

Facility Needs Input Study

November 2018

Recently, The Clinton Board of Education sought public input regarding the recommendation made by the Clinton Community Committee on Facility Needs to close Abraham Pierson Elementary School.

The responses that are provided in this document are inclusive of all online submissions (37) as well as those that were provided in hard copy to the Central Office (2) for a total of 39.

10/23/2018 21:46:00

Phil Sengle 25 James Vincent Drive Clinton

"Did you give consideration to moving 8th grade to Morgan? What were the committee's reasons for not doing this? FYI, the presentation given by the Superintendent was very good. Thank you."

10/24/2018 17:50:06

Ashley Schrempp 82 Cow Hill Rd

I would love to see 4th to Joel and 5th to Elliot. The town might consider offering the current library property to the mall to buy and use the funds to renovate pierson into a library and social building

10/24/2018 19:07:50

Kelly Prevost 116 Glenwood Rd.

I really hope you decide to keep Pierson school the way it is. One of the things that I really like about our town is the way they divided our schools. What happens if enrollment soars? What do we do then? I would rather pay to have our schools stay the way they are and find other avenues to take to save the town money.

10/25/2018 15:26:44

Annmarie Meder "51 James Vincent Dr, Clinton CT "

I want to thank the committee for their hard work on looking at our facilities and making a recommendation that is best for our declining enrollment and fiscally responsible. I personally also am happy to have 4th at Joel as the students will have access to YMCA before school care which is something Pierson did not offer.

10/25/2018 18:33:18

Jason Adler 8 Sassafrass Lane

"I support the recommendation made by the superintendent and her committee to close Pierson, move 4th grade to Joel and 5th grade to Elliot."

10/25/2018 18:57:27

Amity Vece 13 Wildwood Park Rd

"If 5th grade moves to Eliot, we feel as though the children should still get a proper recess time and hope that there will be some playground equipment for them."

10/25/2018 21:06:49

Jamie Weisse 3 East Shore Drive Clinton Ct

"I am in favor of the closing of The Abraham Pierson school. Making Joel PreK-4th and making Eliot 5th-8th grade makes the most sense for our children and the Community.

I would like to thank the committee for thoroughly investigating all options and explaining how and why the committee reached this very difficult decision."

10/25/2018 21:15:57

Marten Brown 11 Egypt Lane

"Should move 7 & 8 to Morgan. 4th, 5th, and 6th to Eliot. "

10/25/2018 22:05:00

Amy Breen 34 James Vincent Drive

"As a parent of a 4th grader, I am concerned about the impact of the potential transition on this 4th grade class. The 4th graders have just gone through a huge transition in moving from Joel to Pierson. They'll now, by surprise, have to experience a whole new transition to Eliot within the span of one year. That's a lot of change for a 9-year-old. To that end, would the BOE consider delaying this change to the '20-'21 school year, so that the next incoming Pierson class can be better prepared and equipped for a "double transition"? Just because it's operationally possible to implement for '19-'20 doesn't mean it's in the best interest of the most impacted students.

I also think we need more information and guidelines about the degree to which 5th grade would be integrated into Eliot...will they participate in sports or social events such as school dances? What measures will be taken to keep 5th graders apart from the older students? What can and cannot be avoided?

Last, if/when this change happens, I'm strongly in favor of moving the Eliot start time - and the bus schedules - to a later time. These kids are awfully young to have to wait for the bus in the dark, which happens in the winter under the current arrangement.

Thank you. "

10/25/2018 22:45:39

Martin Berliner "27 Silver Birch Lane, Clinton"

"First, I would like to thank the committee and superintendent O'Donnell for their work and the comprehensive presentation delivered to the community. As a parent of an Eliot student and a Pierson student, these decisions will directly impact both of my children. That being said, based on the data and budgetary and enrollment projections, I am fully supportive of the recommendation of the committee to relocate grades 4-5 to Joel and Eliot and to close Pierson.

From the presentation, I have some comments and considerations for the board and administration.

* Leverage the knowledge and experiences of current grade 6/7 Eliot students to help shape the new 5th grade experience. What did they want in 5th grade that they didn't get at Pierson and did experience at Eliot? How could a 5-6 academy be structured? Great opportunity for future leaders!

* I support a 7/8-grade "Academy" that increases honors content in the curriculum with discrete classes like a 7th grade pre-algebra, or embedded honors opportunities, to prepare for high-school honors/AP classes.

* I am concerned that the future enrollment declines will erode our opportunity to offer diverse subjects (honors/TAG, UA, arts/music) and to offer improved technology across all educational areas. Need data to confirm! Is regionalization a solution? Just as critical an issue going forward."

10/25/2018 22:48:28

Kathleen Brown 5 Nutmeg Dr

I don't think that 5th graders should be with 8th graders due to maturity levels.

10/26/2018 7:48:04

Scott Mongillo 129 Glenwood Rd

"While I understand the teaming model and why it would be good for the middle school I currently work in a district that has 5th grade in a teaming model. I can say that when compared to the programming that allows students to remain self contained with their teacher (the district has two programming options) the self contained group consistently outperforms the teamed group.

Please reconsider teaming for 5th grade. The self contained room that has been historically typical of 5th graders in Clinton allows teachers to negotiate their limited time better to meet the needs of the learners. If a math lesson needs an extra 5 minutes to reach the students then it is available. If the students transition, they will not get to the learning until the next day and so 5 minutes turns into 20.

I understand that teacher who specialize can become experts in a discipline, but the reality is that the 5th grade students still need the teaching on ""how to learn"" not just straight curriculum.

Thank you."

10/26/2018 7:54:59

Georgia Hunter-Witkowski 23 Cedar Island Avenue

Although we all hate to see Abraham Pearson school clothes because it's a really nice way divide the age groups if we had to My suggestion is a kid city like place with maybe a little restaurant on the bottom because every time we ever went to kid city we always went to five guys and I think that would be I lovely use of that building and memorialize the fact that it was for children. When my children were small we had to drive to either Niantic or kid Middletown or further to find suitable place is for them to spend more than an hour to they could just spend lots of time here have lunch go back and I just think we could do like a butterfly museum or something wonderful with that building that would really attract people to our restaurants specially the new one that's coming . I'm sorry for my bad punctuation I dictated this. Thank you for considering

10/26/2018 7:59:20

Georgia Hunter-Witkowski 23 Cedar Island Avenue

" In addition to my prior suggestion of a kids place there's plenty of room four a butterfly atrium section. We could have holiday themes like the botanical gardens. This would really make Clinton a classy place. We would get a lot of traction . Guaranteed! Not even a risk."

10/26/2018 9:20:36

Willow Hoadley 10G Glenwood Rd

"I agree with the plan but would like to keep the Pierson Building open and active. Would it be possible to open the school for resident use, similar to the Indian River Complex, where residents could rent the larger spaces for parties and such. Classrooms could be offered on a ""build to suit"" option to rent as

offices as well. This would allow a beautiful and historic building to remain as a feature of our wonderful town."

10/26/2018 9:44:47

Rachel Criscuolo "229 Killingworth Tpke, Clinton Ct06413"

I personally like how the grades are split up and into schools I think it is better for the kids and I wouldn't close the school. It will be a real shame.

10/26/2018 12:28:54

Nicole LeClaire 27 Pratt Road

"PK-5 is preferred in my opinion if Pierson has to close.

What are plans to return Pierson to town? How will space be used or will it remain unoccupied by many other building in Clinton to continue to make it look like a town that is dying out? Will it remain dormant for many years like Academy in Madison which still is and is struggles to find a use due as there are many updates that would be required to get it back up to code standards?"

10/27/2018 17:12:37

Francis Maurais 6 Twin Oaks Lane

"I listened to the Clinton Community Committee on Facility Needs -Recommendations presentation on the District website. I commend the committee on their thoroughness and on conducting the special meeting for the public, including their conclusions/recommendation. My only question(s) center on the slides Maryann presented subtitled ""Closing Pierson Potential Cost Savings"".

Q: I did not understand why Maryann characterized those cost savings as 1-year savings, and not yearly savings? I also wish those numbers had been broken down a little further. What will make up the personnel and benefits savings? The reduction of Admin assistant positions for Pierson? Custodial staff? Principal? Teachers or paraprofessionals?

I also feel like there is a strong chance that the ""maintenance and utilities"" portion of those savings are not likely to be realized, but more likely simply a shifting of those costs from the school to the town portion of Clinton's budget."

10/28/2018 19:45:39

Ellie Sullivan 12 Brush Hill Rd

"My husband and I both attended Abraham Pierson school as fourth and fifth graders here in Clinton. We love the idea that our daughters will someday have the same privilege to be a part of Clinton's history. Pierson school is a wonderful place for seven, eight, and nine-year-olds to be children, act their age, and not be influenced by middle school (or elementary school) pressures. Furthermore, it is a cornerstone of Clinton's educational foundation. We must recognize the past as we move towards the future. Programming aside, I feel that the building drives children towards learning and inquiring about the nostalgia surrounding our town and shoreline community. With the high ceilings, multiple floors, and central location children are mystified and curious yet thrilled and excited about school! Additionally, as

homeowners in Clinton, we absolutely CANNOT have two vacant school properties in town. Until the town develops the old high school property there cannot be a vacant Pierson School. "

10/28/2018 19:46:07

Ellie Sullivan 12 Brush Hill Rd

"My husband and I both attended Abraham Pierson school as fourth and fifth graders here in Clinton. We love the idea that our daughters will someday have the same privilege to be a part of Clinton's history. Pierson school is a wonderful place for seven, eight, and nine-year-olds to be children, act their age, and not be influenced by middle school (or elementary school) pressures. Furthermore, it is a cornerstone of Clinton's educational foundation. We must recognize the past as we move towards the future. Programming aside, I feel that the building drives children towards learning and inquiring about the nostalgia surrounding our town and shoreline community. With the high ceilings, multiple floors, and central location children are mystified and curious yet thrilled and excited about school! Additionally, as homeowners in Clinton, we absolutely CANNOT have two vacant school properties in town. Until the town develops the old high school property there cannot be a vacant Pierson School. "

10/28/2018 20:11:51

William Rufeath "83 Beach Park Road, Clinton"

I attended Abraham Pierson School in the 1950s and my children also attended Pierson. I have grandchildren who are now coming up through the Clinton Public School system and I hope they will also have the opportunity to attend this venerable Clinton institution. I served as a substitute teacher there about ten years ago and it was in great shape at that point. I understand that there are now plans to close it. Please think this through carefully. We have an empty high school here because the "deal" fell through. There has to be a plan in place to use this building properly - it is unacceptable to tear it down or abandon it. The building is ideally located downtown and cannot be duplicated. I assure you that their physical surroundings impact our students' learning experience and you are not able to provide an experience similar to attendance at Pierson to our children. Please keep this school open. It is a gem and an integral part of our downtown area. Thanks for your consideration.

10/29/2018 6:26:40

Aimee Beck "109 Beach Park RD Clinton, CT 06413"

"I believe it would be detrimental to both our students and our town to close Pierson School. As far as our students, my daughter is attending Pierson now. She is in 4th grade. My older daughter graduated from Pierson last year. My older daughter has special needs and having had a smaller class size (less than 20 kids), going to Pierson as a "transitional school" into Middle school, well prepared her for Elliot. As a result, she is very successful mainstreamed there. I want my younger daughter to have this same valued experience. She and her classmates need to be fully prepared for entering Elliot in 6th grade not 5th! Entering Elliott next year will negatively affect her academic performance since she will not be prepared for this HUGE transition into Middle School!

As for financially hurting the town, Pierson will then become an empty building, just like the old Morgan High School, and maintaining this building unoccupied will ultimately cost the town more money. Not to mention, shutting down Pierson will cause job lay offs which isn't what our town or country stands for. We should be creating jobs NOT eliminating them!

I am not saying that at "some point" shutting down Pierson "may" be necessary, however, this Can't be a "Rash" decision nor can it happen as quickly as NEXT YEAR without giving our students and staff adequate time to prepare for this HUGE transition."

10/29/2018 16:48:22

Dicie Mueller 8 Uncas Rd

"I have experienced the closure of school buildings in my previous town, some outcomes were beneficial to the town and it's children and others without merit. Thoughtful considerations should be made if Clinton seems set to change the current class configuration. Extensive review of multiple studies should be made regarding appropriate child class readiness for any middle school environment.

Clinton should also consider the negative impact of another city building left unused; and especially on Main Street.

I also suggest that Clinton citizens have input again after specific options are brought forward.

10/30/2018 10:40:08

Karin Gosselink 152 Glenwood Rd.

"I fully support the closing of Pierson and creating pk-4 at Joel and 5-8 at Eliot. I hope school leaders will take advantage of this opportunity to help bring more rigor to the whole curriculum (especially at Eliot) and support for TAG and academically advanced students. Require new 2-person 5-6 gr. teacher teams to include "honors options" that any student can opt into built into the curriculum (rather than created on the fly) and that could be a future model for Joel classes. Create honors classes in math and language arts at the 7-8 gr. level; without these advanced classes, students are not prepared for honors/AP in high school and are missing out on college opportunities and merit scholarships because of low AP/SAT/ACT scores. Make sure 4th graders still have access to extracurricular/enrichment activities that were a crucial part of the Pierson experience (and maybe include 3rd graders?). Fund a full or part-time TAG coordinator out of cost savings, as these issues were highlighted as a priority for nearly 1/3 of parents in last year's district parent survey. We have a moral obligation to support TAG students as well as provide opportunities for upward mobility through education for all students. Improving the rigor of our schools benefits children and the entire community, as a suburb like Clinton is mostly judged by potential residents for the quality of its schools."

10/30/2018 12:22:17

Amy Gregory 2 Oleander Drive

"Hello, I am a parent of 2 Clinton students (one currently at Morgan and one at Eliot) that have been identified as Talented and Gifted. I am (and have been for years) interested in having a TAG district coordinator. I would love for there to be many opportunities within and outside the classroom for our TAG students. It would be great to educate the teachers further on how to handle TAG kids in their classrooms.

If we could utilize some of the money that is saved from closing Pierson towards various TAG initiatives that would be outstanding. I understand in a recent survey that nearly 30% of Clinton parents said that TAG was one of their top 5 improvement priorities of things they wanted to see changed in our schools.

My son who is at Eliot was so excited about the LEAP program starting. He was thrilled to be challenged in this way. I know all of our kids are looking for more. We spend a lot of time, money and resources helping those at the bottom, (which is wonderful and is something we should always do), but how about dedicating just a little bit of time and resources to those at the very top? I hope you will consider setting aside a portion of the money saved from closing Pierson for this worthwhile effort. Thank you so much."

10/30/2018 14:37:24

Heather Moore 7 Hide A Way

"I hate it, but I support the closing of Pierson and moving 4 to Joel & 5 to Pierson.

Something I'd like you to keep in mind as you close Pierson, reconfigure how Joel/Eliot work, and have extra \$ to utilize, is the Talented and Gifted (TAG).

It is mandated by CT law that we identify these students, but not that we provide them services. I believe there is a MORAL obligation.

I request: A full time District Wide TAG coordinator; TAG prof. dev. for any teacher that has a TAG student; Group TAG students together in groups of 4+; Make TAG a line item in the Ed Budget; More ideas similar to the Eliot LEAP club; Streamline the nomination and ID process; More resources to help teachers differentiate, and accountability that all teachers provide it; and provide a PPT each year that is specific to each TAG child.

I would like to remind you that your own Stakeholder Survey from last Feb stated that 29% of parents said TAG programming was one of the 5 most important improvement priorities for our schools, and 24% of teachers.

It is a matter of time before CT mandates we have a program. Similar to how we are being proactive about closing Pierson on our own terms and in a thoughtful and controlled way before it is forced upon us, I feel we should develop a TAG program before it is forced upon us by the state with no funding. Please read through your own Strategic Priorities while thinking about TAG students and see if you truly are providing these priorities "FOR ALL STUDENTS".

"

10/30/2018 19:43:57

Kevin Colebank "8 Fernwood Lane, Clinton, CT"

"While it is unfortunate that declining enrollment dictates the closure of a school facility, I fully support the recommendations of the Clinton Community Committee on Facility Needs. Of the three options explored, the ongoing costs associated with staying status quo quickly lead to the dismissal of that option. Of the two remaining options, I believe the recommendation to split the Pierson students between the Joel School (pk-4) and the Eliot Middle School (5-8) is the clear choice for these top 3 reasons:

1. Cost. If both 4th and 5th graders were to transfer to Joel, the district offices would require relocation and renovation. The recommended proposal eliminates this significant cost. We have enough trouble getting our education and town budgets passed without adding avoidable expenses.
2. 5th grade joining the middle school vs the elementary school will provide the 5th graders with experience to propel them forward on their education journey. Experts have aligned on this topic and our neighboring towns have implemented similar plans years ago. From personal experience and having two teenagers that have gone through Joel, Pierson and Eliot, keeping them with the elementary school at grade 5 would have arrested their academic and social development.

3. Future capacity. Enrollments will change in the future. A proper plan will allow for some capacity flexibility at all facilities to avoid future transitions, disruption to our students and faculty, and additional costs.

"

10/30/2018 21:20:34

Laura Colebank "8 Fernwood Lane, Clinton CT"

"I support BOE proposal option B:Pk-4 Joel & 5-8 Eliot.

Given the \$475k savings, lower future operation costs, and restructuring of school facilities/programming, it's the ideal time to add a TAG coordinator

to provide district wide direction, curriculum, pd development and resources for teachers to differentiate during the school day. Currently TAG students and other high achievers are not being challenged enough or well prepared to maximize higher education opportunities. To quote a TAG Coordinator in another district, our TAG kids are ""waiting"" to be engaged (especially before HS honors, AP). We need to be competitive with surrounding districts, most of which have TAG programs and budget line item. A TAG program will attract more families to Clinton.

The 2018 BOE survey supports TAG need: 29.34% of parents & 24.12% of teachers responded a TAG Program was one of their top 5 most important improvement priorities they recommend.

The 2017 3-year Strategic Priorities also demonstrates need for more TAG programs: "ensure academic achievement and learning for ALL students, provide and maintain district resources that supports the learning and development of ALL students; foster the health of well-being for ALL (TAG students often have different social and emotional needs); PERSONALIZED learning, develop ENGAGED learners". All identified students, whether Special Ed or TAG, should receive individualized plans (similar to PPT) to show progress and provide accountability PK-12.

10/30/2018 21:58:27

Nancy Darr 18 Park Drive

"While I understand and appreciate the big picture reasoning as to why the committee is recommending Pierson be closed at the end of this year, I am concerned about the emotional impact on the kids with this type of change. The Pierson community has provided a safe scaffolding for emotional development and confidence building needed for a successful middle school transition. What considerations are being given to account for this type of transition need for our 4th/ 5th grade students if the Pierson community no longer exists? "

10/30/2018 22:08:41

Amy Maklari 6 Jane's Lane

"Please consider a looping program for 5/6 at Eliot. I believe & there is research to show the positive benefits for all students in terms of emotional, social & academic achievements. Thank you. "

10/30/2018 22:31:12

David Landino & Susan Parlato-Landino "1 Hunters Ridge, Clinton, CT"

"We are writing as parents of 2 students in the Clinton school system, 1 designated Talented and Gifted. This is the perfect time to be proactive and forward-thinking in our approach to our Talented and Gifted Program instead of reactive. Under current CT regulations, public school districts are required to identify gifted and talented students, but not mandated to provide services. The State of CT has shown by passing Public Act 17-82 (7/2017) that services for Gifted and Talented Students are a priority. It is only a matter of time before a companion act is passed that requires school systems to provide services, not just identification. Let Clinton be a leader and put our TAG Program in place before the State mandates it. We are requesting a full-time district-wide TAG coordinator who can facilitate the identification process, create a comprehensive TAG program, coordinate professional development for teachers with TAG students, and provide support to TAG students. Clinton Public Schools Strategic Priority #1 – "Provide personalized learning opportunities to develop engaged and reflective learners who can apply their learning" can only be achieved for our TAG students through a comprehensive program. We would love to see more opportunities for those identified in music & art. These programs should be offered during the school day and not after school. As parents of a musically gifted student, we pay for additional programs to foster that giftedness. Thank you."

10/30/2018 22:40:44

Katherine E. Bruch McCollom "15 Knollwood Drive, Clinton, CT"

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled," Plutarch. I remember the moment my fire was kindled- in the halls of Pierson School. As a lifelong resident of Clinton, a graduate of the Clinton School system, and now an educator, I feel I have unique insight on the Abraham Pierson School. One thing that amazes me about our town was the foresight of those individuals who decided to put the 4th and 5th grade in a separate building. This is a pivotal and delicate age. While critics would contend that there are districts that bring many grades together, I know first hand the difference between 5th and 6th graders. I have taught fifth grade for over a decade and am now serving as a sixth grade teacher. These preteens are no longer the youngest of our system, but they are also not ready to be considered middle schoolers. Pierson allows students to gain independence and leadership in a small close-knit community that is paramount for this age. The small structure allows students to flourish and grow without the pressure or influence of older students. I am incredibly concerned about the logistics of bringing students into Eliot Middle School. The repercussions of having 5th graders on the busses with 8th graders are alarming. I am also incredibly disappointed by all that we will lose: proximity to the beach and historical buildings for free field trips, a building with historical significance, and a unique grade-level structure! I implore you to reconsider!"

10/30/2018 22:57:00

Katherine McCollom 15 Knollwood Drive

"I am shocked by the lack of foresight in the closing of the Abraham Pierson School. What is the closing of this building telling potential citizens and developers. We are closing a school- a sign that our town continues to circle the drain. We have an aging population and continue to lose young families. Attrition and class sizes continue to shrink. Do we want this to continue? How do we draw young families to town? By SHOWING that education is a priority. The fiscal responsibility appears clear. But IS IT? Once we close this school, we will not be able to reopen it. Real Estate values are directly linked to education- a proven fact! We will continue to lose families. If we wish to strengthen our community and build our town, it is time for us to take a stand and SHOW that education is our first priority. In the short

term, we may need to think creatively about financing, but long term, we can grow our town, our tax base, and use the Abraham Pierson School as the treasure it is! Highlight this school as a selling point to our school system and our town. Draw in new families and show developers that we are a growing community and a shoreline community with the foresight to INVEST in the next generation. I am one of the Abraham Pierson graduates who has chosen to raise a family here and I hope that my three boys will also be able to benefit from it!"

10/31/2018 0:01:05

Karen Gardner "24 Vienna Lane, Clinton CT"

"With the closing of Pierson and saving of \$457,000 this is the perfect time to fund for a TAG Coordinator and increased professional development for our teachers. As it has been emphasized by the Board of Ed, one of its goals is to provide and maintain district resources in a manner that supports the learning and development of ALL students. If the goal of the Board is to develop a school community that focuses on providing supports that foster the health and well-being of students then this should include more support for TAG students as they often times suffer from anxiety and depression. TAG students benefit from personalized learning by giving them the opportunity to become engaged and reflective learners who can apply their learning inside and outside of the classroom. In addition, being with like-minded peers in supportive peer and teacher environments is vital in the future success of our TAG students.

The same way the board is being proactive and forward thinking in closing Pierson, our board of education should be using this same mindset to build a TAG program now that ensures academic achievement and learning for all students in all disciplines. My ask is that we shift our mindset to the idea that every child deserves to be challenged. We can't continue to focus only on the kids who are in need of academic assistance, teacher's should be responsible and given the tools to provide opportunities for the above average kids as well.

"

10/31/2018 0:01:06

Tammy Lucas 10 Kings Grant Road

Please keep Pierson open. My three kids went there and loved it. All Clinton kids should get that opportunity. Clinton does not need another vacant building. This is important to our town.

10/31/2018 5:19:10

Mari Lee 58 Founders vlg

"Please do not close Pierson. The repercussions will far outweigh the benefits. The school is a landmark that should be preserved as a school. There is no better sight than seeing school children in our downtown, showing potential new residents what a precious community we live in. "

10/31/2018 5:55:38

Lisa Emack 42 Long Hill Rd

"I am opposed to Pierson School closing. Our town is fighting for economic growth and with it, new families will be drawn to our town. We may not need it the space now, but lets be prepared for the future and not have to build another new school or increase our class sizes because we now have to fit these kids

in. Also, closing Pierson will have an impact on all our sports teams with the loss of another gym for practices. "

Board of Education Facilities Input Form

The Board of Education is considering the recommendations of the Clinton Community Committee on Facility Needs regarding the closing of Abraham Pierson School and the reconfiguration of grades and programming at its pK-8 schools.

The purpose of this form is for Clinton residents to share a comment, consideration, or question related to the information presented and/or the current proposed plan with Board of Education members. All submitted feedback will be shared prior to the Board of Education vote at their regular meeting scheduled for Monday, November 5, 2018.

Please note that anonymous responses will not be collected, and all responses will be part of the public record.

* Required

Name: *

Sarah Marcinek

Address: *

61 Glenwood Road

Thank you to committee and the Superintendent for the presentation that was presented to the public.

I look at what is BEST for the children in making any decision.

1. I did not hear thoughts on the prospect of regionalization with perhaps Westbrook for the lower grades. Would like to hear input on that.
2. If the decision is made, which appears it has been unofficially, I suggest that it be implemented once the old Morgan property has SOLD. More on that below
3. I heard an estimate savings the first after closing Pierson of \$500,000. Drop in the bucket to keep the school open in my opinion. Look at the cost to maintain so many school sports programs -field maintenance, equipment, etc. Let's make academics the priority.
4. It was also stated there is a cost for the transition if the school closes. No estimate was provided for that. Would like that available to the public.
5. I encourage the Board if the school is to close, at least to have it done for the 2019-2020 school year, Take the extra time to get it done right=there are always unforeseen glitches along the way. Better yet-sell the old Morgan first.
6. Would added employees be needed for Joel and Eliot for such things as PE, music, cafeteria, etc with the increase of students?

I understand the survey was done for the BOE. This was done in order for the Board to make the decision on closing the school or continuing usage as it is now. Once the decision is made to close, the building is taken over by the Town. I feel strongly that the Town and Board should have been and continue to be working together on this matter. We are presently sitting with one vacant school, we do not need to be sitting with two vacant schools. We want to be encouraging new families to move into town. As a Realtor, I hear comments from outsiders that Clinton is known for having a difficult time getting budgets passed and are sitting with a vacant school. Not positives for our town. The overall recovery economic situation in Connecticut makes it difficult for all towns. I would be disappointed if after the fact, the Town spends funds to convert Pierson to offices.

Thanks to all who have put so much time and effort to making such a difficult, monumental decision on this. My late husband and I are graduates of Morgan. Our daughter attended the schools K-12 in Clinton-now has two children in the schools in Clinton. The family certainly has a vested interest in Clinton and in this decision.

MEMORANDUM

To: Clinton Board of Education

From: Kirk Carr (9 Osprey Commons South, Clinton, CT)



Date: October 29, 2018

Subject: Community Committee on Facility Needs (CCFN) Recommendations

Thanks to the CCFN for the efforts volunteered by Committee members to examine the enrollment trends and evolving facility needs for Clinton Public Schools (CPS) and for the invitation to the public to participate in the deliberation.

Their recommendation to close Pierson is sound and, based on the Drummey, Rosane and Anderson Report released in October of 2014, inevitable – even overdue. Their recommendation to close Pierson at the end of this school year is the best that can be done at this time.

For now, the Board of Education should be laser focused on a smooth and speedy transition, the most rational placement of grades 4 and 5 and the most effective repurposing of tangible resources harvested from the elimination of wasteful operating and capital redundancy.

The Committee’s estimate of \$475,738 in operating expense savings is \$284,206 or 37% less than the \$760,044 Clinton Public Schools (CPS) can expect to save by eliminating the following operating redundancies. These estimates are based on 2018-19 budgets for Pierson, Maintenance and District-wide cost centers.

Pierson Cost Center *		Maintenance and District-wide Cost Centers *	
Principal	\$132,397	Maintenance – Pierson	\$ 15,811
Librarian and Assistants	100,161	Utilities @ 14% of Total	116,541
Secretaries	61,894	Property/Liability	
Cafeteria Assistants	17,973	Insurance @ 14% of Total	<u>29,725</u>
Custodial	<u>123,094</u>	Subtotal	\$146,266
Reduction in Force Total	\$435,519		
Benefits at 36%	<u>155,698</u>	Grand Total	<u>\$760,044</u>
Total Personnel and Benefits	\$591,217		
Supplies	\$ 2,500		
Library Supplies	3,200		
Police Services	<u>1,050</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 6,750		

* Those budget sheets are attached for your reference. Benefits factor 36% based on Budget Objects Summary attached. Utilities and Insurance 14% factors based on Pierson square footage as percent of total square footage all four schools.

In addition to the operating savings that will be permanent savings, there are projected one-time capital savings of \$607,216 that the Education budget will avoid in the future

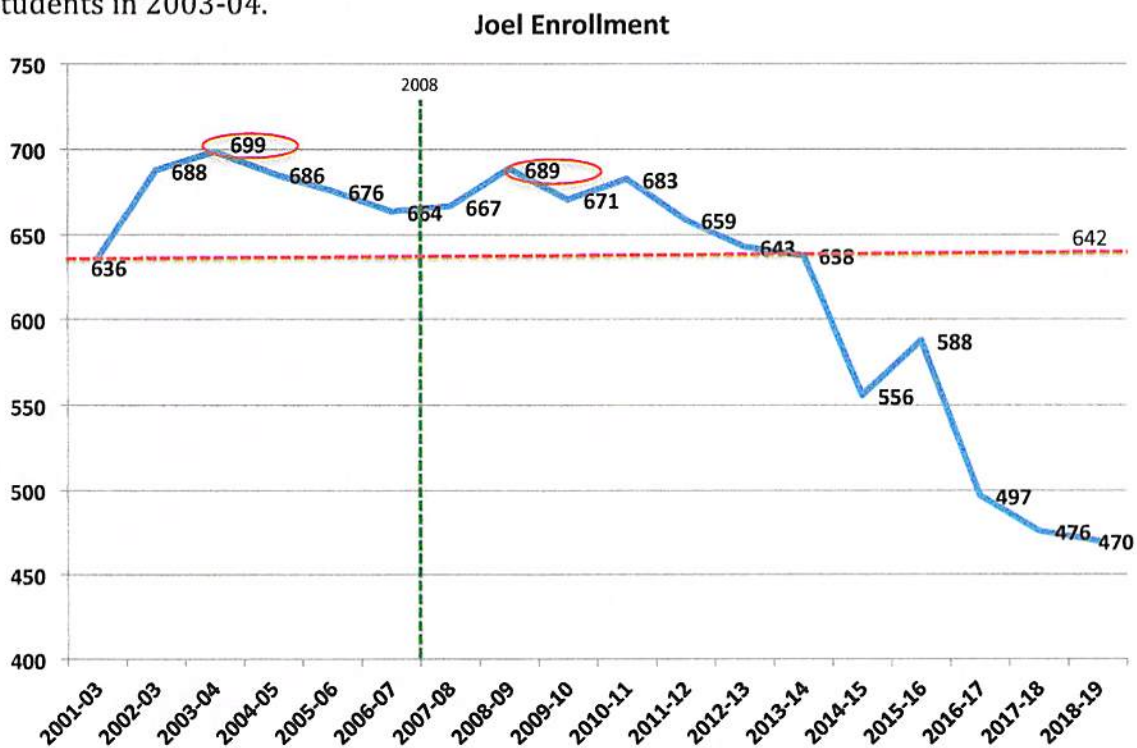
How these savings should be redeployed is a fiscal and public policy issue that should be officially and publicly addressed. Some of the first year's savings will be required to pay for the relocation and renovations (if any) to accommodate relocated students. But what should be done with these permanent operating savings in future years?

The most sobering and alarming slides in this presentation were slides 43 and 44, which project decreases in State Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants of \$1.9 million over 9 years or an average of \$214,000 per year. That projection may prove to be optimistic as cuts could be swifter, more concentrated and deeper.

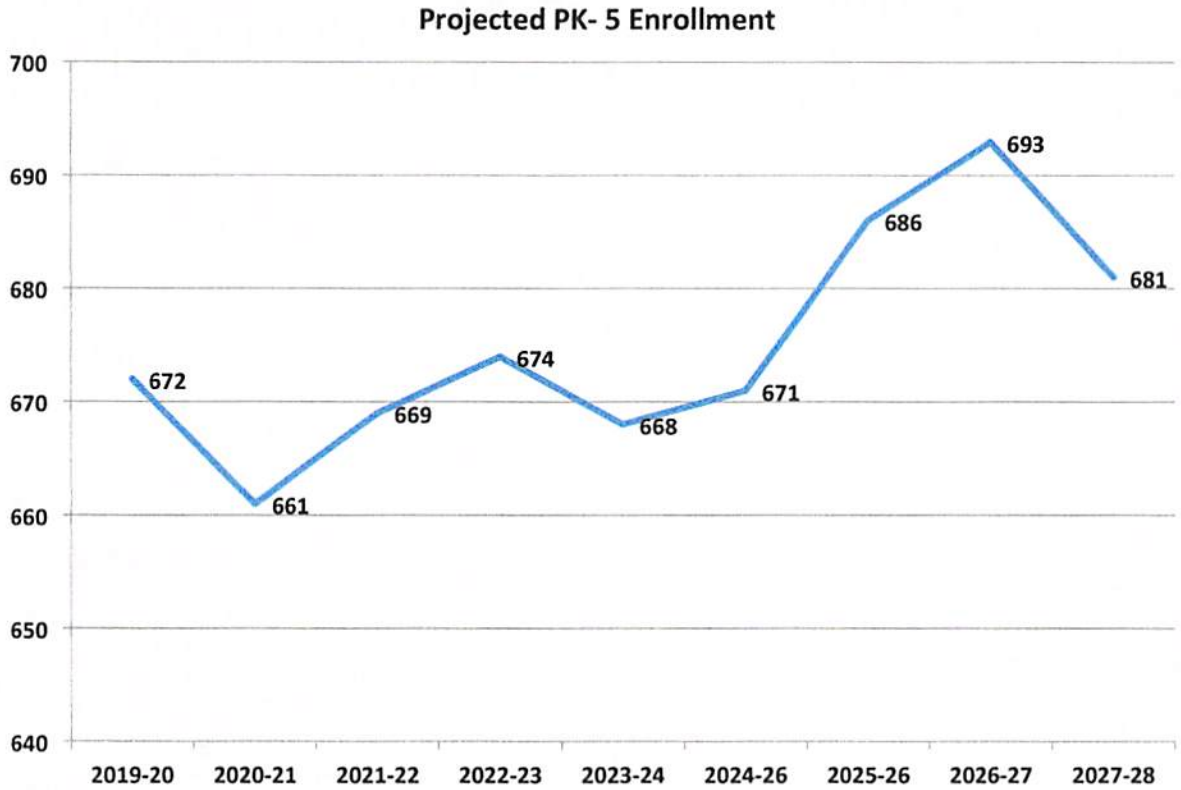
Clinton's taxpayers cannot afford to absorb all of these ECS cuts by paying higher taxes. These savings will cushion only a portion of these cuts. CPS must eliminate other redundancies with services sharing arrangements with the Clinton's Finance and Public Works Departments to consolidate the business, accounting, payroll and maintenance functions.

Some information presented in the CCFN slides was inconsistent and inaccurate and may have led to a fallacious recommendation in redeployment of the 5th grade to Eliot instead of with the 4th grade to Joel. Please note that on slide 31, Eliot's area is reported to be 85,369 square feet and on slide 32 the area for Eliot is reported as 91,736 square feet. The Clinton Tax Assessor's field card on Vision Appraisal reflects a living area of 87,717 square feet.

Slide 26 reports that Joel's highest enrollment since 2008 was 642 students. In fact, based on enrollment records published with the 2017-18 budgets, prior to 2013-14 Joel's enrollment exceeded 642 students including 689 students in 2008-09 and 699 students in 2003-04.



Based on current enrollment projections, PreK-5 should not come close to the 699 students that Joel absorbed in 2003-04.



There appears to be no space limitation that would force Clinton to place pre-pubescent 10-year-olds in a building and on buses with teenagers. Even though the CCFN voted 16 to 2 in favor of this split, they may have been looking at erroneous and fallacious data to form that recommendation.

Please reconsider moving the 5th grade into Joel. You will find extracurricular organizations such as Scouts group 5th graders with the lower grades. Splitting the 5th grade could complicate those afterschool programs and transportation.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to your deliberation and ultimate decision. I trust you will agree this information is constructive and useful.

Thanks also to you, the Board of Education, for your many hours of volunteer-service to the community and to CPS.

Respectfully Submitted.

Budgetary Cost Savings

Pierson Maintenance Savings <i>estimated savings for maintenance/repair, supplies, and utilities costs</i>	\$146,581
Pierson Personnel Savings <i>estimated savings due to reduction of personnel/benefits</i>	\$329,157
Total Operating Budget Savings	\$475,738

Projected Savings	
Year 1	\$475,738
Year 2	\$490,010
Year 3	\$504,710
Year 4	\$519,852
Year 5	\$535,447
Projected 5-Year Savings	\$2,525,758

Projected Savings on Pierson Capital Projects	
Library Roof	\$281,216
Slate Roof	\$15,000
Gym Floor Refinish	\$16,000
Computer Lab Replacement	\$50,000
Wireless Upgrade	\$150,000
Snow Removal & Cleaning Machines	\$20,000
Kitchen Equipment Replacement	\$10,000
LCD Projector Mounting	\$40,000
Furniture Replacement	\$10,000
Seal/Paint Exterior Walls	\$10,000
Parking Lot Stripe & Seal	\$5,000
Total Potential Capital Savings	\$607,216

Other Future Pierson Capital Needs

- Window Replacement
- Piping Repairs/Replacement
- Boiler Replacement
- Heating and Air Handling Units
- Playground Upgrade

REACHING CONSENSUS

*Closing Pierson
Potential Cost
Savings*

ESTIMATE OF POTENTIAL SAVINGS

Operating Budget Cost Areas	Total
Maintenance & Utilities Estimated Savings	\$146,000
Personnel & Benefits Estimated Savings	\$329,000
<i>Potential Estimate of Operating Budget Savings</i>	<i>\$475,000</i>



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Projected CAPITAL Budget Needs – Pierson (Next 3 years)	
Library Roof	\$281,216
Slate Roof	\$15,000
Gym Floor Refinish	\$16,000
Computer Lab Replacement	\$50,000
Wireless Upgrade	\$150,000
Snow Removal & Cleaning Machines	\$20,000
Kitchen Equipment Replacement	\$10,000
LCD Projector Mounting	\$40,000
Furniture Replacement	\$10,000
Seal/Paint Exterior Walls	\$10,000
Parking Lot Stripe & Seal	\$5,000
Elevator Door Replacement	\$10,000
Total PIERSON Capital Needs	\$607,216

**FINANCIAL
COST
ANALYSIS**

Pierson
CAPITAL BUDGET



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CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2018-19 PROPOSED BUDGET BY OBJECT								
OBJECT	2017-18 FINAL	2018-19 BOE Approved	2018-19 BOF cut 3/12/18	2018-19 BOF cut 5/9/18	2018-19 FINAL	AMOUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET
Certified Salaries	\$15,875,151	\$16,179,307	\$15,985,852	\$15,894,652	\$15,792,955	-\$82,196	-0.52%	48.36%
Non-Certified Salaries	\$3,619,751	\$3,592,927	\$3,551,779	\$3,551,779	\$3,540,697	-\$79,054	-2.18%	10.84%
Employee Benefits	\$6,685,122	\$6,922,130	\$6,891,718	\$6,891,718	\$6,911,718	\$226,596	3.39%	21.16%
Salary & Benefits Subtotal	\$26,180,024	\$26,694,364	\$26,429,349	\$26,338,149	\$26,245,370	\$65,346	0.25%	80.37%
Professional/Technical Services	\$1,046,831	\$1,066,522	\$1,066,522	\$1,063,422	\$1,037,422	-\$9,409	-0.90%	3.18%
Public Utilities	\$544,144	\$582,437	\$582,437	\$582,437	\$577,437	\$33,293	6.12%	1.77%
Repairs and Maintenance	\$370,447	\$401,213	\$401,213	\$392,413	\$396,913	\$26,466	7.14%	1.22%
Rentals	\$2,606	\$2,222	\$2,222	\$2,222	\$2,222	-\$384	-14.74%	0.01%
Transportation	\$1,364,338	\$1,571,655	\$1,571,655	\$1,571,655	\$1,621,334	\$256,996	18.84%	4.96%
Trans Ath/Field Trips	\$99,324	\$106,861	\$103,876	\$103,876	\$146,921	\$47,597	47.92%	0.45%
Liability/Property Insurance	\$216,936	\$230,318	\$230,318	\$230,318	\$230,318	\$13,382	6.17%	0.71%
Communications	\$69,471	\$66,233	\$66,233	\$66,233	\$66,233	-\$3,238	-4.66%	0.20%
Advertising and Printing	\$157,924	\$140,746	\$140,746	\$140,746	\$140,746	-\$17,178	-10.88%	0.43%
Tuition	\$1,018,907	\$1,131,646	\$1,131,646	\$1,131,646	\$1,163,201	\$144,294	14.16%	3.56%
Staff Development	\$43,825	\$52,270	\$49,270	\$43,270	\$43,270	-\$555	-1.27%	0.13%
Supplies-Instructional	\$351,893	\$351,703	\$351,703	\$332,536	\$332,536	-\$19,357	-5.50%	1.02%
Fuel for Heat	\$250,230	\$230,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$205,000	-\$45,230	-18.08%	0.63%
Textbooks	\$20,216	\$56,371	\$47,371	\$31,371	\$31,371	\$11,155	55.18%	0.10%
Library Books	\$36,770	\$35,703	\$35,703	\$35,703	\$35,703	-\$1,067	-2.90%	0.11%
Supplies-Other	\$348,401	\$356,683	\$356,683	\$329,683	\$329,683	-\$18,718	-5.37%	1.01%
Dues and Fees	\$56,149	\$58,994	\$58,994	\$50,994	\$50,994	-\$5,155	-9.18%	0.16%
Totals	\$32,178,436	\$33,135,941	\$32,835,941	\$32,656,674	\$32,656,674	\$478,238	1.49%	100.00%

Certified Salaries **\$15,792,955**
Non-Certified Salaries **3,540,097**
Total Salaries **\$19,333,652**

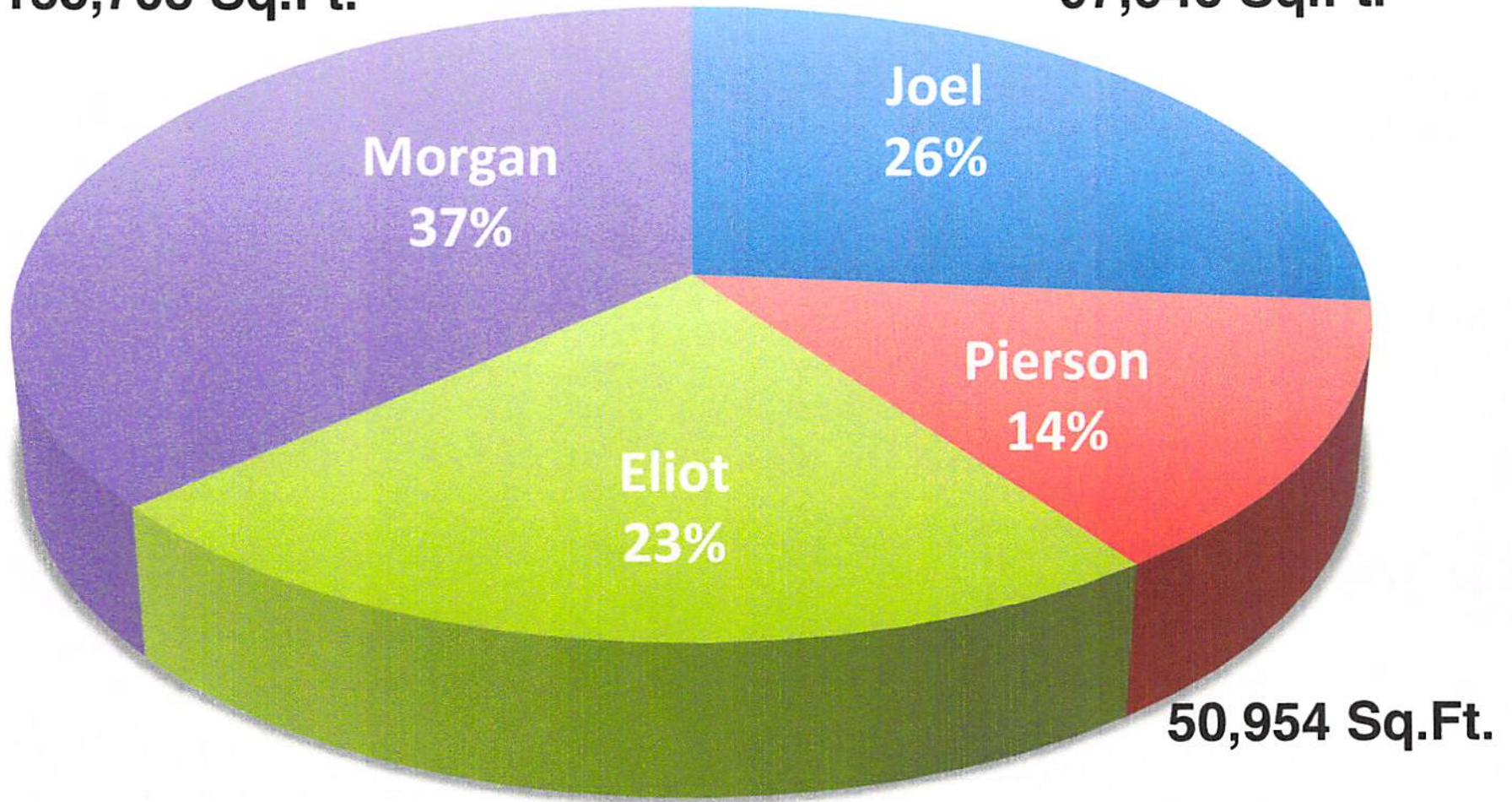
Benefits **\$ 6,911,718 =**
36%
Of Total Salaries

Clinton Public Schools

369,976 Square Feet

135,708 Sq.Ft.

97,945 Sq.Ft.



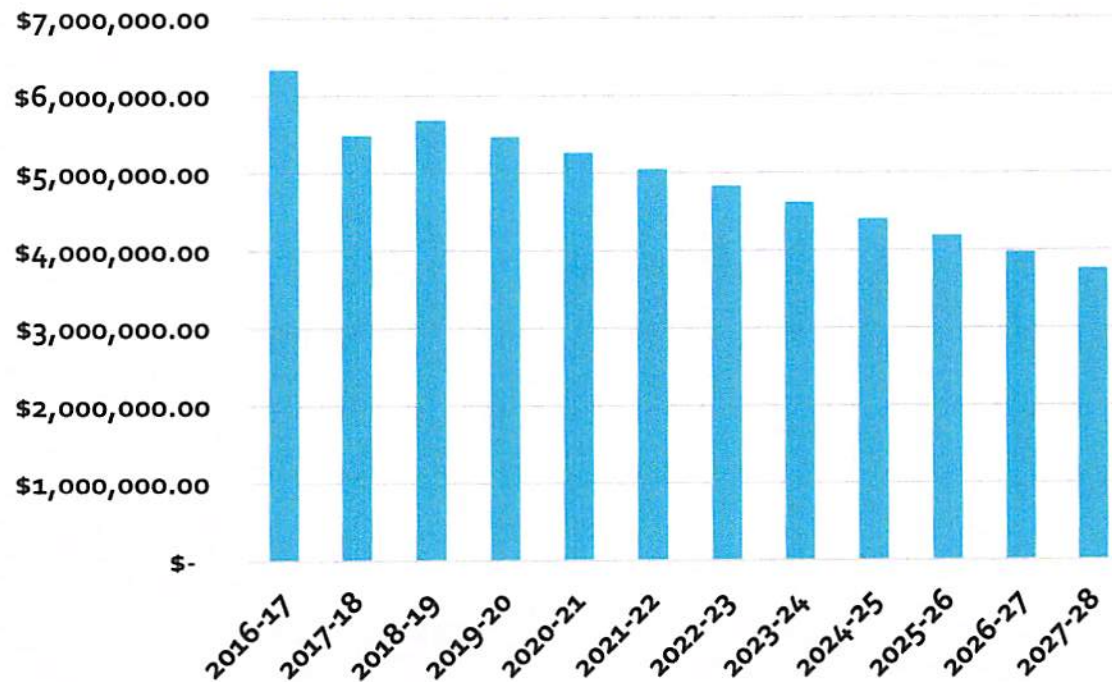
85,369 Sq.Ft.

50,954 Sq.Ft.

**COST
ANALYSIS**

*Current Realities
State Funding*

State ECS Funding- Projected



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COST ANALYSIS

*Current Realities
State Funding
(-\$214,000/year)*

State Funding to Clinton:

2018-2019 = \$5,684,287

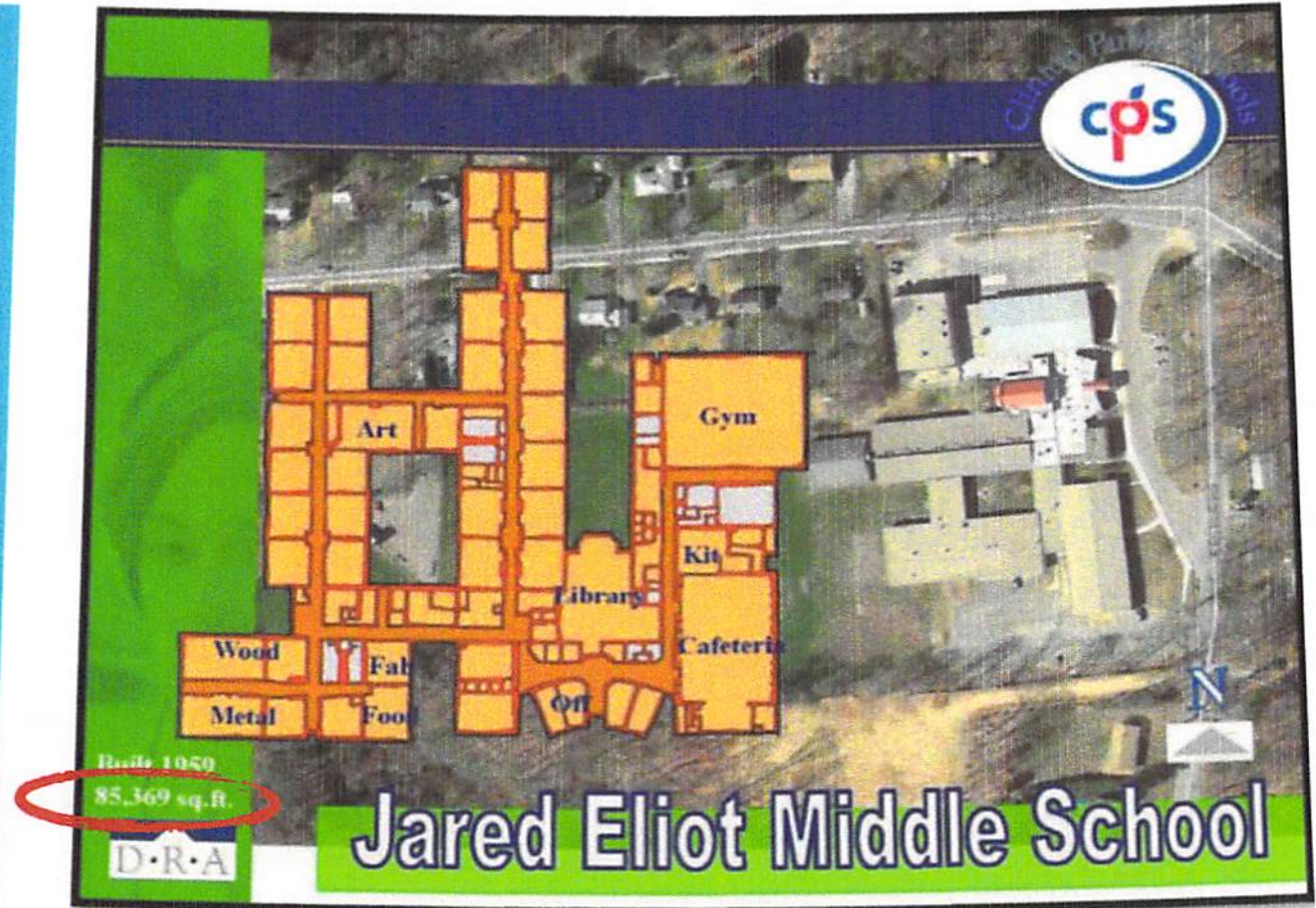
2027-2028 = \$3,756,018 (*Projected*)

- *Loss of \$1.9 million in state funding over 9 years*
- *Reduction of \$214,000 each year*



ELIOT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Floor Plan



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**ELIOT
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

*Facility
Information*

- Constructed in 1959 – 59 Years Old
 - 91,736 square feet
 - 4 Additions
- Highest Enrollment since 2008 = 495
 - Current Enrollment = **435**



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69 FAIRY DELL RD

[Sales](#)[Print](#)[Map It](#)

Building Information

Building 1 : Section 1

Year Built: 1965
Living Area: 87,717
Replacement Cost: \$12,842,953
Building Percent: 68
Good:
Replacement Cost Less Depreciation: \$8,733,200

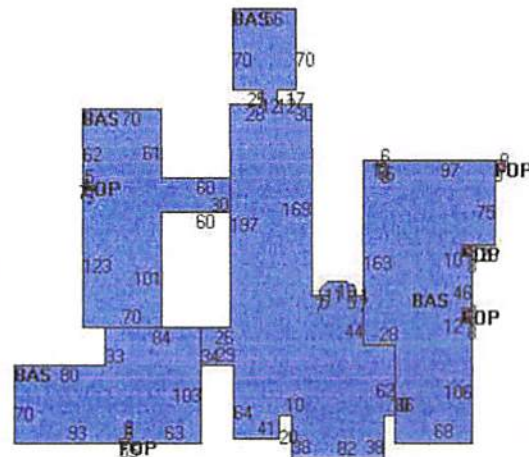
Building Attributes

Field	Description
STYLE	Schools-Public
MODEL	Commercial
Grade	Good
Stories:	1
Occupancy	1
Exterior Wall 1	Brick Veneer
Exterior Wall 2	Precast Panel
Roof Structure	Flat
Roof Cover	Tar & Gravel
Interior Wall 1	Minim/Masonry
Interior Wall 2	Drywall/Sheet
Interior Floor 1	Vinyl/Asphalt
Interior Floor 2	Carpet
Heating Fuel	Gas
Heating Type	Hot Water
AC Type	Heat Pump
Bldg Use	MUNICIPAL MDL-94
Total Rooms	
Total Bedrms	00
Total Baths	0
1st Floor Use:	9030
Heat/AC	NONE
Frame Type	MASONRY

Building Photo



Building Layout



Building Sub-Areas (sq ft)		Legend	
Code	Description	Gross Area	Living Area
BAS	First Floor	87,717	87,717
FOP	Porch, Open, Finished	367	0
		88,084	87,717

JOEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Facility Information

- Constructed in 1963 – 55 Years Old
 - 97,945 square feet
 - Four Additions
- Highest Enrollment since 2008 = 642
- Current Enrollment = 469



• Highest Enrollment since 2008 = 642

Clinton Public Schools Enrollment Projections Based on 10/1/2016 Actual Enrollment

ACTUAL																	TOTALS				
School Year	Birth Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PK	PK-3	4-5	6-8	9-12	Total
2001-02	1996	151	151	158	152	151	183	182	188	180	182	171	151	168	167	24	636	365	550	657	2208
2002-03	1997	184	197	161	155	150	160	184	183	187	183	156	169	150	158	25	688	344	553	633	2218
2003-04	1998	144	177	179	161	159	149	155	184	173	181	159	159	167	152	23	699	304	538	637	2178
2004-05	1999	179	156	179	164	164	157	143	155	182	175	197	152	163	157	23	686	300	512	669	2167
2005-06	2000	156	160	155	163	173	171	166	146	158	172	180	191	157	157	25	676	337	476	685	2174
2006-07	2001	184	165	155	148	162	171	167	158	144	150	165	166	170	162	34	664	338	452	663	2117
2007-08	2002	183	171	150	154	148	163	175	161	159	143	147	157	169	165	44	667	338	463	638	2106
2008-09	2003	148	153	168	159	153	152	161	172	161	159	126	145	155	164	56	689	313	492	590	2084
2009-10	2004	146	148	154	165	156	150	150	164	175	156	136	127	143	152	48	671	300	495	558	2024
2010-11	2005	163	185	142	149	166	152	152	148	166	178	148	139	127	143	41	683	304	492	557	2036
2011-12	2006	143	150	182	141	145	166	149	151	149	166	162	138	148	131	41	659	315	466	579	2019
2012-13	2007	135	130	149	179	145	147	165	154	144	148	154	155	145	137	40	643	312	446	591	1992
2013-14	2008	131	147	136	143	174	146	150	161	154	147	141	140	149	141	38	638	296	462	571	1967
2014-15	2009	133	110	137	136	139	175	142	148	162	152	140	133	138	154	34	556	317	462	565	1900
2015-16	2009	99	98	110	135	139	138	174	142	149	164	142	134	141	134	40	522	312	455	551	1840
2016-17	2011	98	100	102	107	137	140	140	173	135	143	159	140	132	128	51	497	280	451	559	1787
PROJECTED																					
2017-18	2012	102	110	108	98	107	134	141	140	174	143	142	142	132	131	48	471	275	457	547	1750
2018-19	2013	99	107	112	106	97	107	136	141	139	176	135	131	144	128	48	470	243	456	538	1707
2019-20	2014	86	93	103	110	105	97	108	136	141	141	166	124	132	139	48	459	205	418	561	1643
2020-21*	2015	92	99	94	101	109	104	97	109	135	142	133	153	126	128	48	451	201	386	540	1578
2021-22*	2016	113	122	101	92	100	109	105	98	108	137	134	122	154	121	48	463	214	343	531	1551
2022-23*	2017	116	125	124	99	92	100	109	105	97	109	129	124	123	149	48	488	209	311	525	1533

Actual enrollment data reflects students enrolled in district schools on October 1st each year.

Actual enrollment for in-district students does not reflect "resident students" who attend magnet schools, vocational agricultural schools, and are out-placed through special education.

The state uses "resident students," (the total of in-district students and those students listed above for which the district is responsible for tuition) to calculate "total students" for purposes of calculating the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR).

Projected enrollment is based on an analysis completed in 2012 with additional information from the 2013-14 Enrollment Projections completed as part of the DRA Facility Study.

Current projected pre-school enrollment is based on continuation of the Smart Start Grant Funded pre-school program in addition to the mandated special education/typical peer pre-school program. The district is eligible and has applied for a second Smart Start grant based on current needs in the community. This grant would provide an additional 16 opportunities for quality pre-school experiences for children in the community.



Clinton, CT Projected Enrollment

School District: Clinton, CT

11/7/2017

Enrollment Projections By Grade*																				
Birth Year	Births	School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	K-12	PK-12	
2012	98	2017-18	53	106	97	106	114	138	135	137	169	137	142	156	147	127	0	1711	1764	
2013	95	2018-19	54	99	106	97	110	114	137	134	134	169	131	140	160	139	0	1670	1724	
2014	85	2019-20	55	89	99	106	100	110	113	136	131	134	162	130	144	151	0	1605	1660	
2015	94	(prov.) 2020-21	56	98	89	99	110	100	109	112	133	131	128	160	134	136	0	1539	1595	
2016	109	(prov.) 2021-22	57	114	98	89	102	110	99	108	110	133	126	127	164	126	0	1506	1563	
2017	96	(est.) 2022-23	58	101	114	98	92	102	109	98	106	110	128	125	130	155	0	1468	1526	
2018	96	(est.) 2023-24	59	100	101	114	101	92	101	108	96	106	105	127	128	123	0	1402	1461	
2019	96	(est.) 2024-25	60	100	100	101	118	101	91	100	106	96	102	104	130	121	0	1370	1430	
2020	98	(est.) 2025-26	61	103	100	100	104	118	100	90	98	106	92	101	107	123	0	1342	1403	
2021	99	(est.) 2026-27	62	104	103	100	103	104	117	99	88	98	102	91	104	101	0	1314	1376	
2022	97	(est.) 2027-28	63	102	104	103	103	103	103	116	97	88	94	101	93	98	0	1305	1368	

PK-5
749
717
672
661
669
674
668
671
686
693
681

*Projections should be updated annually to reflect changes in in/out-migration of families, real estate sales, residential construction, and births.

Based on an estimate of births
 Based on children already born
 Based on students already enrolled

Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations*									
Year	K-3	K-5	4-5	K-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	7-12	9-12
2017-18	423	696	273	1139	578	443	306	878	572
2018-19	412	663	251	1100	574	437	303	873	570
2019-20	394	617	223	1018	514	401	265	852	587
2020-21	396	605	209	981	485	376	264	822	558
2021-22	403	612	209	963	450	351	243	786	543
2022-23	405	616	211	930	423	314	216	754	538
2023-24	416	609	193	919	411	310	202	685	483
2024-25	419	611	192	913	393	302	202	659	457
2025-26	407	625	218	919	394	294	204	627	423
2026-27	410	631	221	916	402	285	186	584	398
2027-28	412	618	206	919	404	301	185	571	386

Projected Percentage Changes			
Year	K-12	Diff.	%
2017-18	1711	0	0.0%
2018-19	1670	-41	-2.4%
2019-20	1605	-65	-3.9%
2020-21	1539	-66	-4.1%
2021-22	1506	-33	-2.1%
2022-23	1468	-38	-2.5%
2023-24	1402	-66	-4.5%
2024-25	1370	-32	-2.3%
2025-26	1342	-28	-2.0%
2026-27	1314	-28	-2.1%
2027-28	1305	-9	-0.7%
Change		-406	-23.7%