Cortland City School District students while ensuring fiscal responsibility to the taxpayer? If so, how should the grades and schools be organized?”*

# Closing Two Schools?

Since the last work session, we've explored, in detail and at the Board's request, the scenario of closing two schools.

- Leadership Council brainstormed a number possibilities
- Some of the brainstormed ideas were more feasible than others
- We focused on educational benefits first, and the current financial situation, second
- A detailed, room-by-room analysis of building capacities was conducted

# Closing Two Schools?

These criteria were used to frame one scenario:

- Educational benefit
- Effective use of space
- Maximal collaboration
- Future capital improvement needs and opportunities

# Closing Two Schools

One way to close two schools would be to create grade centers:

- Barry could be K-2
- Smith could be 3-4
- Randall could be 5-6
- Grade centers would be necessary -- the concentration of students at the various grade-levels allows an efficiency that K-6 buildings do not
- Would free up taxpayer dollars to replenish reserves and provide for a capital project

# Grade Centers

Going to a grade-center configuration has advantages and disadvantages

Advantages	Disadvantages
Critical mass of teachers in each grade level	Students in a family might be spread out over one more school
Special educators able to concentrate on one grade level	More transitions
Increased transportation flexibility - no shuttles	Additional transportation run
Economy of sections (balanced class size)	Travel time (under review)
Equalized opportunities and supports	

# Creating a 6-8 School

Most of the brainstormed ideas by the Leadership Council involved creating a 6-8 school:

- The most space is available at the Junior Senior High School
- The building can be renovated to separate the two schools (some separation renovations should probably happen no matter what)
- Moving 6th grade to a middle school and continued enrollments declines could permit another closure (Randall) in a couple of years



# Potential Capital Project

Money for the next project:

- Would not have to do BCS work at schools that are closing
- Some of the savings from closings could be used to bolster the Capital Reserve Account (budget would be able to be balanced)
- Would be able to provide updated educational spaces and additional opportunities for students

# Potential Capital Project

The next capital project could include:

- 21st Century Upgrade to all spaces and furniture
- Junior High converted to 6-7-8 Middle School
- JSHS BCS priorities & Community Schools area
- Smith BCS priorities & Community Schools area
- Barry BCS priorities & Community Schools area
- Fitness Center
- Safety upgrades
- Turf replacement and additional middle school fields
- Smith music suite