

UTILIZATION STUDY

Community Advisory
Committee Meeting

August 25, 2025



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Education Consultants

Committee Meeting Schedule

Date	Topic	Location
Monday, June 30	Overview & Enrollment	CNS High School
Monday, July 28	Instructional Program	NSEEP (Main St. School)
Monday, August 25	Instructional Program (part 2), Facilities/Brainstorming	NS Junior High School
Monday, September 15	Financial status of the district and exploration of future facility scenarios including Haber study outcomes	Gillette Road Middle School
Tuesday, October 21	Staffing patterns and exploration of future facility scenarios	KWS Bear Road Elementary School
Monday, November 10	Overview of district transportation operation and exploration of future facility scenarios	Cicero Elementary School
Monday, December 8*	Review Draft Report	District Office

Building Tour: 5:30 p.m.
Meeting: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Building Library

*No tour



Critical Question for our Committee

How can the North Syracuse Central School District strategically restructure its staffing, facilities, and grade-level configurations to optimize educational outcomes and emotional well-being for all students, while addressing declining enrollment, reduced state aid, and future growth opportunities like the Micron project?



Meeting Takeaways

- North Syracuse CSD is growing increasingly more diverse across the district as a whole. There are some buildings that have higher levels of poverty, non-white students, and students with other needs (homeless, ELLs) than others.
- North Syracuse CSD is performing near or below statewide averages in almost all measurable academic program categories.
 - Achievement gaps are most noticeable at Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Middle Schools.
- Students are still recovering from the academic impact of COVID and remote schooling. Changing norms around technology use also have an impact on students' academic achievement.
- Chronic absenteeism is an indicator to keep an eye on. While not *all* chronically absent students struggle, many do.
- Prekindergarten has an important role in the NSCSD and uses a lot of space.
- The previous study completed by Ross Haber and Associates provides a “discussion starter” for our committee’s work.

Instructional Program: Middle School Buildings

2023-2024 Middle School Data

(data.nysed.gov)

Demographic (%)	Roxboro Rd. Middle	Gillette Rd. Middle
American Indian, AN	1	1
Black	8	4
Latino	7	5
Asian, NH, OPI	6	5
White	68	79
Multiracial	10	6
Students with Disabilities	17	14
Economically Disadvantaged	60	39
English Language Learners	4	2
Homeless	2	1

Indicator (%)	Roxboro Rd. Middle	Gillette Rd. Middle
Chronic Absenteeism 2023-2024 (%)	27	16
Chronic Absenteeism 2018-2019 (%)	18	8
Expenditures per pupil 2023-2024 (\$)	\$26,249	\$23,288
Total Students	705	1,025

Roxboro Rd. Middle School

- Allen Rd. Elementary
- Roxboro Rd. Elementary

Gillette Rd. Middle School

- Cicero Elementary
- Lakeshore Rd. Elementary

Bear Rd. Elementary & Smith Rd. Elementary: Split

NYS Assessment Results: ELA

% of students scoring at levels 3 and 4 (proficient)

2023-2024				
	RRMS	GRMS	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 5	22	46	36	44
Grade 6	30	48	4361	44
Grade 7	24	45	36	50
Grades 5-7	25	46	37	46
2018-2019				
	RRMS	GRMS	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 5	17	34	27	38
Grade 6	30	59	46	47
Grade 7	25	42	36	40
Grades 5-7	24	44	36	41

NYS Assessment Results: Math

% of students scoring at levels 3 and 4 (proficient)

2023-2024				
	RRMS	GRMS	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 5	21	54	40	49
Grade 6	58	68	64	51
Grade 7	56	62	62	57
Grades 5-7	45	51	51	54
2018-2019				
	RRMS	GRMS	Districtwide	NYS
Grade 5	12	40	29	46
Grade 6	42	68	56	47
Grade 7	37	62	52	43
Grades 5-7	30	56	45	46

NSJHS & CNS HS

NS Junior High School

	2023-2024	2018-2019
FRPL	46%	38%
Average Class Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA: 21• Math: 21• Science: 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA: 24• Math: 22• Science: 20
Student Attendance Rate	93%	94%
Chronic Absenteeism Rate	22%	17%
Student Suspension Rate	11%	10%
ELA Proficiency Rate (Grade 8)	48%	37%
Math Proficiency Rate (Grade 8)	54%	46%

CNS High School

	2023-2024	2018-2019
FRPL	33%	29%
Average Class Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA III: 22• Algebra I: 17• Geometry: 19• Biology: 21• Chemistry: 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA III: 21• Algebra I: 14• Geometry: 17• Biology: 21• Chemistry: 21
Student Attendance Rate	92%	93%
Chronic Absenteeism Rate	27%	21%
Student Suspension Rate	6%	8%

4-year Graduation Rate (2024 data; 2020 cohort)

	North Syracuse CSD	New York State
Graduation Rate %	86	86
Regents Advanced Diploma %	51	33
Regents Diploma %	34	51
Local Diploma %	1	2
Dropout %	5	5

Discussion

What initial thoughts do you have about the instructional programming at North Syracuse CSD?

Facilities



Overview of Elementary Buildings

Table 7.1
Overview of North Syracuse Elementary School Buildings

School	Allen	Bear	Cicero	Lakeshore	Roxboro	Smith Road
Address	803 Allen Road North Syracuse	5590 Bear Road North Syracuse	5979 Route 31 North Syracuse	7180 Lakeshore Road Cicero	200 Bernard St North Syracuse	5959 Smith Road North Syracuse
Year of Original Building	1954	1956	1951	1958	1956	1956
Sq. Ft. in Building	49,355	66,084	57,194	60,910	62,620	71,841
Instructional Sq. Ft. in Building	21,560	26,200	28,340	25,400	27,010	29,300
Number of Floors	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grades Housed	K-4	K-4	K-4	K-4	K-4	K-4
Students Served	326	537	522	425	400	557
Overall Building Rating	Satisfactory	Excellent	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Architect	King & King					

NOTE: All information was taken from the NYS Building Conditions Survey completed in 2020 except the enrollments that were drawn from the 2024-25 academic year.

Overview of Middle and Secondary Buildings

Table 7.2
Overview of North Syracuse Middle and Secondary School Buildings

Schools	Gillette Road Middle	Roxboro Road Middle	North Syracuse Jr High	CNS High School
Address	6150 South Bay Road Cicero, NY	300 Bernard St Syracuse, NY	5353 Taft Road North Syracuse, NY	6002 Route 31 Cicero, NY
Year of Original Building	1962	1961	1953	1967
Sq. Ft. in Building	164,410	161,400	233,900	320,635
Instructional Sq. Ft. in Building	40,810	54,670	128,230	257,923
Number of Floors	2	2	3	3
Grades Housed	5-7	5-7	8-9	10-12
Students Served	1,003	697	1,186	1,748
Overall Building Rating	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Architect	King & King			
NOTE: Information was taken from the NYS Building Conditions Survey completed in 2020 except the enrollments that were drawn from the 2024-25 academic year.				

Allen Road Elementary Room Usage

Table 7.3

Allen Road Elementary School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 49,355 Sq. Ft.

(Includes Gym, Cafeteria/Stage, & Library)

School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (20)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (7)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Allen	27	K - 4 1 - 4 2 - 4 2/3 - 1 3 - 3 3/4 - 1 4 - 3	AIS - 2 Sensory Room - 1 Social Worker/ADAPPEP/Promise Zone - 1 OT/PT - 1 Art - 1 Music - 1	Speech - 2 Psychologist - 1 SRO - 1

KWS Bear Road Elementary Room Usage

Table 7.4
Bear Road Elementary School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 66,084 Sq. Ft.
(Includes Gym, Cafeteria, & Library)

School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (28)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (6)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Bear	34	K - 6 1 - 5 2 - 7 3 - 5 4 - 5	Art - 1 Music - 1 Special Education -2 AIS - 2	Speech - 2 Band - 1 OT/PT - 3 Special Education - 3 Instructional Coach - 1 SRO - 1

Cicero Elementary Room Usage

Table 7.5 Cicero Elementary School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 57,194 Sq. Ft. (Includes Gym, Cafeteria, & Library)				
School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (30)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (7)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Cicero	37	K (LKS) - 5 K - 5 1 - 5 2 - 5 3 - 5 4 - 5	Art - 1 Music - 1 AIS - 1 OT/PT/Speech - 1 Instructional Coaches - 1 Teachers' Room/SRO - 1 ENL - 1	Promise Zone - 1 Counselor - 1 Instrumental Music - 1 AM Speech (Stage) - 1 Speech - 2

Lakeshore Road Elementary Room Usage

Table 7.6 Lakeshore Elementary School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 60,910 Sq. Ft. (Includes Gym, Cafeteria, & Library)				
School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (25)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (10)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Lakeshore	35	K - 5 1 - 5 2 - 5 3 - 5 4 - 5	Special Education - 3 Science Room - 2 Technology - 1 OT/PT - 1 Speech - 1 Music - 1 Art - 1	Instructional Coach - 1 AIS - 2 Staff Room - 1 Instrument Storage - 1

Roxboro Road Elementary Room Usage

Table 7.7 Roxboro Elementary School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 62,620 Sq. Ft. (Includes Gym, Cafeteria, & Library)				
School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (20)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (13)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Roxboro	33	K - 4 1 - 4 2 - 4 3 - 4 4 - 4	Art - 1 Music - 1 OT/PT - 1 Special Education - 1 Orchestra/Band - 1 ENL - 1 UPK - 2 AIS - 2 Teachers' Room - 1 Rising Rox Stars - 1 Classroom- 1	Speech - 2 Psychologist - 1

Smith Road Elementary Room Usage

Table 7.8 Smith Road Elementary School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 71,841 Sq. Ft. (Includes Gym, Cafeteria, & Library)				
School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (28)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (11)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Smith	39	K - 6 1 - 6 2 - 6 3 - 5 4 - 5	Art - 1 Band - 1 ENL - 1 AIS - 2 OT/PT - 1 Multipurpose Room - 1+ Special Education - 3 Teachers' Room - 1	Speech - 2 SRO/Promise Zone - 1

Summary of Elementary Schools Room Usage

Table 7.11
Summary of Elementary Class Sections by Building

School	Square Footage	# of Students (does not include Pre-K enrollment)	# of K - 4 grade level sections (rooms)	# of Full-Size rooms used for classes other than K - 4 grade level sections
Allen	49,355	326	20	7
Bear	66,084	537	28	6
Cicero	57,194	522	30	7
Lakeshore	60,910	425	25	10
Roxboro	62,620	400	20	13
Smith	71,841	557	28	11

Gillette Road Middle School Room Usage

Table 7.12 Gillette Road Middle School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 164,410 Sq. Ft. (Includes 2 Gyms, 2 Cafeterias, Phys Ed/Weight Room, Auditorium, & Library)				
School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (49)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (16)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Gillette	65	4 (Lakeshore) - 5 5 - 14 6 - 14 7 - 16	Technology - 1 Family/Con Science - 1 Art - 3 Music - 2 Special Education - 7 Grade 4 Academic Services - 1 AIS - 1	Speech - 2 Special Education - 2 Liberty Resources - 2 Music Lesson - 2 AIS - 4 ENL - 1 OT/PT - 2

Roxboro Road Middle School Room Usage

Table 7.13 Roxboro Road Middle School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 161,400 Sq. Ft. (Includes 2 Gyms, Phys Ed area, 2 Cafeterias, Auditorium, & Library)				
School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (35)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (24)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Roxboro Middle	59	5 - 11 6 - 10 7 - 14	Special Education - 9 OT/PT - 1 AIS - 2 ISS - 1 ENL - 2 Orchestra (stage) - 1 Technology - 1 Music - 1 Art - 2 Family/Con Science - 1 Health - 1 Flex - 1 Storage - 1	Music - 1 Liberty Resources - 2 Special Education - 1 Promise Zone - 1 Staff Room - 1 Studio - 1 AIS - 3 ENL - 1 Speech - 2

North Syracuse Junior High Room Usage

Table 7.14

**North Syracuse Junior High School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 233,900 Sq. Ft.
(Includes 2 Gyms, Cafeteria, Large Group Instruction Room, & Library)**

School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Core Academic Classrooms (53)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (33)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
North Syracuse Junior High	86	53	Art – 5 FACS – 5 AIS – 4 Music – 3 Tech – 10 Health – 2 ISS – 1 Business – 2 Special Education - 1	AIS – 1 ENL – 1 APE – 1 Special Education – 2 AV/Print – 1 TV Studio – 1

Cicero North Syracuse High School Room Usage

Table 7.15 Cicero North Syracuse High School Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 320,635 Sq. Ft. (Includes 2 Gyms, Cafeteria, Large Group Instruction Room, & Library)				
School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Core Academic Classrooms (59)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (54)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
Cicero North Syracuse High	113	59	Special Education – 8 Staff – 6 Tech – 5 Art – 5 FACS – 5 Health – 4 Business – 4 Classroom – 3 Computer Lab – 2 Music – 3 Bookstore – 1 Multipurpose Room – 1 Storage – 1 ENL – 1 ISS – 1 AIS – 1 Career Center – 1 Trainer -1 Tech – Other - 1	Counseling – 7 Social Worker – 2 Psychologist – 2 Special Education - 2 Spec Education Office – 2 PT – 1 AIS- 1 APE/PT – 1 Speech – 1 Service Provider – 1 Green Closet – 1 Liberty Resources – 1 Athletic Dir – 1 Conference Room - 1 Yearbook/Staff – 1 Performing Arts – 1 Computer Lab – 1 Staff – 1 Tech Asst – 1 SRO – 1 ELA Bookroom – 1 Test Center - 1

NSEEP Room Usage

Table 7.9
NSEEP @ Main Street Classroom Usage 2024-25 - 49,969 Sq. Ft.
(Includes Gym, Cafeteria, & Library)

School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Grade Level Classrooms (14)	Other Usage of Full-Size Rooms (13)	Usage of Small Rooms, Not Full-Size, Other Than Administration
NSEEP	27	Pre-K - 14	CPSE Office - 1 Business Office - 1 Therapy - 6 Kids' Corner - 1+ Zoom Room - 1+ CTS - 1 Toy Literacy - 1 Staff Room - 1	PTO/Teachers' Room - 1 Therapy - 3 Social Worker - 1 Psychologist - 2 TVI - 1 Mindful Space -1

Melvin Administrative Office Room Availability

Table 7.10 Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building 2024-25 - 29,185 Sq. Ft. (Includes Gym & Cafeteria)			
School Building	No. of Full-Size Rooms	Comments	No. of Small Rooms including potential office spaces
Current Administrative Office Building	13	Full-size rooms are currently divided into smaller office spaces to accommodate district administrative services	6

Building Condition Survey / Annual Visual Inspection / District Master Plan

Table 7.xx
Summary of 2024 District Master Plan

Building	Estimated Capital Construction Costs	Examples of Cost Items
NSEEP	\$14,000,000	Pavement and drainage renovations (recurring sinkhole), flooring replacement, complete electrical system replacement, HVAC replacement (chillers, boilers, piping), restroom renovation. NOTE: Does not address current elevator concerns.
Allen	\$10,200,000	Pavement & sidewalks. Convert steam heat to hot water, classroom flooring, HVAC (add AC), exterior canopy, classroom updates,
Bear	\$0	Excellent condition from recent renovation
Cicero	\$39,200,000	Complete renovation for 50% of building (similar to Lakeshore), roof replacement, Pavement upgrades, correct water migration issue in utility room, drainage improvement, HVAC infrastructure upgrade
Lakeshore	\$30,000,000	Current Phase I capital construction project to be completed in 2025-26. Phase 2 to include new boilers, roof replacement, complete renovation of remaining classroom wings.
Roxboro Elementary	\$20,000,000	Roof replacement, complete HVAC upgrade. NOTE: District has applied for additional outside grant funding.

Building Condition Survey / Annual Visual Inspection / District Master Plan

Table 7.xx
Summary of 2024 District Master Plan

Smith	\$1,850,000	Pavement, site lighting.
Gillette	\$11,200,000	Pavement upgrades, remaining athletic field upgrades, flooring, gym and auditorium improvements, renovation of STEM spaces throughout building
Roxboro Middle	\$27,000,000	Roof replacement, complete HVAC upgrade NOTE: District has applied for additional outside grant funding.
Junior High School	\$40,000,000	Stadium renovations, HVAC upgrades, pavement and site lighting, renovations to building facade, flooring, gym and auditorium renovations, general interior finishes, main electrical service improvements, installation of backup generator, plumbing improvements
High School	\$36,500,000	Pavement improvements, field and storm draining, facade improvements, ADA accessibility, flooring, ceiling, plumbing upgrades, kitchen AC upgrades, installation of backup generator, roofing renovations, improvements to STEM spaces
TOTAL	\$229,950,000	

Capital Project - 12/8/2021

Table 7.xx
Capital Project Work - Approved by voters 12/8/2021

Cicero	Renovation to older part of building. NOTE: Project currently on hold due to inflationary factors, etc. resulting in insufficient funding authorization by voters
Lakeshore Road	Partial renovation of aging building; currently under construction
Smith Road	PA/fire alarm improvements, playground replacement, repaving of areas in poor condition
CNS	Repairs to HVAC, PA, fire alarm systems, upgrade select electrical panels, select areas of roof replacement, gym/locker room renovations, auditorium renovations, road/driveway repaving, construction of community swimming pool; currently under construction

Capital Project - 5/17/2022

Table 7.xx
Capital Project Work - Approved by voters 5/17/2022

North Syracuse Junior High	HVAC improvements (chiller pump replacements, air handling units, building automation controls)
Districtwide	Interior and exterior lighting upgrades (LED, dimmers)

Capital Project - 12/6/2022

Table 7.xx
Capital Project Work - Approved by voters 12/6/2022

Gillette Road	HVAC upgrades including air conditioning installation, multi-sport turf field, pavement improvements to athletic complex reconstruction
NSEEP	Roof replacement, water main replacement
North Syracuse Junior High	Lavatory renovations
Districtwide	Create/upgrade secure building entries and access control, security film at exterior doors and group gathering areas, replace aging PA systems with campus notification system, replace aging fire alarm systems, exterior and directional signage, districtwide radio system, districtwide replacement of lock cores, interior and exterior door replacement



10:00

Guiding Goals

Based on the discussions we've had in this group and the conversations we have had with district leaders, the consultants believe these are the key guiding goals that would govern any conversations about grade level configurations:

- Bring students together in one building at an earlier grade level
- Reduce the number of transitions between building for students
- Address disparity in instruction between buildings
- Address concerns about Junior High School climate

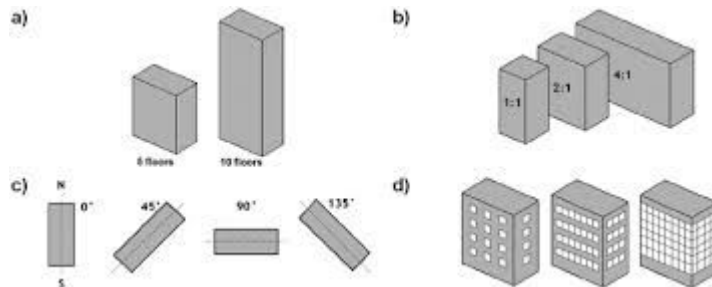
Are these accurate?

Are there others?

Building Observations

As we begin to think about grade level configurations, we need to keep the following observations in mind:

- Four grade levels will fit in Cicero North Syracuse HS
- Three grade levels will fit in North Syracuse Junior High School; four will not
- **Neither** Middle School can hold three full grade levels
- Current six elementary schools with current class sizes, based on 2024-25 enrollment, cannot hold six grade levels (K-5) but...



Group Activity

- Organize in groups of 4-5 people
- Identify a recorder and a reporter
- Each group will be given a grade level configuration to consider. As you do so, think about:
 - Benefits (what would be good about this configuration?)
 - Costs (what would be difficult about this configuration?)
 - Obstacles (what present conditions would challenge this configuration?)
 - Aids (what present conditions would support this configuration?)
- Consider these within the context of:
 - Academics
 - Facilities
 - Extracurriculars
 - Transportation



Group Activity

1. NSEEP in a stand-alone building vs. 4410 PK classrooms distributed in multiple elementary buildings
2. Kindergarten - Grade 2 vs. Kindergarten - Grade 3 vs. Kindergarten - Grade 4 vs. Kindergarten - Grade 5
3. Grades K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12
4. Keeping grade configurations as they currently are (K-4, 5-7, 8-9, 10-12) but rearranging buildings so students come together at 5th grade in the current NSJHS
5. Grades 9 - 12 vs. Grades 10 - 12



Activity Summary

Meeting Takeaways

- ★ The trends that we saw in the elementary instructional data are similar to those we see in the middle school and secondary data:
 - North Syracuse CSD is growing increasingly more diverse across the district as a whole. There are some buildings that have higher levels of poverty, non-white students, and students with other needs (homeless, ELLs) than others.
 - North Syracuse CSD is performing near or below statewide averages in almost all measurable academic program categories.
 - Achievement gaps are most noticeable at Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Middle Schools.
 - Achievement gets closer to the state averages as students get older
 - Students are still recovering from the academic impact of COVID and remote schooling. Changing norms around technology use also have an impact on students' academic achievement.
- ★ Current room utilization, along with classroom count, for each building is provided.
- ★ Construction work in identified district buildings, as approved by voters, is ongoing.
- ★ Future capital improvements are still needed to preserve district buildings and provide optimum learning environments for students.

Meeting Takeaways

- ★ Are these the desired goals this study should address?
 - Bring students together in one building at an earlier grade level
 - Reduce the number of transitions between building for students
 - Address disparity in instruction between buildings
 - Address concerns about Junior High School climate

- ★ Building observations and considerations:
 - Four grade levels will fit in Cicero North Syracuse HS
 - Three grade levels will fit in North Syracuse Junior High School; four will not
 - **Neither** Middle School can hold three full grade levels
 - Current six elementary schools with current class sizes, based on 2024-25 enrollment, cannot hold six grade levels (K-5)

Utilization Study

