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- Community Forum clarification ... new agendas with updates building from the previous forum.
- Grade reconfiguration ... biggest decision to be made in early November ... short time frame to understand all of the issues ... is one month long enough?
- Why Grade 2nd through 6th grade for reconfiguration? ... Function of the number of students in each school.
- What are the current enrollments at each school?
- PreK-1 @ 320; 2-6 @ 750 students.
- How are the on-going initiatives being tied together?
- Submitting SOL's since 2007 for Fort River and Wildwood.
- Grades 7 – 12 due to financial reality and ability to proactive.
- Declining enrollment 1,700 students @ HS, 700 students @ MS ... decline in birth rates coupled with Charter Schools competition for students ... well under 1,400 students in the future.

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- Financial gap ... do nothing = cuts totaling up to \$2.3M ... impacts on course offerings.
- Limited time frame for proactive decision making to preserve educational offerings.
- Fort River and Wildwood do not lend themselves easily for renovation ..
- We do not want a 750 student elementary school ... if one site that serves Grades 2 through 6 ... consider two separate schools within the same building ... JCJ completed such a facility in Bridgeport, CT ... JCJ will share possible options at future presentations.
- First major building project since community awareness of financial challenges ... opportunity to build a sustainable facility ... LEED for Schools .. MSBA provides additional reimbursement for LEED-S Silver certification and higher.
- Misread community educational goals ... provide education of social justice ... include in future public presentations ... offer to assist with insight on facility design ... future Visioning sessions will address social justice/awareness.

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- Introduce gardening into the curriculum and integrate produce within the kitchen ... grow food for demonstration station to educate the entire food cycle ... under development and evaluation by the District.
- District reviewing introducing culinary arts in the secondary education.
- Sustainability ... impact of closing one school on transportation/environment changes as well as walking to a neighborhood school must be considered ... District evaluation is underway ... early October presentation to School Committee.
- Impact to an established school community? ... it will take time to rebuild a new school community at the new facility.
- Why doesn't possibly closing a school need to go to Town Meeting? ... By-law School Committee will make the decision to close a school subject to Town Meeting vote to appropriate the funding needed to close a facility ... Town Meeting controls all funding decisions.
- One month to inform neighborhood impacted by grade configuration is a concern.

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- Relationship with Grade 7-12 consolidation ...
- Each initiative is occurring in separate Districts.
- Educational Planner connection between each effort for inclusive and seamless vision.
- Lack of regionalization with elementary schools is a huge challenge to share funding/resources ... cannot have overlaps between the elementary and secondary budgets.
- Western MA has a number of 7-12 models ... not unique to Amherst.
- What is the funding source?
- What is the impact to the students during renovation/construction?
- Has a Grade K-8 facility been considered?
- Sustainability / IAQ discussion ... begins with site evaluation includes soil testing, ground water impacts, good engineering practices focused on promoting IAQ ... indoor environmental quality ... daylighting, glare control, temperature control et al.

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- How much money will be spent on building and potential impacts on staff and curriculum? ... Operating cost vs. capital costs ... separate funding pathways. MSBA participates in the funding of the project with up to 68% of eligible costs.
- What are the life cycle costs for maintaining a new facility?
- Creativity, citizenship, connection to outdoors, social justice ... joy, wonder, compassion, recessed time with unstructured play time are all important for our students.
- Balance between what we have to do to meet state standards with what we want to do to create an environment where kids love to learn.
- Seeing learning on display with ability to manipulate space promotes this exploration in learning.
- Excitement associated with a new facility for students while fostering equity for the students and developing positive emotions for the students.