

Dear Parent/Guardians of Len Wood Middle School Students:

We are writing this letter to inform you of potential changes that have been proposed by the district for our school community by the Long-Range Facility Plan. Currently in Armstrong with our configuration school of 2 elementary schools (K-5), 1 middle school (6-8) and 1 high school (9-12) our kids have the wonderful and unique opportunities that middle school experience provides. Our grade 6-8 students have opportunities of band, jazz band, cooking, sewing, tech, specialized art, 3D printing, and individual interests of x-block, winter rec, and outdoor pursuits. This middle school learning time allows for our students to really develop and explore learning opportunities in an environment that fosters their need for independence yet still supports structure. We have an opportunity to connect and support kids at a crucial developmental stage within a safe supportive learning environment.

One of the options proposed is to change the 2 elementary and 1 middle school to a K-7 format, thus losing our middle school. The middle school learning format was not implemented impulsively. The school district reconfigured to include a middle school program because it was thought to be best for kids. We have grown to really appreciate this positive model that works in our rural community, and disagree that it should be changed. While we recognize that changes within the district need to occur because of space and numbers, we feel that options for rural communities should be considered as individual communities rather than one size fits everywhere within the district.

The public consultation for Armstrong will be taking place January 27, 2020, at 6:30 pm at the PVSS gym. We urge you to attend and make your voice heard.

The options for the Armstrong zone are:

OPTION B-1 - Provide more elementary space in Armstrong Zone

1. Armstrong and Highland Park combined are already at capacity, and will be 100 over during the LRFP period. This option provides additional elementary space in Armstrong Zone;
2. Phase 1 - Convert Gateway Building to a K - 2 Primary School or an Annex of Highland Park;
3. Phase 2 - Purchase site for new small elementary school in Armstrong;
4. Phase 3 - Construct new small elementary school in Armstrong.

OPTION B-2 - Change Armstrong Zone to K - 7 and 8 - 12

1. Change Len Wood Middle to a K - 7 elementary school;
2. Change Armstrong and Highland Park Elementaries to K - 7 from current K - 5;
3. Consider changing Falkland Elementary-Middle to K - 7 from K - 8;
4. Adjust school catchment boundaries to meet school capacities;
5. Increase Pleasant Valley Secondary to Gr 8 - 12 from current 9 - 12.

OPTION B-3 - Change Armstrong Zone to K - 6 and 7 - 12

1. Change Len Wood Middle to a K - 6 elementary school;
2. Change Armstrong and Highland Park Elementaries to K - 6 from current K - 5;
3. Consider changing Falkland Elementary-Middle to K - 6 from K - 8;
4. Adjust school catchment boundaries to meet school capacities;
5. Increase Pleasant Valley Secondary to Gr 7 - 12 from current 9 - 12.

The Board is also looking for any feedback for options not listed but that possibly be considered.

We look forward to seeing you at the consultation session.

Sincerely,

Len Wood Middle School PAC