

# **Report of the Norwich School Facilities Review Committee August 2019**

## **Committee Members**

Mark Bettencourt, Chair – Community member  
Patricia F. Staley, Vice-Chair - Board of Education representative  
Yvette Jacaruso, Board of Education representative  
Joseph DeLucia, Alderman, City of Norwich  
Stacy Gould, Alderwoman, City of Norwich  
Charles Cottle, Parent representative  
Ryan Telford, Parent representative  
Cindy Beauregard, Norwich Public Schools representative  
Susan Blinderman, Norwich Public Schools representative  
Paula Bell, Community member  
John LeVangie, Community member

## **Ex Officio:**

Dr. Kristen Stringfellow, Superintendent of Schools  
Athena Nagel, NPS Business Administrator  
Peter A. Nystrom, Mayor  
Ed Guntner, NPS Facilities Supervisor  
Joshua Pothier, City Comptroller  
John L. Salomone, City Manager  
Atty. Michael Driscoll, Corporation Counsel

## **Executive Summary**

The School Facilities Review Committee concludes that the Norwich Public Schools physical building assets are in dire need of reconfiguration and renovation based on the following factors; 1) several of the existing school buildings have either reached or exceeded their design service life span (see Appendix B), 2) several existing school buildings are serving educational purposes for which they were not designed, 3) at least four of the existing school buildings do not comply with Federal and/or State regulations regarding accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and 4) aside from the Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School, almost every existing school building currently or will soon require a major building component upgrade (i.e.; roof, floors, accessibility, or other building system). It is based on these and other significant factors that the School Facilities Review Committee makes the following recommendations to the Norwich City Council and the citizens of the City of Norwich.

## **Narrative**

The School Facilities Review Committee was recommended by Mayor Peter A. Nystrom and was appointed by the Norwich City Council in May 2018, and was charged to review the findings of the 2016 Norwich Public Schools Facilities Strategic Planning Study and develop an updated recommendation for the reconfiguration, location, renovation and expansion of the Norwich Public Schools buildings.

The committee developed a 22-question survey to assess community sentiment with regard to the role and purpose of school buildings within the community. The survey was active from December 2018 through March 2019. A copy of the survey results, including comments, is contained in Appendix A of this report.

The committee specifically reviewed the 2016 facilities report relating to the physical condition of the existing school buildings as well as the considerations relating to the existing sites that would affect the feasibility of expanding or renovating individual schools.

The Committee's proposal considers the district's anticipated needs for the next 25 or more years, and is predicated upon the following rationale and parameters:

## **Rationale**

1. Increases in student population should be anticipated because of projected population increases in Norwich; due primarily to the development of residential projects in the community.
2. With adequate space, the school district would be able to establish programs that would facilitate the return of students who currently attend programs outside of the district, as well as providing the opportunity for specialized programs that would attract tuition-paying students from other communities.
3. The state government is requiring local school districts to provide comparable, full education programming for students who have been expelled. This will necessitate additional classrooms as well as ancillary space.
4. It is anticipated that within the timeframe of this project (5 to 10 years), state and/or federal government regulations will require local school districts to provide full-day pre-school to all eligible students. This could be expected to increase pre-K enrollment by 100 students or more.
5. Historically, renovated schools attract new students. In Norwich, this could mean students who currently attend an out-of-district charter or magnet school would wish to return to NPS. Additionally, *should* any of the city's private (including parochial and/or

charter) schools close, it could mean an immediate school population increase of 150-200 students.

6. As cited in the 2016 School Facilities report, several of the existing school buildings have either reached or exceeded their design service life span (see Appendix B).

### **Parameters**

7. Each elementary school will house Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5.
8. Each of the two middle schools will serve Grades 6, 7, and 8.
9. The committee advocates planning for a student population of 3000-3200 pupils in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5, and for a student population consistent with current enrollment projections for grades 6, 7, and 8.

## **Recommendation**

The School Facilities Review Committee proposes the following plan for the Norwich Public Schools buildings:

### **Bishop Early Learning Center**

- Distribute Pre-Kindergarten classes among individual elementary schools
- Move Registrar to Huntington
- Move Technology Department to Huntington
- Facilities move to site to be determined
- List property for sale

### **The Deborah Tennant-Zinewicz Early Learning Center at Case Street**

- Pre-Kindergarten program moves into elementary schools
- List property for sale

### **Hickory Street (2 separate buildings)**

- Move Norwich Transition Academy to Huntington School
- Move Adult Education Consortium and Virtual Learning Academy to Wequonnoc School
- Move Food Services to site to be determined
- List both properties for sale

### **Samuel Huntington School**

- Capital improvements/renovation as needed for continued use and conversion to office space
- Move Central Office from John Mason building
- Move nurse supervisor from Bishop
- Move registration from Bishop
- Move technology from Bishop
- Move Norwich Transition Academy from Hickory Street

### **John Mason School/Central Administrative Offices**

- Move central office staff to Huntington School
- List property for sale

### **John B. Stanton Network Elementary School**

- Renovate as new
- Expand to accommodate 850 students

**Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School**

- Remains Middle school for Grades 6-8
- No construction necessary

**Moriarty Environmental Services Magnet School**

- Renovate as new
- Expand to accommodate 850 students

**Thomas W. Mahan Elementary School**

- Decommission
- List property for sale

**Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet Middle School**

- Renovate as new
- Expand to accommodate educational space needs

**Uncas Elementary School**

- Renovate as new
- Expand to accommodate 700 students

**Wequonnoc Arts and Technology Magnet School**

- Move to Moriarty with magnet school program intact
- Capital improvements (new roof and handicapped accessibility)
- Move Adult Education Consortium from Hickory Street
- Move Virtual Learning Academy program from Hickory Street

**New-construction elementary school**

- Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5
- Build to accommodate 300-600 students, depending on the final decision about the size of the other schools

**Veterans Memorial School**

- Status will be contingent upon the final capacity (student population) of the proposed four (4) elementary schools (Moriarty, Stanton, Uncas and New School)

**Maintenance and Food Service**

- Move staff from Bishop and Hickory Street
- Relocate to either Huntington or Wequonnoc

## Appendix A Community Survey Responses

The following is the results of the Community survey the School Facilities Review Committee conducted from December 2018-March 2019.

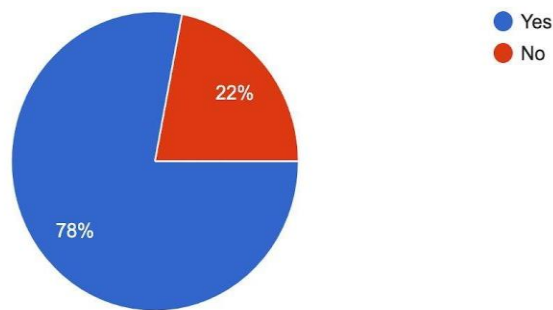
### A. Demographic Information

1. Do you currently reside in Norwich?

- a. Yes (419) 78%
- b. No (118) 22%

Do you currently reside in Norwich?

537 responses

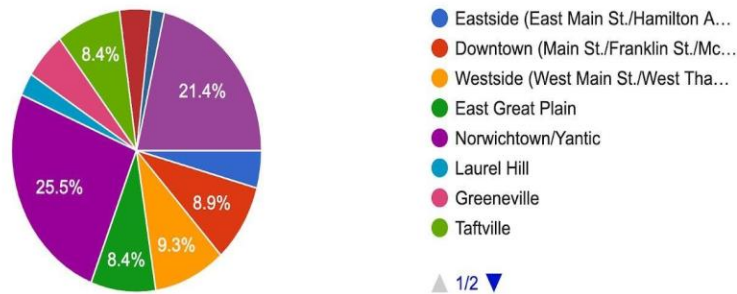


2. If yes to question #1, in which general neighborhood do you reside?

- a. Norwichtown/Yantic (137) 25.5%
- b. I do not live in Norwich (115) 21.4%
- c. Westside (50) 9.3%
- d. Downtown (48) 8.9%
- e. EGP (45) 8.4%
- f. Taftville (45) 8.4%
- g. Greeneville (29) 5.4%
- h. Eastside (23) 4.3%
- i. Occum (22) 4.1%
- j. Laurel Hill (14) 2.6%
- k. I'm not sure (9) 1.7%

### If yes to question #1, in which general neighborhood do you reside?

537 responses

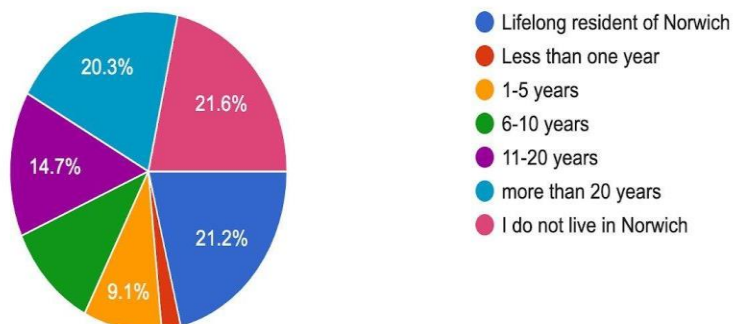


### 3. If yes to question #1, how long have you lived in Norwich?

|                             |       |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| a. I do not live in Norwich | (116) | 21.6% |
| b. Lifelong resident        | (114) | 21.2% |
| c. More than 20 years       | (109) | 20.3% |
| d. 11-20 years              | (79)  | 14.7% |
| e. 6-10 years               | (58)  | 10.8% |
| f. 1-5 years                | (49)  | 9.1%  |
| g. Less than 1 year         | (12)  | 2.2%  |

### If yes to question #1, how long have you lived in Norwich?

537 responses

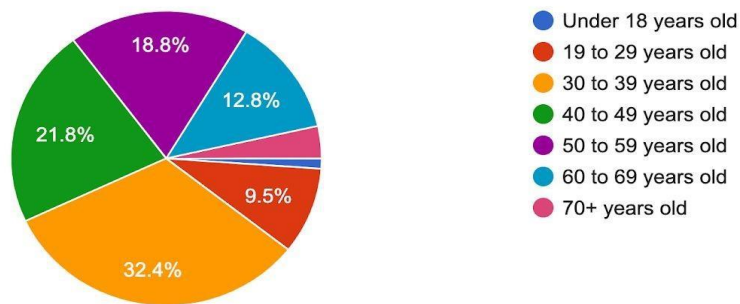


4. What is your current age?

- a. 30 to 39 years old (174) 32.4%
- b. 40 to 49 years old (117) 21.8%
- c. 50 to 59 years old (101) 18.8%
- d. 60 to 69 years old (69) 12.8%
- e. 19 to 29 years old (51) 9.5%
- f. 70+ years old (19) 3.5%
- g. Under 18 years old (6) 1.1%

What is your current age?

537 responses

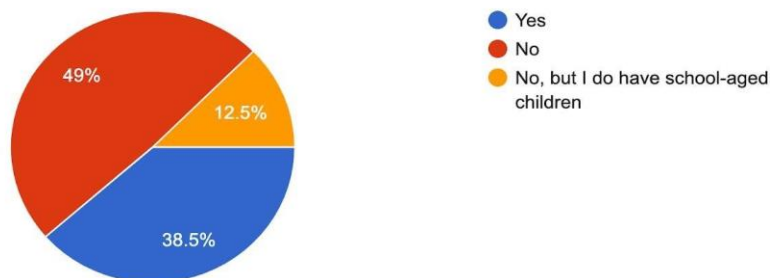


5. Do you have children who currently or will attend Pre-K thru 8th grade in the Norwich Public Schools?

- a. No (263) 49.0%
- b. Yes (207) 38.5%
- c. No, but I do have school-aged children (67) 12.5%

Do you have children who currently or will attend Pre-K thru 8th grade in the Norwich Public Schools?

537 responses



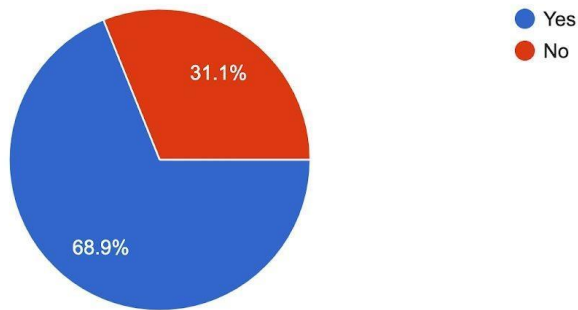


6. Are you registered to vote in Norwich?

- a. Yes (370) 68.6%
- b. No (167) 31.1%

Are you registered to vote in Norwich?

537 responses

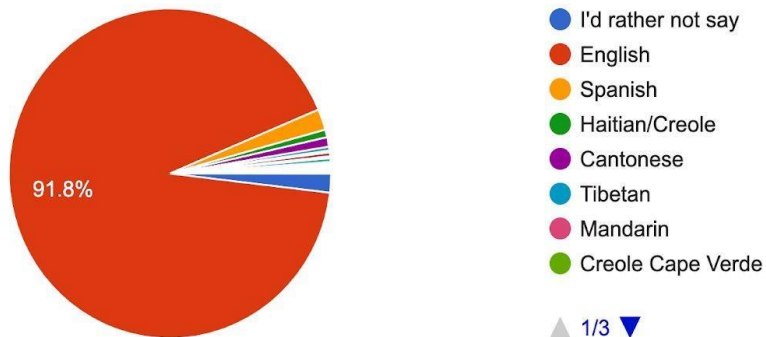


7. What is your primary language (i.e., the one you speak most of the time)?

- a. English (493) 91.8%
- b. Spanish (11) 2.0%
- c. I'd rather not say (10) 1.9%
- d. All others combined (23) 4.3%

What is your primary language (i.e., the one you speak most of the time)?

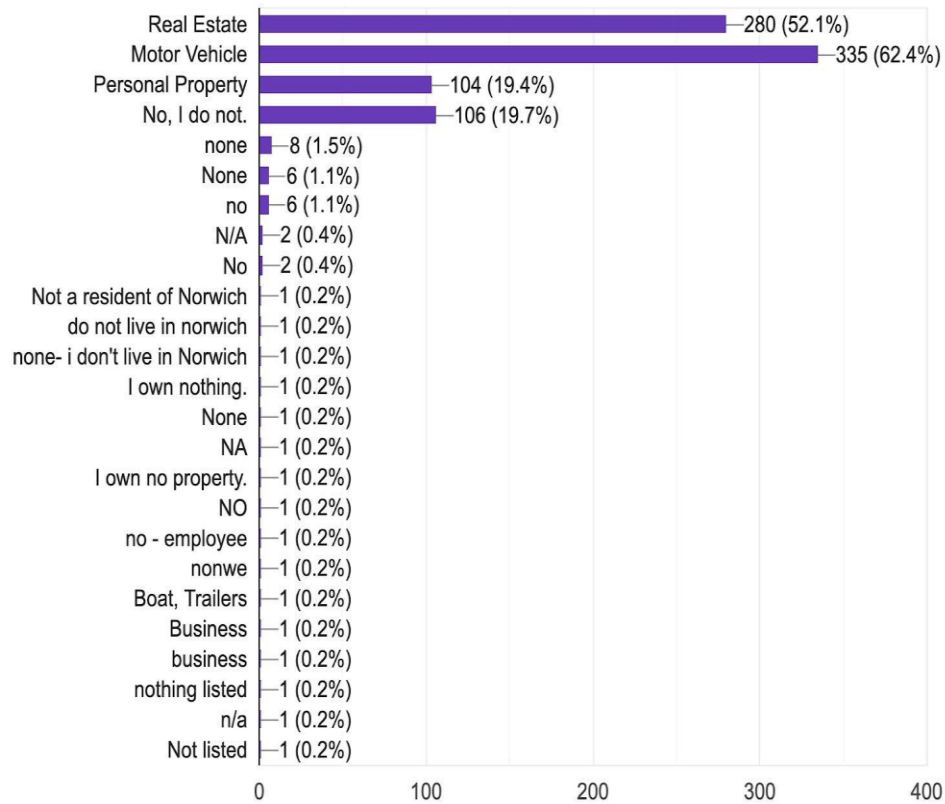
537 responses



8. Do you own taxable property in Norwich?
- a. Motor Vehicle (336) 62.6%
  - b. Real Estate (280) 52.1%
  - c. Personal Property (106) 19.8%
  - d. No, I do not (143) 26.8%

### Do you own taxable property in Norwich?

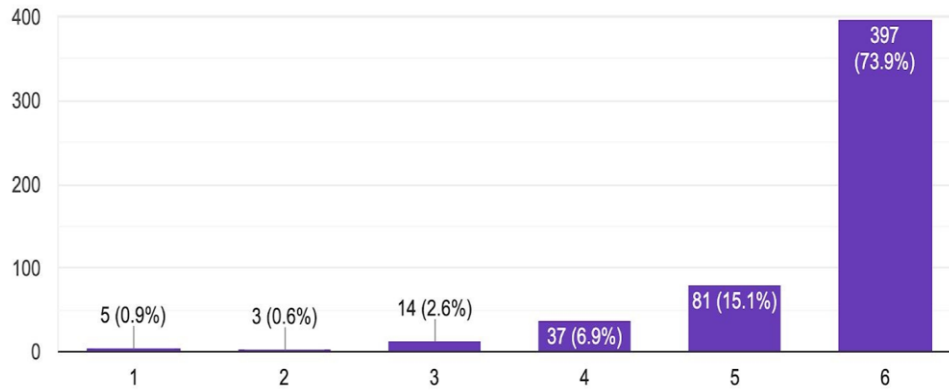
537 responses



## Survey Questions

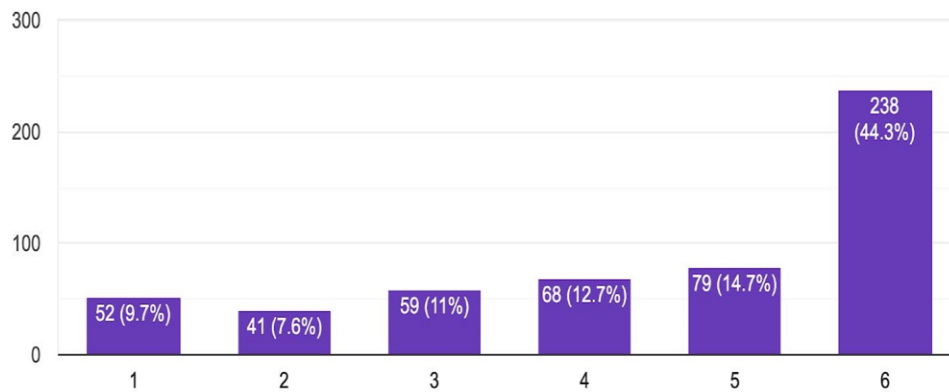
It is important that the Norwich community financially invest in our schools.

537 responses



Currently, there are two Pre-K centers. How important is it that Pre-K programs be available at each elementary school?

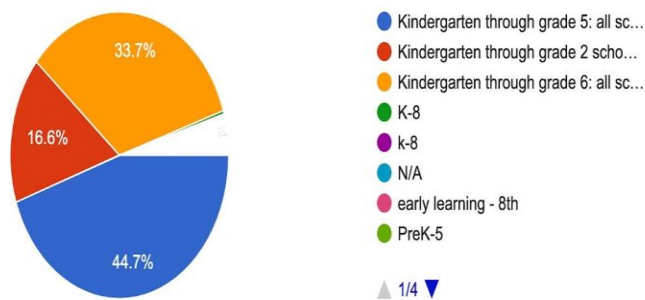
537 responses



3. My preference for grade-level configuration of Norwich Public Elementary Schools is;
- a. K thru grade 5 (all schools) (240) 44.7%
  - b. K thru grade 6 (all schools) (181) 33.7%
  - c. K thru grade 2 schools, and grade 3 thru grade 5 schools (89) 16.6%
  - d. All other responses (27) 5.0%

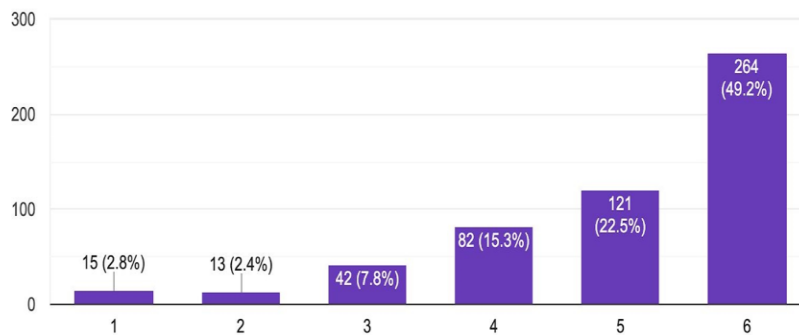
My preference for grade-level configuration of Norwich Public Elementary Schools is;

537 responses



Grade-level configuration of the school system is important to me.

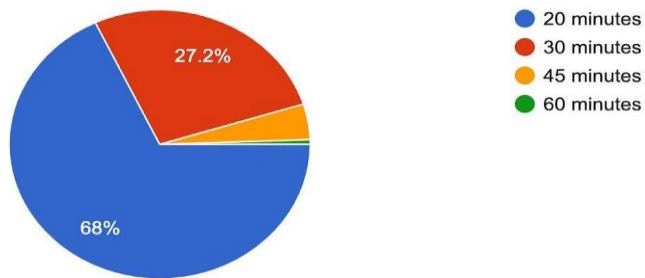
537 responses



5. Kindergarten thru grade 2 bus ride.
- |             |       |       |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| a. 20 mins. | (365) | 68.0% |
| b. 30 mins. | (146) | 27.2% |
| c. 45 mins. | (23)  | 4.3%  |
| d. 60 mins. | (3)   | 0.6%  |

I am willing to have a Kindergarten-grade 2 child's bus ride be \_\_\_\_ minutes long each way.

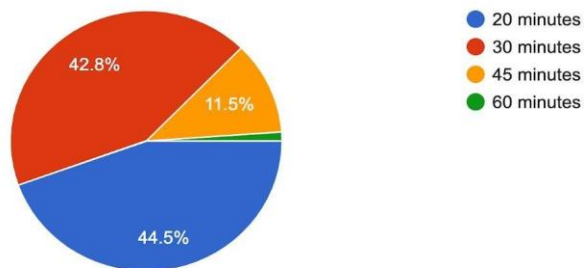
537 responses



6. Grade 3 thru grade 5 bus ride.
- |             |       |       |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| a. 20 mins. | (239) | 44.5% |
| b. 30 mins. | (230) | 42.8% |
| c. 45 mins. | (62)  | 11.5% |
| d. 60 mins. | (6)   | 1.2%  |

I am willing to have a grade 3 - grade 5 child's bus ride be \_\_\_\_ minutes long each way.

537 responses

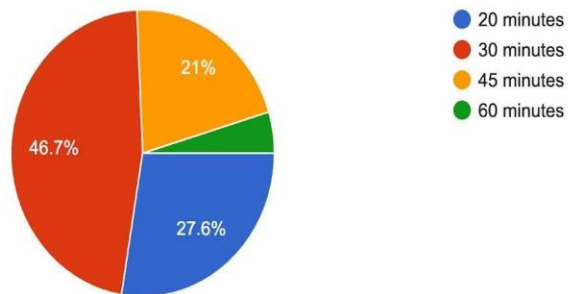


7. Grade 6 thru grade 8 bus ride.

- a. 20 mins. (148) 27.6%
- b. 30 mins. (251) 46.7%
- c. 45 mins. (113) 21.0%
- d. 60 mins. (25) 4.7%

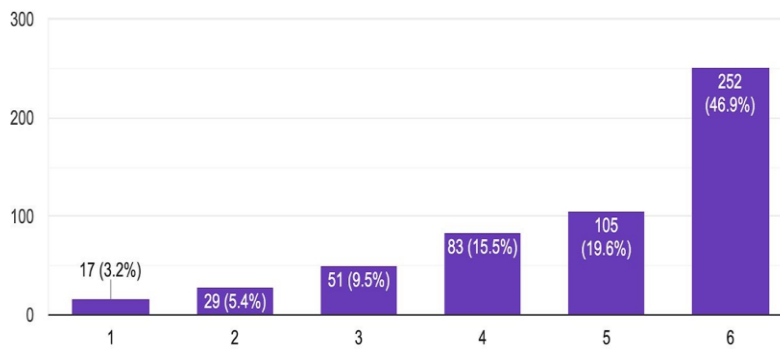
I am willing to have a grade 6 - grade 8 child's bus ride be \_\_\_\_ minutes long each way.

537 responses



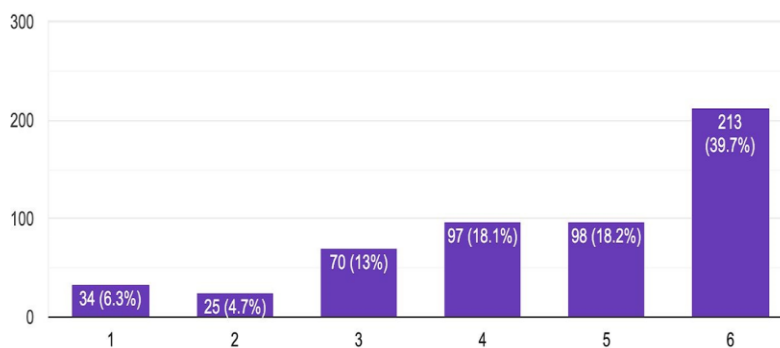
Schools should have outdoor spaces/facilities that are available to be shared with the community during off-hours.

537 responses



Schools should have indoor spaces/facilities that are available to be shared with the community during off-hours.

537 responses



10. What additional indoor/outdoor facilities or spaces would you like to have in our schools?

a. See attachment

11. What additional indoor/outdoor facilities or spaces would you NOT support in our schools?

a. See attachment

12. The three (3) most-important items in a school/school system are:

|                                          |       |       |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| a. Grade-level configuration             | (314) | 58.5% |
| b. Library-Technology Center             | (281) | 52.3% |
| c. School location                       | (241) | 44.9% |
| d. Cost                                  | (186) | 34.6% |
| e. Busing                                | (179) | 33.3% |
| f. School Choice                         | (157) | 29.2% |
| g. Outdoor recreational community spaces | (78)  | 14.5% |
| h. Indoor community spaces               | (76)  | 14.2% |
| i. Pool                                  | (39)  | 7.3%  |

13. In addition to Core Academics, the three (3) most-important programs in the school system are:

|                                     |       |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| a. Physical Education               | (40)  | 44.7% |
| b. Consumer Math & Life Skills      | (203) | 37.8% |
| c. Music                            | (184) | 34.3% |
| d. Computer Lit./Keyboarding/Coding | (180) | 33.5% |
| e. Art                              | (144) | 26.8% |
| f. Exploratory Technology Education | (131) | 24.4% |
| g. World Language                   | (129) | 24.0% |
| h. Library Media Center             | (102) | 19.0% |
| i. Organized Sports                 | (87)  | 16.2% |
| J. Home Economics                   | (84)  | 15.6% |
| k. Exploratory Building Trades      | (73)  | 13.6% |
| l. Industrial Arts                  | (25)  | 4.7%  |
| m. Drama                            | (9)   | 1.7%  |

14. Additional comments

a. See attachment



### **Comments in response to open-ended questions**

What additional indoor/outdoor facilities or spaces would you NOT support in our schools?

- A community pool A pool—too costly to build and to have insurance for.
- All non-required spaces
- Any for which there was not a demonstrable need.
- Any problems that are ADULT only...
- Anything that does not help our kids
- Anything that promotes shooting as a recreation
- Anything that would not directly impact current curriculum, or be built for the community to use, that would not be accessible to students/staff.
- Anything that would require school staff to be present, with the exception of a full time maintenance/custodial staff whose main purpose would be after school events
- Boxing, football Can't think of any.
- Can't think of one
- Community center
- Community should not be involved unless strict background checks on ppl in community with our children.
- drug dealing in our schools
- Expensive technology
- Fields or spaces that NFA would be allowed take over for their team sports practices and events.
- I am opposed to their constant use of Red McKeon Park in Occum.
- Focus on sharing existing spaces rather than building out facilities specifically for non-school functions.
- Frisbee
- I believe there should be an emphasis on children activities having priority over adult activities.
- I do not support any
- I don't know at this time
- I don't think non students should have access to the schools.
- I will not support arming our teachers I
- would not support facilities built in multiple schools that if used for after school activities could be built instead in one location for all to share.
- Indoor Community use when students are present Inordinate athletic fields, just basic
- Me gustaria que involucrar mas a la comunidad ("I would like to involve the community more") open area pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool

- pools
- pools
- pools, computers (like at the public library), would be nice to get voting out of the schools too.
- religious organizations
- Schools should be safe and secure, with after school activity spaces limited for strict security.
- Skate Park / Gaming skateboard area
- Soccer
- Strength training
- Swimming Pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pools
- Swimming pools.
- Anything other than a standard gymnasium, playground or ball field.
- Swimming Pools... tennis courts, baseball fields, football fields, soccer fields the more the better use of classrooms or offices as this would likely compromise their daily use and they need time to air-out

What additional indoor/outdoor facilities or spaces would you like to have in our schools?

- (Able to be) Lighted fields for recreational sports
- A community / recreation center all students and families can utilize!
- A community pool
- a community swimming pool
- A court for sports
- A decent playground for students, a gymnasium.
- A larger playground for students with more activities to do on them.
- A separate gym from cafeteria
- a pool
- A pool. a separate space for a gym and a cafeteria. Currently most school use the lunch room as the gym.
- Added security
- Adult education, satellite college courses, adult & children recreation activities, after school programs/childcare, community enrichment activities
- Adventure based activities- rock climbing wall, pool, multi-sensory rooms, etc
- Air conditioning
- All schools should have outdoor recess/playscape facilities, multipurpose sports courts and dedicated physical education only spaces within their buildings.
- Artist/Maker Space, Open Shop
- Athletic facilities

- Auditorium, Gymnasium, sports fields, community rooms [like the one at Kelly] auditoriums, cafeterias, playgrounds
- Ball fields, basketball courts that are maintained well so when kids use them they are not getting hurt.
- Basket ball
- Basket ball or volley ball.
- Basketball
- Basketball -playground
- Basketball courts
- Basketball Courts, Fields, Track
- Basketball courts, gaming rooms, art rooms basketball courts, soccer fields
- Basketball courts, Track,
- Classes that are of little costs.
- Better play grounds and a pool cafeteria separate from the gym/ fenced in fields
- Community center
- Community Garden, Park community like center for sports, etc.
- Community Meeting areas, Gym, bathrooms, cafe, family centers, stem labs, community courtyard
- Community meeting rooms, gym/rec areas
- Community pool for children and adults.
- Community Room, which parents can attend meetings with students. community rooms
- Community rooms for meetings. Classrooms for adult education classes.
- Fields for after school sports.
- Community rooms, play grounds community swimming pool
- Composting/recycling/garden
- Computer labs computer labs that can be used on weekends
- Crafts, homework club
- Dedicated art and music rooms in every school not just some of them
- Every school needs an outdoor play/recreation space to encourage free play, exercise & wellness.
- Family oriented fitness center, pool
- Fitness equipment/ Outdoor walking tracks
- Football fields, tennis courts, separate caf and gym
- Gym / home ect gym for family/community use, distinct sporting fields
- Gym,Fields, Cafe, and Auditoriums rented out to Youth Programs for a fee
- Gymnasium track playground
- Would love a pool gymnasium, soccer and/or ball field, gardening
- Gymnasiums, stages, playscapes, ball fields Gyms and playgrounds Gyms for use, community rooms
- Gyms, auditoriums, tracks, fields ,basketball courts, large libraries(joint with Otis)
- Handicap accessible playgrounds. Not just one swing.
- Pool.
- Handicapped accessible playgrounds

- Hiking trails/Gardening areas/Sports type activity areas/Common study areas/rooms or community areas/ rooms.
- I don't know at this time.
- I like publicly accessible playgrounds and basketball/tennis courts like we have I'm happy that I can take my children to the playground at school after hours or during the summer
- . I think it would be nice if there were some additional or modified playground equipment that handicapped children or adults could use. The playground in Groton is wheelchair accessible.
- Nobody wants taxes to go up but if something is added, I think an all-inclusive playground would be fantastic. My children attend Mahan Elementary. I don't know if other Norwich elementary schools have accessible playgrounds. This play equipment is expensive. At the very least, it would be great to have an all inclusive play area perhaps in the park in Norwich. But that's a different budget. if you create things that the students enjoy these things will keep the children in school....Arts also fashion Indoor activitie center indoor community/school swimming pool Indoor Track and indoor swimming pool Indoor track, indoor pool Indoor/outdoor rec open to all grade level students with guardians.
- KSMMS would benefit from having a black top to use during social time to reduce the amount of dirt tracked into the building.
- Larger play areas for the students so that more students and families are able to use them.
- Baseball and basketball courts that are maintained and can be used for games.
- Separate gymnasium and cafeterias/auditoriums.
- Conference rooms for meetings.
- Larger playgrounds
- Library
- Library access is most important.
- Library, swimming pool, tennis courts, walking trails maker spaces, gardens-fields, hiking trails, inside school spaces need to be modernized-redesigned, solar panels, recording studio
- Maybe a splash pad
- meeting area suitable for small event meeting rooms, event hall, and maybe commercial kitchen.
- Meeting spaces
- Monitored sport facilities wherein teens have access to well-lit, safe (outdoor courts) more classrooms, such as specific art and music rooms more laptops and pencils available for students
- More supportive services as well as more after school programs available for children with transportation available. So that children can be productive. After school help if needed and ect. more teachers so they don't get tired more teachers so they don't get tired
- Music, arts, sports New playgrounds.
- No more religious after school programs hosted at NPS schools facilities.

- open gyms would be a great resource to the community! Or a pool! open soccer or football field. Would be beneficial for leagues like NYFL to use for games ( Better parking and lighting)
- Open weekly Gym nights for community pick up sports example Canterbury school outdoor basketball hoops outdoor sports
- Outdoor facilities that allow for multipurpose uses and not just grass outdoor track for use , outdoor/indoor track facility
- Parent resource center and behavioral programming for students requiring specialized programming
- Pavilion, pool, meeting room
- Place you can rent for parties.
- Places that nonprofits could hold meetings/fund raisers and community events. play areas/sport fields Playground
- Playground
- Playground and grassy area outside, separate cafeteria and gymnasium
- Playground/basketball courts/tracks
- Playgrounds
- Playgrounds, basketball courts playgrounds, gyms, and meeting rooms
- Playgrounds, playing fields, recreation courts
- Playgrounds, tracks
- Pool
- pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- Pool
- POOL
- Pool
- pool
- Pool
- pool
- Pool and Music/ Art class
- Pool,
- Pool, community center type space available for low cost rental pool, separate gyms and cafeterias, area for special needs physical activities
- Pool, Soccer Fields, Tracks, Individual auditoriums separate from cafeterias/gyms
- Pool, Track, Climbing equipment (indoor and/or out)
- Pools
- Pools, stadiums, gym Recreation centers recreation sports recreational facilities indoor and outdoor

- Running track, technology center running track/trails (have you ever seen Franklin's wooded xcountry area!? It's great!), basketball/tennis/racket ball courts, updated playgrounds Safer/updated fenced in playgrounds, bigger classrooms, more work space for non teacher staff (site coordinators, school social workers etc), more flexible seating areas for students, gymnasium space that can be divided up easily, newer/cleaner/more modern bathroom facilities secured grassy areas for recess for all buildings and cafeteria and gymnasiums for all schools. Sensory friendly classrooms, learning kitchens where students can learn to cook, bake etc, school stores where students can manage all aspects of the business, innovative school gyms where students can be physically active in non traditional activities (yoga, gymnastics, cycling etc).
- Separate cafeteria Separate gym and cafeteria areas! Conference rooms and larger community/multipurpose rooms to fit multiple classes for presentations and activities needing more space. Bus drop-off area, separate from incoming traffic and parent-drop offs. Current parking lots are unsafe for staff and students. Better parking lot lighting for staff here after dark. Non-negotiable space/room(s) for students in crisis. Separate gym and cafeteria, workout space for staff, track, daycare (at a cost) for staff
- Separate gymnasiums and cafeterias spaces for sports basketball, soccer, baseball, cheerleading, ect. splash pad plus adult interests
- Sports facilities, auditorium, gym, Sports field..)
- Sports fields
- Sports fields/tracks, gyms not combined with cafeterias
- Sports spaces Stem lab for other outside groups to have access with.
- Study space for kids falling behind in grades
- swimming
- Swimming pool
- swimming pool
- swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- swimming pool for public
- Swimming pool, basketball courts, soccer fields, art, music rooms
- Swimming pool, track/walking path, community room/hall
- Swimming pool. swimming pools, basketball courts, running tracks or paths
- Technology centers
- Teen Center
- Tennis
- Tennis courts - Table Tennis

- Tennis courts,
- There should be a sensory/motor room in every building.
- Track
- Track field
- Track for running, secure benches, lighting track, fields, playground, auditorium, gym - if using them does not compromise their primary function for the children track, pool
- Tracks to run/work out tracks, basketball courts, playground
- Uncertain
- Use of all gymnasiums and ball fields.
- Swimming pool for public use.
- Use of gym, recreational programs, classes for the arts for all community members.
- Walking track, sports fields and gym
- We need access to a pool
- Well kept lawns for outdoor sports.
- YMCA. Norwich doesn't have much to offer kids for after school activities.
- Youth center

#### **14. Additional comments**

- All academics are good but, we should not take the original fundamentals out of our schools like Music, Art, Physical Education and, Library skills.
- All schools need to have proper air conditioning in each classroom.
- Visiting the various schools i have noted most classrooms did not have adequate AC.
- An intra mural sports program available for all is better than organized competitive sports for some. School security is important.
- A coastal area city without swimming lessons is sad.
- Neighborhood schools with maximum family participation are far better than over-rated magnet schools.
- As an educator and Norwich resident, our schools need help especially Moriarty. they need wall!!!!!!!
- Common core needs to go.
- Continue to look at ways of cutting special education costs. It is way out of control!
- Deben de tener mas seguridad para los estudiantes ademas de adiestrarlos mas acerca del bullying.
- Everyone of the above can be important.
- The arts are essential. Experience with languages is essential.
- Access to technology (not a computer lab) and innovation is essential.
- Life skills are essential.
- The city council must fund education sufficiently.
- The mayor must be held accountable for economic development.
- Exposure to industrial arts, homemaking, life skills First and foremost, our schools must be safe, secure and welcoming.

- They must be designed to reflect the educational programs and philosophy that will support the varying needs of our young people. or the magnet school focus
- When planning for a restructuring or reorganization of our schools, I believe that a PreK or K-6 model will build school connectedness between our families and staff.
- As we reduce the number of transitions for our students, our families will be more likely to partner with our teachers and administrators to ensure that children achieve the best possible social, emotional, physical and cognitive outcomes.
- Cost should be a consideration, but not the ultimate deciding factor in the quality of our facilities.
- Our residents should feel welcome to use our schools when school related events are not scheduled.
- I hope that the committee is visiting districts that have recently renovated schools to seek ideas that solve the problems educators are facing due to antiquated buildings.
- Our schools must provide an optimal learning environment for all students.
- Having all students with autism in one place is not a great idea. If there are 100 kids with autism, this also means that there will be 1 paraprofessional per student.
- 200 people in one space to start off, then add the rest of the faculty, staff, and other students.
- Home economics is vitally important as well and world languages should be taught to all children starting in kindergarten not high school, we are failing our children in preparing them for success in the future I also think Exploratory Building Trades, Library Media Center, Exploratory and Technology Education is very important as well.
- I am strongly against K-2 and 3-5 schools. They will further split up families. I am also against keeping Pre-K housed in a separate school. Pre-K classes should be brought back to each elementary school to ease the burden on the parents of separate schools for their school-aged children and help ease our budget crisis. Pre-K students need to be exposed to older students and Kindergarten curriculum to help prepare them for the future.
- I believe that financial investment from the community is necessary. In addition, mentoring programs from local businesses on a regular basis would be a great way for children to see how our community functions together as well as separately.
- I do not support k-2, 3-5 grade level configuration
- I don't think the schools should be used for community centers. I have seen too much go missing or things broken because the general public does not respect the property. The kids in the school end up losing in that scenario.
- I have always loved how New London has their elementary and Middle schools structured. One school for STEM, one school for arts, one school for interdisciplinary. It's a fantastic model, and my children would go there if the bussing situation were better.
- I'm excited for a lot of the current changes that have happened in Norwich, the STEM elementary, the environmental elementary and most recently the additional of STEAM to Kelly.
- As a taxpayer, former home-educator and a parent, Norwich NEEDS to invest in its schools if it is ever to change the public perspective of Norwich being the ghetto. When we better educate our children, we are preparing for a better future.



- I think the institution that can help the community to see a future tomorrow I think it is very important that our town considers more than cost when making these decisions. In a town where our students face a great deal of challenges, additional transitions create more chaos in their already chaotic lives.
- Our students need to attend schools where relationships are created and fostered throughout the years. These are relationships with adults and children.
- The proposed k-2, 3-5, 6-8 model is not best for our town's students and their families.
- Things like a pool and fitness center are nice and welcoming to the community, but calm, nurturing classrooms are crucial. Decisions should be made with school culture and climate at the forefront of our minds.
- I think the magnet choice for elementary schools is operating poorly. I have seen where 3 separate buses go to a single bus stop to collect students for different schools. If parents opt to lottery for in-district magnet school, they should transport. There should be less lottery slots for magnets and more students who live in geographical area. (Not sure what the ratio has to be as designated by the magnet funding).
- I think it is a poor design for a student to live within walking distance to one of our elementary school, but that student is bused across town because when they moved in the magnet slots were filled by students from other parts of town.
- I was only able to pick three but I believe all of the above programs are important for schools to have I will not support the super school model. We can keep neighborhood, family- based schools in Norwich, if we continue to build upon the culture and climate initiative. Developing relationships will promote "buy-in" from permanent families and would facilitate an immediate welcoming atmosphere for the transient families. Norwich needs to have a vision for the future, set the goal, and pursue it! Stop changing the rules every year, spinning our wheels, with the lack of data to show the growth we make.
- I wish arts/music had been one choice, because computer literacy is equally important I would like to see an increase in good, sound, fundamental parenting. Parents should not be missing in action. Their presence and physical input are extremely important for proper student development. Thank you.
- I would like to see the teachers given what they need in order to do their jobs.
- IF parents want their children to attend schools that are not closest to their home. I.E. "Magnet" school across town then THEY should be responsible for the additional busing fees OR have to provide their own transportation.
- It is important for us to consider what school themes we want. This will help better mold if every school needs to focus on things such as sports and arts
- Life skills are important to teach and schools need to get back to teaching basics such as reading, writing, arithmetic and home economics. Life Skills should include home economics. The ability to cook and do basic things from home ec should be taught to all.
- Lobby politicians to change the education statutes so we are helped due to the large population of special ed students in our district. Make Norwich great again!
- Narrowing my above choices to three is not going to get the district a real picture of my community priorities. This survey was only in English- the vocabulary was "educational

jargon “ and will be misunderstood. It’s the third survey I’ve participated in and these options have not improved. Is the committee just going to continue asking questions until the committee gets the answers it’s looking for or is the BOE going to make hard choices and risk not being voted for in the next election? Consolidate schools, balance class size, save tax dollars, and reduce administrative costs per building.

- The schools are run down. It costs too much to fix them and Norwich is not going to pass bonds to fix old schools. Be bold and have a vision for the Norwich community which provides a quality education for all students!! Or risk falling further behind our neighbors.
- None at this time
- None.
- Norwich schools lack curriculum consistency.
- Students are not given needed interventions when falling behind standards.
- Many students are not at grade level and are continually pushed ahead regardless of capabilities.
- Norwich should focus on the actual teaching of its students rather than who can use the facility. That is why my grandchildren (who live in Norwich) are forced to go to private school.
- Norwich does not provide the proper education.
- Not sure why the survey when the people who are in charge are going to do what they want to do even if it's not what the tax payers want.
- Please do not split the schools K-2 and 3-5. The younger children benefit greatly from their older peer group at the same school.
- Please incorporate local history into the curriculum. Maybe offer a local history section for students to pick. Please invest in our schools
- Pupils should have better foundation in order to excel in their academic pursuits. school behavior and overall culture needs to be congruent across staff and students. if the behavior is there the academics will follow. spend money on hiring more staff to help our students instead of just buying more facilities.
- School configuration is needed so older kids can help mentor the younger ones.
- There needs to be more community in our schools. Configuration can help this as well as things like sports & other competition between schools and availability and use of the school facilities after hours.
- Schools should be about educating children, it should not be a substitute daycare center or community center. SCHOOLS TODAY NEED TO BE A SAFE HAVEN FOR KIDS TO BE ABLE TO THRIVE AND LEARN. FREE FROM BULLYING, DRUGS AND WEAPONS. IN OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY, THESE KIDS NEED TO LEARN TOLERANCE [AT SCHOOL] WHEN THEY ARE NOT TAUGHT THIS AT HOME. IN TODAY'S WORLD IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL AS THE CORE ACADEMICS
- Smaller schools are better for youths and families - Better communities.
- Something needs to be done to lower special education costs.
- More parents need to volunteer time at the school to see what teachers see/do on a daily basis. Teachers need more support from administrators, and board of Ed.

- parents, Sports keep kids off the street and out of trouble!
- Stop wasting taxpayers money on new schools. Use the facilities in place currently.
- Plenty of facilities here in Norwich.
- Stronger teacher support
- That last question was really hard... three choices was not enough! the 3 most important items in a school are: skip cost (I put 2 items in "other" so had to supply a third check mark (the options were very limiting - more "other" boxes would have helped)
- The city of Norwich has a responsibility to all its residents and children to contribute to our schools. You can't complain about the decline in Norwich's economy or cultural experiences or property values if you aren't willing to support that students that will one day impact all of those things.
- The last question is very difficult. There are a number of items that should be available to children because of all their different interests. The overall availability of electives at the elementary and middle levels needs to be increased to give our students more exposure to non-typical educational experiences. This is important as we are asking our young people to make more targeted choices in electing which middle school they prefer and in order to be better informed in regards to choosing their high school which is beginning to place them on career/college track.
- The programs listed in the last question are all important and have been neglected by the Norwich school system for years. It is one of the major reasons, along with school configuration, that I do not send my kids to school in Norwich.
- The school system has declined in the past 10 years. Make sure these kids are ready for high school/college which I have seen is not getting done.
- There needs to be a re-evaluation of how pick-ups are done at schools, especially Stanton. Waiting outside for children to be dismissed is somewhat ridiculous especially in bad weather. There has to be a better system for this.
- There needs to be our own alternative high school so we are not held hostage to NFA's continued cost increase at the expense of other earlier grades. it would be a great opportunity for HS students to work with elementary students.
- k-8 configuration would minimize warehousing all middle schoolers in a larger school at such a vulnerable age and hopefully minimize the behaviors at the MS level which are out of control.
- Many in the public are terrified to send their kids to the MS based on their very poor behavior reputation. Also, cut back on Central Office staff and put the monies towards the schools. They must ALL be included.
- thinking maybe these non-questions were developed to support lack of decision making that Norwich has been known for when it comes to supporting education.
- We need to get our kids ready for the world, teach life relevant subjects.
- Where ever you live closest to should be the primary school for a child to attend. The lottery system I do not care for. Each child's education in each town should be equal, to all programs and any specialty extra curricular. Science programs should be in every school-not just magnet schools.

## **Appendix B**

### **Norwich Public Schools Building Inventory**

| <b>BUILDING</b>                       | <b>Year Built</b>          | <b>Site Size (Acres)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bishop School                      | 1925 (renovated: 1996)     | 0.93ac                   |
| 2. Huntington School                  | 1928 (renovated: 1996)     | 4.2ac                    |
| 3. Mahan School                       | 1968                       | 10.6ac                   |
| 4. Moriarty Magnet                    | 1975                       | 14.0ac                   |
| 5. Stanton School                     | 1956                       | 24.7ac                   |
| 6. Uncas School                       | 1975                       | 11.9ac                   |
| 7. Veterans School                    | 1968                       | 12.3ac                   |
| 8. Wequonnoc Magnet                   | 1962                       | 8.7ac                    |
| 9. Hickory Street-1 (Adult Ed.)       | 1963                       | 0.69ac                   |
| 10.Hickory Street-2 (NTA)             | 1920 (fmr. convent)        | 0.75ac                   |
| 11.D.T.Z. Early Lrng. Ctr. (Case St.) | 1977 (fmr. fraternal org.) | 10.7ac                   |
| 12.Kelly STEAM Magnet                 | 1962 (renovated: 2013)     | 18.9ac                   |
| 13.Teachers' World Studies Magnet     | 1975                       | 30.2ac                   |
| 14.John Mason School (Central Office) | 1895                       | 0.52ac                   |



APPENDIX C

Facilities Committee Brief  
Enrollment June 1, 2019  
and  
Operational Savings Estimates

August 7, 2019



# June 1, 2019 Enrollment

|            | Bishop | Case | Huntington | Mahan | Moriarty | Stanton | Uncas | Vets | Weq | Kelly | TM  | NTA | Total |
|------------|--------|------|------------|-------|----------|---------|-------|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-------|
| Pre-School | 207    | 62   |            | 11    |          |         |       |      |     |       |     |     | 280   |
| K          |        |      | 63         | 37    | 66       | 54      | 52    | 48   | 45  |       |     |     | 365   |
| K/1 (K)    |        |      |            |       |          |         | 12    |      |     |       |     |     | 12    |
| Grade 1    |        |      | 63         | 45    | 64       | 55      | 49    | 55   | 42  |       |     |     | 373   |
| K/1 (1)    |        |      |            |       |          |         | 8     |      |     |       |     |     | 8     |
| Grade 2    |        |      | 55         | 36    | 61       | 56      | 51    | 45   | 40  |       |     |     | 344   |
| Grade 3    |        |      | 62         | 36    | 74       | 47      | 47    | 54   | 48  |       |     |     | 368   |
| Grade 4    |        |      | 67         | 35    | 75       | 47      | 31    | 50   | 49  |       |     |     | 354   |
| Grade 5    |        |      | 56         | 44    | 74       | 71      | 35    | 50   | 46  |       |     |     | 376   |
| Grade 6    |        |      |            |       |          |         |       |      |     | 230   | 130 |     | 360   |
| Grade 7    |        |      |            |       |          |         |       |      |     | 197   | 132 |     | 329   |
| Grade 8    |        |      |            |       |          |         |       |      |     | 225   | 126 |     | 351   |
| SpN M & N  |        |      |            | 11    |          |         |       |      |     |       |     | 18  | 29    |
| STARS      |        |      | 22         |       |          | 7       |       |      |     |       |     |     | 29    |
| STRIVE     |        |      |            |       |          | 8       |       |      |     |       |     |     | 8     |
| TOTAL      | 207    | 62   | 388        | 255   | 414      | 345     | 265   | 302  | 270 | 652   | 388 |     | 3,566 |

PK-5 Enrollment 2,526

6-8 Enrollment 1,040

## On July 10, 2019 the Norwich Facilities Committee voted on the following district configuration:

- Kelly & Teachers Middle Schools Grades 6-8
- Moriarty, Stanton and Uncas Elementary Schools will be renovated and expanded Grades Pk-5
- A new elementary school will be built Pk-5 (near the Veterans School site)
- Central Office will relocate to Huntington and the Mason Building will be taken off line
- Mahan, Veterans and Wequonnoc will be taken off line
- Bishop will serve as the CO overflow and Special Needs Programs

The committee charged the school district staff to determine if there was a possibility for programs currently at Bishop, Case St, Hickory (Adult Ed) and Hickory (NTA) to be housed at Bishop or another site (Mahan, Veterans or Wequonnoc)

Also, if the NPS expanded special education programs in an effort to return out of district placed students to the district could those programs be housed at Huntington or Bishop or another school?

# Tours on July 31, 2019

School department staff toured Huntington, Bishop, Case St, Hickory NTA and Hickory NAE with the following parameters in mind:

- All central office staff need to be accommodated in the new configuration.
- Adequate parking is necessary for all staff and visitors.
- Handicap accessibility is required.
- NTA (Norwich Transition Academy), NAE (Norwich Adult Education) and VLA (Virtual Learning Academy Program for expelled out of district high school students) need to be accommodated in the new configuration.
- Maintenance, Technology, Registration and Food Service need to be accommodated in the new configuration.
- Location on the city/state transportation bus route is important.
- It would be advantageous for student programs to be offered at both sites so that future capital expenses are reimbursable by the state.



# Results

Huntington will need renovation to become office space (HVAC, etc.) but can likely accommodate:

- All central office staff, registration, technology and NTA (student program)
- Possibly maintenance & food service

Wequonnoc will need renovation for Handicap Accessibility but can likely accommodate:

- Norwich Adult Education-student program
- VLA (Virtual Learning Academy)-student program
- Possibly maintenance & food service (if they cannot fit at Huntington)

This would allow the facilities committee the flexibility to take offline the following ( if that is their wish):

- Case Street (currently preschool)
- Bishop (currently preschool)
- Hickory #1 (currently NAE Norwich Adult Ed)
- Hickory #2 (currently NTA Norwich Transition Academy)

Bishop does not appear to offer parking, accessibility or site size conducive to the needs of the planned facilities use.

The Special Education program expansions will need to be accommodated in the PK-8 buildings per state and federal guidelines.

# Operational savings estimates in taking a site offline

- Staffing savings vary by site.
- Utilities (provided by NPU & school department business office) include electricity, gas, sewer and water.
- Trash and Insurance information provided by the school department business office.
- Known capital expenditures were provided by the business office (not a complete comprehensive capital plan).
- Deferred maintenance costs on each building were not included.
- Costs associated with the expansion of sites are also not included.

# Electricity, Water & Sewer

|            | 2018-2019    |
|------------|--------------|
| Bishop     | \$45,610.81  |
| Huntington | \$73,315.86  |
| Mahan      | \$43,290.31  |
| Moriarty   | \$110,515.63 |
| Stanton    | \$96,952.34  |
| Uncas      | \$88,888.74  |
| Veterans   | \$37,350.42  |
| Weq        | \$47,581.85  |
| Kelly      | \$212,309.00 |
| Teachers   | \$114,571.45 |
| Adult Ed   | \$19,175.00  |
| CO         | \$16,236.39  |
| NTA        | \$7,053.30   |
| Case St    | \$18,941.45  |
| TOTAL      | \$931,729.55 |

# Natural Gas-Heat

|            | 2018-2019    |
|------------|--------------|
| Bishop     | \$27,644.21  |
| Huntington | \$70,433.35  |
| Mahan      | \$34,124.19  |
| Moriarty   | \$45,009.20  |
| Stanton    | \$55,213.25  |
| Uncas      | \$38,274.49  |
| Veterans   | \$22,681.78  |
| Weq        | \$30,105.40  |
| Kelly      | \$71,903.30  |
| Teachers   | \$87,310.55  |
| Adult Ed   | \$17,892.78  |
| CO         | \$15,760.96  |
| NTA        | \$3,490.69   |
| Case St    | \$5,548.07   |
| TOTAL      | \$525,392.22 |

# Trash Removal

\*the closure of sites may not impact these costs if overall trash remains the same.

|            | FY19         |
|------------|--------------|
| Bishop     | \$ 878.53    |
| Huntington | \$ 2,248.36  |
| Mahan      | \$ 1,355.26  |
| Moriarty   | \$ 2,408.66  |
| Stanton    | \$ 1,505.16  |
| Uncas      | \$ 1,694.60  |
| Veterans   | \$ 1,355.26  |
| Weq        | \$ 1,280.32  |
| Kelly      | \$ 3,801.40  |
| Teachers   | \$ 3,274.70  |
| Adult Ed   | \$ 678.67    |
| CO         | \$ 125.91    |
| NTA        | \$ 27.06     |
| Case St    | \$ 184.28    |
| TOTAL      | \$ 20,818.19 |

# Insurance

\*Insurance will decrease in sites closed  
and increase in sites renovated

\*City will need to maintain insurance coverage  
specific to vacant buildings pending any  
future use

|            | FY 19         |
|------------|---------------|
| Bishop     | \$ 14,130.47  |
| Huntington | \$ 36,166.31  |
| Mahan      | \$ 21,798.43  |
| Moriarty   | \$ 38,741.58  |
| Stanton    | \$ 24,209.29  |
| Uncas      | \$ 27,256.40  |
| Veterans   | \$ 21,798.43  |
| Weq        | \$ 20,592.98  |
| Kelly      | \$ 78,403.70  |
| Teachers   | \$ 52,671.13  |
| Adult Ed   | \$ 10,916.94  |
| CO         | \$ 4,853.56   |
| NTA        | \$ 435.28     |
| Case St    | \$ 2,975.11   |
| TOTAL      | \$ 354,949.61 |

# Bishop

## Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Staffing  | \$177,500      |
| Capital   | \$1,544,000    |
| Utilities | \$73,255.02    |
| Total     | \$1,794,755.02 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-Replace 2 portions of roof, replace elevator, replace floors

# Case St

## Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Staffing  | \$101,600    |
| Capital   | NA           |
| Utilities | \$24,489.52  |
| Total     | \$126,089.52 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-None



# Mahan

## Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Staffing  | \$515,000      |
| Capital   | \$719,750      |
| Utilities | \$77,414.50    |
| Total     | \$1,312,164.50 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-parking lot and floors

# Huntington

## Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Staffing  | \$540,000      |
| Capital   | \$1,533,000    |
| Utilities | \$143,749.21   |
| Total     | \$2,216,749.21 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-Roof and floors

# Veterans

## Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Staffing  | \$515,000   |
| Capital   | \$367,500   |
| Utilities | \$60,032.2  |
| Total     | \$942,532.2 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-Floors

# Wequonnoc

## Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Staffing  | \$510,000      |
| Capital   | \$1,002,750    |
| Utilities | \$77,687.25    |
| Total     | \$1,590,437.25 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-fire alarm system and roof

# 201 Hickory-NTA Norwich Transition Academy House

Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Staffing  | NA           |
| Capital   | \$200,000    |
| Utilities | \$10,543.99  |
| Total     | \$210,543.99 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-elevator

# Mason Building-Central Office

Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Staffing  | NA           |
| Capital   | \$708,750    |
| Utilities | \$31,997.35  |
| Total     | \$740,747.35 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-Elevator, Windows, Roof

# 191 Hickory NAE Adult Education

Offline Estimated Operational Savings

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Staffing  | NA             |
| Capital   | \$2,437,500    |
| Utilities | \$37,067.78    |
| Total     | \$2,474,567.78 |

Utilities do not include insurance or trash removal

Capital-roof & windows

Building Details  
From NPU

| Location             | Year Built | Sq Ft   | Acreage |
|----------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Bishop               | 1925       | 23,350  | 1,165   |
| Huntington           | 1928       | 118,334 | 4,184   |
| Mahan                | 1968       | 36,000  | 10.62   |
| Moriarty             | 1975       | 64,000  | 14      |
| Stanton              | 1956       | 40,000  | 24.7    |
| Uncas                | 1975       | 45,000  | 11.9    |
| Veterans             | 1968       | 36,000  | 12.26   |
| Wequonnoc            | 1962       | 34,000  | 8.67    |
| Kelly                | 1962/2013  | 133,240 | 18.9    |
| Teachers             | 1975       | 87,000  | 30.2    |
| Adult Ed             | 1963       | 18,000  | .69     |
| Central Office Mason | 1659/1998  | 3,351   | minimal |
| NTA Hickory St       | 1920/1998  | 700     | .75     |
| Case St              | 1977/2001  | 4,910   | 10.67   |



NPU

Energy Star  
Rating

EUI  
Energy Use  
Index  
(Consumption relative  
to sq Ft)

Green highlights  
indicate best

| Location             | Energy STAR Rating 1-100 (100 being best) | EUI   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Bishop               | 51                                        | 68.3  |
| Huntington           | 76                                        | 48.9  |
| Mahan                | 43                                        | 75.9  |
| Moriarty             | 35                                        | 71.5  |
| Stanton              | 6                                         | 131.2 |
| Uncas                | 65                                        | 53.1  |
| Veterans             | 64                                        | 60.4  |
| Wequonnoc            | 26                                        | 91    |
| Kelly                | 29                                        | 76.2  |
| Teachers             | 26                                        | 85.9  |
| Adult Ed             | N/A (energy ratings are on schools)       | 106.6 |
| Central Office Mason | N/A (energy ratings are on schools)       | 205.6 |
| NTA Hickory St       | N/A (energy ratings are on schools)       | 72    |
| Case St              | 2                                         | 121.7 |