

November 20, 2009

## Pre-K – 8 Elementary School RE-Configuration Proposal

Submitted by Principals: Brooks (Sabattus), Albert (Wales), Lajoie-Cameron (Litchfield), Ireland (Asst./Sabattus), Jack (Asst./Litchfield)

The principals from all three towns, representing all 5 elementary schools, have agreed to submit this proposal to the Superintendent of Schools for RSU #4, James Hodgkin.

We believe that our primary objective is to maintain programs for our elementary students while striving for equality across schools and grade levels. This proposal will definitely impact the number of teachers required per grade level but will not impact programs.

Special education staff, unified arts teaching staff and other support personnel configuration are not considered in this current draft.

- ✚ Discontinue Wales Central School as a K-8 facility.
- ✚ Move K, 1 and 2 Wales' students to Libby-Tozier School
- ✚ Keep Litchfield Pre-K, K, 1 and 2 at Libby-Tozier School
- ✚ Keep Sabattus Pre-K, K, 1 and 2 at Sabattus Primary School
- ✚ Continue to share Pre-K students from Wales between both SPS and LT
- ✚ All students from the three towns in Grades 3-5 will attend Carrie Ricker School.
- ✚ All students in Grades 6-8 will attend Sabattus Central School (Middle School)
- ✚ Move central office staff and alternative program to vacated Wales' building. Sell property on 126.
- ✚ Eliminate 6 teaching positions – grades 3-8

**Estimated number of students by building/classroom:**

**Libby-Tozier Pre-K -2** - - - - -200 students

Morning and afternoon Pre-K – (Average class size – 14)  
3 K classrooms (Average class size – 18)  
3 Grade 1 classrooms (Average class size – 18)  
3 Grade 2 classrooms (Average class size – 16)  
Art, Music and PE rooms available, as well as special education rooms.

**Sabattus Primary Pre-K -2** - - - - -200 students

Morning and afternoon Pre-K (Average class size – 14)  
3 K classrooms (Average class size – 18)  
3 grade 1 classrooms (Average class size – 18)  
3 Grade 2 classrooms (Average class size – 16)  
Art, Music and PE rooms available, as well as special education rooms.

**Carrie Ricker School Grades 3-5** - - - - -300 students

5 Grade 3 classrooms (Average class size – 22)  
5 grade 4 classrooms (Average class size – 19)  
5 grade 5 classrooms (Average class size – 21)  
Art, Music, PE, computer lab rooms available, as well as special education rooms.

**Sabattus Central School Grades 6-8** - - - - -350 students

6 Grade 6 classrooms (Average class size – 23)  
5 Grade 7 classrooms (Average class size – 22)  
5 Grade 8 classrooms (Average class size – 21)

- ✚ Analysis of room availability confirms there is enough space at Libby-Tozier, Carrie Ricker, Sabattus Primary and Sabattus Central to accommodate classrooms indicated above and maintain space for supporting programs.
  
- ✚ We are recommending that Wales’ students who live close to one border or the other, be given some flexibility in determining which school their child will attend when entering Pre-K or K, 1 or 2 newly enrolling, when feasible in relation to class sizes.

- ✚ We recommend that students stay at their first enrolled school (Libby-Tozier or Sabattus Primary) for the remainder of their early elementary schooling so that students do not move between schools until they enter Carrie Ricker at grade 3. There will be exceptions of course.

We recommend that during the transition process, for at least a year:

- Robert Brooks continues as principal of Sabattus Central School
- Jeff Ireland continues as assistant principal of Sabattus Central School
- Brian Albert becomes the principal at Sabattus Primary School
- Christine Lajoie-Cameron continues as principal of Carrie Ricker and Libby-Tozier Schools
- Curt Jack continues as assistant principal at Carrie Ricker and Libby-Tozier Schools

- ✚ We realize that this re-configuration should be more thoroughly planned and implemented over much more time. However, we believe the immediate cost savings out weigh the luxury of time without impacting programs or significantly raising class sizes.

- ✚ We also believe that providing schools within grade level spans will allow us to more fully implement curriculum goals and target areas of instruction. Middle level students will have access to a middle level opportunities.

✚ Conservative estimate of cost savings:	
✚ 6 classroom teacher positions	\$350,000
✚ Sale/upkeep of Central Office facility	????
✚ Probable reduction in support personnel	?????