**April 25, 2022**

Topic of discussion with middle school team (5th-8th): Are we keeping 8th grade next year?

Unanimous vote by middle school team FOR cutting 8th grade.

**Negative Points:**

We would need a larger class offering to be consistent with the other district middle schools. We only have two elective classes. Not ready and equipped/staffed for this at THIS point in time.

Students are already leaving to take honors programs. We would like to be able to offer that so they don’t need to leave. Money possibly coming through Omnibus Bill that could go through for that.

Students may choose to move by 6th grade if they know they won’t stay through 8th grade. It may be considered odd to the parents of students that we want to stay and they could end up leaving.

Potential teacher cuts.

**Positive Points:**

Would allow for a much needed reset. Our system is not running smoothly and meeting the needs of the students.

Would allow for the possibility to make smaller sections of 7th grade students.

With no 8th grade we may have the possibility/space of getting Head Start back to keep the numbers coming in.

If we go back to just K-7th grade we could always go back to 8th later. We would have more time to plan/staff for when we’re ready.

We could talk about bringing in other classes by busing students to another school for part of the day. However, logistics and scheduling challenges, plus cost.

We do have Carl Burks coming to us next year with a curriculum for social studies.

Reworking may be able to bring back some SEL time that we are missing out on due to lack of space and available schedule flexibility.

If we are able to keep behavior under control maybe it will allow for us to keep some of the students who have already been leaving.

Desire to reconsider the learning lab and classes currently offered.

Current finances are on hand so a cut wouldn’t hurt as bad. Plus the projected numbers coming in for next year are already very close.

Consider block schedules to help with some of the different problems we’re currently seeing.

**Final statement:**

All of these points require time and planning, which cannot be done with fidelity on the fly. Perhaps a step back is needed to look at what we want, and properly plan for and staff it. Hindsight is 20/20 and it could be that we were not properly prepared for the rapid rush to add back all grades when we did.

All things considered, we DO understand the ramifications of this type of move. Parents would most likely not be in agreement with it and our numbers could suffer greatly. We just wanted to explore the big picture and make the best decision for our school moving forward.