

The need for school construction aid

Through ACT 46 we consolidated into Slate Valley Unified Union School District. This brought together our 4 Pre-K through 8 schools and our unified high school together under one umbrella. For many years, at the supervisory union board meetings, we had discussed a consolidated middle school. For many reasons this vision never came to fruition. Now as a consolidated union we have the opportunity to fulfill the reality of a union middle school. As we have been working together to consolidate not only our budget but our curriculum, schedules and opportunities at our middle school level, we have determined that the way to increase educational opportunities and achieve efficiencies is to build a consolidated middle school on our high school campus. This will allow our students to work at their highest educational level, be a part of a peer group that they will continue with through high school, and increase opportunity for collaboration and the sharing of ideas. This will allow our district to gain staffing efficiencies including sharing of performing arts space.

In looking at our elementary schools, one of our schools is in need of a new gymnasium/cafeteria/meeting space. Their current space is out of code and no longer appropriate for gym, lunch or performances. It is also located across the parking lot where students need to bundle up to get there. We plan on building a new attached space for the students and community.

In general our buildings are aging and due to possible health reasons amongst many, coupled with declining enrollment and the need for increased opportunities we needed to reimagine our district. As part of that we realized that we do not need all of our buildings. By reconfiguring, it would also benefit us by decreasing staffing with a savings somewhere in the neighborhood of 1.5 million. Without the configuration we cannot decrease staffing any further as it would impact programming.

Submitted by:

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