



6-8 RECONFIGURATION REQUEST

GRANITE PARK JUNIOR HIGH NETWORK



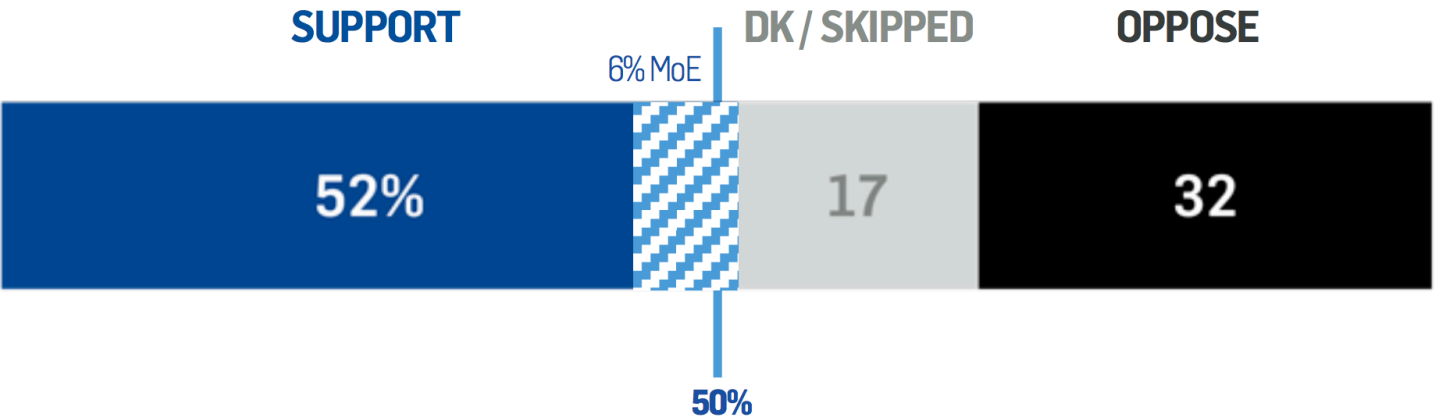
COMMUNITY SURVEYS

PARENT/GUARDIAN SUPPORT & OPPOSITION

A tentative majority of parents and guardians support the proposal, but it's within the margin of error for 50%.



Do you support or oppose the proposed 6th grade reconfiguration – meaning that 6th grade students would attend school with the junior high school students at Granite Park Junior High?



BENEFITS OF RECONFIGURATION

- Before entering high school, students will have three years with content specialists, as well as an additional year to develop skills in music, drama, band, orchestra, and athletics.
- Students have access to a school counselor at an earlier grade level.
- With a larger staff, scheduling classes and retaining teachers at GPJH will become easier.
- We will continue to leverage the positive staff and student culture that exist here, an integral part of which is our AVID program (we are a National AVID Demonstration School)



POTENTIAL OBSTACLES TO BE ADDRESSED:

- Will be transitioning two grade levels instead of two, and therefore will have a more intensive transition year, scheduling classes, registering.
- Will work with HR to go through the special reconfiguration surplus process.

CONTEXT OF THIS COUNCIL'S VOTE FOR RECONFIGURATION:

- Granite Park's vote on June 25th 2018 was unanimous.

IDEAS TO MAKE THE CONFIGURATION GO AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE

- Have a 6th grade transition team at GPJH next year who will lead out on parent outreach, transition meetings, and other facets of this reconfiguration.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

- Our staff is very excited about this change, primarily of the academic benefit we believe it will be to students.

• **BENEFITS OF RECONFIGURATION**

- MOVING FORWARD WITH RECONFIGURATION WOULD RESULT IN ENROLLMENT DROPPING BY 75 STUDENTS AND THREE FULL TIME TEACHERS. OPENING UP THESE THREE CLASSROOMS WOULD ALLOW FOR MORE FLEXIBLE USE OF SPACE WITHIN THE SCHOOL.
- OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE SPACE FOR A STEM LAB
- CREATE MORE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY SPACE FOR OUR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

• **POTENTIAL OBSTACLES TO BE ADDRESSED**

- STUDENT SAFETY IS A CONCERN: LINCOLN CURRENTLY HAS MANY FAMILIES WHO RELY ON THEIR 6TH GRADERS TO SAFELY ACCOMPANY YOUNGER SIBLINGS TO AND FROM SCHOOL DAILY.
- BURDEN TO MANY OF OUR REFUGEE FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY. MANY OF THESE FAMILIES RELY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DAILY. HAVING TO GET THEIR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS TO AND FROM A NEW SCHOOL EACH DAY WOULD DISRUPT PARENTS DAILY SCHEDULES AS WELL AS AFFECT THEIR ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE WORK SCHEDULES.

CONTEXT OF THIS COUNCIL'S VOTE FOR RECONFIGURATION

- LINCOLN VOTED NOVEMBER 2, 2018 WITH FOUR YES VOTES, ONE UNDECIDED AND ONE NO VOTE TO PROCEED WITH RECONFIGURATION

IDEAS TO MAKE THE CONFIGURATION GO AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE

- REACH OUT TO PARENTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO EASE SOME ANXIETY
- TRANSITION MEETINGS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

• **OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION**

- COMMUNICATION WILL BE THE KEY TO MAKING THIS A SUCCESS
- PRINCIPAL AARON WILSON IS DOING SOME GREAT THINGS AT GPJH SO HIS MARKETING SKILLS WILL HELP AS WELL





BENEFITS OF RECONFIGURATION

- A Parent perspective from Sherry Anderson, PTA President: "As a parent, I believe there are more opportunities for our 6th graders to take the wide variety of classes that are offered at a Middle School level."
- Moss elementary believes that students who are above level will have more opportunities to extend their learning and personal growth through more specialized courses.

POTENTIAL OBSTACLES TO BE ADDRESSED:

- Moss administration believes the walking route by Bud Bailey is a hazardous route to walk for students.

CONTEXT OF THIS COUNCIL'S VOTE FOR RECONFIGURATION:

- Moss voted in favor of reconfiguration in Summer of 2018.

BENEFITS OF RECONFIGURATION

- Reconfiguration will provide more opportunities for our students with more classes to choose from.
- 6th grade Teachers can focus on one subject area instead of multiple subjects. That makes way for teachers that have more education or endorsements in different subjects to be able to teach those subjects.
- It also makes accessible more community resources for our families.
- Students can participate in organized sports, if they want.

POTENTIAL OBSTACLES TO BE ADDRESSED:

- People's perception that having younger students with older students increases bullying opportunities.
- For our parents, it is farther to travel to visit the school, or take the students to school.

CONTEXT OF THIS COUNCIL'S VOTE FOR RECONFIGURATION:

- Redwood's vote on November 15th 2018 was a tie (4-4).
- After a visit and Q&A at Granite Park, a second vote took place on March 21, 2019 (6-2 in favor).

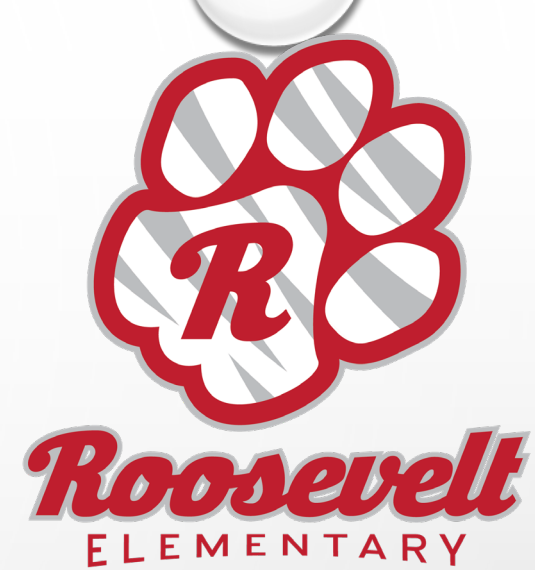
IDEAS TO MAKE THE CONFIGURATION GO AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE

- Continue having activities next year that 5th and 6th grade students will be able to participate in.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

- There is still angst about the move among some parents, but this will likely be mitigated through positive communication.





BENEFITS OF RECONFIGURATION

- Offers more opportunities for students.

POTENTIAL OBSTACLES TO BE ADDRESSED:

- Students "growing up too fast" if moved to junior high school.
- Potentially being pressured by upperclassmen to make poor decisions.

CONTEXT OF THIS COUNCIL'S VOTE FOR RECONFIGURATION:

- Roosevelt's vote took place July 27, 2018.
- One current community council member is against the proposal, citing concerns above.



BENEFITS OF RECONFIGURATION

- Wilson Community Council concurs with all the benefits listed by other schools.
- In addition, the principal highlights how the elementary core falls under K-5 and 6-12. The natural break in core content makes it difficult for elementary principals to differentiate PD for their teachers, and more natural for 6th content to be taught in the junior high level (where 6th grade core standards were meant to be taught).

IF THE BOARD VOTES TO ALLOW RECONFIGURATION...

- GRANITE PARK WILL BUILD A MASTER SCHEDULE BASED ON NEEDS OF 6TH GRADERS, BUILT OFF A TRUE “MIDDLE SCHOOL” PHILOSOPHY.
- PARENT OUTREACH TO NEXT YEAR’S 5TH AND 6TH GRADE STUDENTS WILL START EARLY AND OFTEN.
- 6TH GRADE TRANSITION TEAM WILL BE IN PLACE AT GRANITE PARK JUNIOR HIGH STARTING IN THE FALL OF 2019 TO PREPARE FOR EACH FACET OF THIS RECONFIGURATION.
- GPJH ADMINISTRATION WILL WORK WITH THE DISTRICT IN ADDRESSING. OTHER ISSUES:
 - FACILITATING THE RECONFIGURATION SURPLUS PROCESS
 - APPROPRIATE FUNDING (CONSIDERING THE YEAR DELAY FOR FEE WAIVERS)
 - SMALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN GETTING CLASSROOMS READY FOR AUGUST 2020