



Elementary Building Use Task Force Final Report

School Committee Meeting
December 16, 2013

Why Study Wayland's Elementary Schools?

- A concern that enrollment was significantly increasing, creating a need for classroom space not supported by the current configuration.
- A concern about the space needs at Happy Hollow in particular.
- A concern about the size of the enrollment at the Claypit Hill School.
- A concern that the current model left little room for future flexible of space whether for enrollment or programmatic reasons.



Phase I: The Charge

The charge of the Task Force is to identify options and priorities regarding the utilization of elementary space, and conduct a cost/benefit analysis for each option to ensure an equitable, high quality educational program for all students.

Composition of the Task Force

- **3 Current Parents** – One from each Elementary School
- **3 Community Members** – One from each of the three elementary school districts as they were previously constituted.
- **3 Teachers**
- **3 Elementary Principals**
- **3 Central Office Administrators:** Director of Student Services, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent
- **1 School Committee Member**

Phase I: An Overview

- **Meetings** (10, two-hour meetings, public forum)
- **Gathering Information** (Enrollment Projections, Maps)
- **Soliciting Public and Staff Feedback** (Press releases)
- **Analyzing Variables**
- **Establishing Options**
- **Narrowing Options Using Weighted Variables**
- **Six, Then Three, Recommended Options**

The Variables

- Impact on the whole child
- Academic impact
- Staffing
- Class size
- Future flexibility
- Implications for the transition to the new model from the Current Model
- Redistricting
- Space Use
- Transportation
- Cost

Initial Phase I Options

- K -5 Schools
- Grade Level Schools (K-1, 2-3, 4-5)
- Lower Elementary (K-1, Two 2-5)
- Upper Elementary (Two K-3, 4-5)
- Current (Two 1-5, K)
- Current Plus Split Grade 1 (K-1, 2-5, 1-5)

Phase I Recommended Options

- **K -5 Schools** – Each of the three buildings would house students in Grades K-5, within its geographic catchment area.
- **Lower Elementary** – Loker would house all K and Grade 1 students. Claypit Hill and Happy Hollow would each house Grades 2-5.
- **Upper Elementary** – Either Loker or Happy Hollow would house all the students in Grades 4-5. The remaining two buildings would each house students in Grades K-3.

Phase 2: The Charge

The Superintendent's Elementary Building Task Force (Phase 2) will research the elementary space options recommended by the first Task Force, conduct a detailed cost/benefit analysis for each option and continue to solicit public and staff input.

Based on this information, the Task force will recommend to the Superintendent the preferred option with a proposed implementation timeline in a written report which summarizes the reasons for its recommendation.

The underlying goal is to ensure an equitable, high quality educational program for all elementary students.

The Ongoing Work: An Overview

The Task Force set out to research the three identified options in the following manner:

- Reviewed student demographic information and its impact on the total number of classes per grade level.
- Conducted a review of related research studies.
- Visited the Georgetown and Norton School Systems.
- Identified the relative pros and cons of each model.

54 Regular Classrooms

- Based on our revised projections, the Task Force determined that, for planning purposes, we needed to anticipate at least 9 classrooms at each grade level, or 54 elementary classrooms in all.
- We learned that Wayland's demographics will not support a K-5 Model that has 3 classrooms per grade at Happy Hollow, 3 at Loker, and 4 at Claypit Hill. That would equal 60 classrooms.

Two K-5 Options

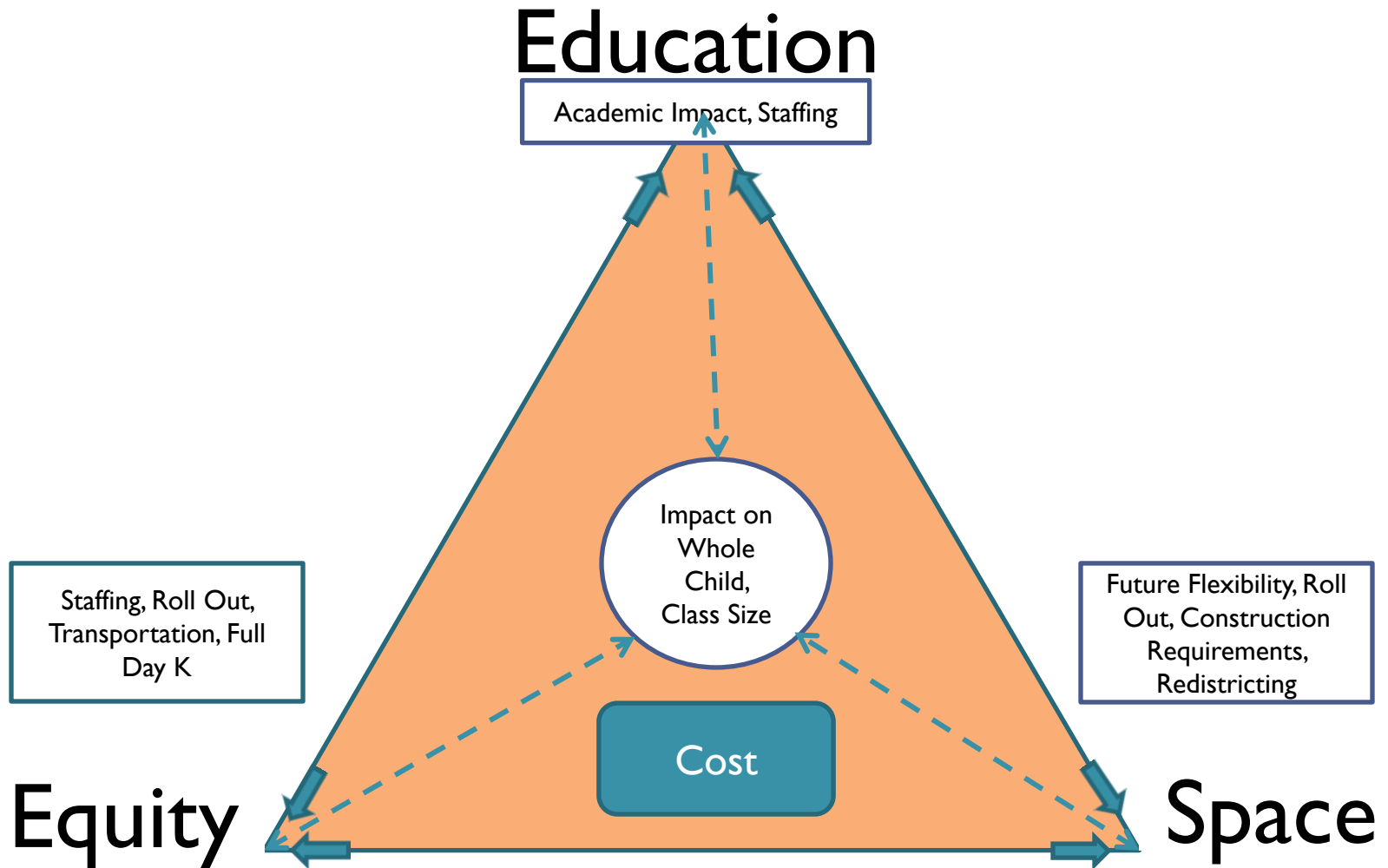
We learned that with 54 classrooms, there are essentially two K-5 viable options:

- The 2,3,4 K-5 Option: In this option, Claypit Hill would have 4 classrooms per grade, or 24 classrooms total. Either Loker or Happy Hollow would have one school of 2 classrooms per grade, or 12 classrooms total. The remaining school would have 3 classrooms per grade or 18 total.
- The 3,3,3 K-5 Option: In this option, all three schools would have 3 classrooms per grade, or 18 total.

Classrooms per Option (Given 54 Classrooms)

	Happy Hollow	Loker	Claypit Hill
K-5 (3-3-3)	18	18	18
K-5 (2-3-4)	12	18	24
K-5 (3-2-4)	18	12	24
Upper Elementary	16	18	20
Lower Elementary	16	18	20

The Triangle: A Balancing Act



Final Task Force Recommendation

- The Task Force narrowed the options to:
 - K-5 (2,3,4)
 - Lower Elementary
- Although more Task Force members leaned toward the K-5 model, they could not reach consensus.

The Superintendent's Recommendation

- K-5 Schools
- School Size
 - Loker: 12 classrooms, 2 per grade
 - Happy Hollow: 18 classrooms, 3 per grade
 - Claypit Hill: 24 classrooms, 4 per grade
- Buffer Zones
- Transition Plan: Current 4th Graders stay put

12 Classrooms at Loker

- **Transition Plan**
 - Building One New School, Not Two
- **Geographic Catchment Area**
 - More evenly distributed given housing density
 - Closer alignment with previous K-5 catchment areas

The Rationale

- Educational Achievement
- Sense of Community
- Vertical Alignment
- Wide Grade Span
- Improved Transportation
- Future Flexibility
- Strong Parental Support

The Transition Issues

- Remaining attentive to the developmental needs in the primary grades.
- Carefully planning the logistics of a smooth rollout.
- Maximizing the strengths and addressing the challenges of a small school.

The Trade Offs

- **Limitations in Full Day Kindergarten Slots**
- **Uncertainty Created by Buffer Zones**
 - A buffer zone is an area for which individual addresses may be assigned to one of two elementary schools.
- **The Costs are Significant**

The Capital Costs

- **Loker Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovation**
 - \$211,400
- **Happy Hollow Cafeteria and Art Room Renovation**
 - \$200,000
- **Happy Hollow Nurse's Area**
 - \$85,000 (approved, Spring 2013 Town Meeting)
- **Total: \$496,400**

The Capital Costs

If Wayland does not move to a new configuration, there would remain the need to remedy the common space issues at Happy Hollow.

The Happy Hollow renovation costs in this circumstance, based on the February 24, 2012 TBA Architectural Study, were estimated to be \$461,500.

The Ongoing Costs

The K-5 Transition: Additional Operating Budget Costs		
Librarian	0.4	\$ 24,456
Specialists	0.8	\$ 73,382
Special Ed. Teachers	2	\$122,280
Special Ed. Teacher Assistants	2	\$ 47,482
Guidance	0.5	\$ 30,570
Speech/OT	0.4	\$ 24,456
Special Ed. Team Leader Stipend		\$ 3,636
ELL Teacher Assistant	1	\$ 23,741
Principal	0.7	\$ 77,600
Building Sub	1.5	\$ 36,465
Secretary	1	\$ 24,798
Custodian	1	\$ 44,679
Moving Expenses (one year only)		\$ 37,500
Library Upgrades (one year only)		\$ 23,600
TOTAL		\$594,645.00