Option A
What is best for students?
- Like k8 and being with the same kids in same classes – helps social bonds which is very important.
- Like idea of having reduced behavioral issues, better role modeling by older students.
- Like option of HS mentoring in pre school.
- Like this option the best. Challenges would have the least impact
- Transition from 5th to MS was difficult. Easier to say in same school until 8th
- Nice for MS to be the oldest at the school and being the most mature kid at the school.
- Keeps them younger longer.
- Fairlee was always k-8 and thought it was the best and keeps them local longer.
- Like the plan and grew up in this model.
- Like the separation between Fairlee and west Fairlee given that we are from Orford.
- 8th to 9th transition seems to be the most logical.
- Keep your child as close to your community as possible.

What is challenging for students?
- How much moving between ms and hs there is now?
- Keeps the two town groupings separate for longer. How to transition together coming into 9th grade?
- Can the buildings handle the size of the students? ie? Westshire classrooms, gym size for k-8
- Pre k being separated from K and 1 - culture shock of sticking them into their own separate space.
- Influence of 8th graders on younger students in those schools.
- Option for enrichment for 8th graders?
- Services availability in k-8 – counseling?
- Fewer resources available? Ie: right now ms and hs share staff.
- What about cocurriculars? Space? Visions resources? How to share?
- Arts, language would become more disjointed.
- Only 1 language would be offered instead of 2.
- Big adjustment for 8th to 9th. How to deal with this transition.
- SME and WSE are too small.
- Keep division between WSE and SME students more prolonged and pronounced if waiting until 9th grade to integrate. It already exists too much especially in elementary.
- Don’t have all of the financial implications at this point.
- We are critiquing plans with only partial data.

Option B
Best for kids:
- Like this option the best.
- Preschool stays at the elementary.
- Potential cost benefits in the long run?
- Possibly better?
- Like it pretty well. Does present opportunities for students who are advanced and sharing of resources.
- Better discipline?
- Gifted student could have more opportunities
- Easy transition this past year from 8th grade to 9th grade.
Like this idea
Better use of teacher resources.
Gets 7/8 ready for 9 and 10\textsuperscript{th} grade.
Like this option. Same as what was experienced in Thetford.
Less stressful in terms of jamming too many kiddos into a school. This is the best of option a and b.
Only one transition from 6\textsuperscript{th} to 7\textsuperscript{th}.
Gifted students can have more opportunities to advance.
Earlier combination of kids from all 4 towns.
7\textsuperscript{th} is a good transition time.
Transition would be easier. Sending 7\textsuperscript{th} and 8\textsuperscript{th} backwards to their elementary schools?

Option B Challenges
More groundwork needs to be done before a decision can be made. Still need more information.
Why break up a middle school that is working?
How to jam all kids into the hs wing?
MS is a haven for kids at a special developmental time, don’t want to send them up too soon.
Will students grow up too fast?
True cost of renovations? What are the real costs of this?
Demolish the MS and build from scratch due to costs.
Cost of renovation detracts from the resources that students need.
7\textsuperscript{th} grade daughter coming into the high school – it is unrealistic to think they can be shielded from hs issues.
Need to find out more about what we will save!
Congested in the hs side of the building.
Band and music rooms are wonderful. Don’t want to lose those spaces. And those programs are great – can’t lose that space.
Need to know financial implications – more details.
Leave it the way it is.
HS students may not be the best role models and would not help with middle school development.
Don’t understand the space needs and the size of the population. What does this mean financially.
Students are already growing up very quickly. How do we coordinate socialization among students/families/teachers, etc. Families are already integrated by ages.
What is the cost? Are we saving tons of money by doing this?? Less than 50K? will the tax savings be worth the changes?
Seeing the hs but not being a part of it as a ms was ok.
If it isn’t broken don’t fix it? Just make the repairs.
HS kids aren’t that “evil”
Middle School has worked really hard to be a great place. Why stop that?
What happens with another dead building? We already aren’t using the old academy building.
Issues of teachers sharing classrooms and floating was discussed.

Option C
Best for students:
Issue of having students from all 4 towns together from the start with teachers of the same grades.
Travel would be more equitable among all 4 towns. Not just Vershire and West Fairlee
Teachers can better balance their classrooms.
Teacher collaboration in the same building
• Less of an impact on the buildings. Still could be crowded but not as much as the other 2 options.

**Challenges for students:**
• Putting 8th graders into the elementary schools – space/size issues.
• Busing costs would increase. What is the benefit of spending this level of money?
• Why make kids travel more?
• Why have all the kids on the road all the time in every direction.
• WSE cannot be 5-8 – gym size doesn’t fit.
• Isolating grades in different places ie: isolating middle school far away from high school.
• WSE was built as an elementary school. It would need lots of money to be functional for 5-8.
• Community feel of school will be lost.
• Already combined 5th this year. WF and Vershire are already trucking to Fairlee. This isn’t appropriate for K students.
• Community schools for elementary is very important. Need to learn about their “home” before learning about bigger things.
• Consider a capital project to long term finance the renovation of middle school/ moving the do, etc.

**FINAL THOUGHTS/QUESTIONS:**

**Need much more information on all options. Especially specific financial information and impact of these plans on kids with more details.**

No plan offered for Option D – what is the bias against this???? No other thought for this? Why wasn’t there a plan presented?
Restructuring admin is a no brainer. Why didn’t it happen 5 year ago?
Other possible locations for the DO? Why just at the middle school space? Why no other possibilities offered like at WSE?