



**McLean County, IL
Unit District No. 5**

**Public Information Session 2
Survey Report**

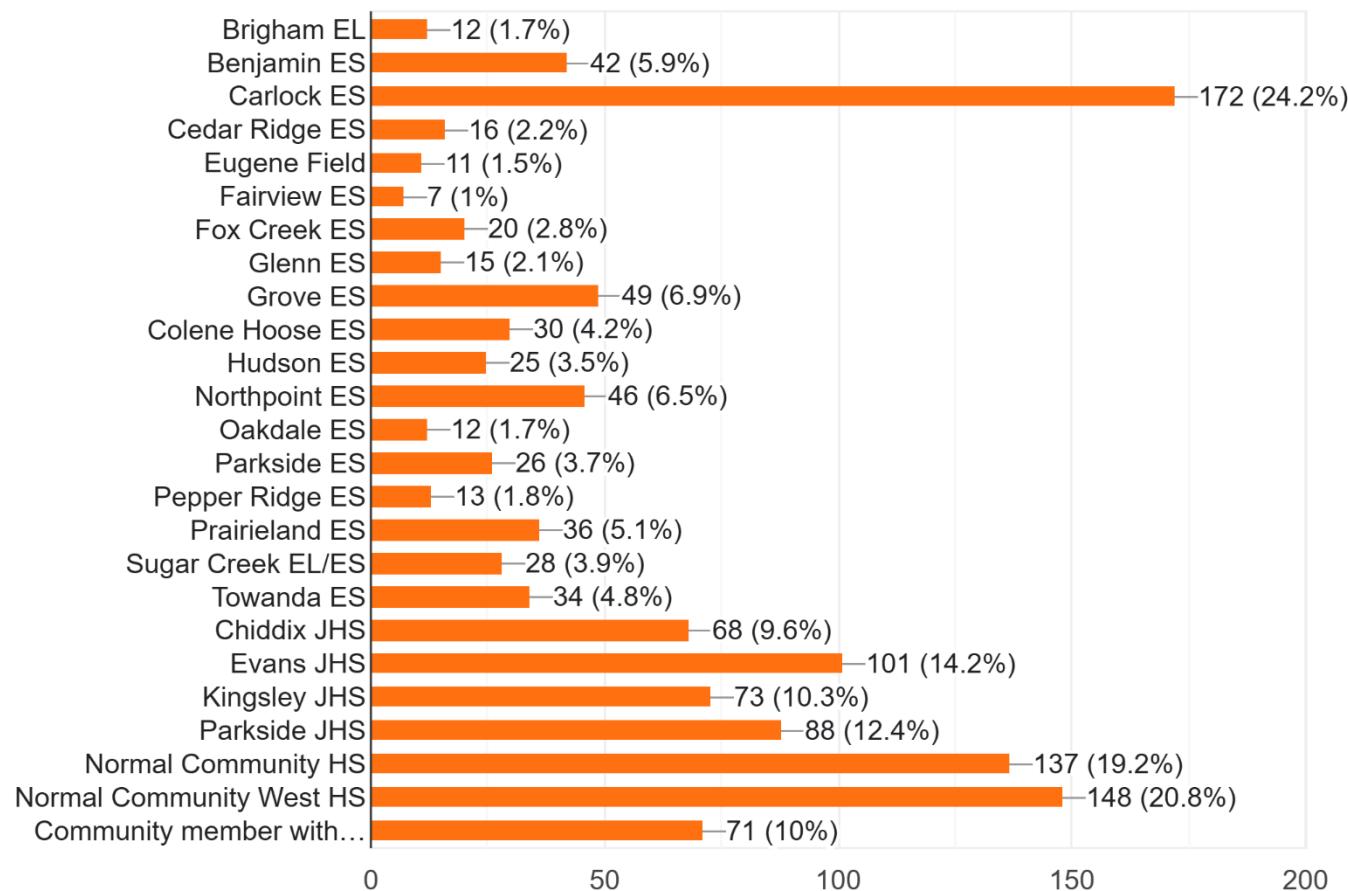
Cropper GIS

McLean County District Unit No. 5 – Public Information Session 2 Survey Report

This report summarizes feedback from members of the public who attended the second Public Information Session on December 10, 2025, on Zoom. The presentation was later posted to the enrollment planning website as a YouTube video, so that those who could not attend the webinar could still participate. Respondents provided input on school enrollment, building conditions, and capacity needs. 736 respondents filled out the survey before it was closed. Respondents did not have to answer every question. Graphs showing the breakdown of answers to each question are followed by a summary of commentary. Raw comments are compiled at the end of the document.

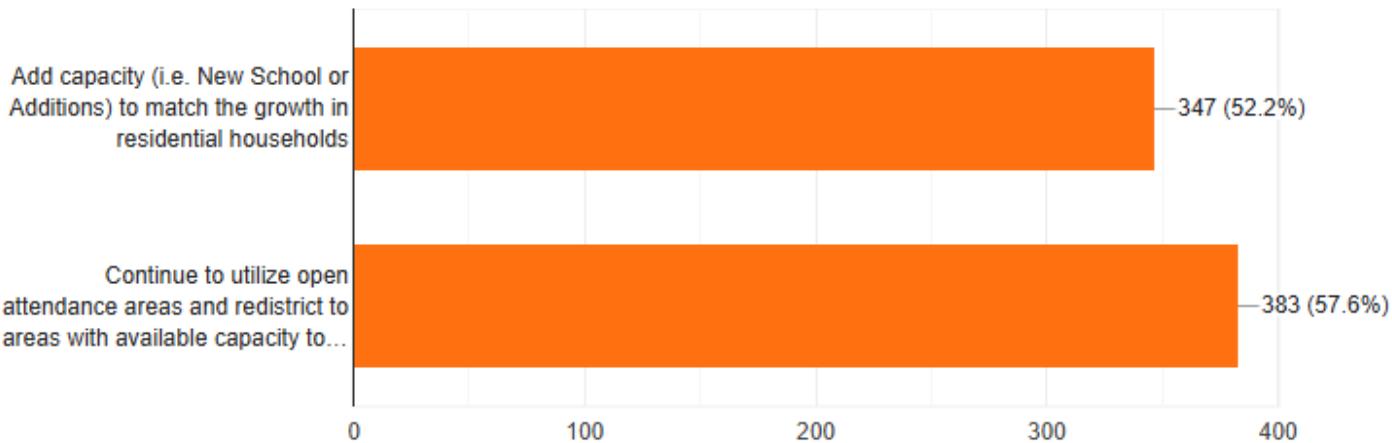
Which Schools are you Affiliated with? – 712 responses**Which Schools are you affiliated with?**

712 responses



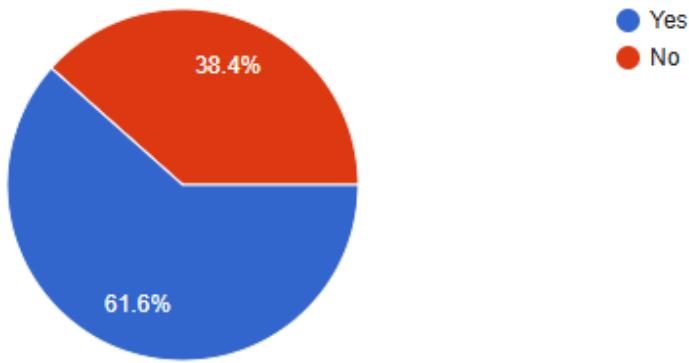
Eastern Area Elementary (East of Veterans Pkwy/North of Bloomington)

How do you think Unit 5 should address the needs of communities and students on the east/northeast end of the district? – 665 responses



Would you support the concept of adding more capacity to the east end of the district via a new Elementary School or expansions? – 666 responses

666 responses



Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district? – 249 responses

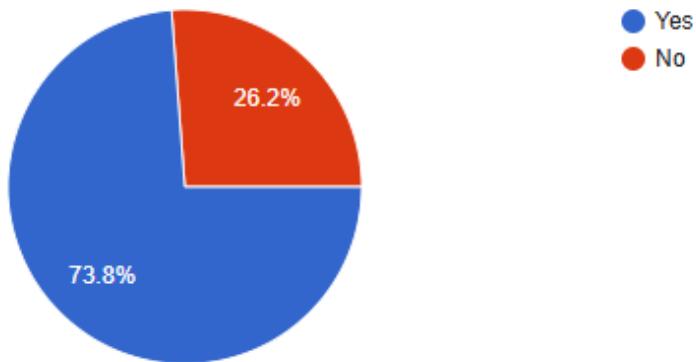
- **Redistricting and Boundary Changes:** Many respondents suggested redrawing school district zones/boundaries to better balance enrollment across the district and utilize existing school capacity, often proposing to shift boundaries further west.
- **Utilize Existing Capacity:** A significant number of responses favored utilizing existing buildings and open seats in schools with lower enrollment (like Carlock, Towanda, or other central/west schools) rather than building new facilities or expanding current ones.
- **Avoid Building New Schools/Raising Taxes:** There was strong resistance to building a new elementary school or raising taxes/taking on more debt, with many advocating for expansion of current schools if necessary, and emphasizing fiscal responsibility.
- **Maintain Small Schools/Class Sizes:** Several comments supported keeping smaller schools open (like Carlock) and expressed concern over large class sizes, suggesting that smaller schools contribute to academic success and community identity.

- **Equity and Socioeconomic Balance:** Some responses highlighted the need to consider socioeconomic status and diversity when redistricting to avoid creating "ghettoized" schools and to ensure equitable access to resources across the district.

Early Learning and Special Services (18-22 year olds) - 649 responses

Would you support the concept of repurposing an elementary school in the district with a focus on meeting the growing needs of students for early learning / special services?

649 responses



Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services? - 149 responses

- **Need for Inclusive and Integrated Services:** Many respondents expressed concern about the potential for segregation if students receiving special services are moved to a dedicated facility, emphasizing the benefit of inclusion with general education peers in neighborhood schools.
- **Concerns for the 18-22 Year-Old Special Services Program (Eugene Field):** There is significant feedback that Eugene Field needs a new, ADA-compliant, and centrally located facility (with good access to public transit) to accommodate the program's growth and unique needs for life/job skills training, rather than simply repurposing an old elementary building.
- **Early Learning Location and Transportation:** A centralized early learning facility is supported by some for consistency and accessibility, but concerns were raised by others about long bus rides for young children, especially if a school like Carlock is repurposed.
- **Alternative Facility Solutions:** Respondents suggested using existing vacant corporate or community buildings (like the old State Farm building or BACC facility), expanding current school buildings, or utilizing existing spaces within the community to teach life and job skills.
- **Focus on Existing Buildings and Financial Responsibility:** Some responses questioned the financial logic of closing a school to repurpose it, suggesting that improving current facilities or implementing redistricting would be a more responsible use of taxpayer money.

Southern Area Elementary Attendance Areas (South of Bloomington, Including Cedar Ridge, Pepper Ridge, and Fox Creek) - 639 responses

How should Unit 5 schools address the needs of students in the southern area of the district?

639 responses

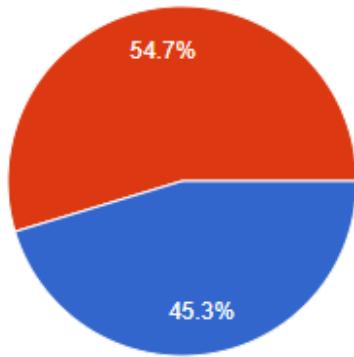
**Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in the southern area of the district? - 127 responses**

- **Redistricting for enrollment and equity:** Many responses suggest redistricting to balance enrollment across schools, prevent overcrowding, and address socioeconomic disparities, particularly in the east and south of the district. Redistricting is also viewed as a cheaper alternative to building.
- **Concerns about Carlock Elementary:** There is strong opposition to closing Carlock Elementary, with respondents advocating for utilizing its good condition and available space for expansion to accommodate more students and relieve pressure on other overcrowded schools.
- **Addressing Cedar Ridge's needs:** Respondents noted the need for expansion at Cedar Ridge, which houses the bilingual population, and the importance of balancing enrollment and student needs (including socioeconomic and specialized programs) in this area.
- **High School Alignment and Capacity:** There are concerns about the current feeder pattern where some elementary schools feeding into Evans Junior High are split between high schools (NCHS and NCWS). Some suggest a third high school in the south end to accommodate growth and relieve NCHS.
- **General Financial Concerns:** Multiple responses express opposition to raising taxes or taking on more debt, urging the district to live within its budget, utilize existing facilities, and avoid costly new construction or loans.

Carlock Elementary - 686 responses

How should Unit 5 schools address the lower/declining enrollment of Carlock Elementary School?

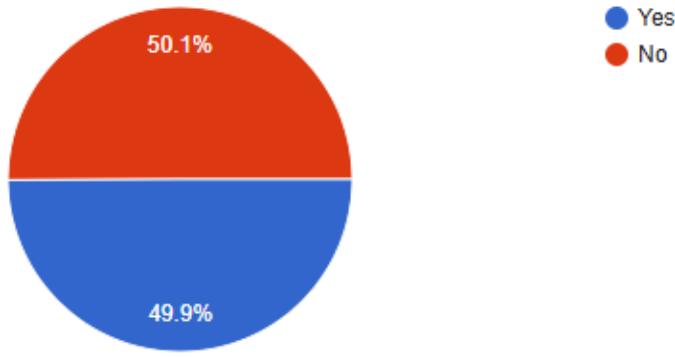
686 responses



- Discontinue/Repurpose and send students to existing/new schools in town with available capacity.
- Continue to operate Carlock as a smaller school and redistrict to add as many students as possible.

Would you support the concept of discontinuing/repurposing Carlock Elementary School? - 681 responses

681 responses



Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School? - 265 responses

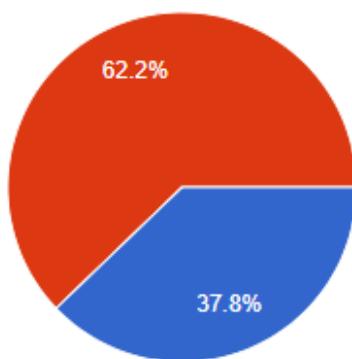
- **Keep Carlock Elementary Open and Utilize Existing Capacity:** The most prominent theme is the strong opposition to closing Carlock ES, with many advocating for continuing its operation, utilizing its existing capacity, and finding ways to increase enrollment through redistricting, open enrollment, or busing students from overcrowded schools like Parkside, Cedar Ridge, or those in northern Normal/Bloomington areas.
- **Carlock is an Exemplary and High-Performing School:** Many respondents emphasize that Carlock is a 'gem,' 'exemplary,' and one of the highest-performing schools in the district and state, arguing that the district should model other schools after its success, not close it. The smaller class sizes are frequently cited as the reason for this success and better learning environment.
- **Community Impact and Broken Promises:** Closing the school would be 'devastating,' 'catastrophic,' and 'irreparable harm' to the small Carlock community, negatively impacting property values and community identity. A significant number of responses express distrust and feeling 'betrayed,' stating that the community voted for a recent tax increase (referendum) based on the district's promise to keep the school open.
- **Busing and Location Considerations:** Concerns were raised that closing Carlock would result in 100% of students needing to be bussed, potentially for longer periods on rural roads, which is seen as less safe and more costly than the current situation where many rural students already use Carlock as their nearest school.

- **Carlock is a Growing Community:** Numerous responses mention new subdivisions, home sales, and young families moving to Carlock, indicating a projected increase in future enrollment, making closure a short-sighted decision.
- **Alternative Uses Proposed:** Suggestions for repurposing the facility include using Carlock for early childhood education, specialized/special services (special needs) programs, a lab school for teacher training, or a pilot for rural magnet programming.
- **Dispute on Enrollment Numbers and Equity:** Some respondents challenge the characterization of low enrollment, pointing out that current classes like 1st grade are larger, and enrollment fluctuates. They also argue that while smaller class sizes may seem inequitable to other schools, they are beneficial, and the focus should be on reducing class sizes district-wide, not closing the successful small school.

Towanda Elementary

How should Unit 5 schools address the needs for Towanda Elementary School? – 608 responses

608 responses

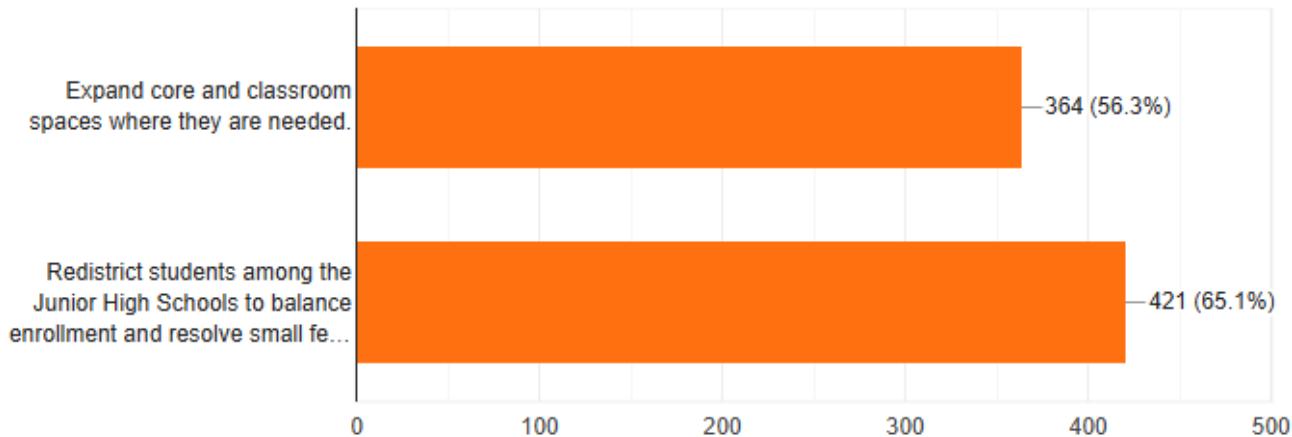


- Build a new school in a location south of Towanda to serve the Towanda and students living in the East/Northeastern part of Unit 5.
- Expand and Renovate the current Towanda Elementary School on its existing site.

Junior High Schools

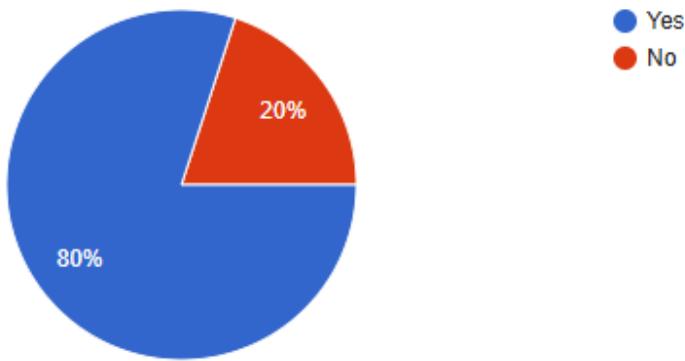
How should Unit 5 schools address needs of Junior High School students in the district? – 647 responses

647 responses



Would you support expanding core and classroom spaces at the districts Junior High Schools that have the need? - 625 responses

625 responses



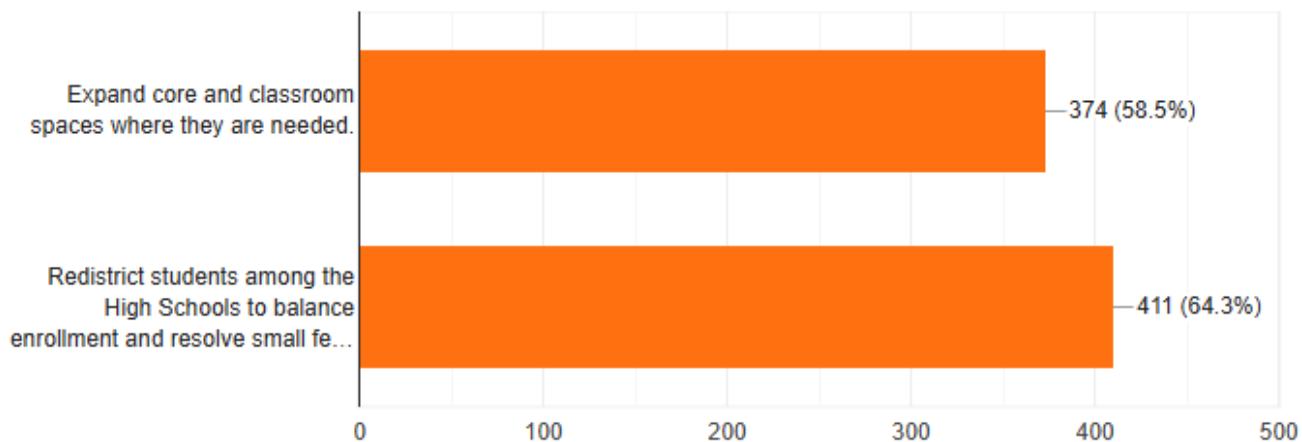
Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in Unit 5 Junior High Schools? - 151 responses

- **Redistricting for Balance and Consistent Feeder Patterns:** A prominent theme is the need to redistrict students among the Junior High Schools (JHS) to balance enrollment and resolve split feeder patterns where a single JHS feeds into both high schools (NCHS and NCWHS). Many believe that all students from one JHS should feed into the same high school to preserve friendships and for the social-emotional well-being of the students, with suggestions to align Kingsley and Parkside to Normal West, and Chiddix and Evans to Normal Community High School.
- **Facility Needs at Evans Junior High School (EJHS):** Numerous responses highlight that Evans Junior High is over capacity and desperately needs additional core space, particularly a second gym, and more classroom space due to its high enrollment. There is a general call for either expansion at Evans or redistricting to alleviate overcrowding.
- **Concerns about Chiddix Junior High School:** Several respondents noted the age of Chiddix JHS, citing that it is old, small, often overcrowded, and has accessibility issues, leading to suggestions that it should be replaced or demolished and rebuilt.
- **Location and Transportation Concerns:** The remote location of Evans JHS is a concern, with long drive/bus times for students, particularly those in NE Normal. There is a suggestion for a new JHS to be built on the far east or northeast side of the district.
- **Financial and Tax Concerns:** A recurring concern is that facility work should be done without raising taxes, and that Unit 5 needs to better manage its finances. Additionally, some responses simply stated "no" or "n/a" to having other considerations.

High Schools

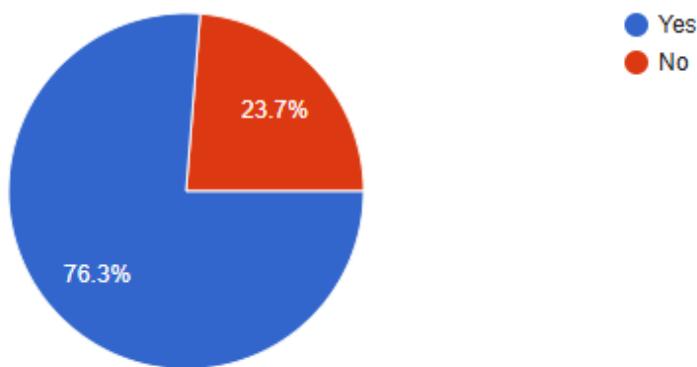
How should Unit 5 schools address needs of High School spaces in the district? – 639 responses

639 responses

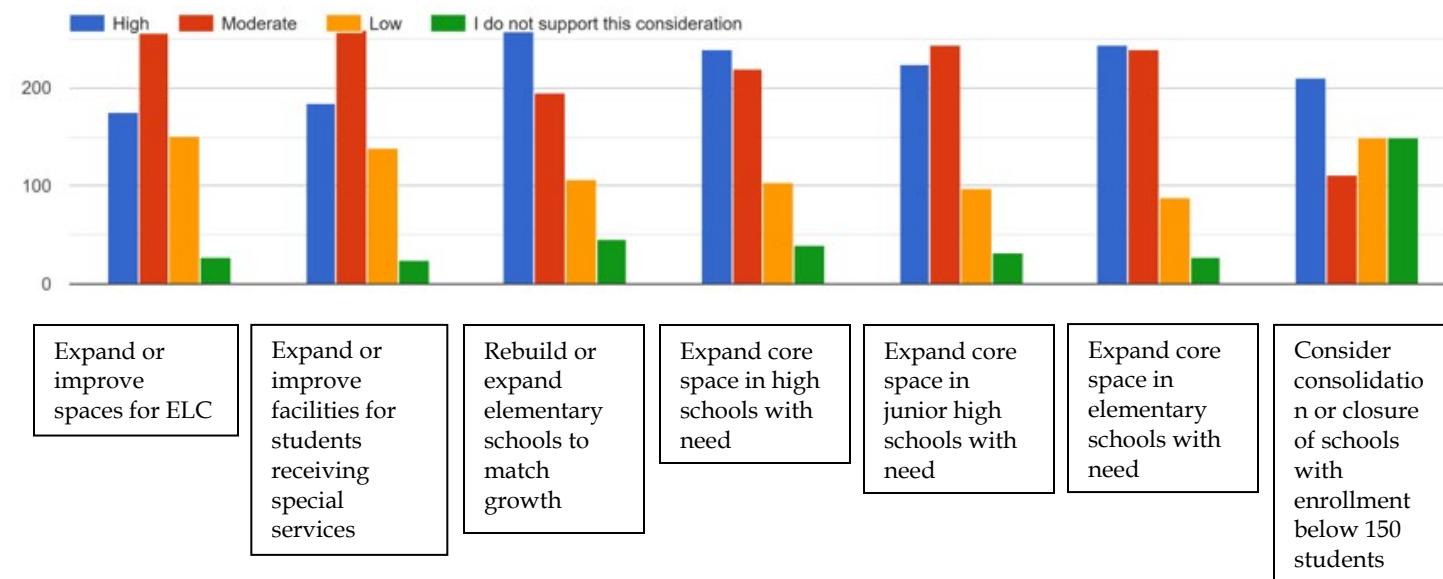


Would you support expanding core and classroom spaces at the districts High Schools that have the need? – 611 responses

611 responses



Please help to prioritize the list of facility improvements that have been considered in terms of High, Moderate, or Low importance.



Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities? - 205 responses

- Opposition to Closing Carlock Elementary: Numerous responses strongly oppose closing Carlock Elementary, citing its exemplary performance, small class sizes, value to the community, and the potential negative impact on the town and property values. Many suggest redistricting or sending more students to Carlock to balance enrollment.
- Redistricting and Enrollment Balance: A significant number of responses advocate for redistricting as the primary solution to address enrollment imbalance across the district, particularly between the two high schools (NCHS and Normal West). Redistricting is viewed as a more cost-effective alternative to new construction.
- Fiscal Responsibility and Taxes: A recurring theme is the concern over tax increases, requests for new referendums, and overall financial mismanagement by the district. Many call for better utilization of existing funds, cutting administrative costs, and avoiding further tax burdens on citizens.
- High School Balance and Feeder Patterns: Concerns were raised about the significant enrollment and socio-economic imbalance between Normal Community HS and Normal West HS. Several suggestions focus on improving feeder patterns from junior high to high school to maintain student groups and ensure equity.
- Administrative and Oversight Concerns: Respondents expressed a lack of trust in Unit 5's administration and board, citing past unkept promises, lack of transparency, excessive administrative spending and salaries, and poor communication, especially regarding transportation issues.

Eastern Area Elementaries**Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?**

That area east of Veterans seems to be the most likely for future residential development so this unbalance will only continue to grow if not addressed.

no

There is capacity within the district to move students into classrooms with open seats. The district should utilize the capacity they have rather than build new schools and cost taxpayers more.

Are families on the east side even made aware that they can consider sending their children to the schools in the open attendance areas?

No

No

Send more kids to Carlock. When I was there, there were two classes per grade for certain grades and it went through sixth grade. There's room.

Spread them out to others schools. Have some good to Towanda or other schools close to the end of Normal.

No

No construction until total capacity is unable to accommodate needs

This solution would be simple if we merged districts (Unit 5 and District 87). 87 has seen enrollment drop, while the town is slightly expanding. This option was voted on previously every few year, have we explored this option again before spending millions on new facilities?

Shift all boundary's to the west putting more kids in Carlock and parkside elementary reducing the number on the east side schools. I know we don't want the highest tax base kids having to ride the bus for a long time but we can close a smaller school and make those kids ride the bus for a long time

The number of SS students who push in to classes MUST be counted when looking at class sizes. It is unacceptable to have 32 elementary kids in a class. Even with TA support, it is very hard to meet the needs of the SS students, students in the gen ed class with IEPs, and gen ed students without IEPs who need additional support. I have been told numerous times by the district that "push in numbers don't count," so in response, I am asking you, the district... which of my students are you telling me don't count?? My special needs students, or my gen ed students who are not getting as much individualized attention as students in other classes across the district?

Coordinated bus routing and many parents choose to deliver/pickup kids, so if an option of school choice is available, parents could opt for conscience rather than nearness.

no

Move the boundaries west.

re-do the school district zones

But not at the expensive of closing buildings already open.

YES! Consider open attendance and redistricting, BUT provide enough time for existing students to finish. Focus on a solution with limited disruption. You guys are smart and can do it. Does not have to happen tomorrow, consider families, communities, and kids social well being

Do not raise taxes. We are receiving conflicting information. First, schools are overcrowded and our taxes are raised. Next, schools have less attendance, and our taxes are raised. We need open, honest information to make any informed decisions.

Utilize open attendance schools

We would prefer that additions are made to current schools, rather than building a new one and forcing children to switch schools.

I honestly think it's time to talk with District 87. For example, kids in Royal Pointe are bussed to Hoose but Stevenson is right there. I've lived in a District 87 neighborhood that was close to Normal West but the kids were bussed all the way to BHS. We can't talk about neighborhood schools and bussing issues without considering consolidation first. In addition, Unit 5 already has great facilities - let's use them instead of taking even more money from families. Right now the economy is fine but tomorrow may be very different and committing future funds without utilizing what we already have is foolish.

The Carlock area is growing due to Rivian's presence and it is a disservice to the community to even speak of closing Carlock. Our students are thriving due to their excellent education by the current teachers and staff.

Redistrict and utilize existing buildings

Impacts on the small communities and small businesses in those communities if small town elementary schools are closed.

No

A new elementary school is needed. Towanda elementary was built in the 1800s expanding it would be a bandaid.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

While you have not yet shared detailed financial analyst or CBA that includes both tangible and intangible costs, my number one consideration is that students should receive a quality education and countless studies show larger schools with higher student to teacher ratios do not provide the quality of education and community identity students need. Second, is Unit 5 has repeatedly gone to voters asking for money and have not been transparent or in cases honest with the request. The latest 1 PERCENT tax was repeated communicated to the community as a 1 CENT tax. Any expansion I have to assume will come at a hard dollar cost to community members, and I have no faith Unit 5 will be upfront or honest with what that cost will truly be.

Benjamin doesn't appear to have much room for all the growth happening in The Grove neighborhood. It seems like there is plenty of space for expansion there.

Redistrict and use available resources instead of wasting funds

Offer students to attend other schools with lower student numbers. Redistricting students to other schools.

No

Utilize Carlock ES for West End children rather than spending tax dollars building another school. Citizens are being taxed to death already.. The current districting system in place makes absolutely no sense. Why are you busing kids who live closer to normal community West to normal community? Your redistricting system from years ago only displaces children further away. from their homes. Use common sense and think about the children's needs. What happened to smaller class sizes being more beneficial to the student? Our society has turned its back on the children.

Just 2 short years ago...U5 taxpayers were told NO MORE TAXES! Honestly...who can believe anything that comes out of the mouth of the U5 superintendent, remaining admin and the U5 school board members?!? Our 2 children ...53 and 49 years old...went all thru U5 beginning at Carlock. For years admin has threatened to close Carlock. Why don't you give Carlock School to the Goodfield, Congerville, Eureka District??? We area residents could enjoy lesser taxes and the annoying threats about closing Carlock. We Carlock residents deserve to live without the constant bullying. Maybe our tax moneys in a different district would be better utilized.

I live east of AIRPORT RD. I do NOT want to my children bused to west when NCHS is 8 minutes from my house.

We need more smaller schools to achieve academic success.

I am for expansions. I am not for new schools and I would imagine it would cost MORE to make a new school than simply renovate an existing one.

You will be contributing to sprawl and the spreading out of public services and a corresponding rise in our property taxes if you expand to the east. Those people knew about the school situation when they moved there. Punishing people who live in the central part of the town by closing their schools to help their richer neighbors to the east is a particularly putrid form of subsidization.

All residents are subsidizing sprawl infrastructure on the east side already with their tax dollars--utilities, gas, roads, schools, etc. Residents in the city proper pay for this. People that want to move to the east suburbs of town should pay extra for their own sprawl. Non-suburb residents should not lose access to their neighborhood schools because some people want to move east.

It would be very bad (and sad) planning on the part of the town to just keep moving everything out east instead of investing in infrastructure, services, and affordable housing in the town proper that make this town great. The sprawl is not what is great about this town.

Could they be bused to less utilized schools?

Change your directing lines! There has always been an imbalance between the east side and the west side, that you have failed to addressed in the past. Moving the line further east would help alleviate a lot of the problems and provide aThere has always been an imbalance between the east side and the west side, that you have failed to addressed in the past. Moving the line further east would help alleviate a lot of the problems and provide a proper balance throughout the district

You could absolutely utilize Carlock elementary by expanding Carlock in a way that could include trailers to add additional classrooms. There is so much land around Carlock elementary. I don't understand why this is still a conversation. The fact that you want to open a school again east of veterans Parkway when so many of us on the west side Would have to travel more. What is the difference of other areas traveling to Carlock for elementary? This school is so important and so vital because it has the perks of a private school within a public school district and if you take that away, you are hurting students and teachers. Small classroom sizes are not a negative and we could expand all of our classroom sizes at Carlock to help with kids and other schools that need more assistance. Something new doesn't mean something better. Get it together unit five.

This same study also indicates that enrollment is dropping. In 5 years, will there still be a need for this building? I am not convinced building a new building is fiscally responsible

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

1. Current and Projected Enrollment Patterns

Conduct a geospatial enrollment analysis showing where students live now and where population growth or decline is occurring. Include housing development forecasts, birth rate trends, and planned residential projects that may shift student density over the next 5-10 years.

Identify whether the imbalance is a short-term fluctuation or a long-term structural issue.

2. Capacity Utilization Across All Schools

Assess how each building in the eastern area is currently being used:

Instructional classrooms

Special education spaces

Intervention rooms

Shared spaces like gyms and cafeterias

Determine whether underused buildings can be reconfigured before building or closing schools.

3. Transportation Efficiency and Equity

Model new bus routes to determine the actual travel time impact for students displaced by any school closure.

Evaluate the cost increase associated with longer routes, additional drivers, or more buses.

Consider winter weather delays and the impact of early pickup or late drop-off on young children.

3. Program Distribution and Student Services

Determine whether specialized programs (ELL, special education, Title I support, etc.) are evenly and efficiently distributed across buildings.

Identify whether relocating programs could help balance enrollment without requiring a full school closure.

4. Staffing Allocation and Class Size Management

Evaluate how staffing levels would shift if buildings are closed or consolidated.

Consider teacher-to-student ratios, support staff needs, and whether certain schools would experience overcrowded class sizes.

5. Building Condition and Cost Analysis

Review the facility condition index (FCI) for each building in the eastern area to ensure that closure or investment decisions align with long-term maintenance costs.

Factor in energy efficiency, safety compliance, and required renovations.

6. Community Access and Walkability

Assess how closing a neighborhood school affects the ability of students to walk or bike.

Evaluate the impact on families with limited transportation options.

Consider whether the closure would increase reliance on district-provided transportation.

7. Financial Transparency and Long-Term Planning

Require a clear cost-benefit analysis comparing:

Closing vs. renovating an existing building

Constructing a new building vs. expanding current schools

Transportation cost changes

Ensure that annual budget increases are tied to specific, understandable line items, not general statements.

8. Equity Implications

Analyze whether certain neighborhoods – especially low-income or high-density areas – would be disproportionately affected.

Ensure that the plan does not unintentionally create inequities in access to high-quality facilities or programs.

9. Stakeholder Impact

Capture input from teachers, families, and bus drivers who experience the day-to-day realities of overcrowding or undercapacity.

Conduct listening sessions specifically for those living in the affected eastern neighborhoods.

My concern would be splitting/changing where current Grove students attend junior high during this re-districting process. If boundaries are changed and not all Grove students attend the same Junior High, this would have an impact on friendships that have been developed throughout grade school years. The transition to junior high can be rough enough without knowing many of your friends may not be attending the same school. Also, families make major purchasing decisions (such as homes) based on which schools their kids will attend.

Allow open enrollment in other schools that are below capacity, particularly Carlock, to help empower parents to potentially help alleviate issues through school choice.

I do not think the general public would view the construction of a new elementary building as a responsible way to spend funds.

There is often talk of the way "Unit 5 mismanages money." I think that would fuel that narrative to remove elementary student from an elementary building to put them into a new building.

LEAVE CARLOCK ALONE.

THIS A CONTINUED, REPEATED THREAT. STOP.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

I think we can utilize shuffling students to different elementary and increase classes in schools with low enrollment to more evenly distribute the classes sizes

Prioritize proximity when redistricting

We should have k-2 and 3-5 buildings to help balance! Lots of research of districts that moved to this! That would then help balance our Jh and hs levels!

s.

Keep car lock open

Involved in a previous attempt to ship kids past their neighborhood schools for the sake of balance. It wasn't a good idea then and still isn't.

Add more capacity to existing buildings; no closure of Towanda Elementary School.

Action must be taken soon

Redistrict. They have not done this in years

Maybe cancel the 46 million dollar project in uptown normal..

Carlock families benefit from small class sizes and going to school with neighbor friends. LEAVE CARLOCK ALONE

We live on the SW side of Bloomington, and we live closer to five elementary schools than the one that we are assigned to. So, the district has no problem busing our kids far from home, so it should work OK to bus kids from the East Side to schools in the middle of town. Are there ways to build strategic partnerships with other organizations to avoid the costs of new buildings. For instance, would Eastview or the AC church be willing to have classes for students on their campus?

Why is Benjamin not being discussed as the largest elementary school in the district? Why am I teaching 29 and other schools are teaching 11?

While I understand the need for more building and seat use for specialized services, it has been a blessing to both students and families to have those students included in the NP community.

REDISTRICT!!!

Make sure that special programs are either balanced around the district or centrally located

None

Whatever the decision is, please reconsider using portable classrooms. For a district of this size and reputation, they are an awful look for visitors and new students to the new school.

Both things options need to be utilized. Smaller class sizes should be the overall goal.

I would only support as long as taxes are not raised again

Look at redistricting so that you can better balance enrollment across the district. Unless new buildings can be constructed or added on to without raising taxes we need to look at redistricting before we look at new construction.

Add a new school and make class sizes smaller. They're too large and it affects kids getting an education

We currently love Towanda ES and do not wish to be relocated, but Harvest Point subdivision is rapidly expanding and will continue to be a problem for space at Towanda

I am mainly concerned about my children being able to attend the same school that they do now. It would be devastating for them to have to switch schools.

I see no reason to build a new school when we currently have buildings with lower capacity that can be utilized like Carlock Elementary school. Maybe a shift to the map of where each household attends school makes more sense. Especially since the village of carlock was bullied into approving a referendum tax a year ago to keep the school open only to find out unit 5 is going to close it anyways. Stop spending money on building new buildings when current ones have the capacity to take in our children! This is why we have busses!

It's hard to believe that's where we have capacity issues given the growth on the west side due to Rivian and the portable classrooms at Parkside. Don't build a new school for the east side and leave buildings in the west overcrowded, if we grow our facilities this needs to holistically benefit the entire district.

No

We have found value in the mash-up of student demographics or redistricting, which provides diversity of socioeconomic status of the student body for a better overall student education and experience.

Allow an open enrollment policy (for students meeting criteria) which enables guardians to choose their school of choice and apply for open enrollment, allowing school leadership to determine acceptance or denial of those applications, based on successful open-enrollment models in other states.

I think a full redistricting is necessary to redistribute our population among existing buildings if an enrollment study determines that there's ample space across Unit 5 for our current enrollment. I know that saying this risks my own job security, but anything otherwise would be fiscally irresponsible as a district.

No.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

Beyond just the East side/West side divide, the socio-economic status of neighborhoods should be a high priority. Students from disadvantage locations need more support than economically privileged neighborhoods. U 5 is in danger of being accused of having "ghettoized" schools.

New housing developments continue to be added on the east side of town. So shifting boundaries would only be a temporary fix. You'd have to do it every few years which is disruptive to families and continues to push boundaries further and further from the school

All of the growth of the town is basically on the Eastside so a new school on the east side would help solve the capacity issue (just not sure where you could build it) - What about the old state farm building sitting basically empty off Ireland Grove?

There are plenty of schools with small class sizes elsewhere in the district & even on the east side of town. Tax payers need Unit 5 to manage funds responsibly, not take out more loans or raise taxes

No

Do long range planning and stop doing quick fixes.

It will continue to grow so I worry if we just redistrict, we will be stuck in this position again in a few years on the east side.

Schools with fewer students per classroom would be a good idea. 27 kids in a classroom is too many

Having students attend closer to their home would be better, but during the transition, allow impacted families to finish at current school if desired. I was discussing this with likely impacted Hoose families with current 4th graders yesterday.

Do not raise taxes or take on more debt. You keep seeking to operate beyond your financial means and it is creating significant ill will through the community.

I don't think a new school needs to be added if we simply redraw boundary lines. A new school should only be considered if all schools are near capacity.

No

Consider expanding existing schools. Eighteen elementary schools is a lot as it is. More schools calls for more administrators at higher salaries.

Maybe give Bloomington their kids to educate and let it be their problem :).

Ideally, I would think that you would like to keep neighborhoods together. That may mean adding a school.

Redistrict within reasonable distance from residence

Stop the open attendance areas. There need to be clear boundaries. The east side schools need to be redistricted for balance. Benjamin wasn't listed as a school of major concern, however the Grove on Kickapoo Creek is undergoing a massive expansion and there seems to be no plans to address that. The neighborhood has nearly doubled in the last 2 years and the school is already at maximum capacity. The growth is still underway with many more houses in development. Please look into this issue that is on the brink of becoming a real problem.

Expansion of buildings is the best option, as many elementary schools have the land capacity to do so on the east side. E.g., Grove, Benjamin. I would not support building a new school entirely.

No

Yes, send additional kids to Carlock if need be. Our taxes were increased recently to help with this!

Add new school in east or add more capacity to eastern school under unit 5

Need to consider district 87 and not let artificial boundaries determine choices.

Redistricting should greatly reduce the problem.

I would not support the building of a new school. I would support expanding schools or redistricting but not the closing of a school while opening another one, especially in today's economy.

N/A

The schools on the eastern part of the district continually get more because they tend to support more affluent areas.

Use existing assets before adding more. The east side transportation to the closest elementary and Jr. High schools is no further than students travel today from Carlock, Towanda, and Hudson.

Need to look at balance of socioeconomic differences between Normal West and Normal community

Move students West. We have enough schools. More schools means more teachers and more building maintenance costs.

Benjamin is OVERFLOWING! It is already a large school. An expansion would make it too large for an elementary school. Housing on the east side of town continues to expand. I think building a new elementary school on the east side would be the best long-term option.

If a new school is built on the east side, this would create space in the eastern side schools to absorb some specialized classrooms that are currently housed in other buildings, especially those buildings with more than one program currently (Parkside, Hoose, Pepper)

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

Use the existing buildings and facilities and get creative. Property taxes already too high and no appetite for new buildings, more staff, etc. to do this. Too bad for those on the edge of town.

Did not know this was a problem. My students have been at Grove for the past 8 years and we have never had a problem with capacity at their school.

Hire quality teachers and expand school.

Taxes were recently raised. Reduce administrative personnel to help fund needs.

Love ng term cost.of bus routes versus school expansion

If new additions or new schools would increase the amount of elementary students that would then be districted to attend Evans Junior High, then I would not be in favor. We are already overfilled and past capacity in classrooms. We need expansion or redistricting for our own building to meet our current needs. We cannot expand our building AND take in more elementary students. It would be like solving the problem of needing more space in our own building, but then creating a new problem by making us overfilled again.

It would probably be better to expand capacity for now - this will provide greater flexibility to add later as the community continues to expand to the east.

Look at how many students are granted attendance exceptions to attend different schools than where they are districted to attend.

The classroom size at Benjamin is WAY too high. We need more space to reduce class sizes.

Step 1, redistrict for the number of seats. Step 2, add capacity.

I think it needs to be realistic to what is available. I.E. if you want to add capacity to a building, it needs to be functional with the available space - some buildings might have room to add additions, while others may not. It also needs to be forward-thinking. I.E. if future growth is projected on the east side of town, we need another east side school that can grow with new populations.

Consideration should be made to keep kids as close to their neighborhoods as possible. Lengthy bus rides are detrimental to students and families.

No

There should be data collected from family of preferred school locations.

Many of these students will move on to attend Evans Junior High School, so both classroom and core capacity should be addressed there now in order to be proactive.

bus them to schools that have lower numbers (Carlock is one example) Don't close one school to build another.

My job takes me across elementary schools, and I would say the greatest need is at Cedar Ridge. Because the school serves a higher number of low-income students and bilingual students, I feel like concerns are too often dismissed or overlooked. That is where your attention should be.

I would support a new school only if there were not options to redistricting and take advantage of seats available at other schools.

My daughter is bussed from a North Eastern subdivision to Sugar Creek despite living down the road from Grove Elementary because that is how the district drew the map. Seems this process could continue to be used to rebalance students amongst the already existing elementary schools.

n/a

No

Many families who live in the eastern Hoose district chose houses specifically for this school and don't mind the short drive to get there. Another school or addition to add capacity for Benjamin or grove would be a better use.

Our experience is that while Sugar Creek as a K-5 and EL building provides a unique experience for the students who attend there with both of those populations under one roof, that scenario also presents some challenges when it comes to overall cohesiveness of staff and families served by that building. Although Sugar Creek is west of Veterans Parkway, I wonder if that is a building that could help to alleviate some of the crowding to the east if it was strictly a K-5 building. In the interest of full disclosure, my husband is the K-5 principal at Sugar Creek, but these thoughts are my own and not necessarily shared by him. This is not something we have discussed in depth.

Yes. We live on Dianne Drive which is pretty far east, but we attend Colene Hoose. I would be concerned about being shuffled around to schools that don't make sense logically because of where we fall on a map. Hoose has worked because I work nearby

I think hiring more teachers would be beneficial. At Northpoint my child has consistently had a class size between 25-30 students. Although we've lucked out by always having exceptional teachers, I think a class size closer to 20 would be better for both teachers and students in order to have best classroom control and learning experience.

Eastern area of the district is no longer growing according to demographics/Town of Normal. More growth is anticipated north. <https://tongis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/df07946434c947f7936743df5c4eb076>

They need to redraw the lines as enough tax payer dollars have already been provided and recently increased for our schools and we don't need it raised again.

Building new should be last resort to capacity.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

A Unit 5 jr. high should exist somewhere north of vernon and east of towanda avenue

The schools are already crunched together, Grove & Northpoint are less than 2 miles apart. We live within walking distance to Grove, currently 2 of our grades (2nd & Kindergarten) only have 3 sections per grade. I believe that Northpoint has several grades with 3 sections, if this is the case, I would much rather see both of those schools at capacity with 4 sections per grade level. I don't think crowding is a problem at Grove or Northpoint, neither school is utilizing portable classrooms. Not that portable classrooms are cost efficient but it has to be cheaper than a new school. We live in Eagles Landing, overall the neighborhood kids are getting older, although new families move in all the time, I wonder if there is a need for a brand new school. Same thing with Northpoint neighborhoods. We are within walking distance to Grove and NCHS. Children living in Blackstone Trails would need to be bussed regardless of where they go to school, so they currently go to Sugar Creek. I realize they are closer to Grove but having them attend a different school seems to be working. I think Blackstone should attend NCHS, but if they are needing bussed anyway, could they attend Normal West. Enrollment is significantly larger at NCHS compared to West, maybe balance that out instead of building a new grade school. Also, trying to keep students in the junior highs feeding into the same high schools, I think currently Chiddix and Kinsley feed into both high schools.

There needs to be a middle school on the East side. You can then align some of the elementary schools on the middle of the city to Kinsley then West, not Normal Community.

There is classroom space available in schools now but no teachers

My only concern would be will these projects be completed timely enough to address the issues before students in those areas age out of the district.

Add a central district instead of enlarging the two. Utilize space in lower enrollment schools for early childhood programs

Flexibility of Facility Design:

If new capacity is added, consider flexible or modular designs that can expand or contract as enrollment shifts over time.

Evaluate whether grade reconfiguration (e.g., early childhood centers or K-2 / 3-5 models) could relieve pressure without a full new build.

Carlock is a great school with very high academic success. My children don't attend there, however I would be sad to see it close as it's a great option for parents that don't want to be in the assigned school.

No

Fill the existing classrooms first. They are not at capacity. Colene Hoose, Grove should be quads.

Seems that redistributing would make the balanced budget.

The schools east of Veteran's already have newer, nicer, more expensive facilities. It would be nice to spread the money to enlarge/improve K-8 schools in the central area.

I think it is important to ty and balance the socio economic status of the schools, especially elementary.

Na

Re-evaluate bus routes and capacity at our current elementary schools. Keep Carlock and Hudson open instead of closing them....to ensure no one school is over capacity.

Keep Carlock as part of the current district

Consider redistricting lines further west as well to assist in understanding enrollment elsewhere and making more room on the east.

I do not want to build a new school if taxes will be raised once again.

Redistricting definitely needs to be looked at and we need to expand buildings or build new.

I do not consider Grove and Northpoint centrally located schools. They are on the east side. The talk is building a new east side elementary school, but Hoose is the only elementary school that sends kids across veterans, and that is not close to 500 kids. Are most of the 500 kids junior high students? Or preschool students? A new elementary school would fix that problem.

No

We live over by Clearwater park and our kids attend Hoose/Chiddix. It would be ridiculous if our neighborhood were redistricted to attend Normal West. It's on the complete opposite side of town and do nothing to address socioeconomic disparities between the two high schools. Redistricting the least affluent neighborhoods East of Veterans to attend Normal West would be a really bad look from the district and be met with a lot of resistance and organizing amongst parents. It wouldn't be an equitable solution.

Please expand the current schools instead of redistricting. Redistricting can be so challenging on the students as they have already built strong relationships with their peers and teachers, and moving them in the middle of their school years can have negative effects.

Redistrict

Not really, but just wanted to comment on the survey design. I have a PhD and had trouble following the question about the Eastern Elementary Area. A map, combined with simplified language, would've made it much easier to understand. I can't imagine someone with an elementary reading level trying to follow the question and then making a decision about it.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

No

My concern about additional schools is that newer schools are usually in areas with newer housing and can provide more to the school overall. For example, NorthPoint is in a more affluent subdivision - they have parents and care givers who can give more time and money to the school and PTO, it's just fair to other schools in the district that are older and are Title 1 schools.

expansions - No New Buildings

Utilize the capacity of the various schools within the district and balance the students out. This concept is not difficult.

At Grove, we have very large class sizes. I know that we do not necessarily deal with the exact same behaviors as other schools, but it is still difficult to meet the needs of all of our students with class sizes this big. Some years, our kinder classes are as big as 29. This affects students for the rest of their schooling. In addition, our number of sections often changes. This makes it difficult to retain strong teachers.

Transportation both public and school buses are limited. I don't believe any public transportation gets to Grove or NCHS. How can families or students get to after school events to play or spectate? I'd also be concerned if trailers are added to buildings. I feel they are a safety concern both for threats to the building and the fluctuating weather conditions.

Seems easy to me. Redistribution is key. Carlock is like a private school inside a public district and everyone is lucky to have these teachers at Carlock. The students and teachers deserve more than this. Carlock is not the problem!

Redistribution students to balance

I encourage the district to consider how redistricting decisions can support capacity needs while also promoting socioeconomic balance and student diversity across schools.

Pediatric with exhausting buildings. Don't close a west side school for east side growth

Rebalance schools.

I'm confused why it's such a big deal to bus students to the central area. If there are seats available there, we should use them.

Crossing Veterans Parkway is starting to make it sound like "crossing the tracks". Our community is not giant, many districts bus further distances. We should put this time and energy into keeping our current schools great, and keeping our community diverse and not divided.

If the past practice of open enrollment is working why do we not continue this practice? If the district has the means to balance students with this idea this and that is the goal of the study- the answer seems simple. I realize there are other factors that go into the decision such as balancing enrollment trends, financial sustainability, educational quality, and community impact. Redistricting can have significant effects on a community and it's family which are mostly positive, especially for our district's future.

Here are some reasons I believe redistricting is something Unit 5 will benefit from instead of closing schools, and adding on to structures.

Redistricting helps distribute students more evenly across schools, preventing overcrowding in some buildings while others operate below capacity. This is the whole goal of this project- it seems this is one of the best solutions. This seems to be the most efficient use of resources. This will also lead to more manageable class sizes across the district to help teachers manage their day.

The idea of redistricting can help to avoid costly expansions, or adding more portable classrooms. I am sure these funds can be used in other places to help support students or teachers in a better way.

It seems that long term planning was not thought about when you promised Carlock would stay open 2 years ago with the tax referendum.

Carlock is a building that is in good condition with upgrades to the building itself. Why isn't this building being used as part of the plan when there is population growth in a particular area of town?

This can help with challenges in the future and this would be the stability when the district has growth in the future. Carlock school is a stable building, academically sound, awesome school in Unit 5. Why do you insist on chronically threatening to close the school?

Need to let parents know about open enrollment.

Be very careful that this does not become a divide of "rich kids on the east side" and "poor kids on the west side"

Rebalance the district maps.

Re-balance the district maps.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

I'd like to see all options discussed prior to giving a firm opinion. Are there other options to consider like changing the way the buildings are utilized by grade level and/or redistricting? Would there be a way to utilize the buildings on the east side as they stand today if we switched buildings from k-5 to k/1-4/5-6/7-8, or some different combination? As a tax payer and parent I want what is best for my kids and kids of the district but I've had enough of new district projects that are going to require more and more money. What was going to be property tax abatement in the 1% tax is now going to be used to take out more bonds to fund these projects. I'd just like to know we have considered all other options first and I don't feel confident we have.

N/A

Rezoning

My concerns are mostly about the strange districting lines from elementary to middle to high school - I don't think the district should be splitting kids up who've gone to middle school together when they get to high school. There needs to be enough room for all of the kids from one middle school to go to one high school. Right now, we have four middle schools and two high schools. Since there is, clearly, not enough room for all of these kids, I would be in favor of large redistricting efforts to get the kids to all be able to funnel towards the high schools, instead of having to split them up partway through their education. I've thought for a long time that there needs to be a third high school on the south side of town to address the growing population and I wonder if this might help the overcrowding situation.

Evans Junior High School is the largest middle school in terms of population. It has nearly 100 more students than Kingsley Junior High School (the second largest by enrollment). It also has the fewest number of classrooms of any of the middle school students and only one gymnasium. We do not have enough science classrooms to accommodate the new team structure requiring half teams. Additionally, we do not have access to any outdoor activities or parks nearby while every other middle school has access to outdoor basketball courts, parks etc.

There are 3 new neighborhoods being built that are towards the center of town and west side of town. This will need to be considered for a 2-3 year projection. Change the schools to have neighborhood schools that may alter the grades being offered to accommodate the needs. Such as 1 school for K-1, another school for 2-3, and so on through junior high. Model after Mahomet-Seymour school district.

Make sure you consider the longer term population and household age in Bloomington. If the overall population of the east side is aging, will there be the same number of students in 10 years. Given how long it takes to build a school, we don't want to build only to miss the growth. In other words, are we too late already?

Keep in mind that every family who lives in a neighborhood near these schools purchased their home in large part, or in only part, so that their child would attend that school. If you add a school, you need to be very careful about your redistricting.

Redistrict unit 5 and spread out the students. Why build more schools when there are schools that can take more kids.

When I look at the map, it doesn't look like students on the east side attending central schools are traveling very far. They are not attending their closest school, but they are also not traveling far to go to their assigned school. Building a new elementary school, when we have capacity that is not too far from their homes, is a poor fiscal decision.

N/A

Why can't we allow kids to be moved to schools in the same general area! Carlock has low numbers give them more kids they will thrive and have a once in a lifetime experience!

No

Simply adding more elementary seats does not seem to consider the complexity of wealth and resource inequities our students experience in their elementary schools.

Yes, you are closing schools, if you are over crowded. Why would you do this.

How much further are parents needing to drive to take children to school? If it is not that much more distance, why spend money to build a new elementary school. Especially if you are considering closing schools like carlock and the parents then would need to spend 15 to 20 minutes one-way driving to another school.

More buses

Maybe more buses

-

i do not want to move my children from their childhood safety net that carlock is... if we need to add kids fine.. but don't take away my kids safe place to accomodate money issues.

I don't not support building a new school.

Resist icy the boundaries.

Property taxes will remain to expensive.

Would there be schools underutilized if students were moved to a new school or an addition of an existing school?

People have bought houses to attend certain schools. Also, don't increase taxes to make an addition or build a new school. Let's find a solution without putting the burden on taxpayers

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

Additions seem most cost effective (whole buildings require significant infrastructure development, maintenance and administration). Use existing space in existing buildings. It doesn't matter that kids have to be bussed; it isn't that far. I know there are open classrooms not being used in Northpoint. Maybe in other schools also.

Use the schools you have.

Utilize open attendance for schools with low enrollment

Do not move students from the schools they are already attending. My daughter is reliant on the staff at Hoose for special education services and would be devastated if she was moved to a different school purely because of demographics shifts.

We need to avoid an increase in taxes. Inflation is rising, and incomes are not keeping up. We simply can't afford increased taxation at this point.

Let's build onto existing buildings rather than spending money on a new mega school on the East side only.

Strictly enforce enrollment boundaries

Do not move kids who are within mile of current school to new school

Seems like we need a new junior high on east side so those students have to travel across town for junior high.

n/a

I do believe another elementary school is necessary but not at the cost of closing another. Keeping your schools over crowded, putting immense amount of pressure on the overloaded teachers is ONE MAIN reason why there is a teacher shortage. The unit shows no compassion for this concept but instead wants to overload the schools more by closing a school without even having another elementary built. Sounds fishy and disorganized.

My concern is that the East side continues to get new building facilities and upgrades while older schools such as Oakdale get nothing. People entering the school have direct access while Benjamin has a holding area. There needs more equity in the disturbance of resources and funding. One school shouldn't be taking a part busting at the seams while another across town is state of the art.

I think you have to look at geographic based districting. You have to put the safety of the students at top of mind. It does not make sense to add miles to be driven to move students a few miles from one school to travel 10+ miles to another. That creates more opportunities for car accidents and keeps students on the road longer every day.

Considering that Rivian is a driver of growth and not a guaranteed success as a company with expansion in Georgia, I would suggest continuing to use portables until the future of Rivian in Bloomington-Normal is more solid. The school district and other local governments have continued to put a considerable tax burden on citizens. Adding facilities that may not be the best fiscal decisions should not be done lightly.

I am an eastern area parent of a 3rd grader so I am well aware of the imbalance of student population. I am concerned about when these changes would be implemented and what that would mean for my third grader. Being pulled from a school he loves with only a few years remaining. Our neighborhood would definitely be one that would be redistricted.

I would consider supporting a new building, but I would not support adding to current buildings. Schools on the East side are already at capacity. Adding space to them just encourages the district to squeeze more students into an already full space.

Redistrict to balance enrollment in the elementary schools

Obviously, consider initially redistricting, and then of this does not suffice them looking into the benefits of a new school.

Realize that where the houses are going up and where the students are can require an additional possible school. But that's an issue different from closing a historic and important school in the mission of unit 5 for the residents near and in Carlock.

There is plenty of space across the district. The Unit 5 board and Superintendent are in their position to make decisions that utilize their current capacity. They need to figure out how to balance the school buildings, or reason to let someone else take their position with the capacity to see these things through.

It seems like it would make more sense to expand existing schools than to necessarily build entirely new buildings. If necessary, some redistricting might support district needs.

Send students in overcrowded schools to schools with lower enrollment numbers.

No

Redistrict the boundaries

Schools should consistently offer a specific number of sections per grade level – e.g., always have two sections of each grade, or always have one section, etc. In other words, eliminate the unpredictability of whether or not there will be two sections of a grade level in any given year, to make it easier and less stressful for families and staff to plan ahead.

If additions or redistricting takes place allow students/siblings that have already been enrolled in an elementary school for several years have the option to finish out their time at that school.

Rezone the north end and middle of the district and spread the more evenly with the current unit 5 schools. also promote and advertise open enrollment.

Redistricting

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the imbalance of students vs. seats on the eastern area of the district?

Send students from Traditions Apts to Carlock Elem.

Consider on the eastern side to move some of those students around so that they can go to some of the smaller schools in the area or to some of your smaller town schools. Some kids pass a school that have smaller attendance to go to the school they are districted to. Send communication out to the parents of your over crowded school letting them know which schools offer open enrollment and let them know how close those schools are. Maybe have a bus that when they drop off the elementary kids and then head out to go pick up the next route start with dropping some kids off at the smaller schools. Offer a bus to pick up kids at one or more schools to be able to bus the kids to a smaller school I think parents may be willing to drop their kids off early at those schools so their kids would not be late to the other elementary schools or junior high or high school. Don't make it so hard for students to be able to switch in between high schools or the less populated schools.

The West side is often ignored in regards to gyms, schools, etc. People keep choosing building new over remodeling something already in existence. Isn't there a large apartment complex coming to West side at some point? Keep Carlock open, utilize a space (large space near Fiesta Ranchera on West side) temporarily until that complex is built. The threatening needs to be done. Just make decisions. If YOU want to close Carlock do it, but don't keep using it as a threatening tool. You will lose if you take more music options away (or keep threatening sports, stay in your lane). Look at cuts high up. Maybe you don't need so many "uppers"

Let teachers bring their children to their school, that might open spaces for others. Also, stop trying to district based on income and district based on school neighborhoods.

Adding more capacity where the need is including location makes more sense.

Adding capacity seems critical in order to address the imbalance and equity issues that come with open attendance areas and far-stretched attendance boundaries.

Just make sure the if a new school is built, or redistricting occurs, schools are more equitable to others in the district. Many of the east side schools lack the same diversity as other schools in the district and it's extremely obvious in many ways.

Areas where students are located is always changing depending on many factors. Younger students will tend to live in areas where younger families can afford housing. This housing area will change as years go by. More expensive new homes will become older and go down in price so younger families will move to areas that were once reserved for more established "wealthier" families. The population will shift around. Making long term decisions like a whole new building based on something that is changing is unwise and extremely fiscally irresponsible! What will happen 30 years from now when all there are more elementary students located to the west? Shut down another school and build another one?? Of course.... It's just taxpayer money.

Bus eastern students

Leave Carlock school open. Bus in students from areas where there are overcrowded schools.

Closing a school on the west side of town (Carlock) hurts the west side of town and will not resolve your school attendance issues on the east side of town.

You have space at carlock elementary you. An send kids there

I strongly favor targeted expansions to existing schools over building a new mega-school, as this approach preserves community ties and school identity, supports better student outcomes in smaller environments, minimizes educational disruption through phased construction, and offers cost-effective, flexible solutions for future growth. This strategy best promotes equitable access and positive experiences for our students.

Continue to utilize open enrollment and increase the advertisement regarding it.

I think it's important balance the schools prior to adding an additional space on to any school. I know some schools have very high percentage of low socioeconomic status and some school have very low percents. It seems like as a whole, the goal would be to balance this.

East side residents were aware of school locations when they decided to move to the neighborhoods they are in. If space is available anywhere in the district it should be utilized.

Early Learning and Special Services (18-22 year olds)**Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?**

no

They should be housed in a variety of schools to support inclusion and peer interactions to meet least restrictive environment

As a retired teacher I am very concerned about your district sending special ed students to an attendance center instead of having them at their respective elementary school!!! This benefits ALL students when they are included in regular ed classes!!! Why don't you visit other area school districts to see where their special ed students are!!!

No

No

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?

No

None.

The only school that will be closing is Carlock and moving these kids out there would be detrimental to their programs as they rely on public transportation. They need a training center that can be changed and modified with the changing needs of the students.

I would still want opportunities for specialized service students to have inclusion with gen ed peers, and would be concerned about students being separated into their own building. I would be more in support of adding expansions to existing buildings to support the growing programs, and planning a specialized service wing in any new elementaries that might be built.

no

As special needs vary, options can't afford to be stagnant.

No

Repurposing Carlock or any other building for this purpose is putting an unfair burden on children in the schools and completely negates your stance's that the reason to close the building is a need for repairs.

Expand current buildings to include them in providing a space

Do not raise taxes!!

Why wouldn't additional partial allocations (like Sugar Creek is set up to do) be used instead of repurposing a whole school? This message conflicts with the neighborhood focus and reduction in bussing. The study should identify the geographic area being underserved for early learning (Fairview?) and work the extra space needed into a redistricting solution. And Hoose already has some great adaptable playground facilities - why couldn't a couple early learning classes be added there instead of repurposing a whole school? This seems to me you're just itching to turn Glenn into a dedicated facility, which would also fit into the East Side issue. Please don't spend our money like this - sometimes simple is better.

Outsource to third party

These students need specialized locations for their special needs including sensory tools, access to functional training activities for daily living, therapies.

No

While In100% believe these groups should receive the services they need, your question does not provide enough detail to effectively answer. What does repurposing mean exactly, and what happens to the students that get displaced. If the answer make other schools larger, add on, and increase the student to teach ratio then no I don't support that.

Collaborate with outside agencies and organizations to create additional opportunities for early learning and or special services

If students from the SS program are moved then they will no longer be educated in an inclusive environment. We do not want our children segregated from general education students.

I don't think that there should be students that are 22 years old. That sounds like adult daycare.

No

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?

The idea of refurbishing an old elementary building is not the best fit of an adult program for students with disabilities. The 18-22 year-old program is already in an old elementary school that is being repurposed for the adult population; it lacks in many ways. There are portions of the study and survey that speak on building a new elementary school. If the district's plan is to build a new elementary school and move Eugene Field into an old elementary building, we do not think that is the best choice. Eugene Field should be under consideration for a new space, not another space that needs to be patch worked together to fit the needs of adults with disabilities.

-ADA-compliant and ample space: ADA complaint, open spaces for flexible training and teaching environments, as well as for students to navigate easily with mobility devices. ADA-compliant restrooms with individual showers. ADA kitchen/mock apartment.

-Centrally located: The current location of Eugene Field is ideal, within walking distance to Uptown Normal and close to multiple Connect Transit pick-up sites. It is accessible for Connect Mobility riders, which is an important skill many students learn while in the program. Transportation is run for the whole district's VTAP work program through Eugene Field. It is important to be centrally located between both high schools and the multiple work/training sites of the students.

-Possibility to grow: Since the start of the 18-22 year-old program, it has grown by 400%. As the population is likely to continue to grow, we would like to look at new opportunities and training methods to help them reach their full potential. If given the space to grow, attendance could be opened up to areas outside the district that do not offer this type of program.

-Structured Flexibility: Our students deserve to have a facility that is adaptable based on their individual schedules and needs, including age-appropriate leisure activities and opportunities. During the adult transition at Eugene Field, students are encouraged to practice independence in an environment where it is safe to make mistakes. Combining with other types of learning environments could be detrimental to practicing independence if rigid schedules and frequent monitoring of their movements are being implemented.

I had children who attended early education and special education within their own schools or different and I think it worked fine. I had to travel a little bit, but not out of the normal range of a regular commute.

I don't want you to close Glenn Elementary. It's one of the few true community schools in the town/city. We moved here to live close to the school, not to have to transport our child across town.

Closing family's neighborhood elementary schools is not the answer. Buy an old neighborhood church or building and repurpose.

There are plenty additional buildings that are empty within the community that you all could utilize instead of the financial burden of building new

Early learning students should be in schools where parents also have access to get to the school so they can remain engaged. While having the Early learning programs in 2 locations may streamline services, it is challenging for families if that school is miles from the family home and parents are juggling involvement between 2 or more schools. As for special services for the 18 to 22 year old students, utilizing existing spaces in our community to teach life and job skills involves more of the community but utilizes existing vacant spaces.

na

I'm afraid I don't know enough about their facility needs, but closing a school to accommodate seems overkill

Make improvements to the buildings these programs are already housed at.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?

Why the answer is No: The idea of refurbishing an old elementary building is not the best fit of an adult program for students with disabilities. The 18-22 year-old program is already in an old elementary school that is being repurposed for the adult population; it lacks in many ways. There are portions of the study and survey that speak on building a new elementary school. If the district's plan is to build a new elementary school and move Eugene Field into an old elementary building, we do not think that is the best choice. Eugene Field should be under consideration for a new space, not another space that needs to be patch worked together to fit the needs of adults with disabilities.

-ADA-compliant and ample space: ADA complaint, open spaces for flexible training and teaching environments, as well as for students to navigate easily with mobility devices. ADA-compliant restrooms with individual showers. ADA kitchen/mock apartment.

-Centrally located: The current location of Eugene Field is ideal, within walking distance to Uptown Normal and close to multiple Connect Transit pick-up sites. It is accessible for Connect Mobility riders, which is an important skill many students learn while in the program. Transportation is run for the whole district's VTAP work program through Eugene Field. It is important to be centrally located between both high schools and the multiple work/training sites of the students.

-Possibility to grow: Since the start of the 18-22 year-old program, it has grown by 400%. As the population is likely to continue to grow, we would like to look at new opportunities and training methods to help them reach their full potential. If given the space to grow, attendance could be opened up to areas outside the district that do not offer this type of program.

-Structured Flexibility: Our students deserve to have a facility that is adaptable based on their individual schedules and needs, including age-appropriate leisure activities and opportunities. During the adult transition at Eugene Field, students are encouraged to practice independence in an environment where it is safe to make mistakes. Combining with other types of learning environments could be detrimental to practicing independence if rigid schedules and frequent monitoring of their movements are being implemented.

there needs to be 1 facility for Special education students. All SS1,2,&3 should be in one building and not in gen ed elementary buildings.

When my daughter was in Early Learning Program while living in Carlock we were bussed out to brigham. Absolute absurdness especially considering Illinois winters. Now are you suggesting that you move Brigham Early Elementary out to carlock..? How is that convenient for anyone to get to and from their child? Pick up? Drop off? If a child forgets an item? Legit? Who ever is suggesting this solution s obviously not an individual responsible for caring of children.

If you are going to move Eugene Field to any building, it should be to a new build that is actually ADA compliant. The building has already had a lot of reconfiguration to try to meet needs of students as a former elementary school. It doesn't need to be displaced again to an elementary to be reconfigured.

ADA complaint, open spaces for flexible training and teaching environments, as well as for students to navigate easily with mobility devices.

ADA-compliant restrooms with individual showers. ADA kitchen/mock apartment.

Hudson kids should not be bussed to Brigham for early learning.

It's likely better to keep them in their neighborhood schools too, but at least there is some justification (staff and appropriate facilities) to keep them located together.

Using an open area of a school to add another early learning class

As I said above about the uptown normal project

It is not convenient nor more cost effective to redistrict/bus a new/different set of students to carlock

We have had seven kids utilize the supports of Sugar Creek and Brigham Early Childhood programs, some in the BEST program at Hoose, and we have one at Eugene Field now...with more on their way. So, I'm very familiar with the buildings and the needs for our kids in special services. Perhaps, it would make more sense to build new spaces for special services and repurpose the existing buildings for gen ed populations. For instance, could Brigham be used again to relieve overcrowding at Cedar Ridge and build a new facility that is more centralized for early childhood and Field? Our son at Field rides Connect Transit and Connect Mobility to and from appointments and work, so being near those options is important for him as he works toward obtaining independence. Moving those services to Carlock, Hudson, or Towanda would prevent him from finding work.

Spend time watching and asking questions of District 87 and their use of building funds as they repurpose an old State Farm building for this exact use- please consider strongly the use of existing and available structures. Another option is to include preK services in each elementary building and create a preK-6th Elementary experience.

None

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?

The prior questions reads like one school will be repurposed to suit the needs of Early Learning and 18-22 year old Special Services, and I have a lot of concerns about housing those two age groups in the same building and the potential for abuse that might occur. I do believe that the district would benefit with two separate spaces for both early learning programs and 18-22 year old special services, but not in the same building.

Use other community resources or collaborate with organizations better suited to meet the needs of the district's students

I would only support as long as taxes are not raised again

Reconsider the ages of kids you let into the program and that will decrease the size of the program. Most el teachers aren't even providing an education. They stand in the corner and just sip coffee.

No.

If elementary schools are already at capacity, how will you use more of that space for early learning? If Carlock is closed and used as an early learning space, are you really going to bus early childhood students there?

No

No

No.

If you close Carlock - which is in question, could that school become a school for early learning and or special services?

I support moving all early learning to a single elementary school and moving those elementary kids to fill the now vacant space at Sugar Creek or Brigham if there is perceived value in centralizing early learning. I do not support building another elementary school to free up extra space for early learning. Families with no risk factors are still being accepted to publicly funded early learning, which means it doesn't need to expand. Unit 5 needs to manage taxpayers money responsibly and stop overspending

Brigham is in desperate need of a new school that tailors to that age group. Also consider having an interventionist for staff to help serve the students who are reviving tiered interventions.

I like the idea of having an early learning school more centrally located. My daughter went to Brigham for 2 years and we live in the Sugar Creek area. This was a long school bus ride for a 3 and 4 year old.

Repurpose existing building in town like D87 for their early learning.

Elementary schools are designed for young kids. Renovations to accommodate 18-20 yr olds would be extensive. It would be better to have fewer kids in classrooms.

Making enough seats is highest priority, but I would prefer that my preschooler was able to attend closer to home. The idea of bussing my 3 year old across town is uncomfortable.

Another option to consider is offering some early learning programs with 2 or 3 day options instead of 5 days a week. I have a 3 year old qualified for this service but we opted not to do it because I thought 5 days was too intense. If other families feel likewise, you could make more seats available by offering one class MWF and one TH. The 5 day option is still also very essential because some families need this to balance childcare.

Do not raise taxes or take on more debt. You keep seeking to operate beyond your financial means and it is creating significant ill will through the community.

No

Sure to the corresponding question but back to the ES shortage as it is... this furthers that issue.

Students and families with needs should not have to travel across the district to attend the only school that meets their needs.

Disabilities and diversity is good for students with needs and gen-ed peers to experience together

No

There is one on the north and south side of town. How about one to the east or west. West would probably be better since the east has high enrollment in K-6

Colene Hoose also has capacity issues with special needs students. A wing was added a few years back to assist with the BEST program; maybe another expansion could be added at some point for the SS2 classes. (A 5th classroom is currently being added due to the increased number of students, but to make space available a staff break room will be lost. There are no extra classrooms sitting around for use.)

Redistrict and use lower attended elementary schools for these special services.

N/A

I am unsure about closing a grade school in one area to build a new school in a different area.

Having one early learning center would be ideal, and it would free up classroom space at Sugar Creek to re-district from other schools.

See above response.

Higher priority than new building on east side

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?

There is also a large amount of unused corporate space in town that could be utilized. Recently State Farm and Country Companies have sold or donated some of this property to area schools and universities.

I have a child at Eugene Field and would love to see updates to that building or moving them to a space that is that allows additional services. I do NOT think you should split the services up among multiple buildings. They need to stay together.

Other schools are bursting, will there be enough funds to do both repurposing and building capacity at other school?

Would it make sense to adopt a "house" model in which the district is divided into houses based on flow of students from el. to middle to high. Within each house would then house specialized programs to meet the needs of all students within the house. This would help with space, allow families to build relationships within their house, etc.

No

I am open to this idea, but I also don't want to see this population of students become isolated from their peers.

No

n/a

No

if you repurpose any current school, then you need to build or find a replacement.

no

See my earlier comment regarding Sugar Creek Elementary. If we need to address capacity constraints and needed improvements to buildings, maybe this is the time to completely revamp how/where those services are offered within Unit 5.

Students with special needs deserve new facilities which are adapted for them.

The district should focus on k-12 education and allow other entities to take care of these early learning and special services such as mulberry school,

More pre-k is good

Relocation for special services to their own facility would be a great idea. Old BACC facility? A cheaper , existing facility?

There needs to be more preschool offerings in the district

I would be in support of a behavioral issue school. There are students with IEP issues delaying learning for those who want to.

Repurposed sites should avoid isolating special services from the broader school community unless there is a clear programmatic benefit.

My child was enrolled in early learning. It was wonderful. I wish there was more opportunity for a full school day for early learning.

Teachers n staff need to learn how to be in each kids world. Not stick to the script.

Na

For special services, the building should really to be accessible to all students.

Early learning is really in need of a centralized location for ALL classrooms and students in one location so that there is consistency within the program and it is geographically more accessible to families. This facility also needs to be designed/redesigned to meet the physical needs of this population (ie. smaller sized toilets/sinks, meal tables appropriate sizing, playground and motor materials appropriately sized and with thought to the needs of our students who have various motor/developmental needs). Consideration also needs to be considered for space for all service providers in these buildings and programs to have appropriate space to work with students.

Special services would also benefit from an updated space that would allow for a better layout as well as increased opportunity for growth of the program and access to additional opportunities for our students to work on in that setting.

Do not build any more new buildings.

Collaborate with outside spaces to rent/share. Increase budget or partner with local daycares or businesses in the community and other facilities that have less daytime traffic and would benefit from leasing daytime space (ex Illinois Art station) or do after school programs to help with these services and overlap with after school care.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?

I have a child at Eugene Field, and many of the students I work with go on to attend there. The idea of refurbishing an old elementary building is not the best fit of an adult program for students with disabilities. The 18-22 year-old program is already in an old elementary school that is being repurposed for the adult population; it lacks in many ways. There are portions of the study and survey that speak on building a new elementary school. If the district's plan is to build a new elementary school and move Eugene Field into an old elementary building, we do not think that is the best choice. Eugene Field should be under consideration for a new space, not another space that needs to be patch-worked together to fit the needs of adults with disabilities. Ideally, our adult special services students would have a building with ADA compliant, open spaces for flexible training and teaching environments, as well as for students to navigate easily with mobility devices; ADA-compliant restrooms with individual showers; ADA kitchen/mock apartment. The current location of Eugene Field is ideal, within walking distance to Uptown Normal and close to multiple Connect Transit pick-up sites. It is accessible for Connect Mobility riders, which is an important skill many students learn while in the program. Transportation is run for the whole district's VTAP work program through Eugene Field. It is important to be centrally located between both high schools and the multiple work/training sites of the students. Since the start of the 18-22 year-old program, it has grown by 400%. As the population is likely to continue to grow, we would like to look at new opportunities and training methods to help them reach their full potential. If given the space to grow, attendance could be opened up to areas outside the district that do not offer this type of program. The students at Eugene Field deserve to have a facility that is adaptable based on their individual schedules and needs, including age-appropriate leisure activities and opportunities. During the adult transition at Eugene Field, students are encouraged to practice independence in an environment where it is safe to make mistakes. Combining with other types of learning environments could be detrimental to practicing independence if rigid schedules and frequent monitoring of their movements are being implemented.

Unit 5's specialized services for post high school students are so important. I feel lucky to be in a district that offers this for my child, and would love to see the program continue to grow so that we could offer this vital service to more students who would benefit from it.

No

-

No

no

maybe use Carlock for one of the services? maybe move bilingual from cedar to Carlock to help with the over enrollment at Cedar

No

Make more space available at the current buildings (Brigham, Eugene) instead of taking away an elementary school.

Here are some reasons I believe redistricting is something Unit 5 will benefit from instead of closing schools, and adding on to structures.

Redistricting helps distribute students more evenly across schools, preventing overcrowding in some buildings while others operate below capacity. This is the whole goal of this project- it seems this is one of the best solutions. This seems to be the most efficient use of resources. This will also lead to more manageable class sizes across the district to help teachers manage their day.

The idea of redistricting can help to avoid costly expansions, or adding more portable classrooms. I am sure these funds can be used in other places to help support students or teachers in a better way.

It seems that long term planning was not thought about when you promised Carlock would stay open 2 years ago with the tax referendum.

Carlock is a building that is in good condition with upgrades to the building itself. Why isn't this building being used as part of the plan when there is population growth in a particular area of town?

This can help with challenges in the future and this would be the stability when the district has growth in the future. Carlock school is a stable building, academically sound, awesome school in Unit 5. Why do you insist on chronically threatening to close the school?

Segmenting special need promotes stigmatizing a group.

The safety of the buildings utilized need to be top priority (ex. Mold in Brigham should be a primary concern). If the building unsafe they should not be used until fully updated and safety ensured

Segmenting special needs promotes stigmatization of a group. Additionally, Early Childhood and Elementary children DO NOT need to be bussed far from their homes.

Once again I don't have enough information to answer this. What about the elementary school that might be closing that everyone is upset about (car lock)? What do the finances look like of repurposing the soon to be closing building as opposed to updating Brigham and Eugene Field? If the full analysis shows this makes the most sense financially then I would vote yes of course I'm in favor of meeting needs for early learning and special services but I don't have enough information.

N/A

No

Please just be mindful of where those students may be assigned to elementary school and how that impacts enrollment moving forward.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?

Similar to BCA, it seems like this would be an area where U5 and D87 should combine forces and provide these services for the greater B/N area. It doesn't seem like a common service like this should be solved/duplicated by each district.

Ensuring that if schools are repurposed for early learning and/or special services that they are brought up to date and relevant stakeholders are involved in the design.

Why would you close any current school when there are many over crowded schools? Even out class sizes and then if there is still a need for early learning or special services, add onto a school.

Length of time on busses should be considered for children this young. For example, I would not support repurposing Carlock Elementary for this, as children would be on the bus for an extremely long time.

N/A

Taking away from others who work so hard to shine to allow others to shine is mind blowing to me! Do better and find a better solution then Using a school that is already in use for children to replace it with other older kids. If you want to give opportunities to others that fine but do it in the right way!

No

We support addressing these needs even though they do not apply to our immediate family. Providing for the needs of all students makes our whole community better.

Yes, why is a k-12 school focusing its money and energy on 18-22 year olds when most of your schools are under performing. Carlock is not.

Who is eligible to receive early learning services? If there are restrictions, why daycare's and pre-K programs are in the tens of thousands of dollars so I feel like this is an important consideration if you are talking about providing early learning services, especially if there's any kind of tax to the general public. If the public needs to pay for it, it should be open to all.

None

None

-

With already being at capacity, repurposing an elementary school could further impact that.

Yes, I would like to know the cost to run the school for the 18-22yrs olds vs the cost of keeping your elementary schools open

Lower staff and reduce compensation freeing up alledged needed funds.

We don't need more vacant buildings in town. Any consideration to the massive spaces vacant from State Farm

If you are so worried about busing have special services stay in the area they service.

Carlock could use more funding to have more special needs services.

Revamping of a grade school would be required to make usable for special needs students. Bussing of these students is equal to, if not more than bussing current students and would cause a disruption for some of the districts youngest students. Doesn't make financial sense. Doesn't make sense in general.

I think there should be early learning at more elementary schools in the area which will also allow more openings.

Since heartland has a special services program for those who need it after graduation I believe this program should be discontinued. Financially it makes more sense to close the current special services program knowing it cost around \$45K per student with average students around 45 a year.

Is the old Lincoln Community College building available for this program?

I am proud of our schools effort to have inclusion and am concerned about that falling off

Consolidate and centralize these programs

n/a

Repurposing Carlock Elementary (just say it how it is, the unit office DOES NOT need to beat around the bush) is a cost to the district that will put the district further in it's already beating red hole is not the answer. Busing special needs students out to Carlock is another cost for the district that, they say, is already a burden. Again, discrepancy is what the district is saying about all the reasons to close Carlock but yet this question here...says to the community that transportation and renovation is NOT the reason for closing Carlock.

If you are going to repurpose a school, consider repurposing Carlock. There are also other facilities that can be used/leased while the area economy is settled. District 87's purchase of the Oakland Avenue Building at the center of town was an amazing financial decision.

I wonder about inclusion be possible if these students are educated in a separate building.

I think Sugar Creek, in particular, is in a dangerous location for students who elope. If a new location is explored, I hope one with less traffic is considered.

Special education could utilize access to serving more families on this area

Unless you want to repurpose Carlock, if it meets the needs. That might be a good compromise.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the needs of students who receive early learning and/or special services?

If you send students from the overcrowded schools to schools with lower enrollment this will open up space for the early learning and/or special services.

I believe that a central location would be beneficial for specialized services, especially for early childhood aged children. Children of that age should not be bused for long periods of time and should have access to education close to their homes. If a new school is built, freeing up classrooms in existing schools, perhaps those buildings could house early childhood classrooms where kids could be attending their homeschools. The first option may be better however, because an early childhood center allows for more options for different levels of support being offered in one building, which is likely a need for early childhood students.

I answered yes to the above because I believe I would probably support such a measure however I don't have enough specifics to know for sure.

I can only assume that Carlock Elementary is the school that would be "repurposed" in relation to this question, since it is the only school/facility being targeted for closure.

No

Add more support and LBS1 teachers to all the schools to keep student more inclusive and in their least restrictive environment.

They are handling students currently at all the schools that are at capacity this current year. Consider taking part of the increased tax levy to build onto or adding a level to some of those schools to allow room for growth and future growth and not just to meet today's needs. You talked about moving the special needs to Carlock Elementary which means you would be bussing more kids into town then be bussing the kids for the special needs out to Carlock which would then cause more kids or people to be needing bussing which makes zero sense.

Be specific...often it is said THIS NEED needs to happen. What NEEDS to be done?

I have a child in early learning at Sugar Creek and it's very valuable and needed.

No

It has been suggested that relocating the early learning and special services programs to Carlock could serve as a viable solution. However, this transition appears impractical due to geographical challenges, particularly regarding the busing of students to and from the facility. Additionally, the special services programs include daytime work initiatives, which would be disrupted by the need for extensive transportation to and from Carlock.

Potentially identify unused or vacant spaces already available in Normal, such as office spaces or similar commercial properties.

The needs of a program like Early Learning and the 18-22 year old program are vastly different. Lumping them into one question does not focus on what the specific needs of the adults with disabilities in our district have.

Southern Area Elementaries**Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in the southern area of the district?**

no

This is a no brainer regarding the use of open seats in other schools.

Cedar Ridge has a diversity problem and a student population problem. Both need to be addressed significantly. It would be ideal to find a way to realign the boundaries to more evenly divide the lower income communities Cedar serves. That will allow all students to more fully develop in their educational journey

I would redistrict to even out enrollment numbers to give relief to the areas that are overcrowded and put more children into the Carlock School. I would build onto the Carlock School to make it a two classroom school and redistrict to fill the classrooms and add teachers to that school. The school is on a large piece of land and there's plenty of room to build onto it. The school was voted one of the best schools in the entire district and should be grown by the district not shut down. Shutting down the Carlock School is a ridiculous idea when we have overcrowding in our district.

No

No

No construction until total capacity is unable to accommodate needs

Redistricting the East Side of the city is essential to address the income inequality by elementary school. We have created preferential schools based on where people live, whereas before there was less inequity based on elementary schools.

Redistricting is cheaper than building

When it comes to dual-language classrooms, I'd love to see this be an opportunity for families from across the district be able to choose this for their students, even if they are not in an ELL program. Make this a language immersion program for students both learning English and native English speakers to learn a second language. This could change the way buildings are utilized, along with the idea of redistricting.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in the southern area of the district?

no

Not at this time.

Curious to how it would affect classroom size for Pepper. Pepper already struggles with not having enough paras in the classrooms .

Needs fluctuate, utilize renovation and temporary buildings

Do not raise taxes!!

Open enrollment and make it more public which schools are open enrollment many many people are unaware which schools are!

The school population is decreasing so redistricting is the answer. How does Benjamin work into this solution? I've heard there is space there for added students. If Rivian or State Farm or another major employer changes plans, Unit 5 constructing a new school is irresponsible.

No

No

Again larger class rooms and school reduce the quality of education for students, and anything involving expanding school facilities will lead to Unit 5 asking the community for more money.

Enhance culturally competent practices to increase diversity and representation across all schools. Redistrict and accommodate needs

Redistricting

No

But a State Farm South Building.

Na

These schools are in suburbs. Students whose families choose to live in the suburbs/countryside should expect to drive farther to get to schools in town when suburb schools are full.

Utilize what you have-redistrict where you need to

The diversity in income in South Bloomington is huge. I know many families in the Fox Creek and surrounding subdivisions w high dollar homes are choosing to send their children to private schools instead of Unit 5 schools. While this is a parent's choice, Unit 5 has never done anything to ask why these parents are choosing that option.

na

Reduce spending for tax payers and redistrict if there's space in other schools.

I believe cedar ridge needs both an expansion and rebalancing of enrollment as they house the bilingual population as well.

No

LEAVE CARLOCK ELEMENTARY ALONE

The district needs to be adding more services in all elementary schools with language supports as well as community supportive programs like Cedar so families are comfortable at all elementary school if redistricted.

The balance of enrollment and boundary lines do not make sense in this district and needs to be looked based on population growth and new schools. Feeder schools aren't proportionate and elementary school placement should not determine high school placement.

Not growing as quickly so capacity increase to East and/or North makes more sense.

How can guy redistrict just those three schools that are already high percentage of need in all areas of a students' life. This seems like shuffling around more than fixing the concerns at a district level.

If they live close to another school that has openings redistricting to that school would be better than building a new school.

Sounds like a lack of planning somewhere. Carlock should not pay the price by being forced to close.

We are assigned to Fox Creek. We live about 2.5 miles from Pepper Ridge, 3.5 miles from Cedar Ridge and Oakdale, 4 miles from Glenn, and 4.5 miles from Fox Creek. Our kids' bus used to drive right past Pepper Ridge on their way to Fox Creek. So, we're currently in a wonky setting. It would make sense to redistrict and get kids closer to the school by their house than to bus them to schools that are further away.

Balancing student needs, class sizes and specialized programs

None

No.

Children in elementary schools should not be in pods. Redistricting and having higher class sizes at a Title I school is not going to help either.

No

if we've got too many kids for the spaces, add more spaces and more teachers and pay the teachers better and make those higher priorities than other projects.

No

No.

see previous comment about "ghettoization"

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in the southern area of the district?

n/a

Balance enrollment first, then see whether there is still need for additional elementary schools. I don't believe there is. Unit 5 needs to learn how to live on a budget and stop wasting taxpayer money. No more loans and no more tax hikes.

I think that Brigham needs more expand/renovations before Cedar Ridge

Either option could be considered, but an option that allows kids to attend school closer to home is preferable.

Do not raise taxes or take on more debt. You keep seeking to operate beyond your financial means and it is creating significant ill will through the community.

No

How hard is it to give Bloomington their kids back from that area? With real estate prices what they are right now and construction costs, we could probably get a sellers premium on the schools in south and east Bloomington. Then take that money and invest it in Normal schools.

Benjamin is also way fuller than it needs to be. Moving students from Cedar to Benjamin should not be considered.

No

Redistrict within reasonable distance from residence

Redistrict

N/A

If redistricting is condisered, the SES of the students/schools needs to be more balanced

Fox creek needs a resource officer at least part time due to the challenging students they have. They need to keep classroom size small due to this as well

Move the ESL program out of an already large Cedar Ridge to a school with smaller attendance numbers

A better socio-economic balance is needed - VERY BADLY!

Pepper Ridge and Fox Creek have specialized classrooms in their buildings, which limits space as well. If these programs stay, and students are re-districted from Cedar into Pepper or Fox, it could potentially increase the free/reduced numbers which are already high. The combination of specialized classrooms in buildings with a high percentage of free/reduced creates significant needs for a school to be able to maintain.

I really don't - you all are the experts!

See above.

re-district school boundary lines

If redistricting is needed, please consider allowing families with enrolled children to remain in their schools.

A lot of the Cedar Ridge area also need the bilingual program which is evidence based best practices for student improvement. If redistricting would take most of those students elsewhere, then the redistricting is not doing what the students need.

I do not want to switch my child's school.

I think both should be considered. Cedar Ridge could be expanded to provide more community and school-based services. They also need more classroom space. However, I think some redistricting could help address inequities across schools (especially socioeconomic inequities).

Pepper Ridge had 3 sections of each grade level when we came in (2015) and two of each when we left (2021). If it is still at 2 per grade level, they can handle more students.

there needs to be a consideration for Pepper Ridge ES students. they are taken to Evans and yet they are the only ES that goes to Evans and is not part of NCHS and instead are taken to NCWS. Most agree that HS can be an overwhelming experience and for these students in particular they will hardly recognize anyone due to the back and forth. Parents from this area would appreciate any consideration into this matter.

n/a

No

Definitely some expansion of NCHS to accommodate growing population

There are families who are districited to NCHS that live VERY far from their high school. South on 150, wondering if there is another district to assume those families would make more sense? IE - Olympia? Or ? Same with Carlock to the North - Eureka?

Having all Elementary schools that feed into Evans Jr High go to the same High School or divide the students up equally.

Keep in mind the socio economic status of the area if redistricting is done.

Na

Why spend more money renovating or building. Use the buildings you already have and REDISTRICT.

No

-

I don't have an opinion in this area.

No

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in the southern area of the district?

There is ample room to shift the boundaries and reduce the burden on Cedar Ridge.

Maybe move bilingual from Cedar Ridge to Carlock to help with the over enrollment at Cedar

Better outdoor playground area.

Here are some reasons I believe redistricting is something Unit 5 will benefit from instead of closing schools, and adding on to structures.

Redistricting helps distribute students more evenly across schools, preventing overcrowding in some buildings while others operate below capacity. This is the whole goal of this project- it seems this is one of the best solutions. This seems to be the most efficient use of resources. This will also lead to more manageable class sizes across the district to help teachers manage their day.

The idea of redistricting can help to avoid costly expansions, or adding more portable classrooms. I am sure these funds can be used in other places to help support students or teachers in a better way.

It seems that long term planning was not thought about when you promised Carlock would stay open 2 years ago with the tax referendum.

Carlock is a building that is in good condition with upgrades to the building itself. Why isn't this building being used as part of the plan when there is population growth in a particular area of town?

This can help with challenges in the future and this would be the stability when the district has growth in the future. Carlock school is a stable building, academically sound, awesome school in Unit 5. Why do you insist on chronically threatening to close the school?

I think it's ridiculous that kids from Pepperidge go to Evans and then every other kid there will go to Community for high school. So they make friends and only move forward with their elementary group.

Focus solutions where needs exist.

Focus solutions where the needs exist.

N/A

My concerns are mostly about the strange districting lines from elementary to middle to high school - I don't think the district should be splitting kids up who've gone to middle school together when they get to high school. There needs to be enough room for all of the kids from one middle school to go to one high school. Right now, we have four middle schools and two high schools. Since there is, clearly, not enough room for all of these kids, I would be in favor of large redistricting efforts to get the kids to all be able to funnel towards the high schools, instead of having to split them up partway through their education. I've thought for a long time that there needs to be a third high school on the south side of town to address the growing population and I wonder if this might help the overcrowding situation.

By redistricting, this could help alleviate the impact of having so many Cedar Ridge students feed into Evans Junior High School.

Buy State Farm Corporate South and convert it into multi educational space for the entire community including Unit 5, Heartland Community College. Leasing the space for additional educational purposes from outside Unit 5 to help off-set the expense.

Is the growth in that part of town long term going to support more building? If the kids will age out of the school before we can build, then we should solve for the long term vs the issues we have today.

N/A

Work with what u have already make it better figure it out and do better!!

Please consider cultural, linguistic, and wealth diversity in any plan.

None

-

Move some kids out to Carlock to increase the capacity there and help shift some burden off the other schools on that side of town.

Does no one have ANY critical thinking skills at Unit 5?

LEAVE CARLOCK ELEMENTARY AS IS!!!

Strictly enforce enrollment boundaries

n/a

The most affordable option should be done. The redistricting option should not cause a hardship and have kids on a bus 20-30 minutes away. What needs to happen is building another high school in the south end to dedensify NCHS and account for growth

I think it is fair to move students amongst the same geographic region taking in what puts students in their closest district.

I think about travel time for students to and fro schools when thinking about this issue.

We live in the Pepper Ridge area. It was full of students at one point, but the rising housing costs have aged our neighborhood. Also, families in the area are exploring private school, such as Trinity Lutheran just up the street, or home school. I think students from Cedar Ridge could be added, but I encourage the district to also consider the high need of Pepper Ridge students and maintain class sizes of no more than 20 students.

There is plenty of space across the district. The Unit 5 board and Superintendent are in their position to make decisions that utilize their current capacity. They need to figure out how to balance the school buildings, or reason to let someone else take their position with the capacity to see these things through.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in the southern area of the district?

Move some students from this area to other schools with lower enrollment and more space.

If the buildings are balanced on that side of town, adding space for Cedar makes more sense than redistricting families as long as it is adequately staffed.

In Deer Ridge, our kids get sent to Fox Creek, which was VERY full. We opted to send our son to Carlock Elementary instead. We had to drive him ourselves but it took less time than driving to Fox Creek AND he received a *fantastic* education in a small-class setting with teachers who had the ability to understand students' needs because they weren't trying to manage 30+ kids in a class. Why isn't Carlock being utilized by more families, while you're trying to find space for more kids?

Elementary level classrooms should have no more than 15-20 students per class, particularly in schools with a larger number of students with high needs and/or lower income families. Waiting until a classroom reaches 30 students before opening another section is not developmentally appropriate, and is contributing to staff burnout.

No

Redistrict to increase your schools with lower enrollment to help all your schools.

Bus those students to a different school.

Need to have space closest to where the kids are at.

I feel that there are serious equity concerns in our district with regard to enrollment. Since I used to teach there, I am aware that Cedar Ridge has consistently served a high population of students who benefit from Tier 2 supports (ex. intervention) whereas other schools (ex. Northpoint) have a much lower number of students who "flag" as needing these supports. This creates an imbalance in the resources available to serve students who need them. I have heard similar concerns from staff who have worked at Fox and Pepper. In short, more resources are needed at these three schools, but redistricting should also happen to better balance the needs throughout the district.

Additionally, I am disheartened when I hear of families choosing certain schools based on "status," a certain "demographic," or "level of academic achievement." A negative stigma has been created around certain schools (particularly in the southern area) that needs to be called out and resolved. All schools and student populations should be explicitly and implicitly valued by all members of the district, and certain schools should never be seen as "better" or "worse" because of their student demographic. Redistricting AND expansion of spaces would help alleviate this problem.

It's disappointing one of the newer buildings in the district has already outgrown the capacity. If new schools are considered, flex spaces should be considered for continued growth. Some re-districting could occur, but curious how that would impact the other schools that, as noted, are right at capacity depending on the year. Would hate to make one school less capacity and overpopulate another. If more space is needed, account for that. Or, could more flexible seating / furniture allow for more capacity. Or is person / square foot driving the capacity?

Same as above...: there was a reason these schools were put here at one point in history. We will return to that point again such is the cyclical nature of population distribution. The school system will outlast temporary population shifts.

Unit 5 has stated that it has sufficient funds to construct an entirely new school. However, such an approach would fail to adequately address the diverse geographical needs across the district, including the communities of Bloomington, Normal, Carlock, Hudson, and Towanda.

A more effective and equitable solution would be to prioritize strategic additions and expansions to existing schools. This approach would better serve the geographical distribution of students and families throughout the district, ensuring accessible educational facilities without the unnecessary expenditure and potential inefficiencies associated with building a standalone new school.

I support exploring additions to existing schools or redirecting students to better utilize under-enrolled facilities such as Carlock, as these approaches could optimize resources without immediately pursuing costlier options like building entirely new schools.

Carlock Elementary**Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?**

Wouldn't it make more financial sense to demo the school and sell the land rather than pay for maintenance and only using it for special events.

no

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

It would go against everything the team has said is an issue and would create even more imbalances with trying to conform all of the Carlock students to other schools and rezoning them. Carlock is due for an influx of students in the next few years, and being someone who lives 15+ minutes out of town but still being considered Bloomington, Carlock is exponentially closer to us. I have a child going into Kindergarten in the next couple of years and two currently enrolled in Carlock. Rezoning and shutting down Carlock would mean that my kids sit on a bus for an hour+ to and from school, vs the 30 minute ride they have to and from Carlock. This SHOULD NOT be an option!!

I made sure to live in an area that my child would go to Carlock. We live 5 mins from the school but are considered "out of town" with a Bloomington address. Don't make it sound like it's not worth it to have a small town school. I bet most of the kids that go to Hudson are also bussed in from out of town. Redistrict the area and include further stops to include more kids to the mix. I will enroll my child in private or homeschool if she does not go to Carlock.

Carlock is seeing significant growth and turnover in the village with many new families that will have kids of elementary age. Busing elementary school kids in town for school is too long of time on the bus each for their age.

Carlock is a great school, but I believe that enrollment has been negatively impacted by the constant threats to close the school over the past 10+ years. The town is growing with numerous new builds and homes that go on the market sell very quickly. I believe that closing this school would negatively impact the town and the students who attend Carlock.

Expand to offer pre-k through 8th grade.

I moved to Carlock specifically for the small school!

Carlock is growing and new houses and subdivisions are being built. The attendees will go up in the near future as young families move into Carlock.

Many families are choosing to homeschool because United 5 is no longer the school district it once was. There are several families in Carlock that is the case that could attend if Unit 5 would be the district it once was!

We live in this small town so our child can be part of a small town school environment. Coming from d87 it's been a tremendous difference and amazing growth.

The threat has been made over and over and over again and resources continue to be given elsewhere when referendums pass and money is given to the district "as needed." It's discouraging to see the little, successful community with such rich history as a U5 school be used as a bargaining chip in some sort of silly game. This is a community consolidated school district, and it would be a great loss for a community to lose an elementary school that has such great community support and involvement. Instead of using our resources wisely, the resources continue to be used elsewhere throughout the district. Carlock used to be a proud spot of Unit 5 - supportive families, small class sizes, excellent teachers, and great community involvement. Instead of making that an example and trying to structure other schools into communities in the same way, it has been taken advantage of and used as a threat as a way for tax hikes to be pushed through and for what? To be told it's still not enough? It's very frustrating to feel taken advantage of and feel like my tax dollars are not being wisely spent to support my community.

QUIT PICKING ON CARLOCK!!! YOU THREATEN THIS EVERY 5-10 YEARS!!! So you close Carlock and bus those kids to Parkside then you bitch about Parkside being overcrowded then you'll want to raise taxes to build a new school!!!

The school might be high performing but if it's a resource drain for the district then it would be best to repurpose those finances for other purposes that benefit a larger number of students. My in laws are from/ live in Carlock so it would be tough to see it closed but as a business person it would seem to be the right move.

Bus more kids in

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

There are two new growing subdivisions in the town of Carlock Rock Creek & Stoneman Garden. I am a realtor in Carlock and I have been building homes in Carlock for the last five years. I know enrollment is going to continue to grow at the school since I am selling these homes to Buyers that are having children right now. They have moved to this small town because they like the small town atmosphere and are very much looking forward to having their children attend the Carlock Elementary school. Carlock is an extraordinary school that has put out exemplary results over the years. The turnover of teachers is extremely low and the district uses this school to develop new Principals for the district. Closing the school would be catastrophic to this small town. This would negatively impacting the property values for the entire Carlock area and surrounding areas. Tearing these children out of their school away from their friends and teachers and dropping them into multiple random schools within the district would negatively impact the mental health of the children, as well as their education would be negatively impacted by putting them in overcrowded classrooms that provide poor education for children that have been used to smaller class sizes and exemplary educational experiences. Threatening the town and the children that attend Carlock on a regular basis of closing their school has also negatively impacted the mental health of all involved and needs to stop. Bussing them all over the district will be a great expense as well and we all know what a disaster bussing has been over the years in the district and what a huge expense this would be as well. Instead of trying to close a school that is such an amazing example for schools to watch, learn and try to mirror is what you should be doing with this amazing school. You should be trying to mimic what they are doing there, not destroy a town and the adults and children that reside in it. Redistricting adding more kids from the up and growing Rivian area and building onto that school to make it 2 classes per grade and allowing those teachers to teach other teachers what they are doing there would positively impact the district. Carlock was voted one of the best schools in the entire state of Illinois. Closing it is a ridiculous idea just to save some dollars at the expense of an entire town and all the children that are attending that school. I Hope these fresh ideas open the minds of the district so they stop replaying old tapes and poor ideas that would negatively impact the district the town of Carlock and the businesses that reside in it. Redistricting to help fill that open space makes a heck of a lot more sense than closing a Exemplary school when there are overcrowded elementary schools all over our district that needs some relief.

Carlock use to have two classes per grade and it went through sixth grade... There is room there.

Carlock is a great school. Bus more kids into Carlock when redistricting. My child attended Carlock and it did her well. She now in Into to Education and as gone to observe at several schools and she said that some schools would benefit in spreading them out to Hudson or Carlock. It also would be harder for parents to help out and attend events if moved into Normal.

Ya don't fix something if it's not broken

It would be silly to reduce capacity when capacity needs are top of mind

This school was updated to serve the community recently, to close the school would be a continued waste of funds. Expecting parents and the community to transport students at least 10 miles into town is excessive and a waste of funds.

It may bounce back and have more students in the future. Possibly shift some kids from Hudson over to Carlock and shift some from Towanda over to Hudson and maybe not have to do so much work to Towanda. Making a change such as closing a school can affect much more than the district itself. Property valves in Carlock may drop and we will have an abandoned building in town that will fall into disrepair.

If the bulk of students do not reside, moving makes the most fiscal sense.

Work on creating an environment where people want to move in more. Ie sewer, grocery and fix sidewalks.

They are currently building new subdivisions, I can't see enrollment staying low.

Don't close it- it ranks well and if you moved the kids they would spend an unreasonable amount of time on a bus

Kindergarten is the only very small section/class at Carlock ES this year. Unit 5 could investigate to determine the expected enrollment for Kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year. Carlock ES is a great school with excellent staff and teachers, I think it would be an easy sell to enroll more students in Carlock ES. I believe Carlock is one of the highest performing schools in the district, once parents learn about Carlock ES , they will be likely to enroll their children there.

The building and facilities at Carlock ES are in very good condition without any obvious problems or issues that need repair or major improvements. With the high costs of building and revamping other facilities is not a cost effective way of solving the needs mentioned above in this Survey.

Losing a local elementary school can be devastating to small communities and their community identity. I would consider building a school on the far north end of town that could still keep Carlock students close, but also address the need that will arise with the continued growth in neighborhoods in northern school areas, like north of Prairieland, and allow for more classroom space.

Advertise open enrollment options!

There needs to be careful study of the falling birthrate, slowed population growth through out B-N, etc. Carlock ES does an amazing job.

keep it open

Bussing is necessary as a farming and subdivision community.

No

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

The young child population of Carlock is growing rapidly and the need for an elementary school is essential. It has routinely been one of the best schools and should continue to be one of the best going forward.

Carlock is a small school that serves the rural population. Closing schools that supports this population is continuing to pull community out of schools. The district should be ashamed of themselves. The constant threat of closing this school is pathetic.

No

Carlock Elementary does not have consistently low enrollment. You keep touting the small kindergarten class, yet my sons class, first grade has 24+ students. Additionally, the district used Carlock as their headline for passing the referendum. They clearly led the community to believe that passing the referendum would save Carlock. At this point, the board and the community has a moral responsibility to demonstrate integrity to our children and our community. Carlock is a high performing school despite Dr. Weikle's downplay of our consistent excellence. Carlock families and the community deserve a more detailed plan before any vote is taken. Where will our kids go? How long will our bus rides be? You state these are major criteria for consideration and yet our children will now be forced to completely lose their community, 1.5 hour round trip bus experiences and moving to underperforming schools. Closing Carlock does not solve any of your problems. I am appalled at the mention that it is not worth "heating and cooling our school for 100 kids" We got you your referendum. It is time for you to fulfill your end of the promise.

Schools should not be strictly about operating costs, primary focus should be education. This community JUST approved a tax increase to keep the school open. Attendance will fluctuate, use alternate solutions during down periods such as combining K & 1st. Bring in special needs, utilize space for preschool, after hours adult education, drivers Ed, etc. At the LEAST, this would need a slightly longer period to transition because high percent will be greatly effected changing from local community school to much more distant school. Example to f*ing chill out and not knee jerk a decision on everyone for next year. Phase it out, with a much better plan. This is NOT the same situation as NE district. Carlock is the highest performing and ranked school in the district, embrace that, promote it, try positivity to increase attendance

Some families prefer the smaller class sizes. They cannot get this in Blm/Normal. Keep this as an option for those families!!

I would just send other students to this school to keep it open. Great teachers and they could use the students.

Even though there is more housing being but there need to be more better use of buildings available and a dollar general built or cases built

Carlock elementary continues to perform academically higher than average for the district. Rather than closing it would serve children more to redistrict, potentially students from Parkside elementary or Towanda which is overcrowded from what I have heard from families that attend there.

Carlock is a great school and serves students well.

I think Carlock is actually growing and next years kindergarten class is projected to be a large class size. 1st grade and second grade are also bigger! Small is not always a bad thing the students get a MUCH better education and the proves in all of their reading and test scores. Students at Carlock excel academically. They also do not experience bullying at this school which is not the norm when compared to in town schools. The students at Carlock are all respectful and kind to each other! These kids get way better learning because they are small enough to really focus on each kid and their needs! I would really take a look at how happy parents and students and teachers are at this school, that really tells something. You do not hear about that at any other unit 5 school where truly everyone is happy. It would be hurting the students in this school directly by closing it. Please think about that! There are growing subdivisions in and around Carlock. Look at our market for homes, they sell very fast! It is a desirable area and close to Rivian so many families want to live in this area, with the added bonus of a wonderful school so close by!

There are 2 new subdivisions continuously adding new housing therefore adding more potential students. If anything enrollment will be higher in the coming years. People come to Carlock for the great school that is rated higher than most in the district, this would severely hurt the community, housing district, small businesses etc if Carlock Elementary were to close. We stayed in Carlock for the school when we could have moved into Normal, we stayed for the community and just had our 5th baby, we are absolutely against Carlock closing.

The school is a great school. You need to either change boundary lines and send more students there or advertise it as an open enrollment area and let families choose to go there.

There is no sense closing a school just to add on or build another school.

My support for Carlock hinges on cost. If it's cheaper to redistrict, I'm fine with that. What I'm not fine with is closing Carlock and then building another new expensive school near there. Please don't build new - set an example for our kids and reuse what our community already has! Like District 87 did with the State Farm building and ISU did with the Country Insurance building. Building new facilities is wasteful considering all the empty commercial space, especially in the areas of town that you're identifying with potential needs.

I think the Carlock will only continue to grow as Rivian grows. Carlock is a smaller school with an exemplary status and dedicated teachers. The upcoming kindergarten class is slated to be larger next year.

More than 1/2 the students that attend carloc don't live in Carlock because they live in the country. Because this is a rural school. Get better educated consultants to be your talking heads

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

There is a significant lack of knowledge regarding the attendance exception policy. If more families knew it was an option, more families would go. It seems that students are bussed from out of town because it is a rural community.

No

Again I will go back to previous comments on school and classroom size and the negative impact larger classes have on student learning and experience. Additionally, Carlock is one of the few schools in the district that exceeds state expectations. I will also note that the question seems very basis in leading respondents to the answer you want. It is the only question to this point that provided data and details, and you ask the question twice. Makes me question the objectivity of the study and survey.

Why not expand Carlock elementary to give relief to the over crowded schools? This town is growing with lots of young families and attendance will continue to maintain/grow. Closing this school and throwing 100 kids into the schools that are in Bloomington normal does not fix the overcrowded classrooms. It adds to the problem.

Redistrict and utilize the space available. After doing so, then consider the need for an expansion

Overhead cost is not acceptable to maintain with all the other students that need to be served in the district.

Please do not close carlock, I grew up there and attended carlock elementary school. That place holds countless memories and considering small class sizes... having less kids in a grade make the kids grow friendships that last forever. Carlock elementary is what makes this village great.

Carlock is a gem. Carlock is exemplary. Sometimes it's about more than money. It adds diversity to Unit 5 in that it offers smaller class sizes in a wonderful little community. Students could be added to increase class sizes while still utilizing such an amazing indoor and outdoor space for children in our district. The staff is superb; the kids and families are like none other. Why would we close down such a great asset for kids in our district? Let's not forget that we passed the referendum, in part, to keep Carlock open.

The grade school is central to the community and would have a devastating effect on the residents.

Keep it open

Low enrollment means teachers and students can have more one on one time. Students will benefit from a smaller class room size. My kids went to small elementary schools. The teachers had the time to spend extra time to help each student that needed a little more help. You should do a survey on the benefits of small size classes compared to oversized classes.

No

Send more west side kids to Carlock

As I said...remove Carlock from U5 and add to Congerville, Goodfield, Eureka school district.

During the planning meeting, the presenter said that Carlock has multiple classrooms under 10 kids and that is not true. There is only 1 class that has under 10 kids and that just happens to be a fluke this year. This classroom had 22 kids the previous year.

Carlock is expanding due to the fact we have a smaller school. We are an active growing community who take much pride in our small school, which is the main reason families want to come here. It's devastating to be used as leverage for the past 3 referendums when the Unit wanted more tax dollars, and we delivered for you. Betrayed to be once again put first in line for the chopping block. The school building has been maintained and updated with geothermal and updated roof. The building has the capacity for two classrooms the unit uses as storage. Send more students to Carlock to alleviate overcrowding elsewhere. Move the south line to gather Deer Ridge students to Carlock and free up space at Fox Creek.

I do not want to see the school sit empty or be given to the town. The town is small so they do not have the tax money to keep the building open on their own and as someone who lives in town I would not like the building to sit empty.

There are TWO new subdivisions they're STILL building and classes should NOT be much over 20 students for QUALITY purposes! The class sizes are currently good. Carlock is a TOP ranking Unit 5 school, why would you want to take that away?! We recently moved to the area and my son JUST settled into his new school. Changing would upset him again! I think an expansion to show more grades/ students and perhaps an addition of early learning could help out. I also think you should look into WHY more families are opting to homeschool lately- particularly certain schools IN UNIT 5 that may be more of a factor than others. Changing certain aspects or practices at those schools would help. It wouldn't take more than a quick Facebook search to find out! I've seen several posts about certain Unit 5 schools that turn families off public schooling and looking into other options. So maybe take an inward look at what's NOT working before trying to take apart a school that IS working!

I would have possibly supported discontinuing Carlock before the tax increase, which is when this study should have been conducted. To mislead those folks by telling them the tax increase would save their school is despicable.

Again redistrict and move the lines that would increase Carlock enrollment and decrease other elementary schools that are overpopulated. If you ask anybody who has taken kids through Carlock they value the small school education and would love to send their children to a smaller school versus a larger classroom. The great thing about Carlock no need to buy additional Al land/bldg it has plenty to expand. With new subdivisions and Rivan it's only a matter of time that Carlock enrollment will increase. You keep using Carlock as a hanging fruit promising you will keep it open if we agree to your increase in tax base only to 2-3 years later-throw that line out again! "Crying wolf"

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

I have had multiple children attend Carlock Elementary. Carlock is exemplary for both academics and for providing a healthy safe learning environment. Any student bussed to Carlock is lucky/blessed and will reap lifelong benefits. Use Carlock capacity fully and the net learning outcomes and well-being of the district will rise.

Building new isn't always the best answer. Small towns like Carlock are impacted greatly when schools are closed. The community rallys around their children and supports the school in every way you can imagine. This community impact deserves to be scored and counted in your decision matrix.

Populations ebb and flow over time. As Rivian expansion opens next year even more families will be moving in. Go check the home price trends in Carlock and see the 50% recent increases. Please don't be short sighted and cause irreparable harm to this small community. Thank you for asking for everyone's input.

You could absolutely utilize Carlock elementary by expanding Carlock in a way that could include trailers to add additional classrooms. There is so much land around Carlock elementary. I don't understand why this is still a conversation. The fact that you want to open a school again east of veterans Parkway when so many of us on the west side Would have to travel more. What is the difference of other areas traveling to Carlock for elementary? This school is so important and so vital because it has the perks of a private school within a public school district and if you take that away, you are hurting students and teachers. Small classroom sizes are not a negative and we could expand all of our classroom sizes at Carlock to help with kids and other schools that need more assistance. Something new doesn't mean something better. Get it together unit five.

While many of the students do not live in the Village of Carlock, they live in the rural areas surrounding Carlock. These students need to be bussed to school regardless of where they would attend. Families have purposefully chosen to live in the Carlock district because of the outstanding reputation of the school. As a Unit 5 taxpayer who lives in the Carlock area and having children attend that school, I know they were with peers of the same values, received an outstanding education, and were prepared for high school. When attending NHS and other honor programs at Normal West, the number of former Carlock ES receiving these honors was significant. The elementary school is the lifeblood of that community with people of all generations taking part in their school programs. On a side note, when my children attended there in the late 1990's/early 2000's there were several classes that had 2 sections. There is space.

Families deserve a full and honest assessment of how closing Carlock would impact children academically, emotionally, and physically, especially during long commutes and harsh Illinois winters. Decisions of this magnitude must be based on accurate data and community-centered planning, not assumptions.

Carlock students need Carlock ES to stay open

Redistrict

Carlock is bouncing back as families are tired of the hustle of town and looking for smaller community. Over the decades the town itself has grown in numbers and will continue to. Small class sizes are what students need and to take the school away robs the entire community and in and of itself doesn't seem equitable.

Many new families with young children are in carlock. Those enrollment numbers will change.

The many of the justifications presented for closing Carlock do not make sense. You are proposing that Carlock be closed while simultaneously proposing to build a new school, and no real effort has been made to rebalance and allow more kids to attend Carlock. Opening enrollment and actually advertising it would allow some families to volunteer to alleviate some of the balancing issues throughout the district; the precious few families doing this at Carlock presently had to ask and seek out open enrollment for their kids. It is nonsense to claim bussing is an issue when closing Carlock would make it so that 100% of the former student body would have to be bussed in (those from Carlock itself as well as those whose parents cannot manage to drop off/pickup at the new location where the could with Carlock), instead of the 50% cited. The classrooms absolutely have capacity without making any upgrades. Carlock has always been one of the highest rated schools in the district even before declining enrollment, and throwing that away because of some heartless ROI analysis that doesn't take the fact that Unit 5 is a service and not a business into account, would be a massive mistake. Please, please stop jerking the families in Carlock around and stop threatening to close it, and instead fight to facilitate its success.

I would understand the need to close Carlock. I work in a building that was built around the same time. There are many issues in the building that need to be addressed. Again, repurposing and redistricting, although it might make some portion of people angry to move schools, could be a better option than building another elementary school, which seems wasteful.

They are building and moving more families to the carlock area specifically for that school.

There are lots of new families moving into the area and building homes that have small children that depend on the carlock ES, closing or repurposing would displace these students.

Add these students to the Olympia North Elementary school in District 16.

We enjoy our access of a small town community with a small school and small classroom sizes and pay the taxes for that standard. Carlock should stand as is. Leave it alone.

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

The community often raves that Carlock is the best and highest performing, but they don't highlight that is likely due to the impact of smaller class sizes where they have 12 in a class and some schools have 18-28 per elementary class. Shouldn't all kids get a more equitable class size and chance for teacher attention?

While I would prefer redistricting to keep Carlock open, I would understand the need for closure as the district has tried many different methods to keep Carlock open over the last 20 years.

If Carlock is closed, what would Unit 5 do with the building?

How can you guys do this after raising our taxes two years ago? There's been plenty of new families move into Carlock WITHIN THE LAST YEAR, who are 4 years OR YOUNGER and planning on attending Carlock.

Send Carlock to Hudson to keep small town feel, redistrict in town away from Hudson as needed (ironwood, etc)

Have upcoming students in the Carlock district been accounted for?

The district had ample time to direct more students out to Carlock. In March of 2025 they were alerted there were 8 kids registered for K. They did not want to address this because it was a plan all along. Very shady, not professional and super disappointing.

Have parents sign up for their kids to come to Carlock to experience a smaller school setting. Make them drive and pick up their kids. Do it as a lottery. I am sure many parents would be happy to do this. It would fill in the extra seats and free up room in town for schools that are already full. It doesn't make sense to close a school when other schools in the district are too full. Redistrict, build new schools or get creative but getting rid of a school is not the answer.

There is no reason for building new schools if there are open seats at others. Please do not close Carlock and create hardships for parents that don't live within town and would have a complete upset in their daily work/life schedule, not to mention daycare situations.

Agree it is not sustainable and in-town (BN) kids shouldn't be bussed through the country to a small-town school. Carlock should only stay open if it can be relatively full with students living in Carlock and the surrounding countryside.

There is plans to build down 150 with another subdivision along with the new houses going up in 2 subdivisions in Carlock. If carlock is closed down families will move out of carlock. Advertise for open enrollment more letting people know they could send their child there. There are many new families in Carlock that have small children that plan to go there.

Historic schools should be respected, loved, and cared for. Carlock is a close-knit community; the school has served my family members. Support, maintain, and care for important pieces of history, and small town communities. It seems as though Unit 5 is losing consideration for all that is positive, supportive, convenient, and is valued about small town living. A school is often considered one of the hearts of a small town. Maintenance and upkeep should be valued, in place of tearing down and closing. In my heart I considered Unit 5 to have more caring and consideration for families, small towns, communities, and the support that it brings to children and families. These buildings represent so much more than financial numbers on paper; these buildings represent so much more than student enrollment numbers. Budget the necessary dollars to maintaining and caring for historic buildings. Heart, children, families, and communities.

Carlock elem has, not only made top 10% in the state, but as a former student not only did i learn what the district requires, i learned real life skills. Wr learned about different jobs. We learned how to churn butter and make snow mallases, we learned to cook food from other countries to present to the class, we learned so many more hands on skills than any other elementary school by far. And how could you cut a school that's in the top 10%, even while teachers pay even more out of pocket to teach kids these life skills that other schools dont teach. The building is capable of holding more students, it fit my era of 28-30 per class just fine, quarters were not tight and the building is still in great condition...You would still be bussing students further. Of course with a village, most students live in the country, and are still only minutes away. I challenge you to find a school better than carlock where kids are taught respect, how to shake a hand and look someone in the eyes. Where our favorite people were our janitor, our cooks, not just pur teachers. This would be devastating to shut this school down, and i know alot of people i wrnt to carlock with that purposefully moved back so their kids could attend the same school because it is that good. This would be a sign of a huge downfall for education before business, and straight up heartbreaking

Do not close this school!

No matter what your consultants say, just because a school is on the lower end of enrollment, doesn't mean it can't be sustained. Anything can be if you plan.

But you will effectively kill this community if you close the school. No one with any children will move to carlock. Property values will drop as there will be no school here for families. That will mean even less property taxes for the district.

Not to mention we were sold on referendum a few years ago would save the school. Now just two years later that isn't good enough. Guess it was good enough for our votes.

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

Carlock enrollment mirrors the overall Unit 5 declining enrollment numbers. This years low kindergarten enrollment is an anomaly. More than 50% of Carlock students don't live within the city limits of Carlock because this is a rural district. The target has been on Carlock students and families for years, it's sad because the invested parents spoke up and rallied the community to vote in favor of tax increases to avoid school closure only to be told just kidding, we always were going to shutter Carlock. Thanks though.

Carlock is a growing town due to Rivian. I worked my whole life to give my kids the education they are a part of at this small town school.

Carlock Elementary is not one to be "discontinued." Carlock Elementary fosters a true family environment, supported by dedicated staff, families, and community members who are deeply invested in doing what is best for its students. It is the type of school community others should strive to emulate.

Decades of research and evidence show that smaller class sizes are beneficial for children. Smaller classes improve student outcomes, foster stronger relationships between students and staff, and allow for deeper, more meaningful learning experiences.

Carlock is a small community within a large district, but it should not be marginalized or discriminated against simply because it does not fit the checkboxes of an outside consultant and other areas of the district. Decisions of this magnitude should be rooted in what is best for students and communities – not solely in generalized metrics.

Closing Carlock will not significantly improve the long-standing financial challenges Unit 5 faces, nor will it solve enrollment concerns. Instead, it will dismantle a strong, growing community. Relocating Carlock students to already overcrowded schools – requiring longer bus rides and placement in larger classrooms – will negatively affect not only Carlock students but also the students and staff in those receiving schools.

Carlock has open enrollment, yet this fact is rarely promoted or highlighted to families across the district. With intentional communication and outreach, enrollment could be strengthened by inviting families to choose Carlock, not quietly allowing numbers to decline.

Carlock offers what many families are actively seeking: small class sizes, a close-knit school community, strong family engagement, and dedicated staff. These are not weaknesses – they are proven strengths supported by decades of educational research. Instead of hiding Carlock's open-enrollment status, the district should celebrate and market the school for exactly what it is, positioning it as a choice for families who value a personalized, community-based learning environment.

Carlock is a vibrant and effective school that is the heart of the community. Many of the young students who are bussed to the school will have longer bus rides to an in town school. Not optimal to increase the length of their day on the road.

A small school experience is transformative for children and their families. I grew up in Carlock and completed grades K-7 until the junior high was moved in town. Both my parents taught at Carlock, and the school has a legacy of quality learning for rural children. The in town elementary schools should be smaller rather than larger based on research I have reviewed over my own 40 year teaching career. Please don't close Carlock Elementary.

Maybe that's the whole reason it's a great school.

Considering our small town*is* growing and new houses are being built, has future/potential enrollment been considered..?

It is not more cost effective to bus carlock students to another school.

Low enrollment is a benefit for students of carlock.

It's not like the Carlock building could be easily sold to another entity, so it would likely lose a lot of money trying to sell it as well as the needs to bus the Carlock area students to town. There is a lot of pride in having a local elementary school, and closing it down would not make sense. It is a LONG way to bus preschool kids to Carlock if you're thinking about repurposing it for special services. Could the boundaries be adjusted so students from the west side of the Hudson district could go to Carlock, and then move Ironwood into Hudson and open up more seats at Prairieland for students on the east side of Unit 5?

Could this be a specialized services location in addition to elementary?

Redistrict to keep the school open!

There are 2 growing neighborhoods that have built 25+ homes in the last few years... low enrollment won't always be an issue.

Carlock has also been recognized as an exemplary school numerous times over the years. Maybe the district should take the time to see what is working so well in Carlock (smaller class size) and strive to implement that in all the other schools.

Keep Carlock as a small school. Parents want this available

The "out of town" students border Carlock's city limit. They are closer to Carlock than any other school in Unit 5. With Carlock Elementary being a Unit 5 school, it would be ridiculous to send these students anywhere other than Carlock. The students need a school like Carlock to thrive as they live in the outskirts of town and away from the majority.

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

Redistricting. Can the building house a special program? Is an addition possible?

None

Carlock would make a great early education building.

Don't close a small school. Many families live in these areas for this reason.

Could Carlock be used as a site that is repurposed for early learning and/or specialized services?

You asked for more money from us twice to keep this school open so keep your word and keep it open

No.

Can the Carlock students be sent to another district that would make more sense?

People may love to "small town" feel of a small school, but that is not feasible or equitable in a district the size of unit 5 when there are other elementary schools over capacity with extremely large class sizes.

Closing carlock elementary would be a detriment to the community and the kids that attend. There is a reason people move to small communities! Carlock elementary is also an exemplary school.

many people in that small town moved there because of the nice little school. if you take it away they need some kind of benefit/accommodation for it not to be an undue hardship.

No

Redistrict the far North Normal students that attend Oakdale Elementary School and Hudson Elementary School so that some of them can go to Carlock instead.

No.

It's an inefficient use of funds to keep a building running that serves so few students, especially when most of them don't even live in Carlock. It's also disproportionate to other students in the district that Carlock should have class sizes under 15 kids when other schools have twice that.

I think many families choose to live near Carlock because it's a smaller school. Redistricting might be the best option, especially since some schools are over capacity.

n/a

Balance enrollment by filling those classrooms first. Public school enrollment is declining and at some point, there will likely be room for Carlock students to fill seats in another Unit 5 school, without building additional schools.

None

Use warlock for specialized classes for high school or some sort of technical training.

If the trajectory of families shows it will continue to decline, then it makes sense to close. If it shows increase, then keeping it open makes sense.

Make the right business choice. Every taxpayer is like a stockholder in the school district. Do what makes financial sense and consolidate where needed. Build new schools where majority of kids are located so busing expenses are lower. If schools exist where there are kids but there is not enough space, expand the schools.

If the school is closed, send Carlock resident students to the same grade school if possible as opposed to distributing them.

I would only support closing Carlock ES if it doesn't require or result in the building of a new school elsewhere. Do not raise taxes or take on more debt. You keep seeking to operate beyond your financial means and it is creating significant ill will through the community.

No

Not on this one. People of carlock really like the smaller school... like a private school in a big district.

No

Make it into an early learning school for Pre-K

I feel for the families in town re: closing or repurposing the school, but I don't feel supporting an elementary school with just 93 students is a good use of the building.

Don't know about Carlock elementary school

Yes- our community is consistently growing, although our classes are lower than the average at times, there are classes that are beyond others in town. Our 1st grade currently has 21 kids. Instead of looking at the amount of kids enrolled in the school, we need to consider the amount of students enrolled in each grade. My son is currently enrolled in first grade. Sending his whole class to another school would not be beneficial towards any party.

Redistrict, sending Carlock students to nearest geographic elementary locations. Then repurpose Carlock for special services, perhaps.

The citizens voted for the taxes to be increased so the school could stay open so you should do what the town wanted.

Could Carlock be kept open until there is a solution found for the high enrollment at Cedar and east side schools?

I would support getting rid of taxes are lowered. This was the cry when asking for the referendum that this school had to be saved.

Now the district wants to eliminate. Raises concern on what is being done with the money

If redistricting is needed, please consider allowing families with enrolled children to remain in their schools.

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

Close it.

My concern is that there is no more room in any of the schools here in town. However, there is a building in Carlock that is open, has teachers...could some of our bursting schools be sent there? Or would we need to build new editions in our current town school to accommodate these students?

From my experience, it is the best school in the district. Seems like a mistake to get rid of your best school.

I think repurposing only makes sense if it's for special services...and even then it might not be enough space. As tough as it is, we need a more centrally located space for some of those programs (EC/SS)...Carlock might best serve the district as a smaller school.

It's hard to close a school, especially in a small community as the community often finds its worth within their schools. With that said, it doesn't make fiscal sense to operate such a small school. Additionally, there is no equity in their students being in such small classes while the rest of the district has significantly larger classes.

Redistrict so more students can attend the great school of Carlock Elementary.

No

The town is expanding. There are lots of young kids in the Carlock area that are going to private schools because of the mismanagement and poor policies of current Unit 5 admin. If those kids were enrolled in public school, Carlock would be full.

bus students there

Could that school be used for Early Education or Special Services? Out of town is not ideal, but it solves some of the space issues potentially.

Rezone and add students to that school to make it cost effective and less students in other crowded schools

n/a

No

repurpose Carlock for special needs students.

Carlock has been an exemplary school at the state level for many years. Please compare this against other schools in the district to see the benefit that small schools supply. The Parkside teachers often refer to the Carlock kids as model students that volunteer and contribute to the school outside of class. If bussed further these kids would have fewer opportunities to give back to the community.

It could be used for the early learning program expansion.

The survey should not combine discontinue and re purpose. Why not look at re purposing to a middle or highschool.

I hate to see a school close, especially one built and owed by the district close. If you could get attendance up at the school that would be best, however, I understand that it not financially responsible to run a school with 90 students, there are approximately 100 students in the grades with 4 sections at Grove.

No. Close school.

Since enrollment has been steady I think it makes more sense to do boundary changes and send Carlock more students

Hudsons students receive a better education than a lot of other schools provide

This could be a solution for extra learning and behavioral students

Utilize the extra space for early childhood programs

Carlock is an amazing school and unfortunately they did not have the resources for my autistic son. We were sent over to Fox Creek being told that they had the resources that he needed for his learning disabilities and they did not either there. They had one teacher teaching three different grades. We now homeschooled. When we did go to Carlock, it was amazing. The teachers, the staff the students there were nice to each other caring it was a nice community.

This would be extremely detrimental to the community of Carlock. As a librarian at Carlock, I believe it is crucial for our students to continue to go to school together. This is a successful school- which cannot be said for all schools in unit 5.

Na

Keep Carlock Elementary open....to ensure no one elementary school is over capacity.

Carlock was a great school for our child and many other children that came through there. Subdivisions, such as Deer Ridge, could be redistricted to have kids bussed from there to Carlock as the bus already takes kids from Apollo Acres to Carlock and Deer Ridge is close to Apollo Acres. It would be sad for such a great school to close.

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

Closing Carlock when there are large over enrollment in other schools seems outrageous. It surely is less costly to redistrict from over populated areas than to cause a future issue with over enrollment - which would result in a survey like this one asking for more funding to expand those new schools. The small school shouldn't always be the one that gets cut.

A lot of parents wants their kids at smaller schools. Especially in elementary school and are willing to drive for this. Why not offer for parents to send their kids to the smaller schools and provide an incentive or something to encourage it?

Additionally, many people in the Carlock area already travel distances to go there and the nearest schools are already massive. I also argue enrollment fluctuates and a smaller town will have smaller classes from time to time. There are plenty of students in more "affluent" areas of town that travel farther to their current school than many of those who bus or travel to Carlock. If that can be done to make use of East side capacity, then it can be done to increase and use the space in Carlock. I also think using the space for early learning or other activities is great. Carlock is an incredible school and a great community. Being smaller in such a large and well funded district shouldn't be reason to close it or disadvantage those in a smaller more rural area when there's plenty of enrollment to go around.

No

It is an unfair use of district resources to keep Carlock operating with such low numbers. I understand that Carlock attendees like this, because it's a luxury, but as a district we need to spread it out equally. I know from experience that students in larger class sizes do not learn as much, which puts all of those students at a disadvantage when they join together in junior high.

-
Low enrollment can be a temporary issue, as enrollment data varies. Using Carlock space accordingly would offset the need for space.

No

The school has had considerable funding invested into the building to make it cutting edge with the rest of the district. There is no need to close this school and build another one on the east side of Bloomington.

Unit 5 seems very large. Maybe the smaller towns could be on their own rather than a part of Unit 5.

Allow them to join another school district or create their own

Seems easy to me. Redistribution is key. Carlock is like a private school inside a public district and everyone is lucky to have these teachers at Carlock. The students and teachers deserve more than this. Carlock is not the problem!

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

Dear Unit 5 Planning Committee,

Thank you for your diligent work on the 2025-26 Enrollment Planning Study and for requesting community feedback. I write to strongly advocate for keeping Carlock Elementary open.

Carlock naturally aligns with Unit 5's proximity and contiguous boundary criteria: it is located within a close radius to its community and avoids overextending transportation zones. Closing it would require students to endure longer bus rides on rural, often hazardous roads—especially during winter months—contravening the district's goals to minimize travel time and maximize student safety.

With 88 of 92 in-zone students and additional out-of-zone exceptions, Carlock exhibits near-perfect attendance alignment. Closing the school would reassign nearly 100% of its families, directly conflicting with the planning criterion to minimize student impact.

Carlock has stable enrollment (~90 students) and available capacity, therefore its closure would barely shift district-wide utilization imbalances while creating significant disruption locally. This undermines the district's utilization-focused objectives.

Carlock serves as a critical rural access point, embodying the district's commitment to equity and community identity. School closures in rural areas can harm local economies and civic engagement. A Vermont Legislative Research Service analysis found closures often correlate with declines in property values, local businesses, and social capital—crucial to rural community sustainability. [uvm.edu]

Research demonstrates that closing schools in rural towns depresses property values significantly—by 3-25%—and erodes social infrastructure. These closures often remove a neighboring town's most prominent community institution. [d.lib.msu.edu] [ruralschoolsopen.org]

Peer-reviewed studies show rural school consolidation frequently increases transportation costs and travel times, undermining the intended cost savings. [files.scho...inance.org], [academia.edu]

Smaller schools foster better student-teacher connections, higher engagement, fewer behavioral incidents, and improved attendance—yielding safer, more effective learning environments. Carlock exemplifies this, having earned an "exemplary" rating in October 2024—placing it in the top 10% of Illinois elementary schools—and distinguished as one of only three such schools in the district. [ruralschoolsopen.org]

With Rivian's expansion and a new supplier park under construction, Bloomington-Normal and surrounding rural areas are poised for new household growth. Nearly half of new manufacturing employees currently commute from outside McLean County due to housing shortages. Planning studies predict the fringes of Bloomington-Normal—including Carlock—are likely areas of residential development. [wglt.org], [gov-pritzk...prezly.com] [wglt.org], [npr.bright...potcdn.com]

Facility Condition: Carlock's stable enrollment suggests that strategic investment could maintain and modernize the site.

Academic Quality: With an exemplary state rating in 2024, Carlock demonstrates high educational performance—making closure counterproductive.

Repurposing Feasibility: Given the lack of viable alternative uses and the school's community role, repurposing options are limited. It remains most impactful as an educational hub.

Equity Considerations: Closing Carlock would disproportionately affect rural families, contradicting the district's equity priorities.

Community Engagement: The school stands as a gathering point for local families and community events; its removal risks undermining that identity.

Instead of closure, I encourage the district to:

1. Highlight Carlock as a pilot for rural magnet or specialized programming to promote enrollment.
2. Continue to serve broader district needs (e.g., relief space, community partnerships).
3. Plan for absorption of future local growth and redevelopment through targeted enrollment, facility, and budget forecasting. Carlock Elementary meets or exceeds nearly all planning criteria and strategically aligns with the district's objectives on utilization, equity, and capacity. Its closure would cause undue harm without addressing core district challenges. I urge the committee to preserve this valuable resource as part of a forward-thinking and equitable district plan.

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

This is an important school for Carlock. Redistrict to add students to fill the space. We don't need to build a new school and spend money we don't have

We recently voted for a tax increase with the 'promise' this school would remain open. Closing it now is going to create a significant distrust from the community for Unit 5. If Carlock closes, where will those students go? Parkside ES is already in portables and clearly cannot take additional students. Having one child already gone through the portables (which was significantly detrimental to his learning and progress and there isn't even a restroom available in the portables) and now having another child in line to be in the portables the next two years, I have significant concerns about the closure of Carlock and for my younger child's education. We pay a significant amount of money in taxes for the district and the education my children are getting is subpar. The teachers are fantastic but can only do so much with the situations they are being put in.

Carlock needs a school that services it. Watching the presentation, I am baffled by the idea that folks don't understand this is in effect a small rural school (maybe I shouldn't be baffled that the consultants don't get this, but please for the love of all that is holy, listen to the community) - I get that it is inefficient, but we still need to service that community. Getting some further cross-over in groups of students is probably good for our kids and our families.

Why were Apollo Acres students taken out of Carlock? Those students along with others in the surrounding developments would increase enrollment at Carlock and free up space elsewhere.

Rebalance as a second option with areas like north normal and lake bloomington

I do understand the need to discontinue a school with 93 students, especially for the greater good of the district. I also understand why families part of this school are upset (it's a dream to have your child in a class of 10, but many of us do not have this option).

Redistrict to get Carlock to the numbe you want it to be at. Unit 5 got the referendum passed why are we talking about this again?

Unit five has experienced almost all the possible growth to the NE, SE and SW. The NW (Carlock) is the only open area for future expansion.

As a parent with kids at this school I feel very torn. We live in Carlock and my kids attend Carlock, however due to the small size of the school my kids do not have adequate services to meet their needs well at Carlock. That said I don't like the idea of them being bussed far from home or to another small school with limited resources (ex: Hudson)

Unit Five has experienced almost all the possible growth to the NE and SW. The Carlock School still has room for expansion.

Use it for special needs?

How do we optimize use of carlock? We have other programs in the district needing space, can we use this building?

N/A

New neighborhood that is being built by Farm & Fleet could help populate this school.

Would redistricting some Towanda kids solve both the Carlock and Towand issues? One is over crowded, the other is too empty, both are in the north of the district.

The kids that you say are "bussed from out of town" have always gone to carlock. They are not new areas that have been added to try and get the numbers up. As with all rural districts, kids are bussed from areas not close by due to the large sq/miles of districts. This is not a new concept and should not be used as fear mongering.

N/A

Carlock is a school lots of people don't know about the magic! I say allow people to have an open house and see if they would choose to enroll here over other schools in the district! This small school does mighty magic! I went to school here and when picking where my kids would go to school I cried so much having to pick eureka school district due to living in eureka and from experiencing parkside jr high and normal west. My kids will NEVER be in a unit 5 jr high or high school ever. Classes are too big kids get lost and no one cares and if they do they get no back up! I thought my kids are going to miss out on the beautiful people there! Jokes on me the community of carlock knows my number and they still stay in contact and my kids join in on movie nights and carnivals. They don't get the full experience but they get a little hint of the love! Let those people come in and feel the rooms and the teachers I promise they won't want to leave!!

Carlock's first grade class is the largest it has had in some time. I don't believe it's enrollment is that low

What is the thought behind the number 150 students? Why is that a requirement if a school is operating well and serving its community, even if it is a small school. If the school has the resources and is able to keep serving the community, what is the reason to shut it down and negatively impact that community and home values and families?

None

None

-

do not close my child's school and safe place.

Please show the data of Carlock's enrollment compared to the district as a whole each of those years in question.

I see new homes being built in Carlock area.

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

The Unit Five leadership board has threatened to close Carlock Elementary for many years. The community has supported and passed multiple reforms and bills specifically to keep Carlock open, based on assurances that it would remain so. Considering closure again due to enrollment falling below 150 students would not only break those commitments but severely undermine trust with families who relied on those promises.

I would not put money into Carlock through an addition or remodel. But I support using a building we already have and redistricting, instead of constructing a new building.

You are messing with an exceptional school. Add students don't close it or repurpose it.

I believe this is more due to a district mapping issues the need for schools is there it's just the zone that is not filling the seats. Also there is neighborhoods being built on the west side and in carlock so most likely there will be an influx of need soon.

Bus kids into Carlock from over crowded schools like the district has done over the last many years.

We passed you're last tax referendum 2 years ago with the promise from the district that Carlock would stay open and operate how it has over the years. YOU PROMISED THE CITIZENS OF CARLOCK.

Open enrollment.

I live *in* Carlock and my student is bussed due to school being on busy street. Is she included in the inconveniently bussed students..??

LEAVE CARLOCK ELEMENTARY AS IS.

We have yet been given a *clue* as to where current Carlock students would potentially be bussed to.. One of your already at/over capacity grade schools..?? NO THANK YOU

First I believe it needs to start with the District, they need to market the opportunities at Carlock and adjust the boundaries lines to allow more students the individualized education that has the enabled Carlock to be in exemplary status 4 times since 2019.

Expanding Carlocks boundaries to the neighboring blocks 35 and 59 would add an additional 29 students.

Looking at Carlocks enrollment trends since 2019 on the Illinois report card there have been years of growth with some years of decline, this does not mean enrollment has declined compared to the district whose year over year enrollment has showed a steady decline.

It was stated that 50% of the students are bussed into Carlock, closing this school would mean 100% of the students would be bussed likely creating longer transportation times and increasing costs for the district undermining the intent of cost savings from closing a school

It's more than just the school that would be impacted it's the community. Carlock serves as a critical rural access point, embodying the district's commitment to equity and community identity. School closures in rural areas can harm local economies and civic engagement. A Vermont Legislative Research Service analysis found closures often correlate with declines in property values, local businesses, and social capital—crucial to rural community sustainability. [uvm.edu]

Research demonstrates that closing schools in rural towns depresses property values significantly—by 3-25%—and erodes social infrastructure. These closures often remove a neighboring town's most prominent community institution. [d.lib.msu.edu] [ruralschoolsopen.org]

Instead of closure, I encourage the district to:

1. Highlight Carlock as a pilot for rural magnet or specialized programming to promote enrollment.
2. Continue to serve broader district needs (e.g., relief space, community partnerships).
3. Plan for absorption of future local growth and redevelopment through targeted enrollment, facility, and budget forecasting.

Carlock Elementary meets or exceeds nearly all planning criteria and strategically aligns with the district's objectives on utilization, equity, and capacity. Its closure would cause undue harm without addressing core district challenges. I urge the committee to preserve this valuable resource as part of a forward-thinking and equitable district plan

Advertise enrollment better to incoming Kindergartens.

I think your reputation among the community will suffer. Carlock loves its school

n/a

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

Declining enrollment?? I'm VERY confused on where those stats are coming from if not someones opinion. Carlock has always fluctuated enrollment but never declining. So what, they have a year that shows ONLY 93 students...if the district would actually support Carlock and HELP them bring their numbers up to the districts capacity guidelines then this wouldn't even be a conversation. But seeing as the district has NEVER wanted to help Carlock get to their required numbers, here we are. Carlock has been in Unit5 district for 85 years..and I bet even then, Carlock had to fight for their small community and their school. I'm questioning why Unit5 even took up taking Carlock under their district with time and time and time again putting Carlock Elementary on the chopping block.

The option to "continue to operate Carlock as a smaller school and redistrict to add as many students as possible" SHOULD BE THE ANSWER to the districts growing pain (as they see it). This shouldn't even be a conversation. That is exactly what the district can do to HELP their small school thrive and continue on in its RICH HISTORY with Unit5.

More info is needed. There are 93 students but how many more could possibly be absorbed?

It does not make fiscal sense or any realistic sense to operate Carlock as an elementary school. It is not an appropriate use of funds. We have to take into account equity to all students. Class sizes of less than 10-15 students at Carlock is wholly inequitable compared to other classes with 25-30 students. Continuing to pay significant facility costs and having employees without full-time loads is not prudent financial management.

I know that school is a high performing school and truly a neighborhood school and that families in that school would be devastated to lose it.

If we need more building space, I think utilizing what we have makes sense. However, continuing with Carlock as it is seems unfair to schools like Cedar Ridge who are bursting and in desperate need of smaller classes and additional help.

I know Hudson has more recently had to decrease the number of classes offered at certain grade levels. Bringing Carlock resident students to Hudson would help bolster their numbers and also provide the same small-town school experience that is likely valued by Carlock community members.

Redistrict, use Carlock as a "best practice" model for training teachers, or a lab school

The children have gotten older in this community, and this will continue to decrease unless there's a major change with an influx of families moving into the community. It may be more advantageous to serve Early intervention to build a solid foundation for keeping the school functioning

Same crap Unit 5 always tries to pull!!! Every 5 years or so you always talk about closing ng Carlock! It's a wonder small school that is supported by a small community! Quit offering open attendance areas - set the boundaries and stick to them!!!

I find it highly offensive that you threaten a smaller school with possible closing to help pass a tax increase proposal. In effect saying it probably would be closed if the tax increase proposal fails. Then a couple years after the proposal passes you go back at the same Carlock community and complain that it's "too small" and "probably needs to be closed". The height of "bigger is better" .. "worldly unproven" .. "knowledge" that's really not applicable to a region that just hasn't got realtors falling over themselves putting up houses. Having been born and raised and farmed and now retired from the Carlock area, I can say the school was.. and always has been..an important part of the history of Carlock with the people on staff.. and students ..and parents.. and children.. and community members. What a sad day it would be for Unit 5 legacy to dump a small proven school like Carlock. Sincerely hoping you have deeper "thinkers" and "caring" representatives on your school board and advisory staff to bypass simple supposedly "easy" talking points to stand strong and tall with the Carlock community that has invested time..and dollars.. and lives..and children and grandchildren for a team concept between the Carlock community and Unit 5 for many years...Not just a few...Carlock deserves to stay open... An east side additional possible school is a whole different issue with its own need analyzing and proven facts...The Carlock school and community has a legacy of many years... Please do the right thing and follow through with keeping the Carlock school open..

There is plenty of space across the district. The Unit 5 board and Superintendent are in their position to make decisions that utilize their current capacity. They need to figure out how to balance the school buildings, or reason to let someone else take their position with the capacity to see these things through.

It seems as though it is important to Unit 5 residents in that town, and small schools often provide especially useful learning environments for children, too.

Schools with fewer than 150 students should remain open. The quality of an education in these schools is better -just take a look at the exemplary rating Carlock ES has. Making students ride buses for many hours a day and separating them from their friend groups is not the way to go: do this and mental health will suffer. Bus more students in from overcrowded schools. Let parents know that this is a possibility and point out the great academic rating this school has and the great staff.

There's value in having a small town school available for families living in a small town. Where are the students being bused from? If from the country, that makes sense. However, I don't believe students who live in Bloomington Normal should be bused out to Carlock.

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

Add more students from the west side to Carlock. It's an amazing school with amazing faculty. My cousins go there now, I went there from 2009-2012 and that was the only school where I wasn't bullied, I had teachers and students support me. When my best friend died this past August who also went to unit 5 including Carlock, Carlock was the only school to reach out to our family and support us.

When we used an attendance exception to send our son to Carlock, we discovered that other parents had NO idea they could do this. This is SUCH an underutilized option. Plus, my son went to Fox Creek for the first three years of his schooling and was very unhappy, struggled with the environment and overfilled classes. After moving him to Carlock, he discovered a LOVE of learning, he was empowered to make decisions for himself and he flourished there. I know financial solvency is important but our children DO NOT benefit from these packed classrooms in schools whose priority must be crowd-control over all. Please stop 'solving' issues by thinking more students are the only way to make schools work. We are doing such a disservice to our children.

Redistrict the boundaries. **KEEP CARLOCK OPEN!!!**

I would support closing Carlock and sending those students to schools such as Towanda, provided that all Carlock staff members be offered equivalent positions in the district. If closing the school means that staff members would be without jobs, particularly certified staff, then I would not support the closure.

Attendance Exceptions are not being communicated effectively....or not at all. Carlock has the space to add if/when needed.

No

Continue operating as it would be most beneficial for all involved. Additional benefit would be to run into a lab school utilized as an exemplary model for training new teachers as well as student teachers.

The enrollment always moves in waves, there have been years with almost 30 students per grade level and years with 15. It is ever changing and one of your best performing school and would be a shame to close it down. Rezone and promote open enrollment to keep Carlock going.

Operate school as is, but transition it to a lab school using it as an exemplary model for training new teachers and student teachers

Operate school as is but transition to lab school potentially? Using it as an exemplary model for training new teachers

I would prefer to operate the school as is. Is there a possibility to transition the school to a lab school, using it as an "exemplary model" for training new teachers and student teachers?

Bus more kids from Traditions apartment complex to Carlock

Get more kids out to Carlock Elementary and watch those kids grow in their love of school and their education goals grow and expand. Class sizes tend to grow as the years go on through the Elementary years. The next kindergarten class has 15 or more kids coming into it. That is just younger siblings. That does not include first time families or only children that will make more students. Breathe and know that all school flex for class sizes yearly at all schools. Look at the scores of the testing and the students that need financial assistance grow and not fall behind.

Start busing more students to the school to balance out seats.

We need to keep carlock open

Make sense to have kids go to the school around where they live.

Low enrollment is better for students' education - isn't that what should be focused on?

Would it be possible to expand or rebuild the school to accommodate more than 150 students?

I hate the idea of eliminating small town schools. They have such a charm and community to them. Don't like this idea, despite the small class sizes, etc

Carlock Elementary must stay open! This is a great place to learn and probably the greatest school left standing in America! Please do not close this school. For the kids that do live in Carlock and have grown up there this would be devastating. The size and model of this school should be replicated not discontinued! Carlock would decline and crumble if Carlock Elementary closes. The people that know and love Carlock, and Carlock Elementary would be devastated! The reasons people would want to move to Carlock (other than convenience of location to commute) is because of the school, and there are no bars or selling alcohol there. This gives Carlock a lot more of a chance for it to be a nice place for families. Also, for some kids the quicker you expose them to larger school and larger class size then the more chance for them to get bullied, or for them to fall behind or not learn as well, with a higher student to teacher ratio. **PLEASE KEEP CARLOCK ELEMENTARY OPEN!!!**

Look into the McLean county planning commission and where they project growth for the upcoming years. It's north east which is a prime consideration for students to attend Carlock. Also it's a little disingenuous to say that students from apollo acres are being bussed in "out of town". Apollo acres is closer than other other in town options so it's not like they are being sent somewhere "out of the way" as the statement implies.

Many people have moved to that community for the elementary school. Bus students into Carlock from overcrowded schools

It's important to the community that the school should stay open. There is no other school within15 miles

Do you have any other considerations regarding the low enrollment at Carlock Elementary School?

Carlock Elementary School plays a vital role in addressing the geographical needs of the village of Carlock and the far western portions of Bloomington, including neighborhoods such as Apollo Acres. For approximately 40 years, families on Bloomington's west side have been assigned to Carlock Elementary, and many have chosen to reside in these areas specifically to attend this school. Residents in these communities do not perceive attendance at Carlock as requiring distant busing; rather, it fosters a sense of local accessibility and connection.

With Rivian's ongoing expansion in nearby Normal and projections from McLean County planning authorities indicating significant population growth on Bloomington's west side, eliminating a school in this area would be counterproductive. Retaining and potentially expanding Carlock Elementary's boundaries to utilize its available capacity would better accommodate anticipated enrollment increases while maintaining equitable access across the district.

Although concerns have been raised regarding the operational costs of Carlock Elementary due to its smaller enrollment, repurposing the facility for another district-wide program would likely involve busing students from throughout the community – or placing transportation burdens on families – negating any perceived efficiencies.

Carlock Elementary offers numerous educational and communal benefits that warrant its preservation, including strong academic performance (with proficiency rates in certain subjects exceeding district and state averages), smaller class sizes that enable greater individualized instruction, and deep community integration through activities such as visits to the local public library and participation in neighborhood events like trick-or-treating and caroling at area businesses.

In light of these factors, Unit 5 should prioritize keeping Carlock Elementary open as a cornerstone of western district service, rather than pursuing closure. This approach would support long-term growth, preserve educational quality, and honor the investments families and the community have made in the school.

I think if you need more students, redistribute kids and bus the already over crowded schools to balance out to keep a already useful place open instead of spending more \$

I support either promoting open enrollment to better inform parents that they have the option to enroll their child at Carlock, or redistricting to assign more students to the school. On the west side, there is a common perception that the drive to Carlock is lengthy; however, it is in fact a short commute, and several nearby neighborhoods are already districted into the school or are in close proximity to those that are.

Continue to utilize open enrollment and increase the advertisement regarding it.

If Carlock can only facilitate 1 grade level, a new building should be built closer to Bloomington that could accommodate Carlock students as well as west side neighborhoods that feed into Fox Creek. The overpopulation from Cedar Ridge could flow into Fox Creek. This adjustment solves space problems with Cedar Ridge and keeps current Carlock students and West side students in a facility close to home.

Carlock elementary school should absolutely stay open. It's too far away from town to bus kids into normal from Carlock, and many people move to Carlock to have a smaller school. In addition, I know there are lots of families with small kids (ages 2/3) that will be coming up through carlock, so I would expect the population to grow. It's OKAY to have smaller schools in a district!!

Redistrict or increase awareness of open enrollment. This is a more prudent financial decision than building an entirely new school.

As the Carlock Treasurer, I have first hand knowledge in the number of houses Carlock. The Village of Carlock is growing. There has been a lot of new construction and there are young children in some of those newly constructed homes that will be enrolling in the near future. Also, there are 2 subdivisions just outside of Carlock. Bussing all of those students a longer distance to town would increase bussing costs. Locating the Field students or other students with IEPs to Carlock would increase transportation costs to get the students to Carlock and to their jobs in the various schools. Also, it wouldn't save money because the building costs would still be there, and it would hurt the students that attend Carlock. Over the years, many families have happily sought attendance acceptances to attend Carlock and loved it. Those acceptances should be more widely publicized because many people would want to take advantage of them.

Towanda Elementary**Do you have any other considerations on how to address the facility needs at Towanda Elementary School?**

no

Expand, funny how you will be willing to build a larger and newer school for Towanda but not for Carlock students. Wonder if it has anything to do with the wealth on that side of town. Seems to me that you want to close down carlock to fund the money for the new school for Towanda.

How do you expect senior citizens on fixed incomes to continue to support all these tax increases due to building new schools?!

Towanda again is a great smaller school where parents help out. It would be again harder for families to be able to do that if the kids move into Normal.

No

New schools are cost-prohibitive. Expand Towanda don't spend indulgently.

Let the kids have n the east side ride the bus for longer to get to a different school even though that is the tax base the district wants to keep happy

I think building a new school would ease some of the crowding at other schools, potentially Benjamin, Northpoint, and Grove.

Send students to Carlock ES, it's only a 10 to 15 minute bus ride.

Currently, area teachers have to utilize shared spaces and it would be nice to have separate spaces. Also, if a new school is ultimately built, it would be nice to still be able to utilize the stage at the current Towanda elementary for concerts, and allow it to be a space other elementary schools could use for concerts, since with such a large district, it can sometimes be difficult to schedule high school auditoriums and having actual stages is rare in newer schools.

no

Try bussing some rural Towanda to Hudson and the Hudson area to Carlock.

No

They should remain a community school

I would say depending on the future demographics, both might be necessary or repurpose Towanda for early learning

Building would be an irresponsible use of money when current buildings already exist.

Do not raise taxes!!

I'm not crazy about either solution - can some Towanda students be transferred to Benjamin? Grove is close (and Prairieland to the East). Seems parents would be open to any of those schools. Towanda seems like the next Carlock... redistrict if you have to since all of the others are excellent facilities. I can remember when The Grove subdivision went to Towanda before Benjamin opened and the kids were fine because Unit 5 has great schools! Your study says the student population is going down, overall property tax amounts are going up due to increased home values which is stressing out families, yet you're talking about more facilities. Please do what I have to do - make do with what you already have.

Maybe closing Towanda should be considered.

Redistrict towanda students to other schools

No

No

I'm the vice president of the PTO at Towanda. I love that school, staff and community. We try our best with what we are given but with the portables we lost a significant portion of our blacktop surface which impacts students play. We didn't have and art room or music room for a few years. The portables are cramped and the temperature has s hard to control. The original building was built in the late 1800s and it show. There was a second story that was lost in a fire many years ago. I have a 4th grader and have one more to start in the fall of 2027. I love Towanda Elementary but the facility needs so much help that expanding it doesn't seem feasible to me.

I would like to see a full financial analysis of the two options, with a 20 year financial impact ran for both options and funding plan. The minimal information provide is not enough to form an opinion on.

Towanda shouldn't be part of our district.

No

Again utilize the land and space you already have-you eager to always build when you should have used what you had/have As in the Village of Carlock, keeping the integrity of the current school is important for the community

na

Ironic you want to build a new school for a small, small place like Towanda (similar to size of Carlock) but then complain about decline of class sizes and want to save \$? Doesn't make sense.

Depends on the cost. Evaluate which is more cost effective and perhaps tie this expansion to meet additional needs in growing population in Eastern area (N of veterans).

Do you have any other considerations on how to address the facility needs at Towanda Elementary School?

I hate to see the smaller town schools be closed. If Towanda is able to make the facilities work with some renovations or expansion, then expand. We don't need schools that look pristine, we need schools where the teachers are well facilitated and the families don't need to travel an unreasonable distance (unless they choose to through open enrollment to a less populated school). The difference in cost between renovation and new building could go a long way for others in the district.

Or taxes should not increase any more at this time if new school is "needed."

Unit 5 is a leading contributor to the masses leaving central illinois/illinois.

Disgusting.

Where South of Towanda does Unit 5 have land to build an elementary school? Most of that land is family owned farms who have not expressed a desire to sell.

If the building is closed, what is Unit 5's plan for the building?

South, but close to Towanda if there are enough students in Towanda to justify it being close. If not, center in the area of potential student population. I doubt renovation/expansion of the current building would make sense financially. If it could just be renovated for students in Towanda and nearby countryside, that would be the best option.

Add an expansion to current school along with redistricting children to go there

Historic schools should be respected, loved, and cared for. Towanda is a community school that has served my parents as children, and my sister and I as children. Support, maintain, and care for important pieces of history, and small communities. It seems as though Unit 5 is losing consideration for all that is positive, supportive, convenient, and is valued about small town living. A school is often considered one of the hearts of a small town. Maintenance and upkeep should be valued, in place of tearing down and closing. In my heart I considered Unit 5 to have more caring and consideration for families, small towns, communities, and the support that it brings to children and families. These buildings represent so much more than financial numbers on paper; these buildings represent so much more than student enrollment numbers. Budget the necessary dollars to maintaining and caring for historic buildings. Heart, children, families, and communities.

LEAVE CARLOCK ALONE

We already own the property in Towanda, so it would make sense to keep working with that site. I do wonder how all of these expenses are going to be paid for. I can't afford to have my taxes continuously go up year after year.

Adding on to this elementary school solved two problem - Towanda and in-balance in east part of town

which ever option is most economical without raising taxes again

None

Towanda Elementary is a true community school - it is walkable for many students and sits in the "town center." It seems like a waste to leave this site in the name of building a new building.

Partner with Towanda library for IMC class space. In considerations for renovations, it would be nice to build/renovate space that could allow for flexibility in multi-purpose of classes/activities/events. Also, if ever opportunity to design renovations to allow for green space/ fresh air / sensory compatible options would be preferred.

No.

Can Grove Elementary be utilized for Towanda students?

Building a new elementary school in the Northeastern part of town could accommodate those schools that are at capacity on the east side of town.

No

No

No.

I'm not sure which of these options is more cost -efficient, but if similar, moving the school closer to the majority of the population makes sense

I think both options would be fine, depending on what renovations/expansions are available for the current school.

Either renovate existing or build a new one

n/a

Again, be responsible stewards of taxpayer money. Add of to the existing school as it is the more affordable option.

None

There aren't enough details on the exact needs of this building or the area to make this call in an informed and not emotional or assumed way.

I think building a new school would potentially also help alleviate the pressure in other neighboring buildings.

Again, run it like a lean business that has to answer to the stockholders

I don't know. This should be based on projected population growth in the surrounding area.

Do you have any other considerations on how to address the facility needs at Towanda Elementary School?

Do not raise taxes or take on more debt. You keep seeking to operate beyond your financial means and it is creating significant ill will through the community.

No

I don't know much about this school or know anyone with kids there.

No

Utilize what property you have instead of purchasing new.

No idea about that school

I would much rather support the decision to renovate currently existing school then support the decision to build a brand new school when finances have been a problem in the past.

Move district boundaries south and send Bloomington neighborhoods to other schools.

N/A

Can bus from east region to Towanda if expanded. High priority project to have students out of temporary buildings

If redistricting is needed, please consider allowing families with enrolled children to remain in their schools.

Since Unit 5 is constantly expanding, having buildings that can serve more than one location is ideal.

I feel like I don't know enough about this area to comment.

No

No

Whatever is most cost effective

No

build/repurpose for additional students.

I think either of the options presented could work well. However, I'm not sure an expansion/renovation would work without gaining access to the neighboring vacant property, which makes a lot of sense but has not been possible to this point. If that were a viable option, I might change my answer to the expand/renovate option.

Towanda is close to NCHS and could be an answer to some of the crowding on the East side. Unit 5 needs to be financially responsible with this, if renovations to the building are possible and will continue to meet code and safety requirements then I would say go that route. If that isn't going to be possible and long term it is cheaper to rebuild the school go that route. If the school is rebuilt it needs to be able to accommodate 4 sections at each grade level-like Grove, Northpoint, Benjamin (some of grades have 5 sections).

Either have only the town of Towanda go there. The other can be dispersed to Grove and Benjamin

The students on the east side can also be bussed to the current location if expanded. If we own the build and land it would see to make more sense to expand and update.

Leave the small schools alone

Do what is most cost effective

If expanding and continuing to use the existing facility, there needs to be consideration for the physical space available and things like working which will also need to be expanded with additional classrooms, staff, and students.

Do not build any more schools. Save money and pay teachers more since they did not get a raise.

No

Towanda has been awarded the status of an exemplary Illinois school again this year. Please keep Towanda students and staff together - they have built a strong community that fosters high levels of learning and loves their students as their own. Data demonstrates the wonderful things they are doing for the district as a whole. As a community member I stand with the Towanda staff and students and would recommend renovating and expanding the existing school instead of redistricting some of their students to other schools.

No

Again, I'm concerned about how building a school in this area could perpetuate current socioeconomic and demographic disparities at the elementary level.

Seems super insulting and short-sighted to me if we close Carlock and move Towanda elementary out of Towanda. I get why there may be demands for this from families or administrators more based in Bloomington/Normal, but these more rural communities deserve investment, infrastructure, and respect (I get that it's not efficient, we are not a corporation, we are a community).

Send Towanda to Grove and Carlock

Again, I worry about cultural discrepancies in our community if we build another new school in an affluent area, and give less attention to the schools in the central area. Again, to me it's not a big deal to bus students inward, especially if this means keeping our district more equal and inclusive.

Do you have any other considerations on how to address the facility needs at Towanda Elementary School?

What does the financial analysis of this show? If we build a new building what happens to the old? Does it just go to waste? Is it being repurposed? Can we sell it? New buildings seem nice but our taxes continue to skyrocket with no end in sight, new buildings don't seem to help that cause.

N/A

Towanda Elementary is fairly landlocked. Repurpose for east side Early Education needs and then build larger elementary to accommodate Towanda/East side needs.

The district owns the land, use what you have and make the most of it.

The cost of building vs. expending should be a driving factor in that decision. While expanding in Towanda may mean some longer drive times for those outside of Towanda, the drive there using Towanda Barnes would not be bad considering the current road condition and easy drive.

I would assume that expanding is cheaper than building from scratch. Really, I support whichever method is more cost effective.

Additions are much more cost effective than a complete new property and build.

N/A

How great is the need to expand/renovate? If it's a major cost, it should be able to address many things. And Towanda is further away from the majority of families in East Bloomington so why have families that are northeast Bloomington commute further to a school that's just south of Towanda? Especially when Towanda is just such a small community, perhaps the school can just be separate from the east Bloomington needs.

None

None

-

I thinking whichever option is more cost conscious should be the one chosen.

Why build a new school when you could reset boundaries and move some to Hudson and move some of the Hudson kids to Carlock to help with the over capacity at Towanda

Figure out how to reduce costs, not simply rely on increased property taxes.

It would be good if a new Towanda school could also address the first question about eastern elementary schools

There is room to expand current site if additional land can be purchased.

Cheaper to maintain what you have.

First question, does Unit 5 already own land in the Northeast section that you're thinking of building and not using Towanda school?

Why don't you use the land at Towanda on the Southside that the school owns and is nothing but a grass field?

And when you do build let's build enough to grow for many years to come. Make the plans so extra wings can be added at a later date but not cost the district money on unused finished square footage.

Redistricting

Do whatever costs the least.

n/a

Other schools have needs. Some of the schools mentioned are newer schools that apparently were poorly planned if they are already out of space. You need to look at addressing all the school needs. If building a new school is on the table, build a new Oakdale, that has updated facilities, ample parking and parent and bus Lanes. Oakdale can't even get parking blocks in front of the school and building a new Towanda E.S is being proposed. Kingsley's bathrooms are gross. When will they be updated?

Where is the balance?

This question is difficult to answer without looking at the economics of it. What would the cost be to rehab/expand versus build new. I would suggest expanding and rehabbing when possible. Building new can be an extreme cost when taxpayers are shouldering a significant burden that will continue to grow.

with all of these choices, the cost of construction will be substantial. I would think renovating existing structures would be more advantageous in most cases.

I would expect that a cost analysis be done to see if repairs would exceed a new build.

Allow students attending Towanda to go to another school in the district

Improving an already existing structure is more economical than building a new school. And, closing down a school in a small town is detrimental to the town.

This option seems to solve multiple problems...overcrowding at Towanda and the growing east side who need seats in a building.

Keep the present school open. Don't rebuild.

Regardless of whether the school remodels or builds new, redistricting needs to happen to ensure that there are always two sections of each grade level. Families and staff face unnecessary stress each year over whether a class will be crowded with 25-29 students, or if a second section will open up. Ideally, all elementary classes would be capped at 15-20 across the district.

No

Do you have any other considerations on how to address the facility needs at Towanda Elementary School?

Towanda is like Carlock and their population is ever changing as well.

Use your funds correctly and wisely. That is what the public voted for. Expand or build up at the school, but keep in mind there is not room for much more growth and that side of the county. The growth is now going to be on the south west side of the district and in a few years your going to be saying these same statements about the schools you're wanting to close.

Option should be selected based on which one supports the most kids.

It seems important to build a new school in the future, but perhaps this is not the most immediate concern when compared to others on this form.

I question the rationale for constructing a mega-school. Research indicates that larger schools with increased class sizes do not yield improved standardized test scores. Moreover, such a facility would still serve an expansive geographic area encompassing Towanda, Normal, and Bloomington.

Rather than pursuing this approach, I recommend maintaining our existing schools and implementing targeted accommodations as necessary. Schools should be sized and located to align with local geographic realities while prioritizing student well-being.

Throughout this planning process, there has been no explicit emphasis on addressing student needs; instead, the focus appears to center on administrative efficiencies and procedural compliance at the district level.

I do not support constructing a new, larger school on the east side. I believe renovating the existing Towanda facility would be significantly more cost-effective. By analogy, when homeowners require additional space, they typically opt for an addition to their current residence rather than demolishing the existing structure and building a new house.

We have a kindergartener and a first grader at towanda, with another child starting in a couple of years. I volunteer at the school. I think both need to be done. Towanda is a small school that is severely in need of expansion and updates. The portable classrooms are frankly unsafe and an addition should be made to the school. However, that's not going to be big enough to fix the severe population abundance on the east side. Towanda needs help to fit its current population, but another elementary school would need to be added to solve the district issues even with an expansion to Towanda. I love having my kids attend a small elementary school- that's why we moved to the neighborhood we picked- and I understand that some growth will likely happen no matter what, but I'm hoping that we don't go from a school of almost 200 to 700...

If renovating exsiting building could meet the current and future capacity needs, that would be a consideration, especially if property directly east of the building could be purchased, or would allow for a better econcomical decision.

There are plenty of elementary schools already in this area between Northpoint, Grove and Towanda and Benjamin. Expand a current facility rather than building new.

no

Junior High Schools**Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in Unit 5 Junior High Schools?**

no

Unit 5 is and always has been about the money. Unit 5 needs to focus on their IEP/504 students and give them a better education than "pushing them through." We could debate on what needs to be addressed for days. Unit 5 students are not heard. We do not need to build new schools and shut down others. Redistrict the out of towners to make it so that schools are not overwhelmed with students.

Pushing kids out to Evans makes it hard to get kids for any reason and parents to attend because how far out Evans is located.

No

No construction until total capacity is unable to accommodate needs

Redistricting needs to happen, by avoiding this issue Unit 5 has created inequity between schools to save the "wealthier" areas from going to the same schools.

If redistricting, please try to keep schools in each building feeding into the same high school. It is harder to schedule elementary concerts, when I will have to be aware of both high school's concert schedules.

no

The needs were not very specific.

No

Do not raise taxes!!

Jr High's seem to be just fine - leave well enough alone and redistrict as needed. They're getting more extracurriculars when supposedly there was no funding - good for the students but it's not right to require added space for something optional.

Depending on what the data shows as far as bussing, etc..., expansions seem costlier than redistricting.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in Unit 5 Junior High Schools?

No

Evans is bursting at the seams. It's a problem if it's the newest Jr. High and at capacity.

Again, Unit 5 repeatedly asks the community for more money, like the referendum a couple years. That was supposed to keep Carlock open, yet here we are with the question and recommendation to close it. How was that money used? Why did it not deliver the outcome promised. Unit 5 has proven its inability to effectively manage finances. I have no doubt any expansion will come with another bill for the community.

Students should maintain the same school through the course of their time in unit 5. If you go to Kinder together you should also go to junior high and HS together! Unheard of to break it apart.

Redistricting of general education and expansion of SS classrooms in existing buildings.

No

I think the current situation doesn't make a lot of sense, but I understand I'm coming to that conclusion with limited information. I would seek to keep students in the same relative area together through junior high into high school. For example, Glenn students go to Kingsley while neighboring students in Colene Hoose advance to Chiddix, and both end up at Normal West. At the same time, students from the eastside are split between both junior highs and end up at Normal Community. I think it would make more sense and preserve children's relationships better if the Glenn/Colene Hoose and other students going to Normal West stuck together through junior high, and the same would be true for those headed to Normal Community.

Feeder schools should be kept together as the students transition to Jr High. This is important to a child's emotional and social well being

na

Just echoing my prior comment about keeping students together who attend grade school together. I would be extremely opposed to splitting grade schools to multiple junior highs. Meaning some students at a particular grade school attend one junior high while the others attend a different junior high.

If redistricting can be done such that the pipeline for ES to HS is consistent and ES kids will stay together, then I'd support that.

I think redistrict first, give it time to see how space are utilized once numbers are balanced better.

Rivian has been rewarded enough tax breaks.. zone unit 5 as Rivian.. make them pick up taxes they've eluded

Redistricting needs to be considered. Some students are bussed 30-45 minutes to their junior when there are closer junior highs.

Northpoint does not want to go to Normal West. Please prioritize proximity when considering feeder problem splits.

Make sure there are no pockets of students that go to different HS than the rest of the JH!!

Redistrict to fill what is there.

The elementary school distribution needs to be resolved before addressing junior high needs, as those needs could change drastically.

Redistricting to create the balance

Action must be taken soon. Students should not get attendance exceptions from the district office in order to attend the most overcrowded school.

Balance attendance across the junior highs.

It seems like it would have made more sense years ago to have done something different with NCHS/Kingsley instead of converting it to a jr. high when it's so close to Parkside and Chiddix. I think this one is more easily resolved in the larger scale of things. I guess another option might be to build a grade 6-9 building on the NCHS property to both help with NCHS crowding and for students in that area so that students in Towanda don't have to go all the way to Evans.

I understand that equity is a central narrative to the Junior High zoning. However, Northpoint and Sugar Creek elementary students should not be asked to drive or ride buses beyond their means across town for the sake of diversification only to be stripped of friendships and connections made while at KJHS for grades 6-8 when being rezoned to a separate high school from their peers, NCHS. I also believe that 6th -8th graders is a very large emotional and developmental gap. Please consider extending ES to be K-6.

A money conscious decision for the district should be to first try to redistrict and balance enrollment amongst the existing schools

Redistricting with consideration of neighborhood location and high school feeder patterns

The boundary lines for the junior highs are in desperate need of reevaluation.

Fix the weird boundaries of Kingsley and Chiddix. Also they seem too close to each other to best serve the district.

The current junior high schools are not convenient for the NE side of town. Can there be consideration for a junior high on this side of town?

I would only support as long as taxes are not raised again

The breakdown between chiddix and Kingsley doesn't make sense. It would be ideal if one fed NCHS and the other fed NCWHS

No

No

It seems that no matter how much you redistrict, it doesn't solve the need for expanding core spaces due to growing populations at each.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in Unit 5 Junior High Schools?

No.

Schools with three teams per grade level will need more staff to meet students needs.

Evans really needs a 2nd gym! We have the highest enrollment and 5 PE teachers who share the same gym space. Especially with the team changes next year, we will need more classroom spaces as well.

I believe you shouldn't bus kids to a school when you pass another school on the way (a good way to save cost) - also why would you split the junior high kids (there are 2 schools that split when they leave 8th grade and go to high school) - doesn't make sense. Make 2 middle schools go to 1 high school, and 2 middle schools go to another. And don't drive past another school to get to school

I think that junior high student should be redistributed by location not schools. It's easier for parents and caregivers to transport their student.

You need another Junior high or k-8 building to balance the needs.

Evans will continue to need extra gym space no matter what we do. Also, we are adding staff members with half teams to this building. It seems cruel to then redistrict and potentially remove those newly-hired positions because of a redistrict.

Chiddix is where I went to school. Hate to see it go, but it is old, not accessible to all with stairs to upper and lower levels in multiple locations, no elevators it may be a great location to tear it down and build a new modern facility

The feeder patterns with the jr highs are weird. Any solution that streamlines that is preferable.

Do not raise taxes or take on more debt. You keep seeking to operate beyond your financial means and it is creating significant ill will through the community.

No

I marked that I support " Redistrict students among the Junior High Schools to balance enrollment and resolve small feeder pattern splits". If this means splitting where a grade school or jr high feeds to, I'm less for it.

Also not a fan of changing a kids school mid school career.

No

Redistrict within reasonable distance from residence

Chiddix JH is very good school in all way.

Redistrict to balance attendance first, then build additional space where absolutely needed.

N/a

There should be consistency at every junior high in every grade level. This hasn't been the case in the past. Every subject should be taught by a teacher with that specialty. Stop making literature teachers teach social studies- get proper social studies teachers.

Evans needs a 2nd gym

EJHS is way over capacity! I think a combination of redistricting and expansion is needed. EJHS really needs more core spaces, especially another gym. Although it is the largest junior high in the district, it only has one gym, whereas most of the other junior high schools have two gyms. This causes many challenges with scheduling extracurricular activities as well as overcrowding during PE classes. EJHS also needs additional classroom space, unless redistricting would result in a significant reduction in students.

Again - you're the experts!

Another gym is greatly needed at EJHS. As well, more classrooms are needed at EJHS if the number of students attending there is going to stay that high.

Evans Junior High school is the largest junior high with what seems to be the smallest number of classrooms. Especially as we are having to restructure to have two teams of 4 and 1 team of 2 at each grade level, we absolutely do not have enough classroom spaces. Likewise, transportation continues to be an equity issue for Evans impacting extracurricular activities. Gym space, even for PE, is way overfilled. We also have more sports in season together needing practices. We often have to practice in the morning before school, which is difficult for families and the players. We have teams using the cafe, pods, and hallways space to practice. Then other non-athletic groups have to use the gym space as well, especially music. When there is a concert or a home game for any sport, no one else can use the gym for anything that night.

If redistricting is needed, please consider allowing families with enrolled children to remain in their schools.

I would rather expand capacity then drive kids farther.

Evans has 100 more students than Kingsey and only 1 gym. Classrooms are being shared, and there is an ESL program as well as many special education programs. Redistricting will not be the only solution, as there are many that will then need to be bused. Since Cedar is a feeder school and needs increased capacity, so will Evans. It needs another wing.

We tried 15 years ago to make the junior highs balance and feed 2/2 to each HS...unless something has changed dramatically I don't see that being a possibility. I also feel like you have to solve the elementary issues first - Junior High, if it continues the "all elementary kids feed to the same JH" plan, might see enrollment changes from those conversations that would impact.

I do not want my child's junior high to change. We moved so our child could attend PJHS then NCWHS.

serving the potential ideas including costs to families and vote

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in Unit 5 Junior High Schools?

Chiddix experiences flooding quite often and has a number of other problems due to the building's age. This building should be replaced in the future--either by building an entirely new site somewhere else or demolishing the existing structure and building a new one on the same site.

Evans needs classroom space, not just core space.

It would be great if all Jr high kids fed into the same HS instead of causing split with kids from certain elementary schools (i.e. Evans sending Pepper Ridge kids to West and everyone else to Community.)

Addressing behavior and language in some junior high students, sports are unequal with coaches having a lot of bias and students are constantly left out of participating in sports or activities due to this bias

n/a

No

repurpose Chiddix, as it is slowing crumbling, it's too old and keeps having severe issues, build new Junior High.

Build a new Junior High school

Our neighborhood busses students to Kingsley JHS while we are within walking distance of Chiddix JHS. I understand that this is a prime example of a situation where the student population just isn't balanced well around our existing facilities, but if you are redrawing lines, this might be something to consider.

Evans JH needs classroom space desperately. With the addition of 2 teacher teams per grade level and the Readiness course next year, Evans will need 4 new classrooms. Is this being looked at?

Chiddix JH is so woefully old, small, overcrowded, and has a major deficit in its building capabilities compared to the other unit 5 buildings.

A new jr. high should exist for northeast quadrant of unit 5

I would like to see 2 junior highs feed into each high school and not be split.

Close Chiddix, have them go to Kingsley. Build a new junior high on the far east side

Drive times to the school should be considered. There has been talk of NE Normal students going to Evans. It's a 20+ minute drive there vs. a 12ish minute drive to Chiddix.

Evans Junior High needed a bigger gym space since it opened, that need has only grown since then. We are getting close to capacity for our classroom spaces. When I was at Parkside Junior High before Evans opened, we had to share classrooms but at least we had offices to go during our plan time. At Evans, we don't have offices. Additionally, there are multiple classrooms that are utilizing spaces that weren't intended to be classrooms.

Na

Evans Junior High is at least 200 students over capacity. Parkside and Chiddix are under capacity. The simple fix is to just redistrict.

I think while not ideal to redistrict, we should be looking long term and how to use existing facilities more effectively vs short term funding to expand based on current needs.

Evans Junior High is out of space and desperately needs a new wing of classrooms and a new gym. Things are not going to get better with simply redistricting. We need to adapt and adjust our buildings as our community continues to grow. Getting portables is a short term solution that will not solve the problem.

No

-

I don't have a
expanding classrooms at the Junior Highs.

No

Balance your student populations in order to fulfill the capacity of the current junior high buildings.

I think the Junior High Schools need to be bulldozed and rebuilt.

Parkside JH added two new classrooms this year. Does this indicate they are at or above capacity? Are portables going to be added there next? I will not stay in a district that I pay an enormous amount of taxes to that cannot keep my children out of portable classrooms or have class sizes so big that teachers cannot possibly meet the needs of the students. Is an additional JH needed instead of an elementary school?

Chiddix does not have equal spaces compared to the other junior highs

No

It's great to hear that the junior highs are mostly operating in their capacity!

Almost all of the students in the Jr High School currently ride a bus. With some thoughtful expansion and re-districting, these issues should be able to be resolved.

Almost all of the students in the Jr. High Schools ride a bus. With some thoughtful expansion and re-districting, these issues could be resolved.

N/A

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in Unit 5 Junior High Schools?

Please also consider that Evans Junior High School is remotely located and some outdoor learning space or recreational space is necessary.

If at all possible, it would be good if students from the same junior high went to the same high school. This is a formative time for kids and their friendships. It is a very difficult age for students to loose friends due to district boundaries during the transition to high school.

Evans needs to be redistricted to avoid the split HS situation. While doing that, solve the space problem without building.

N/A

Please consider cultural, linguistic, and wealth diversity in any plan.

Add another junior high on eastern side of district

What is the quality of the education in unit 5 versus district 87? Is there a reason related to the facility that the most qualified teachers choose one over another? are there services that are missing from unit five that are related to the facility?

None

None

-

By time students have gotten to junior high, friendships have been established. Because of many reasons, but including this, it is least disruptive to expand current spaces at the junior high schools that have the need.

It is important that students from a junior attend the same high school! When only a handful or select number of students attend a different high school, there are major SEL issues that we, as counselors, see often. 2 junior highs should attend 1 high school and the other 2 junior highs should attend the other high school.

No

If I understand feeder splits, the junior highs split into two different high schools. Calling them small doesn't represent the situation at Kingsley. It is disproportionate in comparison to the other junior highs (53% go to NCHS and 47% go to NCWHS). There should be no feeder splits at all given there are four junior highs, let alone putting the Kingsley kids at the greatest disadvantage. It is completely unfair to bring these kids together, only to split them after three years before the start of high school.

Keep elementary schools together in the same junior high. But you can change which elementary schools go to which junior highs to make Evans less crowded. For example, towanda could go to kingsley.

Re purpose the space you already have and make cuts to activities that aren't needed, that aren't part of the core of educational of learning.

Don't expect more of my taxes if you close Carlock Elementary

Once in Jr. High, Mids should not be split again for HS. align district lines so all students attending Parkside and Kingsley go to West and all kids attending Evans and Chiddix feed NCHS

Strictly enforce enrollment boundaries

I think we need a new junior high on east side.

n/a

Similar answer to above. Clearly poor planning in building Evans without any thought about growth considering that is where the space was to grow. It is unfair to continue to circle back and only address certain school needs in certain areas given the fact we are all paying taxes.

It does not make sense to send students to schools miles further, past another school.

Its unfortunate that a middle school couldn't be picked up and moved magically. For a significant amount of the student population there is a large travel time for students. As an Evans parent, I know this all too well.

My children attended Pepper Ridge, Evans, and now Normal West. The shift from attending Evans to West has been difficult for both of them. My son, a baseball player who had many friends, knew two students in his first day of high school classes. Not two friends—he KNEW two people. My daughter, a Senior student who has been involved with music and theater, continues to struggle with the depth of friendships because she still feels like "a new kid" amongst classmates. Both of my children have said that they would attend Community if given the choice, with the full reason being friends and relationships.

It can be hard, socially, for junior high kids to split with friends they made during junior high when it comes time to go to high school.

Redistrict so that each Junior high feeds into only one of the high schools. Splitting students in a single Jr High between the two high schools is very disruptive for the social needs of the students.

Balancing the enrollment seems to be the best course of action here.

I do not believe that it is emotionally healthy to split students from elementary schools into different middle schools and then potentially splitting them again when they go to high school. Building friendships is very important for our kids and splitting them up based on where they live is not healthy, especially when they are not allowed to socialize together at extracurricular events either, which is currently the case with the spectator policy for the high school football games.

Do you have any other considerations about addressing the facility and student needs in Unit 5 Junior High Schools?

If re-districting needs to occur to resolve small feeder pattern splits, I would encourage you to limit the number of students impacted by these changes. Especially older students who already have friendships and teacher relationships established at their current JHS.

No

Think about the locations of your junior high. Evans Junior High is SO far out that I have heard from multiple parents and even some of the bus drivers that it is at LEAST 30 mins to drive to that school and they live in town which could make it harder for parents to participate in events or needs.

It is a school, anything you pour money into has a large risk of being destroyed. Get better control of the rampant behavior issues across the board. Bring back stronger discipline. Parents are begging for more discipline.

Kingsley and Parkside need to go to West and Chiddix and Evans need to go to Community. This will solve you feeder school problems and that West is underutilized.

As a parent I'd be more concerned with JH having the core space needed vs adjusting the small feeder pattern splits.

Allow open enrollment

Evans Junior High is extremely full. Both redistricting and expanding spaces at Evans are critical. Some staff share a room with one or more other staff members, and PE teachers teach Health in random classrooms throughout the school year because there are no open spaces. Larger sports practices (dance, cheer, etc.) and after school clubs (ex. Multicultural Club, with 60+ students) are held in the hallways or pods - we would greatly benefit from a second gym. Also, we are the only junior high that needs to add a third team next year based on student population - a huge upheaval in staff and classrooms that would be unnecessary if we had fewer students.

Make the schools equitable with the facilities as much as possible.

Use what you have. Your overall student enrollment is declining and has been for years. You don't need more space you just need to allocate wisely the space you already have.

I recommend pursuing targeted facility upgrades and maintenance as needed. Disrupting established junior high and high school environments by uprooting students through boundary changes, school closures, or transitions to new facilities would impose considerable emotional, social, and academic challenges. Adolescents in these grade levels particularly benefit from stability, familiar peer groups, extracurricular continuity, and strong community connections, all of which support their developmental needs and overall well-being.

I urge prioritization of student-centered outcomes, including minimized disruptions and preserved access to neighborhood-based schools, over purely operational efficiencies.

While I am pro redistricting as a whole, I think special consideration needs to be made for Junior High Students. Specifically with a focus on where students attend High School. Having worked in the district previously, I've seen how detrimental it is to students when they are separated from their friends for high school. For instance, only a small group of 8th graders from Chiddix go to Normal West, causing parents to fill out attendance exceptions for their students to go to NCHS (for various reasons). The same happens with Parkside Junior High. This can definitely have a negative impact on a student's high school experience and should be considered with all the other information.

Seems we have more of a gap with Jr High Schools on the east side than Elementary schools.

Other Comments**Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?**

Please don't ask for another referendum. Redistribute funds that you already have.

Redistrict to better utilize and balance all existing schools in the district.

The only reason we moved to Carlock was for the school. Our taxes have continued to increase due to a TIF we don't support, yet we stay because of kids are supposed to start kindergarten next year. The school is one of the main "businesses" in Carlock. It will become a ghost town without it.

Maybe the district needs new administrators that can plan for the future better! Why wasn't Normal Community built larger to begin with knowing that the majority of Normals growth was to the east??? THERE IS NO COMMON SENSE IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE!!!

Stop trying to close schools when you have overcrowded schools in the district. It's a silly idea. expand the schools that have low enrollment and redistrict to fill them. You don't close schools when you have over crowded schools in your district.

Do not close Carlock. It's the best elementary you have.

I think redistricting would be the best to help with overflow and under levels of students.

No

No construction until total capacity is unable to accommodate needs

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

Redistricting the high schools is a must. Normal West needs to be the same size as Normal Community, otherwise we create a "separate but equal" mentality leading to one school baring the burden of Special Needs students, low income students, and ESL students while the other school across town has far too many students to begin with.

Merge the Districts and stop wasting all the taxpayers money by having redundant admin positions in the community.

Field is a very special place and their services are very under utilized by the district as a whole . Please spend some time there and see what they do. Closing Carlock will not help the district save so much money, in two years they will be asking for more again and all we did was loose our small school where all the teachers know all the kids names.

How about cutting unnecessary staff and pay cuts for overpaid administrators , such as director of safety and diversity. People are tired of threats to get more taxes. What about retired people on fixed income? Learn to live within your budget. Last referendum money went to big raises and new vehicles for administration. Sick of your hear your threats !

Please take a good look at class size equity. Across the district, it is more than reasonable to have elementary class sizes around 20-22 students, which would help improve the individualized attention each student receives within a class (for those school with significantly higher class sizes), and would also significantly improve the behaviors we see in the classroom.

I am happy to discuss anything further if you have any questions. Thanks!

Unit 5 spends way too much money on Administrators. There needs to be very critical oversight of every dollar spent that is not directly attached to the classroom, especially if the reading/math/graduation rate isn't stellar.

no

Working at capacity, but lack of core space is insufficient information. Only elementary and special classes seem to have needs worth of consideration. No other news has indicated any problems.

Continue with redistricting and keeping facilities open

Stop Paying consultants and use your tax dollars to listen to your community.

I live in carlock and am concerned about the village if the school is closed.

Considering all your students, includes your rural students. They matter too.

Looking at the future need will help to shape what to do with current elementary buildings and how each one could be added on to or addressed meet the larger needs of our district. I also think it might be helpful to send more surveys to staff to get specific feedback.

Think as a parent, family, and Community, do not feel a drastic decision is always needed. Forcast is rain, get an umbrella before building an arc. Student and community needs before tomorrow's operating expense.

Do not raise taxes and keep Carlock open.

Please do not close Carlock, this school and these students excel and if you really look at it Carlock is growing and so are the class Sizes!! Look at current 1st grade and incoming kindergarten! It's going to keep growing! We LOVE this school and everyone that goes there will say the same thing! That is not the norm at other schools please take this into consideration.

There doesn't seem to be enough information yet about operating costs for schools, what schools need what projects done, and which of these projects can be done without raising taxes. I do not support closing any schools, especially to build ones elsewhere. That does not seem to make economic sense.

I don't get this - school population is going down but you want to build/expand schools? to me this just means you want to add more to something that's already above other school districts. My family has to make do with what we have - how can you take even more money from families (some struggling day to day)? I saw where more Unit 5 extracurriculars are being added again. The last referendum said extracurriculars would be taken away if it didn't pass - it just seems like such a shell game. During the last referendum, my coworker said his Prairieland child was crying every night because a teacher told him that PE would go away if the referendum didn't pass (so my coworker had to vote for it even though he hadn't planned on it). How can Unit 5 do this to families? It seems so wrong. And there's so much empty space in town - I applaud District 87 for repurposing the State Farm building on Oakland Ave and ISU for using Country's building. If space is absolutely critical for Unit 5, set an example for our kids and use an existing building instead of building an expensive new school that leaves families struggling to pay their bills. What good is a new school for the district if the kids are even more stressed out from their home life? I do appreciate all that you do - my kids had an excellent Unit 5 education, many times in portables and full classrooms. If the student population is decreasing, why are we throwing more money at this instead of finding a more reasonable solution? Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Please stop trying to close Carlock. This is an exemplary school as recognized by the state. The parents, community, and staff value our small school. The recent referendum was supposed to keep Carlock open. Please place your target on another school who has poor performance. Rezone those schools if they are overcrowded.

Despite your best efforts students in rural areas will continue to have the same commute times to school. Are we considering the recent land use plan from McLean county? The last I checked the only employer adding headcount is on the west side. Idk why we'd close a west side school to build yet another on the east creating additional educational resource disparity for the rural families who continually get asked to give and give. Unit 5s agenda to use scare tactics to incite buy in from taxpayers is concerning.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

Carlock has been a treasure of a school. The staff are amazing and everyone that goes there is like a family. Maybe some families near the area who are going to a more cramped school can be invited to join the school.

The district needs to provide more detail from the study, including detailed CBA that includes both tangible dollar costs and intangible impact costs and benefits. The district needs to provide the details and considerations that support the recommendations and options being presented. You are asking the community to weigh-in and form an opinion on options without providing the details and data needed to effectively form an opinion.

I'm concerned that Unit 5 is not being managed properly and the kids/families are suffering for it. We have approved all your tax increases and referendums and you still are wanting to make Carlock pay. It will be a heavy burden on my children and myself to have them go to elementary school outside of town like is being discussed. Our children are not just numbers.

Do not close the Carlock grade school

My kids and grandkids have gone to Carlock and flourished. Please don't recommend closing this wonderful elementary school! I went to a one room school with 6 grades and 1 teacher. I managed to graduate from the University of Illinois with high honors!!

I do not support any expansion that would require the consolidation or closure of any facility based on the current student count. Sure I don't have children in this district and my children are grown. My choice to live in this small community was made because I prefer smaller town living. 28 years ago my wife and I made the decision to move to a small town so our kids could have the small classroom benefit or having a teacher that could spend more time per child. When our kids got to high school the district forced us to consolidate and promised us k-5 grades would always stay in town. That lasted about 3 years and now no school. That has slowly destroyed the community we called home. If you think closing the small schools is the answer to a financial set back just wait for the fallout in tax dollars because the businesses in those small communities close. A town without a school slowly loses business because people don't stay in small towns without a school they find another one. What is the answer then? Tax the people more? Close another school? Watch as the small towns slowly decay or find a way to support the small towns within the district?

I believe the time has come for us to take a thoughtful, honest look at our smallest schools and make some difficult decisions. I fully understand how emotional and unsettling this process is for the Carlock community. This school has been an important part of the town's identity, and the concerns from families are real and valid.

At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure that all students across the district, including those with special needs, have access to the programs, services, and supports they require. Many of our students already travel by bus each day to attend the school that best meets their educational needs, and this is not a new experience for our district.

With only 93 students currently enrolled and just 41 residing in the Carlock area, we must consider whether we can continue to operate this building in a way that is sustainable, equitable, and educationally sound. After careful reflection, I support the closure of the Carlock school. This decision is not made lightly, nor without deep respect for the families who will feel its impact most directly.

My hope is that, as we move forward, we do so with transparency, compassion, and a shared commitment to providing the strongest possible educational experience for every student in our district.

Keep Carlock open and send west end kids there to balance the capacity or include more special needs children

Do an audit of ALL U5 schools...an honest...facilities available audit to see what space is available and needs to be better used.

Do an honest audit of salaries and expenses to see that all money is being used appropriately!

Don't close Carlock and increase overcrowding. Redistrict to provide a more balanced school population.

Is anyone in power there actually been a teacher or worked at some of these schools? The people in power to make these decisions do NOT usually know what the people want. Surveys like this are a great indicator, but they require you to LISTEN. Bigger class sizes and "super schools" are not always the answer. Quality, keeping families coming back, and STUDENTS are the best interest. The Carlock school partners with the library to bring a better, deeper level of community and learning, connection. That would NOT be possible without the school in town. The community in town and even not in town, all rally behind this school! Also, I've heard that you guys tried to do this 2 years ago if they didn't go with this tax proposition, and they did, so what the heck?!

Don't close or repurpose Glenn Elementary.

Glenn Elementary was not mentioned here, but just for the record it would be an absolute travesty to lose this neighborhood school. Our family moved down the street from this school on purpose. We are happy to receive east suburb students there, which also helps our diversity. And those families love the school too. There would be a lot of pushback on a Glenn elementary closure.

Thank you for your consideration of the personal and complex issues families are dealing with, and the idea that sprawl is the decision of the people that move to the suburbs, and in-town residents shouldn't have to subsidize suburban sprawl (extremely expensive), which just weakens our wonderful city. The town should be working to counteract this sprawl and strengthen our city and its infrastructure instead. Much appreciated.

This survey seems biased in it's framing of the situation. The priorities seem to be spend spend spend and close Carlock to spend more somewhere else. Just bus more to Carlock and reduce the capital needed.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

You could absolutely utilize Carlock elementary by expanding Carlock in a way that could include trailers to add additional classrooms. There is so much land around Carlock elementary. I don't understand why this is still a conversation. I also think Carlock is a great school for kids that struggle with anxiety and wanting to go to school. School can be so overwhelming. The fact that you want to open a school again east of veterans Parkway when so many of us on the west side Would have to travel more. What is the difference of other areas traveling to Carlock for elementary? This school is so important and so vital because it has the perks of a private school within a public school district and if you take that away, you are hurting students and teachers. My children thrive at Carlock. Small classroom sizes are not a negative and we could expand all of our classroom sizes at Carlock to help with kids and other schools that need more assistance. Something new doesn't mean something better. Get it together unit five.

In regards to class space at the high school level, consider more options for early graduation or getting upper classmen out of the building by expanding opportunities such as taking on campus dual credit courses, work program, internship programs, or courses through the Bloomington Career Academy.

Unit 5 continues to ask the community for more money while simultaneously discussing school closures, new construction, and major boundary changes. Parents have spoken repeatedly about real concerns – transportation, safety, capacity, weather, class sizes, and financial accountability – but the district's decisions do not reflect what families are saying. Even when the board claims to be listening, their actions show otherwise. They continue to move forward with plans that feel predetermined, not community-driven.

The district's financial decisions are a major part of the problem. Teachers have seen little meaningful improvement in pay, yet board compensation continues to rise. Freezing board raises and redirecting those dollars to classrooms should be a basic starting point. Instead, the district keeps requesting additional funding without demonstrating that current dollars are being used responsibly.

Budget transparency is still lacking. Too many funds, accounts, and line items are not clearly explained to the public. Taxpayers should not have to dig through vague reports to understand how their money is being spent. If Unit 5 wants to close schools or build new ones, the community deserves a clear answer on who is paying for it, whether debt will increase, and what long-term costs families will be expected to shoulder.

Transportation issues highlight these failures even further. After outsourcing busing to a private company – claimed to be a cost-savings measure – families saw immediate and ongoing problems: chronic lateness, confused drivers, inconsistent routes, high turnover, and constant complaints. Even with 99 percent of routes being the same each day, buses still struggle to arrive on time. The person overseeing the contract refuses to return calls or engage with parents. These are not isolated issues; they are symptoms of poor oversight and disconnect between leadership and the families they serve.

When you combine declining school enrollment in some areas, proposals to close buildings, the possibility of building elsewhere, and the daily transportation failures, parents naturally expect meaningful engagement and honest answers. Instead, decisions keep being made the same way they always have – with limited transparency, minimal accountability, and little evidence that community feedback is shaping the outcome.

The district cannot continue operating under the assumption that "we'll decide, and the public will adjust." Families want leadership that responds to data, listens to the community, and adjusts course when planning decisions don't align with real-world impacts. Whether it is transportation, budgeting, or school restructuring, Unit 5 needs to demonstrate that community input truly matters – not just in meetings, but in the final decisions that affect our children every day.

A full, honest review of how this district is being led, how funds are being spent, and how decisions are being made is not optional anymore. It is necessary.

It's difficult to answer some of these questions without a guarantee of cost/impact to property taxes and the potential disruption this may cause to families and students by switching schools. Of course it always sounds great to expand, remodel, and/or build a new school for our students and teachers. However, if it's not financially possible, then will these survey results be used as leverage for the district to raise property taxes to fund the new buildings and improvements because "the poll indicated this is what the majority wanted." I'm supportive of quality education for our community and evaluating space needs. But opposed to additional property tax increases. Also concerned with the potential impact this may cause to existing grade school relationships as they head into junior high. And the potential disruption to students and teachers if remodeling occurs at some schools.

Please do not write off our small towns simply because a ROI analysis said that's the easiest way to to make the bottom line shake out. Find new inputs, rebalance to make use of what you have, and don't leave people in the lurch.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

Continuing to spend tax payers dollars to build new schools and renovate seems unnecessary when there are schools with space that can serve the needs of the students. Our taxes continue to increase when living in unit 5 boundaries. I am more than willing to contribute to the community in this way and want the best educational opportunities for our local youth, but it's becoming harder to justify living within unit 5 boundaries without having kids myself.

Consider redistricting and renovations 1st to alleviate some of the issues before making larger, more expensive decisions. I know that is contradictory to the lengthy statements I have made about the 18-22 program.

Cut the administrative budget and focus on the kids schools.

redistricting is a very abrasive solution. As for high school students, why punish parents for where their house resides , and rip their children out of their school with their friends. The equity of NCHS will be off balance and will eventually result in segregation.

DO NOT CLOSE CARLOCK ELEMENTARY

Glenn needs more parking

If new buildings are to be considered, Unit 5 needs to include teachers in the design process to ensure needs are being met.

If buildings are to be closed Unit 5 needs plans to remove or sell buildings so that they do not fall into disrepair and destroy property values.

Before closing or building, common sense redistricting needs to be the first step.

Redistrict to send elementary schools with large population west of Veterans to Normal West. Prioritize keeping elementary schools together through high school. Jr high continuity not as important.

We do not support the closing of Carlock Elementary.

I'm not sure how you justify closing a school bc it is too expensive to keep heating and cooling it but then discuss repurposing the same school for special need student population who also would need heating and cooling. Would there be 150 special needs students in this building? Under the arbitrary number of 150 students make a school this wouldn't make sense. Also Carlock has never had 150 so does that mean they were never a school in the first place.

Our elementary schools are considerably out of balance and very few at risk schools are truly neighborhood schools. Ideally I'd love to see a k-2 3-5 plan that so many districts have moved to. We were around last time we shuffled percentages instead of balancing and it created same issues, different school. I hope we truly fix it so we have balanced high schools in both size and demographics as well as in our elementary schools and junior highs. If we need more buildings to do it, great but we should really be looking at making our buildings match our community vs having such drastic number differences at schools 10min away from each other.

If the jr high schools could each feed into specific high schools instead of the kids hopping around it may be easier to maintain the space needed at each school. Knowing what is coming!

Don't move kids out of their neighborhood/away from friends unless absolutely necessary. We faced that once and ended up at U-High after being very involved in Unit 5. Our daughter was in 4 schools in 4 years, and WE didn't move! I think U-High would agree that your loss was their gain.

I think the future of growth should be looked at and redistricting to be diverse

I attended Carlock Elementary in the late 90s/early 2000s. The small class sizes were very helpful for me and i understand the value the school adds to that community. It's a great place to learn with attentive teachers and I hope there is a solution that involves maintaining it operation. Thank you.

Redistrict. BN expands east. We need to redistrict.

It would be a huge mistake to 'get rid of' carlock elemetary, spend a week there, watch the students interact with the staff..not just teachers, and the interaction with volunteers and i guarantee anyone with a heart and half a brain could see what a huge, devastating mistake that would be

Stop closing schools and maybe get creative for our kids rather take the lazy consultant way out.

Balance attendance at existing facilities.

As a parent of three girls who will all attend unit 5 who personally live in carlock the thought of shutting down Carlock Elementary would be devastating to our community. You board members should park in the parking lot everyday while all the students get bused in and dropped off by parents. It is a special place that thrives and is the heart of our community. Our oldest daughter that is now at Parkside is thriving and our first grader is reading exceptional. It's all part of the amazing staff at carlock elementary. As to falling enrollment you should do a study as to all the young families in and around carlock. Our youngest daughter is due to start kindergarten next year as well as others we personally know. Shutting down this school would be the worst decision unit 5 has EVER MADE!!!!

LEAVE CARLOCK ALONE

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

How can we make adjustments that will still provide excellent education without immediately moving towards spending more money on buildings? How can we be creative to think outside the box? I KNOW the idea of consolidating with D87 has a lot of issues, BUT, could we do something better by sharing buildings...would there be enough seats if we combined? How can we live within our means? Evidently, there is little concern with the current situation of busing my kids to a school that is farther from our house than several others, so busing kids from the east side to schools should not be an issue. We've already determined that it's OK to bus kids in my neighborhood, kids north of I55, kids in Towanda, etc... all over the district, perhaps we need to see how we could be more efficient with our busing before rushing to build new buildings.

Just so that the focus is on meeting the needs of students the best we can and not on silly boundaries to meet "diversity numbers"

Thank you for your efforts. I encourage your future goals and processes to be transparent ones. I also believe you have an incredible district and future to steward well including the role of grounds and beautification. It matters that staff students and families feel proud of the district and schools we send our children to. District 87 is an excellent example of stellar maintenance management.

Do not close existing schools. restrict or allow other school choice options for crowded areas to even out without closing.

Do not spend another \$50,000 -\$100,000 to add more bus routes to Carlock. Your bus system is terrible and is a waste of tax payer dollars

When balancing the socio-economics of schools, please consider more than just the Free/ Reduced rate. I understand this is a metric that needs to be taken into consideration, but the top income levels of a school should also be balanced as much as possible.

Fundraisers/donations shouldn't be considerable disproportionate in favor of schools that are already wealthy. This only expands the inequity among schools.

I'd prefer Hudson Elementary school not close.

None

No

Build a new high school.

I would only support as long as taxes are not raised again

Redistricting seems to me the logical place to start in terms of not costing the taxpayers more money and balance out students. If that alone is not enough then other options should be considered but redistricting should be the start.

Don't ask the public to vote on another referendum

Upgrade NCHS and NCWHS baseball and football facilities.

Leave carlock elementary alone and fill it with kids that are over flowing in other schools. The unit 5 tax on property owners is already out of control and building a new school is ridiculous. There is a reason people move out of unit 5 districts before their children start school!!!

Get us enough space to get our kids out of portable classrooms and pay our teachers well enough to draw and retain the number of good ones our kids need to compete worldwide.

No

No.

Thank you for doing what you need to do to best support the students in our community. I appreciate your work!

n/a

Again, it would be great to repurpose buildings no longer in use in the area to meet some of these needs. Plan for the next 20 years and not the next 5. I see a great need for a k-8 building on the east side of town to group students in the same area and balance jr. High needs.

I trust your guidance and respect there are many pieces to this puzzle I do not understand as an employee or a parent and I wish you all the luck sorting it out!

In a nutshell, close Carlock, redistrict to balance East vs. West sides of town, and update facilities at Field. Possibly build an additional elementary school on the northeast side.

Probably should not close or consolidate low attendance schools into other schools that are already in need of more space before addressing how those students can be incorporated into the already full school

If students are going to be bussed to school, the demographics of the schools should be more diverse. Only upper middle class families lives on the very east end of town, but they have the newest schools and best resources. At risk students should be benefiting from those schools, regardless of where their address is within the district.

Do not raise taxes or take on more debt. You keep seeking to operate beyond your financial means and it is creating significant ill will through the community.

No

Make updates that are mandatory to the overall function of the building or that improve the welfare of students. Do not build more schools when all buildings are not at capacity. Redistrict and create balanced attendance zones. Be cost effective and efficient. Unit 5 has asked enough of their taxpayers.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

No

Just spend the taxpayers dollar wisely and quit adding money to the pensions of district office personnel and giving unneeded raises to them as well.

The facilities renovations need to be top of mind for budgets. Planning in advance could solve a lot of these issues. Several of the facilities need maintenance and the budgets need to be refocused to handle these in a timely manner not wait until the issues are exasperated and in critical condition when there isn't commensurate funding to handle everything at once. This is another reason we do not need more facilities. New facilities does not always equal less problems.

Redistricting is to be expected when you have experienced growth in a community like Bloomington-Normal has and families will be better off for it in the long run when looking at class sizes. Teachers can't possibly give the same amount of attention to children when one class size is ~15 compared to class sizes near 30 across town. The students can't possibly all be on equal footing as they leave elementary and head to junior high when considering these factors.

Separately, children need to be kept together from junior high to high school, not separated for the transition from junior high to high school. These are critical years for bonding with friends and should not be interrupted.

I have never understood the boundaries for the high school in regards to Chiddix Students. Our neighborhood (Pleasant Hills) as well as two others (neighborhoods behind and to the east of Hoose on the south side of Vernon) progress from Hoose>Chiddix>West. ALL of their peers outside these neighborhoods (mainly Clearwater) move from Chiddix to NCHS. This means most of their classmates whom they have attended school with since elementary school, as well as the new friends they made at Chiddix who came from Grove and Fairview ES. It is a stressful time for 8th graders when they know they'll be split from their close friends in high school unless they happen to live in the same neighborhood. I would support redistricting to an extent for high school boundaries.

Change lockers, my son complains about rusted lockers.

Yes- please keep Carlock open. Not only with the closure of a school completely devastate each of the 93 kids there, as well as the families, it would also create a lot of overcrowding in the already overcrowded schools.

The imbalance of the high schools is a massive problem. Not only with the sheer numbers of students at each school, but the SES of the students that make up each school. A possible option to consider would be to make one of the schools a Freshman/Sophomore campus and make the other a Junior/Senior campus. This would also eliminate the stereotype that Normal West is the lesser of the two schools as is portrayed in the community. It could also eliminate the mess that is the split of students after junior high school. Kids would be allowed to maintain friendships and it would be less of a dislike of either school.

Redistricting to get classroom sizes between junior highs more balanced is a key concern. Balance through redistricting as much as possible and add needed space where essential.

Look at the centrally based neighborhoods and whether they could go to West. Be mindful of socio-economic status especially as you look at schools east of Veterans and the demographics that often come with those neighborhoods.

N/a

The poor planning in the past with the continued raising of taxes and spending is an issue at unit 5. This is a complete failure of the board and leadership at Unit 5. This study is 10 yrs behind of when it should have been done. And now the promises of Your Taxes won't go up is a complete smoke show.

I have not noticed issues with Northpoint or Kingsley, so I'll trust you all as experts to know what is best for the needs of students and growth patterns within the community. Godspeed - I'm sure you are going to have people upset no matter what you decide to do!

Unit 5 geographic area is way too large. Start offloading some parts to surrounding districts and make it manageable for transportation and parents needs

I would not move special needs students out of the Bloomington/Normal area because of their VTAP program. They need to be here in town where their services are.

Continue the focus on improving the feeder patterns and having kids attend schools closer to them. We have two elementary schools closer to us than the one we attend and pass one junior high to get to the one we attend. The Junior high bus time is way too long.

I am concerned that most people do not understand the problems, do not work in these schools, and with the simple descriptions of the problems, will not understand the working conditions their choices will make for teachers let alone for the students who need to have safe comfortable places to learn. I have 8th graders who need lockers upstairs in the 6th grade area because there are not enough lockers. Teachers are sharing spaces. There is not where to test kiddos when I need to pull kiddos to test for other things.

We moved to our new home so that our children would not go to Evan's junior high school and potentially be split from friends that make that could go to NCHS and not NCWHS. I do not want U5 to redistrict the junior high schools.

I am very much against redistricting students at the high school level.

Can easily redistrict kids from NCHS to West as West has lost enrollment over the years. There is a large enrollment difference between the two.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

n/a

start soon to rebuild/repurpose, the problems/issues are already too big.

The district could use 2 or 3 new elementary buildings, 1 new junior high school building, and 1 new high school building if student learning is actually the most important consideration for schooling in this district.

NCHS is overcrowded, as is Chiddix. Smaller class sizes are a priority.

Balance out the enrollment there is no reason for NCHS to have a significantly higher enrollment than Normal West. I know that it will upset some Eastside families but it is what needs to happen. Start with students that are within walking distance to schools and go from there.

I feel that anytime you can add on to a school and improve it, its almost always less expensive than building a new school. Building a new school anywhere should be the last option especially if it involves increasing taxes again.

Consolidate with Bloomington for one district. Allow bloomington to expand their boundaries and work together to meet the community's needs as a whole.

I didn't see Parkside ES mentioned anywhere and we also have portable classrooms.

I'll support whatever doesn't raise taxes. Figure it out.

Unit five is not what it used to be. The whole school system is failing.

There needs to be a much greater balance in enrollment between the two high schools. Also, if possible, addressing how friend groups are split when going from KJHS to NCHS/NCWHS

I'm sure there is more to the imbalance than my simple plan. But in a perfect world, Chiddix and Evans go to NCHS and Parkside/Kingsley go to West.

Also, I would hope there would be comnsideration for students currently established at their schools and they could continue to attend if they provide their own transportation.

Carlock will continue to grow- to close the school now would be unwise and will only create a larger problem in the future.

Do what is cost effective and the most sustainable. Redistrict and maximize current facilities before building anything new

Redistricting is long overdue. Quit over taxing the residents of Bloomington/Normal and use the buildings you already have. Make sure you are paying teachers to keep up with inflation and keep the best teachers in Unit 5....because so many continue to leave for better paying districts.

I think while not ideal to redistrict, we should be looking long term and how to use existing facilities more effectively vs short term funding to expand based on current needs.

I wouldn't want to be redistricted either. So I understand the hesitancy. But increasing and funding expensive expansions when other schools are now at risk of closing seems like poor financial decision making and impacts everyone's taxes, not just those schools benefiting.

A lot of parents wants their kids in smaller schools with more personalized attention and still in Unit 5. Many are willing to travel for it. Why not open the borders/lines some? Offer an opt-in program with incentives on taxes or something to opt in to travel to a smaller school needing enrollment? People MOVE to avoid or go to certain schools - and that just got a lot harder to do with housing shortages/prices. I would bet money there's a lot of parents that would drive or opt into going to an under enrolled school without needing to move.

This is what makes smaller schools like Carlock seem "unsustainable". When the small school that isn't sucking tons of funding and is operating within its means and doesn't need large or expensive expansions is essentially being leveraged as a funding measure to support new construction or expansion when there seems to be plenty of capacity across the district, that is putting rural families at a disadvantage and disservice simply because the bigger schools with more money need something. I drove 20 minutes to my elementary and junior highs every day. We seem to have the capacity across the district. We need to use the space we have for short term influx and/or become more comfortable driving a little farther. But I am not okay with expanding spaces and funding additions when space existed elsewhere and at the expense or cost of impacting the more rural schools. Carlock just needs more kids, it should not be closing when it seems like other schools need less kids.

I think if new school are needed then build them, if you are able to do so without asking the community for any additional money.

Please keep school groups together as much as possible as they move from elementary to Junior High and Junior High to High School. It is really hard to change schools, meet new people and teachers and lose your core group of friends at the same time. Keep neighborhoods together as they go to school. Our 2 block street has over 15 elementary students getting on the bus from our street. All of these students should be able to go to school together throughout their Unit 5 school experience.

Make it make sense! It's past time for redistricting so that schools can be balanced and students don't have to be bussed far when there are schools nearer to them.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

No

Restrict before thinking of closures or building new.

If redistricting happened, it would be important for current students and their families to get to choose if they stay at their current school placement (i.e., attendance exception and give up bus transportation rights) or move to their next school building. I would want my children to have the opportunity to stay with their teachers, peers, and school.

Off-topic, but please have someone read over future surveys to ensure that the reading level is lower.

No

As expansion and updates are explored with schools, I ask that a justice lens is applied to all schools in Unit 5. For example, at Glenn, there is not enough space for specials, LBS needs, and classrooms to operate. The gym is the cafeteria and on days when it's cold, raining, etc. kids can spend weeks in their classrooms for recess and not in a gym space. Glenn is an amazing school and they are using what they have to meet the needs of kiddos. But it's just not fair to constantly update/expand other locations and then overlook schools that have been functioning 'as is' for years.

The school district has held the taxpayers hostage time and time again. Three years ago they threatened to close Carlock Elementary unless a tax levy was approved, and there was promise to fix the issues in the district at that time. Presently the school board has not kept their promise and is doing a poor job with both their current tax dollars and building management.

I think NCHS is overcrowded. Kids cannot even get lockers and they don't have enough space and facilities for extracurricular activities to match the number of students interested, creating a highly competitive atmosphere in clubs instead of a place everyone should be included that wants to participate.

Seems easy to me. Redistribution is key. Carlock is like a private school inside a public district and everyone is lucky to have these teachers at Carlock. The students and teachers deserve more than this. Carlock is not the problem!

Why are elementary schools being split on where they go for JH and same for JH to HS? Why are attendance expectations being allowed at schools that are already full?

I'm going to repeat here what I put above, it seems super insulting and short-sighted to me if we close Carlock and move Towanda elementary out of Towanda. I get why there may be demands for this from families or administrators more based in Bloomington/Normal, but these more rural communities deserve investment, infrastructure, and respect (I get that it's not efficient, we are not a corporation, we are a community). Please think carefully about what the consequences might be on these communities if you remove/close/move these schools. The impression I got from the webinar is that this is being treated as a largely financial consideration, with culture and community considered outside of the scope of the consultants - please do not make such a narrow decision! (It's the same sort of bone-headed moves that led us to move a bunch of businesses and manufacturing offshore in the 90's, and then realize we've eaten our seed-corn and hallowed out our industrial base). Who are we going to make ride the longer bus routes or allow to benefit from proximity to the nice new well-off elementary schools in their neighborhood, residents of the already flourishing north or east sides of Bloomington, or those in the smaller towns of Carlock and Towanda?

Rebalance/Redistrict was not an option, but that is my highest priority for the district. Space is available and the community isn't growing. A tactical shift is to redistrict.

Thank you for asking for input!

Both high schools are overcrowded. Both buildings need some TLC. Increase your maintenance workers within the school day to take better care of the facilities. Improve money that is charged to rent a facility- and put money back into the facility to keep it clean, and in good working order. Our community is a hotbed for sports, ALL of our schools feed into the two high schools, when others come to our schools for a sporting event they should see something that we are proud of. Unit 5 facilities should sparkle with cleanliness and pride. We produce great students, student athletes, and have dedicated athletes that serve this school. Let's make it known throughout the state the kind of school district we are by showing pride in our facilities.

I decided to move to Carlock when I got out of the military based on the fact that it had a local grade school that my son could attend. It was one of my primary reasons where to buy a house. Population growth is in a decline. Keeping the local grade schools helps keep the parents better connected to the schools. Carlock has an exceptional library which the school teachers are able to take the students to so that they can become familiar with the library experience. Were the school to be closed, I would feel obliged to file for a property tax reduction throughout White Oak Township.

Diversity amongst schools should be evaluated if redistricting. The wealth needs to be spread amongst schools.

We decided to move to Carlock when my husband left the military, primarily because the local school in Carlock was exceptional. At least 3 students from Carlock graduated with our son in 1989 from Normal as Valedictorians. Population in the district is in decline. Keeping the local Elementary schools helps keep the parents better connected to the District. Carlock has an exceptional Public Library that the local teachers use as another resource for their students. Finally, were the school in Carlock to close, our tax valuation would decrease and our town would slowly die, as has happened to other small towns in the area.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

I'd like to see more about the finances involved with all of these options. If a rebuild, expansion, and maintenance of an old building is going to equal the cost of a new building over 5+ years then I'd be in favor of a new building, assuming it makes things logistically better for the kids. I just don't have enough information yet. I'd love to see what redistricting looks like before we start looking at more projects with high dollar costs.

N/A

Benjamin Elementary is also expected increased enrollment because it is in an area that is projected to have increased enrollment. This could be alleviated by replacing Towanda Elementary School with a larger school on the east side of the community.

I would really look at the functionality of Mahomet-Seymour and try to model something after them. We have enough space, if we could develop an alternative way to utilize the space. Also, allowing students to graduate/complete high school early that have met the requirements by the State would help give a bit of breathing room at the high schools.

The communication throughout this process has been very good - thank you for making that a priority!

The high schools need to be balanced. We don't need more space at NCHS, we need fewer students. Luckily, West has room for them.

By the time we build or change anything it will be years from now. I hope you are looking at the long term growth of the city and working with the zoning people to understand where residential growth would occur (if population expansion is predicted). We shouldn't build to solve today's problems because it will be too late. Also, I know it probably isn't in the cards, but we shouldn't have two districts for B/N. If we combined with D87

The district needs to look at their spending. The property tax McLean county residents pay is already sky high when compared to similar sized districts in our state and surrounding states. Unit 5 has continuously mismanaged money, spending frivously (TVs in teacher lounges, excessive district office administrators, hiring outside companies to conduct research, etc...). While all of the above issues need to be addressed, our district will become even more of an embarrassment if you ask for money from taxpayers in any form (property tax, sales tax, etc). Additionally, if you look to redistrict at the high school level, you also need to be mindful of the distance students are traveling to their school. Every effort should be made for students to attend the high school that is geographically closest to their home.

N/A

I just ask that you guys do better for students! The carlock kids deserve better! Their hard work with great scores and the most kind kids deserve to be rewarded for their hard work! Please don't send the message work hard and we will shut you down. That can crush kids hopes and dreams. I really hope you guys are also improving your jr and high school learning experience for the next generation! Thank you for taking the time to read all of this frustration and positivity.

Bless all of you and all your future choices!

Would shifting attendance boundaries for elementary schools completely address the need for additional seats in elementary, middle, and high schools?

If you are experiencing lower enrollment, I only advise closing schools that are under performing. Carlock is not. If you close this you are affecting my child's development. I purchased this house so my children could go to Carlock. If you close it, you are affecting my home value. If you do this we will unseat the board for the destruction of our community.

No

None

Build more elementary schools to meet demand; redistrict to send kids to Carlock (don't close), add on to junior highs/high schools as needed and/or redistrict for junior highs/high schools as needed.

I don't see the needs of 48 kids as high as compared to the thousands of other kids within your district. I am in full support of those kids at Eugene field getting on education but I don't believe we should change the rest of the district for 48 kids.

Keep Carlock open and DON'T raise my Taxes. Keep your promises. Tired of being lied too.

In general, there are "great" schools and "bad" schools, and the quality of schools should not be varying so much in such a small geographic area with the same tax base. It's inequitable. Redistricting or school choice (within the district—not private schools) is essential for equity.

You're taxing me to death. Thanks!!

None

I appreciated the statement (or at least my interpretation of the statement) about not overcompensating for demographics if it does not make sense. While I believe it is important, demographics should not be the leading factor in decision-making.

The feeder splits going from junior high to high school concerns me. This is oversimplified but Cedar Ridge feeds into Parkside and Normal West and then Prairie Land to Kingsley to Normal West. Then, Northpoint to Evans to NCHS. Sugar Creek to Chiddix to NCHS.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

Redistricting should be done over construction because it is more cost-effective. Keep elementary schools together in the same junior high and in the same high school. As kids progress through junior high and high school, knowing they will at least have the same classmates from elementary schools helps with the transitions and less anxiety. When you redistrict, allow existing kids in a specific high school or junior high finish their time in that same HS or JH if they want. If this becomes too expensive with bussing, then at least allow it for the kids would can provide their own transportation to and from school.

Think long and hard before you mess up student learning and their needs not administration wishes.

First question. Where is all this money going to come from? How much higher are you going to raise the tax payer property taxes to pay for this? At some point enough is enough. Over 2/3 of my property taxes goes to Unit 5 and that is completely unacceptable, you folks have to realize that you are not the state or federal government and can not just keep raising taxes as you see fit to do so.

We need to look at the spending, salaries, benefits, the wasteful spending and get this in line.

Leave the schools open in the towns of Towanda & Carlock and improve them. People move to those towns for the fact that the schools are there! It is important for unit 5 to have them!

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed redistricting plan. When we purchased our home, we did so with the clear understanding and expectation that our children would attend the elementary, junior high, and high school associated with our neighborhood. This continuity was an important factor in our decision, as it supports stability, long-term relationships, and a strong sense of community for our children.

We feel strongly that students should be able to remain in their originally assigned schools alongside their neighborhood peers. Redistricting that requires students to be transported across town (or eventually drive significant distances once licensed) places an unnecessary burden on families and disrupts established friendships, routines, and school communities. Geographic proximity needs to be considered for logistics, transportation and time.

While we understand the district's desire to balance enrollment and resources, we believe these goals should be pursued without uprooting students from the schools they were promised when families made housing decisions. We would be very passionate and vocal in advocating for our children to remain at their currently assigned schools and respectfully urge the district to consider alternatives that preserve neighborhood school continuity.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our perspective and for engaging families in this important conversation.

You will break trust with all carlock residents if Carlock Elementary is closed

You need to ensure that whatever path you take does not increase the tax burden on citizens at this time. We simply cannot afford a greater tax burden when the economy is this bad and inflation is rising this fast.

Strictly enforce enrollment boundaries

ONLY for Carlock Elementary:

As a district, as the professionals the district has put in place to make these hard decisions, they should understand the growth of a district. I question this when it comes to closing an exemplary school in their district. When your child/or yourself has a bad day at school, a bad game, a bad test, do you tell them they should find another class or find another team ...or do you tell them to work harder/continue to try/seek help?

Is that what the coach tells the athlete, to quit or go to another team, or do they help the athlete to improve, to do better. Because you as the district leaders are the coaches and you are telling your "athlete's" to just quit and move to another team.

Is there a needs assessment that can be shared with the public that address the needs of each school and a timeline to get those things done? Students should be attending the school that is in closest proximity to their home. Having kids on busses 20-30 minutes out of the way causes a hardship for families. There should be more balance in socioeconomic instead of funneling all the low income students to two elementary schools despite their proximity to other schools.

This survey should be posted on your social media and emailed and texted to families like other information the district sends out. By not making it accessible it appears that you are intentionally being evasive and trying to obtain the least amount of feedback possible. If you can send it numerous notifications about good trucks, you should be able to do the same for this.

I feel this survey does not get the most accurate answers without looking at the cost perspective. Just because I would prefer a particular response does not mean I would make the same decision when looking at the costs. It would be nice to build a brand new school, but that may not make financial sense. Supporting keeping Carlock open presents a challenge to explain why considerable expenses should continue and inequitable treatment occurs for students.

As a community member who is involved and informed, it seems like there is very little time between the public meeting in February and the school board meeting in March. I watch the forum from December and many questions weren't answered and pushed to February. Leaving a short amount of time when considering students being moved from school buildings and staff they know.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

Why do you have 1 school where you send special needs students for programs??? These should be at their home schools where they can integrate and interact with regular Ed students!!! Both groups can learn a great deal from each other!!! Maybe take a look at other districts to see their programs!!!

Unit 5 has had a bunch of distinguished and caring Superintendents and staff and teachers and members and students and parents and grandparents representing the whole beautiful area. Please...Keep the tradition going by caring for the whole beautiful area. Thank you for giving each of us a chance to voice our concerns and deep heart-felt feelings about the education of our youth in our beautiful area and our team supporting members in our beautiful area.

There is plenty of space across the district. The Unit 5 board and Superintendent are in their position to make decisions that utilize their current capacity. They need to figure out how to balance the school buildings, or reason to let someone else take their position with the capacity to see these things through.

I strongly suggest that you reconsider closing Carlock Elementary and other schools with lower enrollments. The students in these schools are receiving a stellar education and it would be detrimental to their academic and mental health to have these schools closed. Not to mention that the closure(s) would be a fatal blow to the small towns these schools are in.

Thank you for asking for input!

The test scores show that carlock is a thriving school. Isn't education and our students IMPORTANT TO YOU!!! Why do you keep on lying to the taxpayers!!! Carlock is constantly building new homes. It's a very family oriented community.

It appears saving some money is more important than kids success. Community school modeling is a partnership with proven success. Work with Carlock and not against it. Growth will continue to expand on the West side. More proactive thinking and less tunnel vision will go a long way.

Instead of closing schools because of low enrollment redistricting could be done to pull in more students to the school from the next closest neighborhoods to it and relieve capacity in the more centrally located schools that are overloaded.

No

It is a waste of tax payer money to build a new elementary and a function nonf one close another. It would make more since to rezone than spend more money.

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

Quit making Carlock your first option or threat to close. Trust is has been compromised between Unit 5 board and myself. It will be hard for me to vote yes again in favor of things Unit 5 wants to do because I changed my vote last time just a pitiful 2 years ago and now you want to go against your word. Redistrict areas within Unit 5 children to fill and spread children out between your lower attended schools and the over flowing schools. Lower the amount of administration in the Unit 5 office building. Most places are losing employees and they are not getting replaced or the area has to be covered until someone new is trained. I understand the stress and struggle with that, but budget better. Improve your schools weather it be to expand out or build up. Appreciate your staff, students, and parents who try to support the schools. Volunteering is pitiful for all organizations as I can attest from being the President of an organization and all the Volunteering I have done through out my daughter's years in Unit 5. When you consider closing Carlock have the board members themselves been to the school to see just how Amazing it is. My daughter has decided, from her years at Carlock and the wonderful teachers and staff there, that she wants to become an elementary teacher. In third or fourth grade her reading went feom 2nd lowest category in testing to the top of the categoty. If she was in a bigger school with huge classes I do not feel as this would have happened. She has a shy personality and the amazing teachers got to know her and how to get her open up and learn and to come out of her bubble some. Now that she is a current Senior in West High School and still speaks of how her favorite teachers at where from her time at Carlock. I as a parent, I always felt welcome at Carlock to volunteer and be a parent. I know that the members of Carlock, with no children or Grandchildren in the school, come and volunteer to help with school needs. The clap in at Carlock had organization, businesses, residents of Carlock and other areas that kids arw bussed in that have no kid connection to the school come and support the students and the school. It was amazing to see and witness how much the staff and students smiled and appreciated evwryones support. I felt like there was AWESOME communication provided to parents about events and things happening at Carlock Elementary. When she was in Junior High I was provided notes from the lead teacher of her teams, but not much from the school. Now in High School with the Dr. Cochran there are weekly announcements and quarterly CAT connections newsletters. There is not the best communication from teachers which I understand the children are becoming adults but they mostly still leave with a parent or guardian. In High School, Mr. B. is the best communicator about events that could effect my daughter. I main issues that I have had with her High school time is that when there was an issue with a teacher and her, I asked for her to be switched classrooms, the guidance counselor last year would not listen to my daughter and told her she had to stick it out. I then emailed and same response. I then emailed the associate principal and felt completely ignored. I felt like my daughter's best interest and her grade struggled because of that class which affected her GPA for college as the class was mandatory. I just hope and pray that the Board Members visit the schools they are wanting to change and see the daily functions of the school and speak and ask the students. Send a survey to the students, make it multiple choose with a box for discussion if they would like to contribute. The students are the MOST effected by any changes that are made. Ask what they like and dont like about their current and previous schools they have attended. Ask how the students feel about the possible changes as this will or could affect their mental and education for the rest of their years as a student of Unit 5. Carlock is amazing as a parent of a student that went to Carlock Elementary and now months feom being done with Uni 5 schools I know my husband and I made the BEST decision when thinking about that when we have kid(s) to move to Carlock because of that school my daughter as gain so much knowledge and experience that she would have not gotten at other schools in the district and can compare the difference in Carlock to the Junior and High schools she has attended. Plus, through the band I have gained friendships with parents from Community and through work listening to my friends I know we made the best decision on her education. My husband and I both went to smaller grade schools and they are still open and thriving. I had an elementary school that between preschool and 8th grade we had less than 100 students and now they have even less and they are still open. I believe they had a 8th class of 4 or 5 students and there is no decision on closing the school. My husband's also had a school that went from kindergarten to 8th grade and he had 6 kids in his public school class. They are smaller size now and get Livingston County is not talking about closing them. Maybe speak to other districts outside of Mclean County and see what they are doing that keeps their smaller schools open and thriving. I think Unit 5 needs to look at how much spend their funds and how many extra administration they have in their administration building and and how many different types of principles they have in their High schools trying to understand that pyramid is crazy. I like that there is a college advisor at the high school Mr. Ostling is amazing and has helped my daughter and ourselves understand what we need to do to help her with her future. I'm so excited for her future and the amazing teachers and staff at Carlock Elementary are the reasons she wants to pursue teaching at an Elementary school and she said she wants to go to a smaller school for teaching because now that she is shadowing teachers because of her class she is so happy and knows she was blessed to have gone to Carlock Elementary. She said she wants to be able to get to know her future students and help them grow in school like what she had at Carlock

Do you have any other considerations about what is being discussed / asked about facilities?

Redistricting to balance enrollment is a priority for me. The enrollment disparity between the high schools in particular limits sectioning at Normal West, and this creates unavoidable scheduling conflicts between classes that are only offered once daily. The impact on student choice in elective curricula is considerable. The imbalance also impacts the competitiveness of programs in the buildings.

Recognizing that this would take considerable evaluation and may not be possible: it would be wonderful if CJHS and EJHS could feed NCHS more directly, with KJHS and PJHS feeding NCWHS more directly. This would offer opportunity for greater partnerships between buildings, 6-12.

I recognize that redistricting is not popular. In my mind, it is time. I also recognize that closing Carlock is met with opposition. I empathize, though it seems to be fiscally responsible. Seeing the ups and downs over 20+ years in Bloomington-Normal, if it comes down to it, that tough decision now may save tougher decisions later.

Knowing that the 1 cent tax is aiding facility maintenance, my preference is to focus any new building on enhancing programming (early childhood, special services, core spaces) as long as redistricting can address classroom needs.

Thank you for taking on this important work!

Seems like this issue should have been paired up with the massive engery use and discussions within last 3 years of tax increases etc.

Unit 5 NEEDS to determine what is important about school and stick with it. The ebbs and flows are exhausting. Every year you find new issues and "freak out" and cause division.

I am distrcited to Unit 5 and have two kids (13 and 10) who we chose not to send to Unit 5 due to their many issues at the administration level and lack of accountability they now have for learning standards and discipline. One thing to remember is population ebbs and flows and nothing permanent should be done at this moment with the current economic climate.

We live within 2 miles (Eagle Ridge Subdivision) of Normal Community HS and would be very concerned with being redistricted to Normal West primarily due to concerns of time to commute and impacts on bus transportation/routes. I know there are several factors that need to be considered but believe kids should be going to the school that is closest to them.

The Carlock area is currently expanding. Don't abandon the grade school now - enrollment will increase as the area expands. Long bus rides for elementary students is not good for their education.

I just wish all schools were more equitable and valued the same.

Please keep small schools open. Please keep Carlock Elementary open.

2025 - 12,219.

2024 - 12,357.

2023 - 12,308.

2023 - 12,393.

2022 - 12,325.

2021 - 13,023.

2020 - 13,135.

2019 - 13,346.

2018 - 13,586

These are unit 5 enrollment numbers. I don't see growth. I see decline. It is appalling that you can speak of needing more space when you have over 1000 LESS students than you did 8 years ago. Where did you put them then?

I understand that your schools might not currently be in the best locations for where the current population lives. This can all be addressed through redistributing and possibly repurposing space that you already have.

The taxes that we pay to unit 5 are a travesty. You continue to levy more money every year even when once again the enrollment declines. I understand the difference between a tax rate and a levy amount so you can't tell me that you have lowered the rate when increasing the levy.... It still results in a net increase in taxes.

You have plenty of resources currently. Take them and use them wisely.

Children in kindergarten should stay at their local school such as Carlock.