

Brunswick School Department
Facilities Plan Public Forum
Meeting Report
January 23, 2016

Revised Draft of February 12, 2016



Good Group Decisions

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This report is organized by topic, not necessarily the order in which things were discussed.

About the Meeting

Objectives and Attendance

This meeting was designed for the Brunswick School Department and the Brunswick community to accomplish the following objectives:

- To provide background and information to the public on potential options for moving forward on a facilities plan
- To understand the issues of priority for our community in regards to selecting a facilities plan and to hear public input on the potential options presented
- To have an opportunity as a community to discuss key issues and the different options for moving forward and to hear one another's perspectives

About 80 people attended, including members of the School Committee and Town Council.

Agenda

This is the Agenda that was planned and generally followed.

- 9:00 **Welcome**
William Thompson, School Board Chair at Large, will begin the meeting with welcoming remarks.
- 9:05 **About the Meeting**
Facilitator, Leigh Tillman, will review the ground rules, objectives, and agenda for the meeting.
- 9:15 **Presentations**
We will hear the following presentations to provide background for the day's discussions:
- History – Richard Ellis, Brunswick School Board (5 minutes)
 - School-Based Experience – Steve Ciembroniewicz, Coffin School Principal, and Walter Wallace, Brunswick Junior High School Principal (5 minutes)
 - Options for Moving Forward and Implications of Each Option – Lyndon Keck, PDT Architects, Richard Ellis, and William Thompson (10 minutes total)

William Thompson will also explain briefly how today's Public Forum fits into the larger process. We will bring any questions and comments raised by the presentations to our breakout group sessions.

- 9:40 **Breakout Session One – Key Issues**
We will breakout into small groups to discuss what we see as the key issues in determining how we proceed with a facilities plan. Breakout groups will prioritize their ideas to report back to the whole group.
- 10:15 **Breakout Session Two – Provide Input on Four Options**
We will move quickly back into our breakout groups to discuss and assess the four options presented today. Breakout groups will prioritize their ideas to report back to the group at large. There will be a built-in break during this portion of the agenda.
- 11:45 **Provide Written Input**
We will take a moment to fill out a feedback form as another opportunity to provide input on the facilities plan.
- 11:55 **Closing Remarks**
William Thompson will conclude the meeting with closing remarks and details about the process going forward.
- 12:00 **Adjourn**

Ground Rules

Facilitator Leigh Tillman explained the following ground rules and asked that they be honored in order to have an inclusive, productive, and efficient meeting.

- What's best for the Brunswick school system as a whole
- Big picture and long term
- All views heard
- Please be recognized to speak
- Constructive criticism most welcome
- No need to agree
- Minimize distractions
- Move quick!
- Learning together
- Neutral facilitation and report

Introductory Remarks

William Thompson, School Board Chair at Large, made brief opening remarks as follows:

- Welcomed the group, thanked everyone for coming out, thanked volunteer facilitators, thanked Good Group Decisions, thanked cafeteria staff for bringing food.
- Explained a little bit about the agenda - initial presentations and then small groups. Asked for open minds and listening to each other's questions.

Facilitator Leigh Tillman made brief opening remarks as follows:

- Reviewed ground rules, objectives, and agenda for the meeting. See above.
- Thanks to Bill for opening. Leigh explained that she was here to help with process.
- Leigh explained that we are here to share and learn about the options and hear from each other.
- Leigh explained that we chose a "breakout model" for this meeting which means that we will be spending quite a lot of time in small group discussions.
- Leigh explained that there are two ways to give input today: in breakout groups and then in writing on a Community Input Form. Know that you have both of those opportunities.
- In response to someone's desire to speak to the entire group, Leigh encouraged the person to share those concerns right in the breakout groups. IF we move through everything smoothly there might be the opportunity at the end for anyone to speak to the whole group.
- Bill explained that the person was welcome to come to any school board meeting and that this meeting is intended to gather broad data from many members of community.

Presentations

The following presentations were made to provide background for the day's discussions.

History

Richard Ellis, Brunswick School Board, presented the following:

- In summer 2011 we began evaluating vendors to conduct an analysis of current facilities
- Harriman Associates was selected
- In Phase 1 of the Facilities Master Plan there were several engineering challenges identified
 - In June 2012 a comprehensive report of building deficiencies was prepared
 - In June 2012 there was a vote to close Jordan Acres, expand Coffin, and renovate the Junior High School
- We engaged PDT Architects for those plans - Phase 2 of Facilities Master Plan
- Many meetings were held and we looked at a variety of factors and options - structural, size, location, expansion opportunities
- In 2013, options were presented for Coffin and JHS
 - We developed a concept which was a new 660-student Pre-K through Grade 2 school
- Eventually arrived at the point where we voted on specifically moving forward towards a repair plan, because we couldn't develop consensus on our Board
- Board voted 7-2 to do repair plan and address pressing issues
- Brought to Town Council and public referendum
- Council was not yet ready to support that plan but instead wanted to look at new building options
- It's been a weaving path
- We hope to take data from the past 5 years and your ideas today for solutions and what you see as the top deficiencies.
- We don't expect to have a final solution today but we are gathering good information from you.

(Note: See full Facilities Master Plan Timeline in the Forum Packet, available at <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/1-23-16-public-forum-packet.pdf>)

School-Based Experience

Steve Ciembroniewicz, Coffin School Principal, and Walter Wallace, Brunswick Junior High School Principal, presented the following:

- We both have experience at schools and have been providing input to this process since 2011
- Junior High School experience
 - In depth and interesting process
 - Harriman met with whole staff to understand our needs: facilities and programming
 - We also identified needs for breakout space for science, arts, etc.
 - We tried to involve all stakeholders.
 - PDT took all that work and clarified further.
 - They came up with drawings - 2 ideas for renovations
 - We considered those as staff and provided feedback
 - A Facilities subgroup looked at fifth grade projections - what would it be like to add a hundred more students, what are the programming needs, etc.
- Coffin experience
 - In 2012 we were looking at three draft plans for major renovations for Coffin
 - In January 2013, a more formalized plan was developed and there was some input from staff
 - There was a shift in focus when we considered new construction at Jordan Acres
 - It was a very interactive process - staff was very well heard
 - We looked at mock ups of plans
 - We imagined needs for a K-2 school
 - Lots of feedback was incorporated
 - January 2014 was the last time we did work on this



Options for Moving Forward and Implications of Each Option

Lyndon Keck of PDT Architects described the four Master Plan options, making the following comments:

- Brunswick Schools have been working with 2 firms for 5 years on these issues
- Today is a great opportunity

- There are 3 major areas of struggle, as I see it
 - Old buildings
 - In America, in general, school buildings last 40 years and then we need to make major repairs, renovate, or build new
 - Coffin is now 61 years old
 - At the Junior High, the oldest part is 57 years old and newest wing is 33 years old
 - Buildings are tired and old
 - Cost to taxpayers
 - You have built 2 schools over last 18 years, so far with low impact on local taxes due to help from state
 - For Coffin and the Junior High, you do not have financial assistance from the State of Maine
 - Any solution, whether modestly affordable or very expensive, will fall entirely on local community
 - This is a struggle for the Board
 - You are also trying to do a Strategic Master Plan
 - You don't want to kick the can down the road
 - You are trying to anticipate problems in future, trying to be strategic
 - You don't want to have an orphan building with nothing done for 20 years
- The four options
 - General
 - There have been 2 dozen floor plans prepared, including replacements and renovations
 - Some of the most viable options included demolishing Jordan Acres and building a new school
 - At Coffin there are several schemes for light renovations and repairs, or for a new building
 - Several schemes for the Junior High as well
 - Board has narrowed options down to four
 - Too hard to effectively evaluate 15-16 options
 - Option 1: Build new elementary school and repair Junior High
 - New elementary at Jordan Acres site
 - Common core facilities in the middle
 - Option 2: Addition, renovation, and repair to Coffin and repair to Junior High
 - Large new addition to Coffin and modest renovations
 - Could be modest or expensive
 - Board trying to keep prices low
 - Option 3: Repair to both Coffin and Junior High and a 12-room portable unit at Coffin
 - Do repairs only to 2 schools
 - Board would continue to apply for financial help to build new school in the future
 - Would cost about \$12 million

- Repairs on the inside
- New portable structures at Coffin
- This is a “waiting” solution that addresses critical repairs
- Option 4: Do nothing
 - No major repairs
 - Do small repairs as needed via CIP program
 - No major bond issue or referendum

(See additional information and sketches in the Forum Packet, available at <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/1-23-16-public-forum-packet.pdf>)

Rich Ellis added the following comments on the presentation of the four options:

- Would like to clarify and emphasize that each of the first 3 options presume moving 2nd grade out of Harriet Beecher Stowe [HBS] and into other buildings.
 - This would alleviate crowding issues at HBS
- The intent is to build a building to accommodate K-5 models
 - Today we are focusing on the building itself - not necessarily how the grades are physically configured. Consider building, neutral of configuration.
- Financial aspects of Option 1
 - What it will cost the town and when?
 - The year over year tax impact is a 2.8-3.8% increase, then 3.87% in a few years
 - Option 2B is cheapest though not as thoroughly evaluated
 - 4.46% is the year one tax impact
 - The range is 3.8 -4.46% in that year
 - Further out, taxes go down as bonds fall out
- Option 2
 - Operating costs will be more because there is more space
 - 6.7% tax impact initially, then not as much later
- Option 3
 - Costs of repairs to Coffin, Junior High, and new portables
 - 1.5% tax impact
 - There may be additional costs related to moving a bus garage

(See additional financial information in the Forum Packet, available at <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/1-23-16-public-forum-packet.pdf>)

Process Going Forward

Bill Thompson presented on how today's Forum fits into the overall process:

- We plan to take data that we glean from today, reconvene as a Board, discuss, winnow down our options, and take to the Town Council.
 - Then it will be decided if it goes to public hearing or not.
- Hopefully there will be a referendum to vote as a community on one of the options
- We will present a specific option and the community can vote for or against it
- This is not your only opportunity to weigh in - there will be other meetings of the School Board, Town Council, and public meetings to discuss that public referendum.
- This is not the only discussion we want to have about the future of our schools. We want to discuss what schools will look like to meet needs of our community
- Please stay engaged as a community
 - We want to hear your thoughts on how the buildings can be utilized as schools and how the buildings fit with the larger community
 - About 17% of the population use schools, yet we want to serve the community as a whole
- We want to produce the best kids in the state that we can all be proud of
- A final note - some of you have expressed concern also about adding to our school programmatic budget. You get to vote on that in June. A reminder that we don't want to jeopardize our programs in favor of our facilities.

Key Issues - Breakout Session One

Everyone broke into small groups to discuss what people see as the key issues in determining how to proceed with a facilities plan.

Summary of Key Issues

Breakout groups prioritized key issues brainstormed and brought their top three key issues back to the whole group where the following themes were found.

- Operating Budget
- New School / New Site
- Creation of a Sense of Community
- Programming Considerations
 - What's best for kids
 - Quality of programs facilitated by building design
 - Is K-5 right for Brunswick?
 - Pre-K
- Long Term Flexible Solutions
 - Long term solution
 - Sustainable Solution (longevity)
 - Flexibility
 - Flexible and changing models of education and a variety of age groups
 - Capacity for increased growth



Public Comments

After top key issues from all groups were reviewed and grouped by themes, the facilitator asked for any comments or reflections on the top key issues and themes generated. The following comments were made:

- It's almost all parents that are here today and this is not representative of the whole town (who pay the bills)

- Clarified that Option 4 is not only “do nothing” - but also “start from scratch” or “I have another idea”
- There is an Option 5: Build a new elementary school on the High School grounds or at Brunswick Landing, repair Coffin and repair the Junior High School, and sell Jordan Acres.
 - Rich responded: We looked at the availability of land in town, at the High School, and at Brunswick Landing. We did consider it and there are issues with each site.

Key Issues by Breakout Group

Below are all key issues brainstormed in all breakout groups. After brainstorming, each breakout group voted to demonstrate what issues were of the utmost priority in determining a facilities plan. The numbers indicate the number of votes that issue received in a prioritizing activity.

Group 1-2

- Is K-5 right for Brunswick?- 10
- Like to see new school but not at Jordan Acres- 5
- Public Pre-K- 5
- Missing:- 3
 - Student education experience
 - Peer group
 - Best structure
 - One size doesn't fit all
 - Look at more than just seats and location
- → no reason not to build new school- 2
- Sooner rather than later- 2
- More classrooms → need to solve that- 2
- Safety- 1
- Make big schools feel small- 1
- See something done- 1
- Need a plan- 1
- Costs
 - Net debt service
 - Decision about building new school
 - Future costs- 1
- Solidarity
- \$ and longevity
- Not just zoning into idea of school
- What is best for all of our students?

- Configuration should be same
 - Look at data/ results of current configuration
- Students do better in smaller school, fewer transitions
- Younger kids with older kids
- Add to tax base
- Sell JA to a developer
- Teacher input- what do they think?

Group 3-4

- Flexible and changing models of education and variety of age groups – 11
- Quality of programs facilitated by building design – 9
- Creation of a sense of community- 7
- Cost- long term viability of building- 4
- Health - asbestos? And safety and ADA – 2
- Cohesive/ continuity through grade levels- 2
- Economic diversity- 1
- Ability for cross-grade interactions - 1
- Ability to accommodate student population - 1
- Accessibility
- Team teaching supported- schools within schools
- Ease of transportation- centralized
- Single bathrooms
- Balance of cost + quality
- Town is proud of it

Group 5-6

- Solutions that are sustainable (not band-aides)- 18
- Building with longevity- 4
- Capacity for increased growth- 3
- Develop a program that has buy in from entire community- 2
- Flexibility (ability to rethink/ redirect)- 2
- Utilize natural sunlight, other systems that are cost efficient- 1
- Thinking long term- 1
- No state funding- 1
- Pre-K space + integration
- Cost/ benefit analysis of Pre-K in system

Group 7-8

- Long term solutions- 11
- What is best for kids- 5
- Operating budget- 3
- Schools as community asset- 3
- Smaller community feel, 100 too big- 2
- Educational equity- 2
- Capacity- 1
- Size of school- 1
- Impact on quality of education- 1
- Get rid of portables- 1
- Extent of state funding
- Population trends
- Listen to staff
- Life cycle design- consider 100 year buildings
- Balance of cost + ed program (house poor)
- Consider comp. plan
- Great American neighborhoods
- Keep neighborhood feel
- Keeping community affordable

Input on Four Options - Breakout Session Two

We then returned to breakout groups. All participants had the opportunity to provide input and comment on each of the four options. Each breakout group prioritized ideas generated into their top pros and cons of that option. These were compiled from all groups and reported out to the whole group. Below are:

- Top pros and cons from all groups reported out
- Comments made during report out
- All ideas generated from all breakout groups – the numbers indicate number of votes that idea received in a prioritization activity

Option 1 – New Elementary School & Repair BJHS

Top Pros and Cons from All Groups

Pros

- Long term solutions- 3
- Better use for space for BJHS- 1
- Reconfiguration possibilities
- Spreads out tax impact

Cons

- Kicks the BJHS can down the road- 3
- Tax impact- 2
- \$ in annual expenditures and operating budget- 1
- Transition to another site

All Ideas on All the Charts

Group A

Pros

- Opens up BJHS lot/more space at both places – 8
- Greatest flexibility for programming – 7
- Spreads cost over long term/ low interest rates- 4
- Opportunities for innovation- 2
- School in another part of town- 2
- Maintains central bus location - 1
 - \$\$ Savings - community values – 2
- Library options!- 1

- Long term investment- 1
- Potential for growth
- Possibilities
- Promotes smaller school communities
- Configuration
- Pre-K/ walkable
- Minimize disruption during work
- More community space

Cons

- Highest cost overall (long term)- 3
- Kicks BJHS down the road- 1
- Walkability?

Group B

Pros

- Long term solution- 13
- Spreads out tax impact- 5
- Better use of space for BJHS (more fair)- 3
- JHS repair leaves opening for state funding- 1
- Coffin kids not displaced
- Energy efficiency
- Bus garage stays (\$ save)
- Improve safety at JHS

Cons

- \$\$ in annual expenditures- 10
- Transition to another site for students- 2
- Spreads us further apart- 1
- Operating budget implications
- Unlikely to get state funding

Group C

Pros

- Reconfiguration possibility- two elementary schools- 7
- Long term solutions!- 5
- Interest rates are lowest now- 2
- Family/ staff morale/ community values schools- 1
- Smaller- 1
- Coffin students not disturbed during building
- Make a decision!
- Walkable for many
- More space (land donation)

- More gradual tax increase
- Attract new/ more families
- \$2 million in energy efficiency
- New zero possibilities/ innovation
- Learning opportunities
- Goodbye portables!
- 2nd grade together
- More acres/ traffic patterns- possibility?
- 1 school would be fully addressed
- Opportunities for learning communities

Cons

- Tax impact- 5
- Loss of proximity- 5
- Inflation of labor/ materials- 2
- Separation/ lost connections among grade levels- 2
- Traffic flow?
- Delays JHS
- Replacement



Group D

Pros

- Long term solution/ better investment- 14
- Greater flexibility for configuration- 2
- Pre-K- 2
- Safety- 1
- Reflects better values/ more progression
- More desirable Brunswick
- Flexibility for teaming/ programming
- Lack of disruption/ displacement during construction
- Brings a school to another part of town
- Traffic flow- decreasing bus/ increasing walkers

Cons

- Cost impact on operating budget- 6
- Why no major work at BJHS?- 5
- Kick JHS can- 3
- Decentralize transportation- 2
- Spreads schools out even more- 1

- Lack of clarity on timeline for BJHS- 1
- Jordan Acres is narrow/ walking/ biking
- Cost for demolition of two schools

Option 2 – Renovate Coffin, with Addition, & Repair BJHS

Top Pros and Cons from All Groups

Pros

- Community support for funding
- Keeps schools centralized + ease of access
- Removes all portables at Coffin
- Alleviate space issues at HBS
- Adding space for Pre-K
- Creates an option for K-5 campus on Columbia
- Gets rid of portables at Coffin/ library inside
- Brings all of 2nd grade over to Coffin/ reduces crowding at HBS
- Preserves proximity of HBS/ Coffin/ BJHS
- Removes portables at Coffin
- Appears to be a compromise solution
- Building upon/ investing in a currently successful school

Cons

- 15 year life cycle of repairs
- Leaves portables at BJHS
- Short-sighted/ no longevity
- Crowds Columbia St. campus and adds safety concerns
- Waste of money
- Not a long term solution
- Renovations/ repairs would likely happen w/ students in session
- Highest short term tax impact
- Crowding @ Coffin/ BJHS campus
- Most of Coffin will not look or feel different
- Expensive for a 15 year life cycle
- Less opportunity for a state of the art building that takes advantage of green technology
- Poor financing option

All Ideas on All the Charts

Group A

Pros

- Building upon/ investing in a currently successful school- 4
- Appears to be a compromise solution- 4
- Remove all portables at Coffin- 3
- Adds Pre-K- 1
- Like the idea of fixing something and using it- 1
- Maintains more walkability + biking than JA site

Cons

- Expensive for a 15 year lifecycle – 12
- Less opportunity for a state of the art building that takes advantage of green technology- 4
- Unclear/ unknown transition impact for kids during renovation
- Poor financing option
- Unknown impact on BJHS

Group B

Pros

- Preserves proximity of HBS/ Coffin/ BJHS- 4
- Preserve history of Coffin in town- 1
- Opportunity to build on community of Coffin- 1
- Possibility of a loan from state

Cons

- Not a long term solution- 7
- Renovations/ repairs would likely happen w/ students- 6
- Highest short term tax impact- 1
- Most of Coffin will not look or feel different, rooms won't change- 1
- Crowding @ Coffin/ BJHS campus- 1
- Disruption to Coffin community
- Increasing student/ parent traffic flow
- Loss of green outdoor space/ play space
- Increases operating costs- only opt that does that

Group C

Pros

- Adding space for Pre-K- 8
- Creates an option for a K-5 campus on Columbia- 5
- Gets rid of portables @ Coffin! Library inside- 3

- Keep location of littles near HBS
- Moderate energy efficiency

Cons

- Short-sighted/ no longevity- 12
- Crowds Columbia St. campus + adds safety concerns- 3
- HBS + Coffin too close if it was K-5- redistricting issue- 2
- Waste of money- 2
- Building on top of playground- 1
- Town council won't support it
- Kids going during renovations disruptive
- Jeopardizes staffing + admin @ Coffin because of large #'s
- Big tax hit up front
- Still have 2 old schools

Group D

Pros

- Community support for funding- 6
- Keeps schools centralized + ease of access- 6
- Alleviate space issues @ HBS- 5
- Gets rid of portables at Coffin- 2
- Heritage/ tradition- 1
- Space for Pre-K
- Recycling what we already have

Cons

- 15 year life cycle of repairs- 13
- Leaves portables at BJHS- 2
- Bus barn still near small kids- 1
- Not everyone is close to this location- less accessible- 1
- Ambiguity in this designs flexibility for age grouping
- Renovations may disrupt programming
- Cost of bus garage not factored in
- Accessibility for walkers and bikers

Option 3 – Repair Coffin School/BJHS & Add Portable Unit to Coffin

Top Pros and Cons from All Groups

Pros

- Library out of portables
- Solves overcrowding at HBS
- Centralized campus
- Starts immediately
- Less impact on program funding for schools
- Lightest impact on tax base
- Leaves possibility for state funding for long term solution
- Less impact (work done over summers)
- Interest rates low today
- Decreased concerns for school operation budget
- Maintain proximity of 3 schools

Cons

- 10 year plan vs 40 year plan
- No Pre-K
- Unattractive to new families
- 10 year lifespan
- Savings may vanish/ cast an illusion—may increase
- Does not address timelines in making decisions- other issues will come- finding consensus takes a long time
- Investing in temporary solution
- Process will continue for years and years
- Safety during construction
- Not a long term solution
- Less likelihood of reconfiguration
- Cost will increase in 10 years

All Ideas on All the Charts

Group A

Pros

- Library out of portables
- Solves overcrowding at HBS

Cons

- 10 year plan vs 40 year plan- 13
- Least flexibility- 6

- Unattractive to new families- 5
- No Pre-K- 3
- Property tax increase + cost of living- 2
- No space accessible to community for non-school activities/ access- 1
- Long term cost
- Reduced property values
- Property tax- long term value
- No new programs/ difficulty for whole school assemblies
- Short term solution

Group B

Pros

- Centralized campus- 16
- Heritage- 2
- Starts immediately- 1
- Students (mostly) not there during work... less disruptive
- May have additional support from community due to cost
- Pick up easier
- Nice arch. Features
- Equal attention elem. + BJHS

Cons

- 10 year life span- 14
- Does not address timeliness in making decisions → other issues will arise- 2
- Savings may vanish/ cost an illusion- may increase- 2
- Replacing portables with portables- 1
- Costs not as flexible
- Rejected by council
- Band-aide
- Lack of clarity about Pre-K
- Possible taxing/ health concerns during renovations
- Traffic not addressed
- Find consensus takes a long time
- Cost/ savings analysis
- Other issues may arise
- Accessibility to all neighborhoods in Brunswick

Group C

Pros

- Less impact on program funding for schools- 8
- Decreases concerns over school operational budget over next few years- 3
- Highest impact on tax base- 2

- Leaves possibility for state funding for long term solution- 1
- Less impact (work done over summer)- 1
- Interest rates low today- 1
- Helps w/ traffic flow @ Coffin/ BJHS- safety- 1
- “Super campus” possibility
- School board supported
- Fixes deferred maintenance
- Financial flexibility for the town

Cons

- Investing in temporary solution- 16
- Process will continue for years and years- 4
- Less likelihood/ option of reconfiguration- 4
- Cost will increase in 10 years- 2
- Chaotic to students on site- 1
- Safety during construction- 1
- Least energy efficient
- Waste of money
- Keeping an overcrowded campus
- Outdated playgrounds
- Possible expense of moving bus garage
- Council did not support
- Interest rates
- No energy efficiency improvements
- Portables still at BJHS

Group D

Pros

- Maintaining proximity of 3 schools- 3
- Less disruption to students at Coffin- 2
- Lowest tax impact overall- 1
- Widens age group at Coffin- 1
- Finish 1 year earlier
- Old portables gone
- Alleviates crowding at HBS
- Traffic pattern improved in/ out of facility
- Possibility of state funds
- Gets work done quickly

Cons

- Not a long term solution/ 10 year solution- 10
- Coffin/ BJHS will appear different.. repair- 2
- New portable
- Relying on portables

- Won't attract new families
- Crowded campus

Option 4 – No Major Repairs, Renovations, or New Building

Top Pros and Cons from All Groups

Pros

- More time for a better plan
- Not increasing cost now
- Coffin + JHS close together
- No tax increase
- No disruption due to construction
- Can free up expenses for other options

Cons

- Build new JHS first
- K-5 @ Coffin/ JHS + move MS to HBS
- Build MS @ HS campus + Columbia campus becomes elem. School
- HBS to MS + Pre-K→5 @ Coffin campus or s elems.
- Evaluate town properties for options
- Columbia to K-5 + convert HBS to JHS

Top New Ideas/Other from All Groups

- Not attracting talent/ families
- Greater risk of emergency repair
- Unsafe
- Higher risk- more expenses later
- Lack of decision stalling other initiatives
- Missing program opportunities
- Loss of families/ students- tax base
- Dangerous
- Risk of disengaging community
- Deferring doesn't solve problem
- Inflexibility affects academic programs



All Ideas on All the Charts

Group A

Pros

- Can free up expenses for other programs- 3
- Continue to look for other locations

Cons

- Deferring doesn't solve problem- 19
- People losing faith in community- 1
- Capacity problem will not be resolved- 1
- Inflexibility academic programs- 2
- CIP will not accommodate needs
- Low interest rates now
- Education taking back seat

New Ideas/ Other

- Evaluating prop. For options- 3
- Columbia to K-5 + convert HBS to JHS- 2
- Build for econ. of same JHS + elem.- 1
- Not understanding CIP process
- New elementary school @ Brunswick landing or H.S.
- Jordan Acres on market

Group B

Pros

- No tax increase- 2
- No disruption due to construction- 1
- Cheaper in short term
- Opportunity for more ideas
- Time to involve greater community
- Please make a decision

Cons

- Loss of families + students/ tax base- 7
- Dangerous- 7
- Risk of disengaging community- 5
- More expensive long term- 4
- Short changes teachers/ kids- 1
- No backup
- Emergency PBL sessions + working fam
- Divides haves + have nots
- State funding unlikely

- No Pre-K
- Demoralizing

New ideas/ other

- HBS to MS + Pre-K-5 @ Coffin campus or 2 elementary schools- 11

Group C

Pros

- Cheaper
- More time to explore options

Cons

- Higher risk of more expensive later- 12
- Stalling other initiatives- 7
- Missing program opportunities- 7
- Kids' safety- 3
- Miss out on low interest- 2
- Limits community access- 1
- Lack of decision
- Not good for kids/ community
- Worst we can do

New Ideas/ Other

- Putting Jordan Acres back on line to add program flexibility

Group D

Pros

- Coffin + JHS close together- 1
- More time for better plan- 1
- Not increasing cost now- 1
- Delay plans for strategic plan devel. + alignment
- May allow delay for state funding

Cons

- Not attracting talent/ families- 8
- Greater risk of emergency repair- 4
- Unsafe- 3
- Citizen/ parent frustration- 2
- Kicking can down road- 1
- Postponing increases \$- 1
- Bad for kids- 1
- Does not address over crowding
- Could lose staff
- Portables stay

- Losing students
- Losing opportunity for clean energy

New Ideas/ Other

- K-5 @ Coffin/ JHS campus + move MS to HBS- 4
- Build MS @ HS campus + Columbia campus becomes elem. school- 2
- Build new JHS first- 1
- Look at other models + other community ties

Public Comments on the Day's Discussions

After all groups reported out, the facilitator asked for comments and reflections from the whole group. The following comments were made.

- During the report-out for Option 4, it was very helpful that Drew gave us extra detail about the vote tallies:
 - There were 9 total votes on pros, 24 total votes on new ideas, and 99 total votes on cons!
 - That is important
- Let's remember that there are options that have been supported by the School Board but shot down by the Town Council
 - Clarifying response: Option 3, repairs at JH and Coffin, was the only option brought before the Council
- How many people here are not parents, Town Council members, or paid employees of the schools?
 - *[1 person raised their hand]*
 - We give the schools \$37 million per year
 - We can't afford to give another 3% annual increase in taxes
 - I am concerned about maintenance - we have zero maintenance budgeted
 - Option 4 should say "Maintain the schools we have already paid for"
 - Consider our community. We are all in this together. I am concerned about additional financial stress on our community.
- Clarification that repairs to the Junior High are the same in Options 1 - 3. Also, the current mobile structures stay in all three options.
- It seems that there are some new ideas emerging. That is different than what I understood Option 4 was about.
- Option 4 could mean "We are going to continue to explore new ideas quickly" vs. "We are not taking any specific new actions"

Closing Remarks

William Thompson concluded the meeting with the following brief remarks:

- Thanks to everyone for coming
- Hope you found it fruitful and worthwhile
- Hope you continue to be involved
- Hope you feel heard
- Eventually we have to make decisions and we won't be able to accommodate everything we heard today. When that happens we are not ignoring you or certainly not purposely ignoring you. Please don't disengage.
- Thanks Councilors
- Thanks Board members
- Thanks to Leigh!

Appendix – Written Community Input

Community Input Forms were provided and participants were encouraged to write and submit answers to four questions. All responses are provided below exactly as submitted.

1. What are three things you learned today?

- How well we can all work together, in a calm and effective way!
- The 4 options on the table
- Parents in our community care
- Interest rates on loans
- Critical need for improvement
- Different aspects focus & support
- The budgets and plans/ options
- People want a new school
- There are real concerns about configuration
- We might have more ideas than these three current plans
- Doing nothing/ little may not be cheaper
- School board proposed option #3 but town council decided not to engage in public comment.
- Almost everyone who attended today were almost all parents.
- No net percent value analysis seems to have been done regarding financial
- Impact of different options.
- There is more consensus around the concerns & desires in the community than I had previously realized- this is heartening!
- Many people care about this process.
- No options really address BJHS... too much \$\$ for short term solutions.
- Knowing the options more clearly
- Understanding what is important to the community
- There are some good options on the table +
- That people are still considering doing nothing.
- We have a great community that we need to build on.
- Had not understood the long + short term tax impact
- Had not considered financial consequences of delaying new construction in 10 years (higher interest rates likely, higher building costs)
- Had not understood projected lifecycle/ length of cycle for each plan
- To consider low interest rates and the fact that we should therefore do something soon.
- I learned other people's concerns
- I was reminded of how much time has already been spent discussing facilities options

- I learned there really is consensus that opt. 4 is not desirable! There is broad support for change. I learned that the community wants to know what the surrounding access area to J.A. would look like.
- More in depth understanding of the options. Unfortunate that there were not more community/ nonparents in attendance.
- Various options that have been considered
- Took stock of various community opinions
- Was impressed by the number of folks in attendance & how informed community is
- Happy to see more community involvement, hope that it continues. I learned from the community that there is real interest in K-5 schools.
- No costed option includes creating a pre-K → 5 campus @ Coffin/ BJHS & moving BJHS to HBS.
- People in this community care about our kids' education and are respectful of others' ideas and thoughts.
- There's a divide b/w citizens w/ kids and those without/ retirees- I've only been here a few years.
- Community- Brunswick community CARES!
- Community participation matters
- We all have a common goal & that is education
- That there are very few people without kids in school who care enough to show up to voice their opinion
- More about the 3 options
- That there are a core group who care deeply about the schools.
- (1) That everyone acknowledges the (2) path forward has (3) pros and cons.
- That participation makes a difference in our community
- That our community needs more conversations like this- do we know what kind of town we want to have?
- That our school board, superintendents, + teachers deeply care + are reasonable, well-intentioned human beings (I figured that was the case, but this was my 1st community meeting).
- I did not have a clear understanding of the facility options and the pros/ cons of each and how I feel much better informed.
- A great number of people are interested in pursuing configuration changes- 8g- PK-5 seemed to be a goal for a wide swath of people. A lot of work has gone into these various plans w/ a great deal of thought about community impact.
- I really appreciated having the opportunity to hear others ideas
- School board is willing to listen
- Brunswick really wants to do what is best for the kids.
- Pre-K not built into all plans
- Broad concern among parents
- Lack of viability at other sites (Brunswick landing, etc.)
- Helped to clarify the options

- Repairs for Jr. High only solve a 10 year problem
- There is public support for moving Jr. High to HBS + creating a K-5 campus.
- There are many smart, informed, caring people in this community
- Learned more details of the “options”
- That school building are only expected to have a 10 yr life!
- The specific concerns of the condition of schools
- The cost involved
- The board is looking for community involvement and support
- There are too many ideas proposed that are just band-aides on a broken arm
- 5 years of discussion already? Why are people wanting to delay + discuss more?
- (I already knew these...)
- We are fortunate to have a group of thoughtful, considerate, engaged citizens willing to give up a Sat. morning (and more!) to attend such a meeting
- We’re lucky to have the school board that we do
- There is more hope among us than despair
- Clarity on the various options
- How many meetings we’ve had where this discussion has been discussed/ I’m very grateful for the lengthy discussions and time spent but also makes me feel it’s TIME TO DECIDE.
- Brunswick needs to be more forward on making a facilities decision.
- Coffin and BJHS are overcrowded and not an optimal size
- A new school building for Coffin makes the most sense.
- I gained a better understanding of the budget
- People do care!
- The 4 options as developed by the school board.
- That people still have many questions including school board members.
- That one elementary school is still planned upon despite that fact that research shows that smaller neighborhood schools are more successful at meeting students’ needs for continuity + learning.
- N/A- maybe that more people have an interest in this topic than I thought *only 1% have kids in the school system
- What the options really are
- That there are no real long term solutions for the Jr. High
- There are people in our comm. who think only parents value our school
- In spite of trying (and making every attempt) to include the WHOLE COMMUNITY, this process has been for/ about parents of school-age children + school staff. I am not optimistic that it will make the vote go more smoothly.
- Families & staff are dedicated to the Brunswick school system.
- Simplicity in design provides for future flexibility.
- A better understanding of the tax/ cost implications of various options
- A better understanding of what parents w/ kids in different age groups are talking about
- Concerns of attendees

- People are really concerned that students here get a great education
- Officials (some) are too set in their ideas to really consider looking at things differently.
- Just how hard this is
- There is more support for new school
- Parents more supportive of new school than I thought they would be
- That we must do something now
- That we have an amazing community of smart, engaged citizens
- Better understanding of finances related to each options
- Better understanding of options on table
- The length of time that has passed without a decision or direction (5 years?!)
- Virtually impossible to draw non-parents into substantive discussion about schools
- New “frame” perhaps one reason Coffin works- it is very simple physically- doesn’t respect “new ideas” or innovation in its physical form. (Despite the single loaded corridors which are difficult).
- I learned that the parents + concerned citizens who turned out today are extremely thoughtful and respectful regarding this process, but are also reaching a point of frustration that requires action.
- Tax impact for each option
- Public collaboration is more effective when organized
- Parents are the only residents willing to take advantage of school-related forums.
- That most parents are willing to pay higher taxes for better and safer schools to be built.
- That non-parents are not necessarily in that same camp.

2. What are the two top concerns you have leaving today’s meeting?

- That an economically diverse student population be present in any school configurations
- We won’t make a decision!
- Cost to taxpayers and property taxes
- Best cost effective solutions
- This community’s inability to make decisions and how slow we move when changes are needed
- Balancing desire for a solution worth paying for with our ability to pay
- Ensuring what we build is flexible
- Lack of communication and poor analytic capability of school board.
- Lack of community involvement- missing key stakeholder groups, no schedule for future conversations or process for public discussion
- Spending money that will just be temporary fixes
- Coffin remaining the same is not an option
- Focus on options 1-4, which are old options (from years ago now, and this big

decision warrants updated conversation)

- The time it takes us as a community to gain consensus is a great concern (TOO LONG)
- That because of trying to find a consensus we will kick the can down the road and approve a “band-aid” solution rather than a long term solution that will benefit the community
- That there is a possibility that we will do nothing
- Which plan offers the greatest likelihood of support from the Brunswick community who do not have school-aged children? I like option 3 gradual tax rate increases, as opposed to option 2’s sharp short term increase.
- Majority at meeting seem to favor long term solution, as do I. I hope school board + town council favor long-term.
- I am most concerned that the current configuration (K-12; 3-5; 6-8) seems like a fait accompli. I would like to see 2 K-5 schools (pref. at current HBS and Jordan Acres) as a viable option, weighing in the budget, etc. of doing so. This option would be best for the students educational/ social needs (or so the literature says) and should be a fully explored options, not just a possibility.
- That “the can will get kicked” + nothing will be done
- My concern is that we do not continue to dump money into short-term solutions that prolong this conversation with no resolution. I’m concerned that we’ve consolidated our schools in a manner that is unfair.
- Tax impact per year, long-term solution. *Option 1 is the best option considering those concerns*
- Timelines of a solution- Kids needs need to be met now.
- Existence of short-term solutions means we will be continually facing same issues
- That this process will just continue and nothing will happen
- I am concerned about the Jr. High School. Why is it not getting more attention? It is also old and in terrible shape.
- A decision will be made that won’t be in the best interest of educating our children due to financial concerns.
- The community will become more divided about what to do with our schools & facilities.
- BJHS will still be an old school no matter the options chosen.
- That we will have two outdated + unsafe school
- That regardless of this forum the town council will not permit the decision to move forward.
- The 3 options do little to address the issues with the junior high building in a long term manner.
- Because there are pros and cons, there is a possibility of inaction and not making a choice.
- That there will be division to the community.
- That we will “save facilities” at the expense, or to the detriment of programming. I would like our future to have both.
- That we are missing voices of segments of the community who deserve to be

involved.

- The health and safety of our students and teachers right now!
- The swiftness with which we reach a long term solution.
- I don't want to sacrifice educational programs by building a new school- is there enough support to fund a new school while continuing to provide a quality education for all? Are these really the 4 best options?
- That Brunswick will not come to a consensus about options 1, 2, or 3. Option 4 would not be healthy.
- Moving in an efficient manner toward a plan
- Buy-in from the rest of the community
- We need to make a decision so we can have some closure on 5 years of work
- None of the proposals are perfect. We need to keep moral of both teachers + families in the schools up- doing nothing is not an option.
- Long term plan for Jr High
- Passing anything by town council + voter base to get the bond
- That money/ tax concerns will drive everything at the expense of educational/ kid benefit
- Transportation/ access issues seem not to be considered enough.
- More non-parent residents need to attend
- The process was convoluted
- Making sure a long term solution is agreed upon and initiated
- Keeping a community atmosphere in our school system
- What's best for our kids? (my vote is smaller learning communities! But what do the professional journals, best practices, test scores, socio-economists say??)
- More outreach to older population
- Run buses from Thornton Oaks + People Plus to meetings
- I am concerned that making a decision will continue to stall
- I am concerned that low interest rates will not be utilized and BSD will not choose the best long-term solution #1.
- Inaction (we have been doing this for 10 years.
- budget
- Timeframe for decision to be made
- We can't make a decision
- That all options have not been explored. There seem to be many unanswered questions such that people were voting on options that aren't exactly fleshed out or truly conveyed i.e. which options include PRE-k? I.E. In which options is funding for moving the bus garage included?
- Cost for our taxpayers- all taxpayers –hear their voice as well –Who will move out with a large increase?
- How do we go about making a decision w/ options that have so many cons?
- That we still might be years away from actually doing something ☹
- That so much attention is being given to short-term 10-15 year lifetime renovations, rather than a good, solid, long-term solution that would actually have the ability to

turn our town back into the academic leader it once was.

- There are no long-term solutions for the Jr. High
- We cannot do nothing- incredible negative impact on students, faculty, + community. I also worry that stretching out decisions causes more comm. fights + division.
- See the answer I gave for Question 1: In spite of trying (and making every attempt) to include the WHOLE COMMUNITY, this process has been for/ about parents of school-age children + school staff. I am not optimistic that it will make the vote go more smoothly.
- Don't take too long. Make a choice to present to the town council ASAP.
- That we not lose momentum!
- Deciding soon- take advantage of low interest rates- avoid ineffective costs. Getting to consensus needs leadership.
- Something get done soon- consider ed. Value not just budget.
- Jordan Acres should be turned over to the town ASAP + pass immediately to a developer.
- What will sell to the town quickly- we need to start repairs tomorrow.
- Fear of indecision
- "Kicking can down the road process
- Not enough representation of community makeup
- That we could kick the can down the road again (we must do something)
- That we don't have a long-term vision (but, what we do needs to be visionary/ long-term, not a quick fix). ^One does not need to negate the other.
- The lack of leadership within the school board in conjunction with the disconnect between the school board and the town council
- The inefficiencies in this process; especially dealing with the structure of the information presented and the obvious manipulation of financing models to sway support.
- No sense of consensus today
- School board needs to explain why certain options (ex. Brunswick Landing site, HBS as middle school) have been dismissed so we can move beyond.
- The people who don't want to spend any \$ weren't here ☹
- Past decisions (cost based?) have controlled future choices so that schools even as "small" as Coffin is now (400) will not be an option w/ new construction.
- That all of this thoughtfulness and discussion will slowly die down and the energy + excitement about making significant changes to this school system will dissipate and no change will occur.
- Lack of attention/ interest from non-parent community members.
- Convincing the town to invest in a new school
- I really want to see a long-term solution here- no band-aides. Investing in our schools is investing in our community.
- I very much want to see a new junior high become the next priority.

3. What is one lingering question you have?

- How can we really determine building decisions without addressing configuration?
- Will we do something?
- Are people aware money doesn't grow on trees? - Income hasn't gone up w/ cost of living.
- Can we put a firm timeline in place to make a decision?
- How to read the tax increase estimates- are they compounding?
- Why doesn't Brunswick have a better process for making decisions about the town and school budgets?
- Coffin is an issue. The building is OLD and needs to be addressed. I do NOT want my 3 year old going there in 2 years (as is)- will this building really remind the same?
- Why not explore new ideas? Find more of a win-win... All options have BJHS needing major renovations/ new building in 10 years.
- Can the JHS move to the Jordan Acres site? Build a new school there. This would allow the elementaries to have HBS and the bigger campus at Coffin maintain bus schedules.
- Is the K-5 option still available?
- Should we (ever) expect state funds or are we fully expecting that all solutions will be 100% locally funded? What is the probability of getting state funding within the next 5 years?
- How do we get non-parents involved? (advertise @ People Plus? Bus from Thornton Oaks?)
- I'd like to know what the rest of the process looks like, after the S.B. picks one of these options!
- How to best create a small community feel with only 1 school per grade. (one K-2 and one 3-5) or how to create equity if there are two K-5 schools.
- What is best for kids? What does supt's office + administration think will best meet students' & staff needs?
- I'd like to know what the school board and town council thought about the K-5 option and why it was not presented as an option.
- When will we hear about the next step?
- How long will it take to make a decision?
- Why can't we obtain space at the base?
- How will the town council decide to honor school board processes and requests?
- How can help with what comes next.
- How can materials better communicate the context of the conversation for those new to, or less informed about the history, process + Bruns. Schools)
- The capacity of the options v. the current numbers and predicted numbers of students.
- Are these really the 4 best options? What about converting HBS to a MS and making a preK-5 campus at Coffin?
- The junior high plan- when will it be replaced?

- What would it cost to create the K-5 campus, move Jr. High to HBS + solve Jr. High + Coffin issues with ONE bond?
- What's the likelihood of reconfiguration to two K-5 schools is, in any of the options- I would strongly support K-5 config.
- When will a longer term solution for the JHS be discussed?
- Losing sight of the needs of BJHS- so much focus on crowding/ age at Coffin- not enough focus on BJHS.
- Has the idea of HBS being used as a middle school been entertained?- with Coffin & BJHS as an elementary campus
- What private funding options are there meeting operating budgets. Is there a higher number of special ed students per district?
- Where is educational philosophy of the Brunswick Schools
- Why are we **only** considering repairs to Jr. High?
- Why doesn't it work to move the middle school to HBS + to reconfigure the middle school + Coffin (or also include Jordan Acres as a second option) into a site for K-5? Why not do something more significant than minor repairs for the middle school?
- What is our school/ town big vision/ mission statement?
- Why can't architect present an 80-year option?
- How do we pursue any of the "new" ideas? What is the plan if we stay the course + some calamity occurs?
- Is there a way to provide Pre K, but not within our public school facilities? Like the Bath CHOICES programs?
- Can we get enough community support for spending the \$\$ we need to spend to update our schools?
- When to move forward.
- What property does Brunswick own now + what is its need for? The public should be presented w/ a chart clearly showing all schools + town buildings CIP schools not be done w/o this info.
- Is moving the Jr. High to HBS really that cost prohibitive? Moving to a K-5 campus at Coffin makes good community sense for everyone.
- Why Jordan- too congested for busses, bikes, pedestrians, and sports- a lousy location- BUT MUST build new school now. Would be better than not building- but poor location.
- Viability of making Coffin/ BJHS into one K-5 campus (with smaller learning communities within it) and moving BJHS to what is currently HBS- how far has this idea been explored?
- Is the leadership strong enough to make this decision?
- How to we engage community?
- If we got (could get) community support behind a purposeful 5-8 school model could we build a new Jr. High FIRST? Do they need it more if HBS crowding problem is solved?
- Can we tolerate a long-term solution when we really all need and want immediate solution? I think we can but we need our leaders to strike a good balance between the two.

- Will building a new school decimate our operating budget?
- Has the town of Brunswick looked at studies of communities who haven't prioritized schools and how that has impacted those communities? Conversely, what have they seen in the communities that have invested in their schools?

4. Please feel free to provide any additional comments:

- Great! Wonderfully organized! Kudos to the school board!
- Would like to see commonalities on each plan to better differentiate.
- I would like to add that grade configuration was not explicitly discussed, which makes sense, but I think it would be relevant to include a consideration of public pre-K. Contrary to many who have stated support for separate K-5 schools. I prefer the consolidation grade model (concept) because it allows students to develop a cohesive community at a young age. For example, it eases the transition to sixth grade because the students are already familiar with one another.
- I am concerned about putting a plan before voters that isn't guided by a clear and exciting educational vision/ strategic plan.
- Written material for today's meeting was not well written
- Not enough copies of material.
- Not available online
- Process and information presentation can and should be improved.
- The town will be spending money on schools. Taxpayers need to do the best that works for all of us- long-term> building new school.
- How much of an impact would this have on students' learning during construction?
- Excellent facilitation. Felt very productive and educational. Thanks for having this!
- Pre-K needs to be included in whatever decision is made.
- I favor opt. 1 as a new school at J.A. site would help distribute the convenience of accessibility to our schools to all families in Brunswick more evenly.
- We need to make a decision and stop stalling. This was a fantastic opportunity for community input. I appreciated it was a weekend morning.
- Consider advertising forums @ local daycares/ agencies for preschool kids- these decisions will impact those families too.
- Thank you for holding this forum, it was great to learn and listen to community members, board members, and school people ☺
- Thank you so much for inviting us to be part of this important plan. Well done, professionally run forum.
- Deep gratitude for all who have spent so much time + effort on this issue + the interconnected issues. This isn't easy work + your work matters.
- Facilitators were fabulous. Process allowed everyone to be heard.
- I believe option 3 does not necessarily bring the Coffin library into the main building since MS + MS would not be removed.
- If we go w/ option 2 or 3 we need to start planning for "what's next" since they are

still relatively short term solutions. please break down cost of transforming HBS into a Jr. High. Break out cost of 1. K-5 campus at current Coffin + Jr. High 2. Two K-5 schools at shared campus. 3. Discuss with a firm who specializes in building rehab.

- I like the idea of moving the Jr. High to HBS and making the 2 current buildings on Columbia a K-5 campus
- Lets work on getting more types of residents to participate.
- Thank you for this opportunity to participate and provide input.
- Thank you.
- Thank you!
- We need to do this for our community. ALL of our community- for its future citizens, property values, and relevance.
- We have no backup ideas, which are desirable. I truly fear for the current status of our 2 schools. I fear we are on notice of safety concerns- and have not acted.
- Break up the new ideas into an additional option.
- Adding space to promote physical activity (2 gyms) during school/ day
- School board/ administration/ town council should be aware that we seem to be at a tipping point- there are increasing #'s of families who are finally fed up + are considering leaving the system (homeschool, private schools, etc.) Brunswick needs to support its schools in a bold, proud, community building way- we need our schools to again be an asset to our town- rather than a blemish.
- Schools serve us all whether or not we have kids in the system. An educated community benefits all. We need to educate our community on this. We being everyone here- not just school board's responsibility. Thanks for this opportunity to be educated + heard.
- Please, please, please reconsider a K-5 configuration. I think putting more grades together- keeping siblings/ families together in the same building for more years- is much more important than keeping school size smaller and will also make stronger school communities.
- Thanks to the facilitators for doing such a good job.
- Also concerned w/ reputation of Brunswick. For the health and growth of our town- need to be able to attract new citizens and keep those we have.
- The financing models are skewed and not the only option to fund the projects. Also do not incorporate maintenance costs and overall bigger picture budget considerations. Better presentation of \$ impacts over the lifetime at the schools is critical for a sound data based decision. K-5 needs to be part of the solution: process is facilities focused + budget focused and misses the keypad → educating students.
- PARENTS (who dominated public forum) have short-term concerns: is this teacher right for my child this year?; is my child in the right mix of age groups? TAXPAYERS (esp those without children in the schools who were not at the forum) probably, or may take a longer/ broader view: what will lead to a better community? How much can we afford? What is long-term impact cost of funding, longevity of town facilities?
- I did not expect to find myself getting excited about option 2- but I did... somehow the idea of: building on/ investing in something that is working, being "green" by refraining from demolishing an existing building, "saving" the JA site for potential

use by a new Jr. High (which would continue to leave the K-5 population close together @ the HBS site and the Columbia street site) became appealing.

- It's important that we keep Brunswick as an attractive place for young families to move to and stay in.
- Very well organized.