

**Ichabod Crane School District**  
**Elementary/Middle School Expansion Considerations**  
**Feasibility Study Report**

February 15, 2017

**Recommended Grade Configuration**

The Ichabod Crane Best Use of Physical Space Action Plan Committee recommended the following building configuration: PK-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. This recommendation was based on several beliefs. Although the committee could not find research to support that PK-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 represent the best grade configuration, or that a different configuration is better, it is the same grade configuration used by NYSED when they developed a task force to review the Common Core Standards.

In addition, the committee felt that given Ichabod Crane's current resources, these grade configurations would be the most appropriate. Upon analysis of the actual physical space, it was determined that based on the current campus, this configuration would be most logical. The Primary School is set up for not only the developmental and emotional needs, but also the physical age of students in grades Pre-K through 2. With regard to the 3-5 grade span, the committee recognized the importance of housing the upper elementary grades together. This will facilitate instruction, multi-age activities, and the continuity of the curriculum. In addition, the committee acknowledged that the middle grades are a crucial period for our students as they transition from concrete to abstract learners. It is important to house them together, with a solid interdisciplinary team structure to provide support throughout these years.

Finally, the traditional high school grades, 9-12, should continue to be housed together, fostering our students' growth as they transition from freshman seminar students to college-ready seniors, ready to take on 21st century life beyond high school.

**Proposed ES/MS Expansion**

In order to restructure a grade configuration of 3-5 and 6-8, additional space would be needed at the ES/MS. Removing grade three from the Primary School would free up space in the PS and allow the district to add universal Pre-K. The plan includes additional classrooms, student support rooms, and a renovation of the 300 wing at the ES/MS. This would allow all students in grades 3-5 to be housed in a separate wing while sharing common areas, such as the library, gymnasium, and cafeteria, with students in grades 6-8. The plan also includes a restructuring of the parking and drop off areas at the ES/MS.

## **Estimated Project Costs**

There are two initial estimates for the project depending on the level of renovations to the 300 wing:

- “Surgical” Renovation to 300 wing \$5,806,365
- Total Renovation to 300 wing \$6,552,913

Both renovations include the additional classrooms, reconfigured parking and drop off, and emergency access to the back of the building.

Our capital project reimbursement rate is 73.5%.

## **District’s Projected Level of Debt**

The district has a large amount of debt falling off in the year 2022. This would allow the district to do the following:

- Complete a \$5,400,000 project and maintain the current debt levels  
or
- Complete a \$6,805,000 project, at the current debt levels, with an additional capital reserve of \$500,000

## **Draft Timeline for Consideration of an Expansion to the ES/MS**

March 2017	Present Feasibility Study data to Board of Education
October/November 2017	Updates on plan and Board discussion
Spring 2018	BOE decision/vote to hold a public vote on expansion Project
December 2018	Public vote on project
Jan. – June 2019	Full design completed
July 2019	Submit plans to NYSED
December 2019	Anticipated Approval from NYSED
Jan. – June 2020	Bidding
July 2020 – Sept. 2021	Construction

Additional Staffing Needs and Estimated Salary

ES Principal	\$113,000
ES Secretary	\$42,000
Custodian	<u>\$19,000</u>
Total	\$174,000

Additional Estimated Utilities and Maintenance Expenses

Electric/Oil	\$20,300
Supplies	<u>\$25,200</u>
Total	\$45,500

Potential Rent Income

2 Pre-K Classrooms	<u>\$10,000/ room</u>
Total	\$20,000

**Total Estimated Annual Recurring Costs**

\$199,500