

**Ashland Public Schools
District Reorganization Fact Sheet**

- 1. Has School Committee approved a reorganization of schools due to enrollment concerns? If so, when will this take place? Yes, the School Committee voted on January 27, 2016, to reorganize the Ashland Middle School and the David Mindess School to meet the ever increasing student population. The reorganization will occur for the 2017-2018 school year.**
- 2. Was there a committee or task force created to analyze enrollment concerns? Yes, in May of 2015 a District Reorganization Task Force was created to analyze the enrollment of the Ashland Public Schools and to determine what and if any recommendations could be made to alleviate the anticipated enrollment increase. This DRTF submitted to the superintendent their recommendation on December 16, 2016.**
- 3. What are the benefits of a 3-6 elementary model? This model allows for one more year of skill development and interventions for the foundation literacy and numeracy skills needed to be successful in the 7th and 8th grade. There will be more opportunities for special education service delivery as travel time becomes non-existent and remediation and intervention at the 6th grade level is more like 3-5 than 7&8. We believe this model is better socially-emotionally for all students including special education students.**
- 4. How will the incremental costs associated with the district reorganization be funded? The Ashland Public Schools received a \$500,000 grant from the State of Massachusetts to assist in deflecting costs associated with our unexpected enrollment increase. These funds must be spent by June 30, 2016, thus administration and the School Committee are discussing how best to utilize the funds. There will most likely be other costs associated but administration and the School Committee are committed to incur as little costs as possible.**
- 5. How will the district reorganization impact the 6th grade curriculum? There will be no impact on the 6th grade curriculum, except there will be a greater opportunity to ensure the curriculum is more vertically aligned with the 5th grade. We fully anticipate the Team model for 6th grade moving forward.**
- 6. The fields for 7th and 8th grade sports are located at 87 W. Union St. Will transportation be provided for the students who play? As in past years,**

students will be bussed from the Mindess School to the appropriate fields for practices. This has been routinely done here in Ashland.

7. **What capital improvements/changes will need to be made at Mindess to accommodate 7th and 8th graders?** There will need to be some modifications for locker room space as well as creating lab space for science. We will utilize the earmarked funds granted to us for “overcrowding” to pay for these expenses. We do not anticipate additional costs for 87 W. Union Street.
8. **Will a playground be built at 87 W. Union St.?** Yes, there will be a playground built at 87 W. Union St. We have fundraised for a new playground for these grade levels and these funds will be utilized now at this location.
9. **Will there be additional costs to move all of the furniture, books, etc.?** The simple answer is yes; however, we are looking to utilize the grant funds we’ve received to defray these costs as well.
10. **Did the Reorganization Task Force consider moving the 5th grade to 87 W. Union St?** Yes, this option and 20 other options were considered. In the best interest of all students, and to limit any disruption in education, as well as ensuring students were placed in an age appropriate building, this option was not rated as high.
11. **Is it true that our enrollment numbers are continuing to increase?** Yes, School Committee hired NESDEC(New England School Development Council) to prepare an enrollment analysis. It is anticipated that our enrollment numbers will increase by over 200 students in the next five years.
12. **Could the district just add modular to Mindess to alleviate their space concerns like they did at Warren?** No. Mindess does not have an appropriate site to add modular classrooms and extensive electrical work would also need to be done, which makes this a cost prohibitive option.