

PROPOSAL

Enhancing our Education: Re-Alignment of M-G's Elementary Schools

Connecting and engaging as lifelong learners in an evolving digital world.

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

For years, the Madison-Grant United School Corporation has replicated services in both elementary schools, which unnecessarily costs us more money each year than it needs to. In order to retain our solid financial standing AND increase our level of programming at the elementary level, we are proposing to designate one building as a PK-2 school and the other building as a 3-6 school.

Why consider re-alignment?

Currently, we duplicate programming at Park and Summitville Elementary Schools. For instance, in High Ability, we provide training and purchase supplies for two sets of second grade (or any other grade) programs. This equates to double the cost and double the time out of the classroom for professional development.

We have unequal class sizes between buildings. For example, at Park we have three first grade classrooms with 15 students and one first grade classroom at Summitville with 26 students. If all of our first graders were in one building we could have classrooms with an equal or nearly equal number of students.

Which building will serve which grades? (See attached maps)

1. Preschool through second grades would be served at Summitville Elementary. This building is already outfitted for preschool and has ample playground equipment for our younger friends. Each grade level and program would have its own area within the building.
2. Grades three through sixth would be served at Park Elementary. This is a larger building that can serve more students (four full grades). Each grade level and program would have their own area

within the building.

When will teachers and their classrooms move?

Teachers will be encouraged to begin boxing (boxes provided) during the final week of school, which is anticipated to be May 29, 2016. The furniture and teachers' property moving process will begin during the first week of summer break. This will take some time, as rooms and furniture will go through the summer cleaning process as furniture and materials are moved.

Where will the monies come from to get the buildings ready?

We understand there may need to be adjustments made within each elementary building. Summitville will need more equipment designed for smaller students while Park will need equipment designed for bigger students. We will move furniture from one building to the other, as this will meet most of our needs. However, if additional furniture or building modifications are needed, such as an adjustment in sink or toilet height, both Summitville and Park Elementary Schools have monies leftover from their previous construction projects. The purpose of these monies is for building improvements and the adjustments needed for the realignment qualify. The costs of these building adjustments should not impact our 2017 Capital Projects Fund.

When will the school day begin and end? When can kids get into the building?

Instructional Day:

- Elementary: 8:25 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.
- JH/SH: 8:10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
- Preschool may have an adjusted start time to accommodate bus traffic

Bus and Parent Drop-off:

- Elementary (Park and Summitville): 8:00 a.m.
- JH/SH: 7:50 a.m.

If riding the bus, how will a student get to their school and back home? How long will the routes take?

Currently, some of our students transfer to a second bus to arrive at their destination. This is done within the safety of a school's parking lot.

Under the proposal, this type of transfer would continue to take place for some of our students in the

morning and the afternoon. The exchange would take place at the JH/SH building along the sidewalk in the loading/unloading zone at front of the building. In the morning, the JH/SH students would enter their building first. Then elementary students would transfer, if needed, to their partner bus* located directly in front or behind their current bus. In the afternoon, elementary students would be picked up and bussed to the JH/SH building**. Then elementary students would transfer, if needed, to their partner bus. This afternoon transfer will take place before the JH/SH students board the buses.

Important Points:

- There will be adults assigned to supervise the morning and afternoon transfers at the JH/SH building.
- PK-2** students will not arrive home before older siblings.
- While the elementary schools start after and dismiss before the JH/SH school, the elementary buildings will still meet the required number of instructional minutes each day.
- Elementary buildings would have the same start and dismissal times for the instructional day.

*Each bus is assigned a partner bus to coordinate pick-ups and drop-offs to Summitville and Park Elementary Schools. This way a driver only coordinates with one other driver to coordinate parking and transfers. Partner drivers will always park directly in front or behind their partner along the sidewalk to minimize the distance of the transfer between buses.

**Some students in grades 3-6, who live in Fairmount, would be dropped off in the afternoon about 15-20 minutes before their siblings. This is done because of the high number of students who live in the area. For our Fairmount town routes, we simply cannot fit all the students (K-12) on the bus at once. After those students are dropped off, those buses would go to the JH/SH building to pick up their JH/SH students and finish their afternoon routes.

Even with these changes, routes will still remain under an hour in length each way.

Will there be an increase in operating costs?

In regards to the classroom, this realignment proposal would not cause any increase in costs to our General Fund. This fund is based upon student enrollment and fluctuates from year to year.

There is an increase in our fuel costs to the Transportation Fund, as 10 of our 14 buses will drive between 12 to 24 additional miles per day. Pending fuel costs, this equates to an additional \$8,000-\$10,000 annually increase. This fund is generated by local taxes and is independent of student enrollment. We feel confident that we can sustain this increase, as our costs, historically, have been less than our monies received. For instance, in 2016, we operated \$98,000 under budget.

There will be a minimal impact to our labor costs as we pay our drivers on daily rate as opposed to an hourly rate. This proposal, based upon our current student count, does not require additional drivers or buses.