

1) I would like to better understand long term costs. How does the CIP fit into the equation?

The CIP is a five-year plan that is updated annually and consists of major school and town projects deemed necessary by elected officials. Eligibility for the project inclusion on the CIP is that it must exceed 0.25% of the total town budget. Once finalized, the projects are presented to the Board of Finance for review and modification. Ultimate CIP approval is dependent upon review by the Legislative Council.

Once approved by the Board of Education, financing for the projects designated in the upcoming year will be provided for in the Town budget. These projects are **the only** "valid" projects in the CIP plan. Projects that appear in subsequent years are subject to change or removed due to overall cost or other considerations.

2) What are the total costs to the district of closing a school?

The moving costs for Hawley are \$78,000 and \$100,000 for furniture disposal. Moving costs for Middle school are \$160,000 and \$250,000 for furniture disposal.

3) What are rough costs of maintaining an empty building (including, but not limited to heating, lights, security, moisture prevention, roof maintenance, landscaping, field maintenance)?

These costs will vary depending on the size of the building and lot. We can only estimate the costs by using a percentage of our current expenses. We currently estimate the maintenance costs for Hawley to be in the area of \$105,000 and the Middle School around \$360,500. This works out to be approximately \$1.75 to \$2.06 per sq.ft.

4) What is Kindergarten enrollment predicted to be for 2015/16 based on current numbers and anticipated changes (that is, historical changes between June and September)? *See below*

School	Currently Enrolled	Comments re Historical Summer Change
Hawley	64	+ 3 or 4
Head O'Meadow	49	+ 5
Middle Gate	64	+/- May fluctuate by a few
Sandy Hook	60	+ 4
Total	237	possibly +12

5) If Hawley is closed, will MGS and HOM be redistricted as well? What would those distributions be?

Under the current scenario, approximately 40% of the Hawley students would redistrict to Head O'Meadow and 60% to the new Sandy Hook School. Redistricting a portion of Middle Gate and Head O'Meadow students could even out the numbers in the elementary schools however; this would only cause further disruption.

6) What are the long term predictions for classroom use – specifically, look at 2026-27.

Assuming that the medium projection lane holds as presented:

The committee believes there is a high level of assurance that the school board has the ability to close a school and that there will be more than sufficient space to appropriately accommodate all students in an optimal K-12 teaching and learning environment

7) How many classrooms are available as regular classrooms at each elementary (including the new SHS)? Does this include or exclude art, music, computer rooms, science room, RW/workshop library?

<u>Hawley</u>	<u>Head O'Meadow</u>	<u>Middle Gate</u>	<u>Sandy Hook</u>
23 Classrooms (17 in use for K-4)	22 Classrooms (17 in use for K-4)	28 Classrooms (20 in use for K-4)	26 Classrooms (20 in use for K-4)
1 extra Computer Lab 1 Reading Lounge 2 Intervention Rooms 1 Reading Library 1 Special Education Total = 6	1 Special Education Room 1 OT/PT 1 Reading Center 1 Math/Science 1 extra Computer Lab Total = 5	2 computer rooms 2 special education rooms 1 Reading Center 1 Reading Room (shared by all three members of the Reading Department) 1 Math/Science 1 Multipurpose Total = 8	1 Computer Lab 1 OT/PT 1 Special Education 1 Science 1 Math 1 Speech Total = 6
1 each of Art, LMC, Music, and PE (Gymnasium)	1 each of Art, LMC, Music, and PE (Gymnasium)	1 each of Art, LMC, Music, and PE (Gymnasium)	1 each of Art, LMC, Music, and PE (Gymnasium) 3 Pre-K

7a) Follow up to question 7: Can we include the capacities/classroom counts for Reed and NMS?

**Reasonable Capacity for RIS:** Reed can accommodate approximately 920 students which would assume maintaining a cluster model and the provision of similar unified arts opportunities. Under these conditions, 42 rooms would be utilized for classrooms. The remainder would be reserved for special education, intervention and unified arts programs.

**Reasonable Capacity for NMS:** We have a maximum of 41 Classrooms that can be used for Academic/Homerooms and a total of 66 classrooms. If we use 25 students per homeroom times 41 rooms this equals 1025.

8) I would like to better understand how MBR fits into this. For example, what is the MBR for 2016/17 based on our 2015/16 budget and anticipated enrollments?

The MBR for 2016-17, based on our 2015-16 budget would be approximately \$71,575,654. The current ECS Grant budget approved by the House and Senate on June 3, 2015 indicates Newtown will be eligible to receive \$345,648 additional aid. This amount added to our current budget creates an MBR of \$71,933,594. The maximum reduction at 0.5% of the 2015-16 budget will be \$357,940 under current law. A revision to the MBR (not yet signed by the Governor) provides for a maximum reduction of 3% in the total education budget, compared to the prior year. This could be up to \$2,147,638. Legislation provides the opportunity for districts to request of the Commissioner of Education a reduction to the MBR as a result of closing a school due to declining enrollment. The Commissioner has sole discretion as to approving such request, as well as the amount of the approval.

9) Will there be enough time and space at Reed to allow for all students to have PE twice a week?

Yes

10) In the analysis of potential cost savings, it is indicated that \$514,079 can be saved in 7.0 FTE classroom savings. Is this the number of FTE over and above what will be reduced due to declining enrollment (that is, the number reduced if all schools were to remain open?) What is the breakdown of these positions?

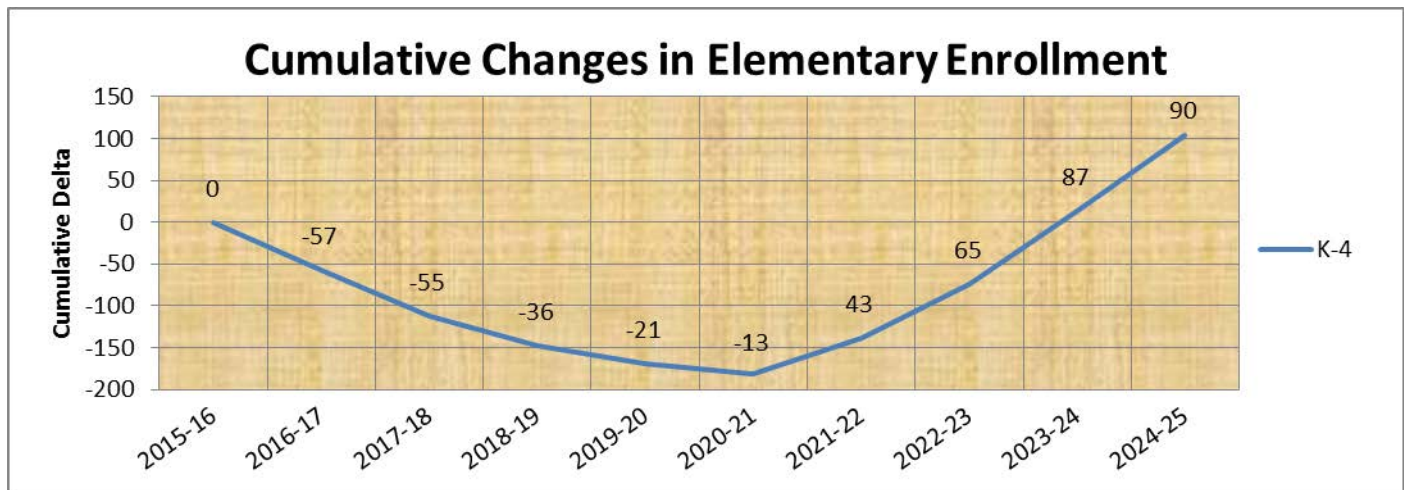
The reduction of 7 F.T.E. is not over and above the potential to reduce staff due to declining enrollment. Under this scenario, (K-3, 4-6 at RIS) our analysis indicates the potential to reduce 1 kindergarten (+1 first grade; net 0), 1 second grade, 3 third grade and 3 fourth grade F.T.E teachers

If all elementary schools were to remain open, there is a potential to reduce staff. Using the same enrollment numbers (medium-growth 2016-17), our analysis suggests the potential to reduce K-4 staff by 3 to 4 F.T.E teachers. The breakdown is as follows: 0-1 kindergarten, 2 third grade and 1 fourth grade.

10a) Follow up to question 10: Do we have a comparison sheet projecting basic declining enrollment savings (FTEs) vs. savings including school closing? Particularly, does the savings come as a single drop or do we save more at some point?

The chart below depicts the changes in elementary enrollment over ten years. Based on the medium-growth projection, there is a potential to reduce classroom teachers as enrollment declines through 2020-21. However, the chart suggests that in year 2021-22 our enrollment numbers will begin to increase and by 2023-24, they will be higher than the current year. (data points show the delta in each year)

In the short term there appears to be an opportunity for reduction but this will be offset as our enrollment begins to grow.



11) If we do not close an elementary school, would the Facilities and Enrollment committee recommend redistricting?

No, this was not the charge of the committee commissioned by the Board of Education.

12) Can we verify with the state, what the education use requirements are, so the state does not need to be repaid for prior project funding? Specifically, does the Board of Education have to retain the building or can the town retain it with an educational program (a BOE program or non-BOE program)?

A town required to make a refund to the state pursuant to Section 10.283 (3)(a) may request forgiveness of such refund if the building is redirected for public use. The Department of Administrative Services shall include as an addendum to the annual school construction priority list all those towns requesting forgiveness. General Assembly approval of the priority list containing such request shall constitute approval of such request.

13) Do we have projections for each of the recommended layout(s) for each of the next few years (showing how each works and if there is crowding in year 1 but not year 2 and so on)?

The following data represents projected enrollment (using medium-growth projections) if either an elementary or the middle school were to close. The highlighted boxes indicate possible crowding at each level. Analysis shows that if an elementary school were to close, the three remaining schools can *reasonably* accommodate approximately 1,000 students, depending on grade level placements. If four elementary schools were to remain open and changed to a K-5 structure, *reasonable* capacity is around 1,400, again this is dependent upon grade level placements. (refer to question 7a for RIS & NMS reasonable capacity)

**Close Elementary**

	K-3	4-6	7-8	9-12	K-3	4-5	6-8	9-12	K-3	4-5	6-7	8-12	K-4	5-6	7-8	9-12
2016-17	980	923	745	1662	980	579	1089	1662	980	579	694	2057	1264	639	745	1662
2017-18	948	852	696	1624	948	549	999	1624	948	549	648	1975	1209	591	696	1624
2018-19	914	819	650	1535	914	524	945	1535	914	524	599	1881	1173	560	650	1535
2019-20	883	803	601	1468	883	532	872	1468	883	532	567	1773	1152	534	601	1468

**Close Newtown Middle School**

	K-4	5-7 (RIS)	8-12	K-5	6-7 (RIS)	8-12	K-5	6-8 (RIS)	9-12
2016-17	1264	989	2057	1559	694	2057	1559	1089	1662
2017-18	1209	936	1975	1497	648	1975	1497	999	1624
2018-19	1173	864	1881	1438	599	1881	1438	945	1535
2019-20	1152	830	1773	1415	567	1773	1415	872	1468

14) Are there any updates on the implementation of the "Cadillac tax" portion of the Affordable Health Care Act? Have the estimated costs for 2016-2017 changed for the district? Do we have estimates for other additional costs in 2016-2017 (loss of SERV grant)?

The Affordable Care Act, as discussed and presented to the BOE by the superintendent's office and by the district's health consultant remains as is with a projected 1.2 million dollar increase to the operational plan. The SERV grant will sunset fund at the close of the 2015-2016 school-year. What we do know is that there will be certified staff recommended to the BOE for continued employment for the 2016-2017 school-year. Staffing and projected funding will be determined on or around November 2015.

15) Are there details from the prior redistricting where students were moved from Sandy Hook School to Hawley? What year? When it was decided (how long before it happened)? How many students?

In December of 1990, the Board of Education adopted a redistricting plan that commenced during the 1991-92 school year due to SHS overcrowding. SHS had an earlier start time than the other three elementary schools (around 8:00 a.m.). The other three elementary schools were on a later start (around 9:00 a.m.). Due to the overcrowding at SHS, children were redistricted to MG and HOM along with some from HOM to MG and HAW to SHS. The public outcry was that SHS parents didn't like this change due to the later start time as it interfered with their work schedules. Many of the parents wanted to stay at SHS and offered to drive their children to school rather than redistrict. The decision to redistrict was decided upon and announced all within a year.

The next redistricting committee started in December of 1996. It was headed by the Director of Pupil Services along the Director of Transportation and 8-10 PTA representatives with a goal of board adoption in mid- March of 1997. This redistricting was done around 1998 for the completion of the HAW school addition. A committee was established with representation from each school including each PTA. All of the elementary children were "pinned" on a large map with different colors for each grade level. The committee looked at the number of streets and the numbers of children and made the decision about who would go where. It was a fairly smooth review as it was predictable and everyone knew that this was happening due to the expansion of the Hawley School. If the children were in their final year and the parents didn't want them to be re-districted, they were given the option to stay at their current location as long as they provided transportation.