



# Macopin Grade Configuration Final Report

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December 17, 2019

# Brief History

- 1986-1987 Advisory Committee on Middle School Reorganization
- 1990-1991 Elementary Redistricting Report
- 1994 Restructuring Committee Report
- 1995-1996 Study Regarding Grade Level Realignment
- 2000-2001 Redistricting Plan Task Force
- 2010 Demographic & Redistricting Report
- 2019 Enrollment Projection & Demographic Study
- 2019-2020 Macopin Grade Level Configuration Committee

# Timeline

- June 2019: Committee announced
- July 2019: Sub-committee membership selected (BOE, Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Community members)
- August 2019: Sub-committee chairpersons meet
- September 2019 – December 2019: Sub-committees meet
- December 2019: Superintendent makes final recommendation to BOE

# Purpose of Committee - Questions

- To determine if sixth grade can be moved to Macopin?
- To determine should the sixth grade be moved to Macopin?
  - Is it in the best interests of our children?
- Investigate
  - Curriculum and academics
  - Changes to staffing and master schedule, inclusive of special education
  - Social-emotional learning concerns and opportunities
  - Operational issues (lunch, lockers, etc.)
  - Facility use and availability
  - Transportation
  - Fiscal ramifications

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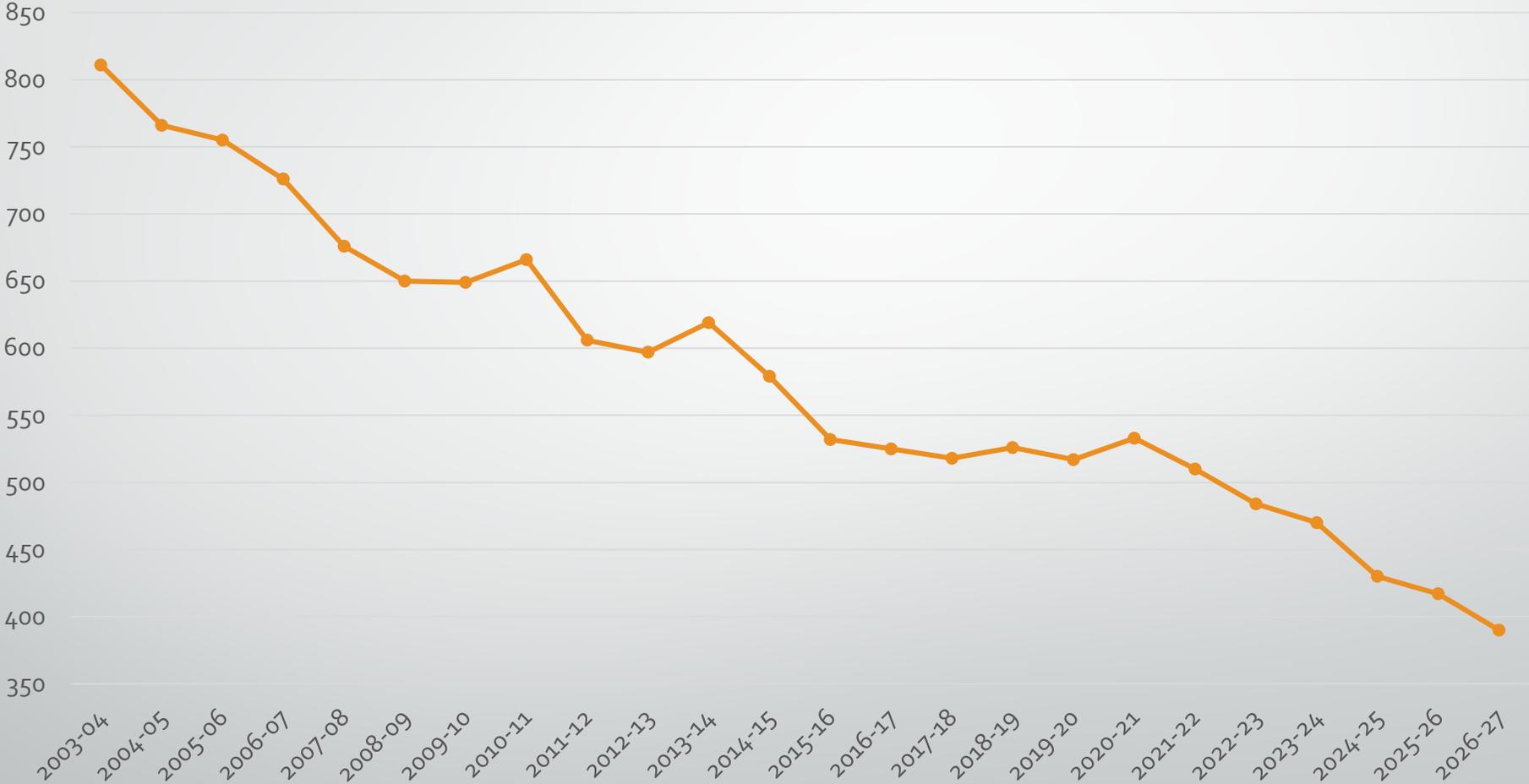
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# 2019-2020 District Enrollment K-7

(as of 12/9/19)

GRADE	ENROLLMENT
Seventh	264
Sixth	271
Fifth	241
Fourth	245
Third	227
Second	205
First	214
Kindergarten	178

# Macopin Enrollment Gr. 7-8



# Macopin Enrollment Gr. 6-8



# Academics Sub-Committee

- Sixth grade organized into two clusters of four teachers (math, English language arts, science, social studies) each.
- Students take core classes within their cluster.
- Team teaching approach (assignments, projects, and tests are coordinated).
- Common planning for teachers (180 opportunities for parent conferences).
- Takes a large school and makes it smaller.
- Subjects taught by subject area specialists, not generalists.
- Greater number of elective classes offered in sixth grade.
- Greater number of co-curricular activities, including after school programs.
- Macopin Title 1 status could potentially change (June).
- Sixth grade would shift to a Macopin report card.

# Sixth Grade Math Placements

- Differentiated Instruction: students would have multiple options for math placement:
  - Pre Algebra 6 – Algebra 7 – Geometry 8 (Algebra 2 in grade 9)
  - Math 6 – Pre Algebra 7 – Algebra 8 (Geometry in grade 9)
  - Math 6 – Math 7 – Math 8 (Algebra in grade 9)
- Other core classes (English language arts, social studies, science) would be heterogeneously mixed and on grade level.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum

- New Jersey Student Learning Standards and Assessment
- Professional Learning Community
- Materials and Resources
- Staff Certifications
  - *"Persons who hold a K-8 Elementary Certificate are not required to obtain a Middle School Certificate if they would be assigned to teach social studies, math, science, or ELA in grades 6-8"* – NJDOE Office of Licensing
  - There are currently 86 teachers in our District who hold a K-8 Elementary Certificate.

# English Language Arts

- Grades K-8 use the Readers and Writers Instructional Model.
- Sixth grade teachers are in Year 2 of a five-year Readers and Writers Workshop professional development plan.
- Sixth grade ELA materials include Readers and Writers Workshop units; leveled libraries; guided reading materials; online grammar/usage software; Learning A-Z online units, and LinkIt NJSLA practice and benchmarking programs.
- A new Word Study program will be adopted for 2020-2021.

# Math

- Sixth grade math teachers are using the Course 1 McGraw Hill book, which includes online access and a consumable workbook.
- ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) is the online software associated with this program and all students have access, in school and at home.
- With the transition to middle school, an honors program (Pre-Algebra) will be offered to 6th grade students. This should increase the number of students enrolling in Algebra 1 at Macopin and eventually increase the number of students enrolling in AP Calculus at WMHS.
- Geometry will be made available to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Macopin.

# Social Studies

- Sixth grade students will continue to study world history with units including:
  - Early humans
  - Mesopotamia
  - Egypt
  - China
  - Greece
- Transitioning to a middle school will provide additional time for the exploration of our curriculum including document-based questions (DBQs) and other writing tasks.

# Science

- New Jersey Student Learning Assessment - Science (NJSLA-S) is an assessment written and designed for a 6-8 school. Assessments in science are at the end of grade 5 and at the end of grade 8.
- Move to middle school increases time dedicated to science.
- Sixth grade students will have access to lab space and the Macopin greenhouse and will complete lab experiments.

# Special Education

- Macopin offers the full continuum of educational programs meeting the individual needs of all learners.
- Successful inclusion opportunities during the school day and through co-curricular activities.
- Access to mental health professionals within the building.
- Case managers have offices at Macopin School.
- After committee input and case management feedback, Macopin incorporates all special services supports and can meet the unique needs of each student.

# Music, World Language, Health/P.E.

- Band and chorus would meet every day – an increase from elementary schools.
- Sixth grade students would receive one marking period of Spanish taught by a certified Spanish teacher – an increase from elementary schools.
- Health/Phys.Ed. would be offered every day for a full year – an increase from elementary schools. In addition to traditional activities, these courses would have a focus on health, wellness and social and emotional learning.

# Standards-Based Instruction

- Many subjects (math, ELA, etc.) have standards for each grade. Other subjects have standards for a “grade band”. Typical grade bands for standards are K-5, 6-8.
- Science grade bands are for grades 6-8.
- American Association of School Librarians standards are for 6-8.
- International Society of Technology Educators standards are for 6-8.
- Core Social and Emotional Learning Competencies are for grades 6-8.
- K-12 Computer Science Student Framework Statements are for grades 6-8.

# Master Schedule Sub-Committee

- Site Visits/Reviews: Kinnelon, Madison, Montclair, Randolph
  - These schools offered different types of schedules: 8 period, 9 period, rotating drop, etc.
- Current Macopin Schedule Remains Unchanged: “Straight 8”
  - All classes meet for one class period, every day. Classes run for either a full year or a semester (half year) or a marking period (quarter year).
  - Student schedules include 7 classes plus lunch/flex (STEM, Coding, Art, Chorus).
  - Allows for shared teachers between Macopin and WMHS.

# Macopin Sixth Grade Schedule (tentative)

- Period 1      Math
  - Period 2      Science
  - Period 3      Elective
  - Period 4      English Language Arts
  - Period 5      Elective
  - Period 6      Phys. Ed./Health
  - Period 7      Sixth Grade Lunch (12:32)
  - Period 8      Social Studies
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- All levels of special education (In-Class Resource, Pull-out Resource Center, Self-Contained) classes will be offered. This will result in the opportunity for a greater amount of time spent in class with non-disabled peers in the least restrictive environment.

# Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Sub-Committee

- Smaller grade span than elementary school.
- Social and emotional needs of sixth grade students are those of a middle school student.
- Transfer one Child Study Team Social Worker to Macopin.
- For a more inclusive approach, special education students who are not in a cluster for their core classes are “attached” to a cluster for field trips, special activities, etc.
- Daily access to Child Study Teams and Guidance services.
- Fall 2020 – Sixth grade day trip.
- Fall 2020 – Seventh grade overnight trip to Fairview.

# Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Sub-Committee (cont'd)

- Macopin After-School Clubs
  - Art, Bagpipe, Brass Ensemble, Computer, Floor Hockey, Fitness, Model U.N., Golf, Jazz Band, Lacrosse, Ski/Snowboard, Tennis, Model Congress, Track and Field, Volleyball, Weight Training, Woodwind Ensemble, Flag Football, Chess, Color Guard, Wiffle Ball, School Musical, Running, etc.
  - Minimal costs/fees
  - Late bus included
  - All students are included in clubs and encouraged to participate.

# Transportation Sub-Committee

- Continue with two-tier bussing: PK-5; 6-12.
- Most seniors and many juniors do not ride school bus.
- No significant changes to bus routes anticipated.
- Earlier start time for sixth grade students.
- Late bus (3:30) offered three days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday).
- No changes to special education bus routes anticipated.

# Facilities Sub-Committee

- Second register and second cafeteria worker would expedite Macopin lunch periods.
- Need about 40 extra hallway lockers for students.
- Shared gym lockers.
- Potential need to move some classroom furniture, equipment, computers, etc. from elementary schools to Macopin.

# Fiscal Sub-Committee

- Reduction of 2.0 FTE positions = (\$150,000).
- Economies of scale.
- All other cost increases or decreases are minor.

# What Does a K-5 School Look Like?

- REAL Program moved to grade 5; current school year we will offer to grades 5 & 6.
- Reduced need for dual-use classrooms and extra space to expand opportunities for special education classrooms, reading specialists, Encore (Basic Skills) teachers, etc.
- Greater opportunity for counseling sessions and proactive measures (lunch bunch, classroom lessons, etc.) by our social workers.
- Increase Encore services to students K-5.
- Increase access to early intervention for all students.
- Possible reduction in number of lunch periods from three to two.
- There is **no recommendation** to close an elementary school.

# Next Steps

- January – March
  - Staffing meetings
  - Curricula alignment and pacing guides
  - Macopin master schedule planning
  - 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night
  - Students select classes for Macopin
- April – May
  - Staff transfers
  - Curricula alignment and pacing guides cont'd
  - Materials for 2020-2021 school year ordered (Ed. Data, etc.)
  - Macopin Guidance meetings and student visits to Macopin
  - Review special education programs and placements (IEP transition meetings)
- June – August
  - Data entry at Board Offices (Realtime, Share911, Frontline, PCR, Payroll, etc.)
  - Curricula alignment approved by BOE
  - Bus routes finalized
  - Furniture moved, classrooms reorganized and repurposed
  - Macopin master schedule completed and students scheduled for classes