
QUESTIONS

The following are questions submitted to the ACSD Board of Education by various individuals and/or groups following the mailing of the initial Waterville Elementary Report to district constituents. The questions are in the format as they were submitted.

FORUM FORMAT / INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

Q1: WHAT IS THE AGENDA OR PROCEDURES FOR THE PUBLIC FORUM ON NOVEMBER 13TH? WILL THERE BE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS OR JUST INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC AND NO RESPONSES FROM THE BOARD?

The procedures for the public forum will be as follows:

- All attendees are required to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner.
- The public is to refrain from private conversations of which interrupt the proceeding of the forum.
- Please refrain from repeating the same comment or question. Please ask only those questions not asked and answered previously on the ACSD website.
- Each speaker will state their name and be limited to five minutes.
- All comments are to be directed to the Board as a body and not individual members, school staff members or other attendees.

The Board will do its best to answer any reasonable questions that have not already been addressed.

Q2: WHY ISN'T THE PUBLIC FORUM BEING HELD AT WATERVILLE INSTEAD OF WAUKON?

The Board considered holding this public forum at Waterville, however it was determined that the high school auditorium would better accommodate those in attendance. The acoustics in the Waterville gym are not conducive to a forum like this and we wanted to make sure everyone could be heard.

Q3: IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT WERE TO RECEIVE THE PAMPHLET THAT WAS MAILED IN EARLY NOVEMBER. THERE WERE SEVERAL IN WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT DID NOT RECEIVE THE INFORMATION. WHY?

Newsletters were sent out to District patrons much as if we do our Annual Progress Report. If a patron did not receive a newsletter, they could ask the school for one or read it online on the school's website. The newsletter was sent to the postal customers within our district.

Q4: WHY WAS THIS BROUGHT UP AFTER THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS?

The subject of building enrollment was addressed at the Board Work Session on Thursday, September 7. This was before the Board election on September 12. In addition, enrollment at each building is a subject of Board discussion each year.

Q5: WHY IS THIS ISSUE NOT BROUGHT TO A VOTE BY RESIDENTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT?

The decision to close an attendance center is a school board decision. There are procedural steps, set by the State Board of Education that a school board *may* take when acting to close an attendance center, but are not required by law. Nowhere in these guidelines is a district vote mentioned. We are following these guidelines.

ENROLLMENT

Q6: WHAT ARE THE ENROLLMENT TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR WEST AND EAST ELEMENTARY?

EAST ELEMENTARY (3rd – 6th Grade) ENROLLMENT HISTORY

97-98	355	09-10	251
98-99	359	10-11	235
99-00	343	11-12	248
00-01	343	12-13	260
01-02	343	13-14	250
02-03	315	14-15	266
03-04	316	15-16	184*
04-05	286	16-17	190*
05-06	274	17-18	187*
06-07	262	18-19	196**
07-08	261		
08-09	264		

WEST ELEMENTARY (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade) ENROLLMENT HISTORY

97-98	240	09-10	219
98-99	209	10-11	217
99-00	213	11-12	206
00-01	209	12-13	222
01-02	199	13-14	228
02-03	201	14-15	198
03-04	197	15-16	198
04-05	211	16-17	191
05-06	202	17-18	202
06-07	192	18-19	179**
07-08	208		
08-09	210		

*Enrollment 3rd – 5th Grade

**Projected Enrollment

Q7: HOW WAS THE PROJECTED ENROLLMENT TAKEN?

Projections are determined by moving the class from the current year into the class above. Kindergarten projections are based on pre-school numbers.

Q8: HOW MANY STUDENTS, UP TO 5TH GRADE, RESIDE WITHIN THE WATERVILLE BOUNDARY AREA BUT ATTEND EITHER EAST OR WEST ELEMENTARY OR ST. PAT'S AND NOT WATERVILLE?

To the best of our knowledge, with a few exceptions*, there are no students living within the Waterville boundary area but attending West or East Elementary. Since St. Pat's is not a public school, we do not have their enrollment information and cannot speculate on how many Waterville students attend St. Pat's school. *Due to HIPPA and FERPA guidelines, we are unable to disclose specific details on any of these circumstances.

ENROLLMENT

Q9: WHY IS THERE NOW ROOM AT WEST & EAST TO ACCOMMODATE WATERVILLE STUDENTS? THE REPORT IMPLIES THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE HOWEVER IT HAS NOT BEEN THE CASE UNTIL VERY RECENTLY - THIS IS MISLEADING. WHAT HAS CHANGED? WE ASSUME DECLINING ENROLLMENT AT THOSE SCHOOL BUILDINGS AS WELL? WHATEVER THE CASE, THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED MORE FULLY IN THE REPORT TO RESIDENTS.

The report simply states there is room at both East and West Elementary for Waterville Elementary students. Declining enrollment has played a factor in making more space available for Waterville Elementary students at both buildings.

Q10: HOW MUCH STATE OR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID DOES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVE PER STUDENT? IS IT \$6,500 OR MORE? IF ANY WATERVILLE STUDENTS OPEN-ENROLL TO MFL-MARMAC OR EASTERN ALLAMAKEE - IT SEEMS ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WILL LOOSE VALUABLE FUNDING?

The district receives \$6,746 per student for State Aid. If a student enrolls (open enroll out or move) to another school, we lose the funding for that student. If a number of students open enroll out or move, we would need to adjust the staff for such a loss. This would be completed by attrition (not replacing those that retire or move to another district).

Q11: WHAT WILL BE THE PRICE PER STUDENT AT EAST AND WEST IF WATERVILLE CLOSES?

Based on the projected enrollments and expenses, if East and West Elementary were to absorb all of Waterville's salary and benefit costs, the 2017-18 cost per student would be approximately \$7,260/student at East Elementary and \$6,740/student at West Elementary. The 2018-2019 cost per student would be approximately \$7,570/student at East Elementary and \$7,750/student at West Elementary.

Q12: IS THERE A MAP SHOWING THE LINE THAT DETERMINES WATERVILLE ENROLLMENT? IF SO, WHEN WAS THIS MAP LAST UPDATED?

Below is a link to the current district map, showing the boundaries between Waukon and Waterville enrollment with a thick red line. This boundary was set in the 1970's and has not changed since that time.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_mHZ-v9JIBcS3VmRVFSXzdYbTQ/view?usp=sharing

Q13: WILL THE ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGE IF WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY CLOSES?

No, the school district's boundary will remain the same.

Q14: WHAT WILL BE THE STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO AT THE WEST ELEMENTARY AND AT THE EAST ELEMENTARY, USING THE SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS?

Based on the enrollment projections for the 2018-19 school year and the current staffing assignments, the number of students in K-2 would be between 14-18 students (an average of 16 students) per section and between 18-21 students (an average of 19 students) per section in grades 3-5.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Q15: IT WAS MENTIONED ABOUT THE TUCK-POINTING, ELECTRICAL CONCERNS, BOILER SYSTEM, AND ROOFING CONCERNS. WOULD IT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO DO SOME ELECTRICAL WORK AND ROOFING CONCERNS A LITTLE EACH YEAR SO IT WOULD NOT HAVE REACHED THIS LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE AND COST? DO THE BUILDINGS HAVE A 5, 10, 20 YEAR PLAN OF ACTION?

Every year the school district plans certain projects to be completed based on need and the funds available. Due to the uncertainty of state aid for schools, it is difficult to have a 5-20 year maintenance program in place. We do our best to prioritize projects with the current information and funds available.

Q16: TUCKPOINTING, ELECTRICAL CONCERNS, THE HEATING SYSTEM (BOILER), AND ROOFING CONCERNS - ARE THEY ALL PAID THROUGH THE PPEL PORTION OF THE DISTRICT'S FUNDING? IF SO, HOW DOES WATERVILLE'S USE OF PPEL FUNDS COMPARE PROPORTIONATELY WITH THE OTHER DISTRICT BUILDINGS?

Any capital improvements (Tuckpointing, electrical concerns, the heating system (boiler), and roofing concerns) would be paid either through the PPEL or SAVE Funds. In 2016-17 total PPEL and SAVE expenditures were approximately \$1.75 million. Of that total, approximately \$120,000 (7%) was used for capital improvements, repairs and technology at Waterville (after district-wide allocations). This is proportionate with the Waterville enrollment, which is 6% of total enrollment.

Q17: PRIOR TO 2016-17, HOW MUCH OF THE PPEL AND SAVE FUNDS WERE SPENT AT WATERVILLE COMPARED TO THE OVERALL TOTAL? I UNDERSTAND IT WAS \$120,000, 7%, OF \$1.75 MILLION IN 2016-17.

Over the past three years (2014-15 through 2016-17) the portion of the combined PPEL and SAVE funds spent at Waterville (after district-wide allocations) was approximately \$343,000 (6.5%) of the \$5.3 million spent overall.

Q18: WHAT ARE THE ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS AT THE SCHOOL?

One of the biggest problems with the electrical service for Waterville school is the panels that house the wires. The existing panels have screw in style fuses, which are no longer used especially in a commercial style building. This system dates back to the original year it was built. To bring the building up to National Electric code you would have to change all the panels to the new breaker style which you will see in homes just on a different scale. You would not only change panels and breakers but it would include all wiring also. This part of the project would be very time consuming because all wiring would be exposed in conduit on the outside of the walls. Every floor in the building including the bus garage would have to be rewired.

The electrician that works on the building for the school district has stated not to trust any of the outlets in the building that have not been rewired. He said the integrity of the grounding capability has been compromised and there may be no grounding at all. 90% of the building does not have grounding capability and the other 10% that has grounding capability has been put in place for the computer labs and the boilers.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Q19: HAS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CHECKED ON PRICING TO DO THE NECESSARY ELECTRICAL WORK? IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO GET QUOTES FROM AN COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR AND NOT JUST A LOCAL ELECTRICIAN?

The school district cannot even put a cap on the amount of money it would cost to bring the building up to electrical code. In order to get quotes on a project of this size it would take an architect to draw up plans. At that point, the bidding would be open to anyone willing to take on a project of this size.

Q20: HAS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CHECKED ON PRICING TO DO THE NECESSARY TUCK-POINTING?

Yes, the district has contacted a very reputable tuck-pointing company and received a quote of \$77,000 for the tuck-pointing needed at Waterville Elementary. This is an approximate quote, not a formal bid. If we determined to move forward with this project, a formal bidding process would take place.

Q21: HAS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CHECKED ON PRICING FOR REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENT OF THE BOILER SYSTEM?

At this point, we have no figures on boiler costs. Currently, preventative maintenance is being done on the boilers in the fall to keep longevity of the boiler system. In the summer, the boilers are tore completely down to be serviced and checked for wear.

Q22: HAS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CHECKED ON PRICING FOR ROOFING ISSUES? THE GYM ROOF LOOKS REALLY NICE - HOW MUCH DID THAT COST AND WHAT FUND(S) DID IT COME FROM? THE SAME FUND AS THE APPROXIMATELY \$1,000,000 AUDITORIUM AND EAST ELEM ROOFING PROJECTS?

We have not obtained costs for replacing the rubber roof membrane. We are currently doing a preventative maintenance program on the rubber roof. This program consists of a contractor doing periodic checks of the roof and making repairs deemed necessary. The roof on the Waterville gym was replaced in the spring of 2017. It cost approximately \$43,000 and was paid through the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) Fund. The other approximately \$1,000,000 roofing project that took place this past year was on the Middle School and West Elementary. This project is paid through the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) Fund (aka the local option sales and services tax).

WATER SAMPLE ISSUES

Q23: THE WORD 'CHLOROFORMS' WAS USED TO DESCRIBE THE BACTERIA IN THE WATER AT WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY. IS THIS CORRECT?

The term 'Chloroforms' was used to describe bacteria in the drinking and cooking water at Waterville Elementary. This should have read 'Coliforms' because that is the term used in the State Hygienic Laboratory (University of Iowa) when describing levels of bacteria that are present or absent in the water at Waterville Elementary.

Q24: IF THE WELL IS BAD AND NEEDS REPLACING AND THE USE OF CULLIGAN WATER WILL BE IN PLACE FOR THE REST OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, WHY ARE STUDENTS & STAFF AND VISITORS USING THE WELL WATER AT PRESENT? CULLIGAN WATER WAS ONLY USED FOR TWO WEEKS WHILE THE WELL WAS BEING FLUSHED THROUGH AFTER SUMMER, AND THEN FOR A WEEK OR SO AFTER TO "USE UP" THE BOTTLED WATER ALREADY PURCHASED. THIS WOULD AGAIN APPEAR TO BE MISLEADING PEOPLE.

Culligan water should not have been taken out of Waterville Elementary. After this question was raised, Culligan water is back at Waterville Elementary. Culligan water will remain there all year for the safety of the staff and students. During the time Culligan water was taken out of Waterville, all water sample tests came back negative for bacteria.

Q25: IT SEEMS THAT THE UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS (OF THE WATER SAMPLES) TAKE PLACE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS WHEN THERE IS NO REGULAR SCHOOL IN SESSION. I THINK THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE A FLAG FOR THE BOARD THAT LIMITED USE OF WATER TENDS TO LEAD TO UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS. WHEN SCHOOL STARTS IN AUGUST THERE IS CONSIDERABLE WATER USAGE AND IT RETURNS TO SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN A REASONABLE TIME PERIOD. HAS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CHECKED WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO COMPARE WATER TESTING RESULTS?

No, the district has not checked with the fire department or other residents in the area. There are three types of public water supplies (with the classification determined by the population the system serves). The public water supply at Waterville Elementary is considered Non-transient non-community (NTNC). NTNC public water supplies are those that regularly serve at least 25 of the same people, four or more hours per day, four or more days per week, for at least six months during the year. The residents and fire department do not have to meet these strict guidelines and/or do not have a Grade A operator certification.

Q26: HAS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CHECKED ON THE COST OF A CHLORINATION SYSTEM?

We have researched what it would cost to get a chlorination system in the building; however, the school district cannot just put in a system. Once the school has enough positive samples for bacteria, the DNR mandates what type of system would be necessary and how we would have to implement the system. It is possible the cost of the system could exceed \$10,000 to \$15,000. In addition, if our current location for a chlorination system like this does not meet the DNR's standards, we may have to build a room somewhere near the boiler room to house such a system.

WATER SAMPLE ISSUES

Q27: HAS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CHECKED WITH THE COMPANY THAT DRILLED THE WELL TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY TESTING THEY CAN DO TO SEE IF THERE IS A LEAK IN THE WELL CASING OR SOMETHING ELSE THAT MIGHT BE ALLOWING THE SUMMER BACTERIA TO INFILTRATE THE SCHOOL? DO THEY OFFER AN OPINION ON WHY THE UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS HAPPEN MORE OFTEN IN THE SUMMER MONTHS DURING TIMES OF LOW WATER USE?

We have been in contact with the company that drilled the well as issues arose over the past two summers. In both instances, they have said the amount of water not being used may be a reason bacteria is more concentrated and is showing up in monthly tests. That is why we are offering Culligan water. Last summer the well company did find a cracked pipe that we did hope would solve any problems. Unfortunately, it did not solve any long-term problems.

Q28: WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MONTHLY WATER SAMPLE READINGS FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS THAT WERE REQUIRED BY THE DNR.? (PARTS PER MILLION PPM.)

The routine bacterial tests that are done on the Waterville well do not give results in ppm, the results are either present or absent for certain bacteria. Only if the results show that either E.coli or coliform are present do we request additional testing (at an additional cost) to determine to what extent the bacteria are present.

Q29: HOW MUCH MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT ON TRYING TO BRING THE WELL AT THE WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY INTO DNR COMPLIANCE IN THE LAST 5 YEARS?

Prior to FY17, the district spent on average \$575/year on monthly testing of the well at Waterville Elementary. In FY17, the district spent approximately \$1,200 on testing because of the additional testing needed due to the abnormal results of the regular tests. The district has spent approximately \$750 on testing this year-to-date. Also due to the abnormal results, the district spent \$2,700 on repairs to the well in FY17 (none in the 5 years prior to that) and has spent \$500 this year-to-date.

FINANCIAL

Q30: WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THE COST SAVINGS YOU SAY THERE WILL BE BY CLOSING THE SCHOOL?

If the school closes, any savings will be put toward maintaining our current staff and programs. State aid for schools has been very poor the past three years awarding schools only an average of 1.53% for state supplemental aid yearly. This legislative session looks even bleaker for schools and it could result in 1% state supplemental aid or less for schools. In addition, technology, college, and career and technical education programs costs continue to rise.

Q31: IS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HOPING TO REDUCE THE ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COUNTY PROPERTY TAX LEVY AND/OR THE PPEL AND SAVE REQUIREMENTS?

If the school closes, any savings will be put toward maintaining our current staff and programs. State aid for schools has been very poor the past three years awarding schools only an average of 1.53% for state supplemental aid yearly. This legislative session looks even bleaker for schools and it could result in 1% state supplemental aid or less for schools. In addition, technology, college, and career and technical education programs costs continue to rise. Therefore, we do not anticipate a reduction in the property tax levy.

Q32: WHAT IS THE PROJECTED SAVINGS TO THE TAXPAYERS IN THE FIRST YEAR IF THE WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY IS CLOSED?

If the school closes, any savings will be put toward maintaining our current staff and programs. State aid for schools has been very poor the past three years awarding schools only an average of 1.53% for state supplemental aid yearly. This legislative session looks even bleaker for schools and it could result in 1% state supplemental aid or less for schools. In addition, technology, college, and career and technical education programs costs continue to rise. Therefore, we do not anticipate there to be a direct savings to the taxpayer in the first year.

Q33: BASED ON THE LISTED NON-PERSONNEL "FIXED COSTS" (UTILITIES, ETC.) IT WOULD APPEAR THAT GREATER EFFICIENCIES AND MORE GEOGRAPHIC COUNTY SUPPORT COULD BE GAINED BY CLOSING THE EAST ELEMENTARY BUILDING IN WAUKON AND BUSSING STUDENTS TO WATERVILLE. THIS COULD HAPPEN ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT IS DONE AT EASTERN ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND MFL/MARMAC COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT. HAS THE BOARD LOOKED AT THIS OPTION AND IF NOT, WHY NOT? YOU CAN BE SURE THAT EASTERN ALLAMAKEE AND OTHERS ARE GOING TO BE WATCHING HOW YOU HANDLE THE USE OF FACILITIES NOT IN WAUKON, AND WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN FOR THEM IN THE LONG TERM.

The Board is considering all possible options.

FINANCIAL

Q34: WHAT IS THE COST OF INSURING THE WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY IN THE CURRENT 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR?

The property insurance is a blanket coverage based on replacement cost. Therefore, the pro-rated amount attributable to the property at Waterville Elementary is approximately \$7,000 for the 2017-2018 school year.

Q35: ON THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION SHEET - COULD YOU BRIEFLY EXPLAIN FOR 2017-18:

- PURCH. SERVICE
- OTHER SERVICES
- SUPPLIES & SOFTWARE SEEM HIGH COMPARED TO EAST & WEST? ONLY ABOUT \$8K LESS THAN EAST?
- EQUIPMENT AGAIN SEEMS HIGH COMPARED WITH E & W?
- DUES & FEES

The majority of the expenses included in categories are as follows:

- Purch. Service – Assessment Testing, Staff Workshops/Registration Fees
- Other Services – Copier/Printer Leases
- Dues & Fees – Student Entry Fees (Fieldtrips)

Supplies/Software and Equipment are areas that fluctuate from year to year, depending on needs. The projections in the Waterville report are based on the most current data (FY17 actual expenditures). The assumptions used in the projections were to increase salaries and benefits by 3.5% (2-year contract settlement) and no change for all other expenses. In looking through the detail, it appears FY17 was a lower spending year for East and West Elementary in these areas (supplies/software and equipment). However, if we use a prior year's expenses (FY15 for example) for our projections, then the projected cost per pupil only changes slightly (Waterville decreases by about \$85 per pupil in FY18 and by about \$100 per pupil in FY19).

PERSONNEL

Q36: IF THE TEACHERS AND STAFF WILL BE RETAINED FOR 2018-19, PLEASE LIST WHERE THE SAVINGS WILL COME FROM BASED ON THE \$722, 353?

The savings will not come all at one time. We anticipate some retirements each year along with some staff members leaving for other communities and jobs. As those things happen, we will not replace some teachers and others will be replaced with teachers at a lower salary. The largest savings the first year or two will be from the costs of maintaining the building and any staff members that leave and are not replaced or replaced with someone with a lower salary.

Q37: I WOULD LIKE A BREAKDOWN OF SALARIES AND BENEFITS BY PERSON, THAT WILL TOTAL \$589,755. IF IT INCLUDES THE BAND TEACHER, THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, THE PE TEACHER, THE ART TEACHER AND SO ON, PLEASE INCLUDE THE % OF THEIR COMPENSATION THAT WOULD PERTAIN TO WATERVILLE VS THE OTHER CENTERS.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary & Benefits</u>
Principal	94,400
Secretary	27,500
Para Professional	18,900
Para Professional	15,000
Para Professional	17,200
Regular Education Teacher	49,800
Regular Education Teacher	77,800
Regular Education Teacher	55,900
Regular Education Teacher	73,200
Art/TAG Teacher (33% WV, 33% West, 34% East)	23,700
SPED Teacher (25% WV, 75% MS)	15,500
PE Teacher (20% WV, 80% East)	18,400
Music Teacher (25% WV, 30% East, 30% West, 15% MS)	15,100
Band Teacher (20% WV, 80% MS)	15,200
Guidance Counselor (25% WV, 50% East, 25% West)	22,500
Librarian (10% WV, 40% HS, 30% MS, 10% East, 10% West)	9,100
Substitutes	17,500
After School Program Site Coordinator	23,000
	589,700

PERSONNEL

Q38: IT IS HARD TO ARGUE WITH THE FACTS (OF THE SALARY BREAK-DOWN) EXCEPT MAYBE THE % ALLOCATED TO WATERTON SHOULD BE PRORATED BY THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL ENROLLMENT?

The percentage of the special class teachers (art, band, etc.) that is allocated to Waterville is based on the amount of time that teacher spends there, not on the enrollment. The rationale for that allocation is that a teacher has to spend just as much time in travel and classroom time for five students as they would for 20 students.

Q39: PAGE 2 OF THE REPORT STATES "BECAUSE OF DECLINING ENROLLMENT AND FIXED COSTS FOR RUNNING AN ATTENDANCE CENTER, THE 'PROJECTED COSTS' ARE ALARMING." WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CURRENT TEACHING PRINCIPAL IS RETIRING AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. IT APPEARS BY YOUR SALARY CALCULATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR THAT YOU WOULD BE REPLACING HER WITH SOMEONE EQUALLY AS HIGH ON THE SALARY TABLE. THIS CONTRADICTS THE EARLIER STATEMENT IN THE REPORT ABOUT REPLACING RETIREMENTS WITH YOUNGER TEACHERS ON A LOWER GRADE. IS THIS AN OVERSIGHT IN YOUR PROJECTION, OR ARE WE MISSING SOMETHING?

Projections are done with current staff members in their current positions. Retirements and those staff members that leave the district are not considered as these are not readily known at this time.

Q40: HOW MANY OF THE PERSONNEL IN WATERTON ARE NOT OFFERED HEALTH INSURANCE AND/OR CAN ONLY WORK 28.75 HOURS PER WEEK? HOW MANY EMPLOYEES IN THE ENTIRE DISTRICT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE AND/OR NOT OFFERED HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS?

There are 64 contracted employees in the entire district that do not qualify for health insurance, three of whom are Waterville personnel.

TRANSPORTATION

Q41: HOW DOES THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT COME UP WITH THE FIGURE OF A SAVING OF SIX MILES PER DAY IF THE WATERVILLE BUILDING CLOSED? IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE SOME NUMBERS TO SUPPORT THE SUPPOSITIONS MADE IN THIS SECTION.

WATERVILLE MILES		Miles
Bus #5	Elon to Waterville	6.5
Bus #10	Old East to Waterville	4.1
Bus #19	Rossville to Waterville	5.5
	1 Bus Shuttle to Waukon to Return Drivers	14.6
		30.7
	Twice a Day (AM/PM)	2
		61.4
WAUKON MILES IF WATERVILLE CLOSSES		
Bus #5	Elon to Waukon	8.1
Bus #10	Old East to Waukon	10.9
Bus #19	Rossville to Waukon	8.5
	No Shuttle Needed	-
		27.5
	Twice a Day (AM/PM)	2
		55.0
	CURRENT WATERVILLE MILES	61.4
	MILES IF WATERVILLE CLOSSES	55.0
	DAILY MILES SAVED	6.4

Q42: WHY IS THERE A BUS SHUTTLE TO RETURN BUS DRIVERS TO WAUKON? I WOULD THINK A PERSON HIRED TO DRIVE BUS WOULD BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE TO GET TO AND FROM THEIR JOB ON THEIR OWN TIME AND AT THEIR PERSONAL EXPENSE BUT MAYBE NOT? MAYBE THERE IS NO ONE CLOSE TO WATERVILLE TO DRIVE BUS?

We do not have any extra drivers in that area that can drive every day. The buses need to come back to Waukon for maintenance/cleaning and fuel some days anyway. If the buses were sitting in Waterville, we would have to drive to Waterville to pick up the bus, drive back to Waukon, do the maintenance, drive it back to Waterville then drive back to Waukon. Therefore, we rotate buses coming back each day.

TRANSPORTATION

Q43: HOW DO YOU COME UP WITH THE FIGURE OF "30-40 TIMES PER YEAR FOR FIELDTRIPS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS" LISTED IN THE Q&A SECTION OF THE REPORT? THE STUDENTS DON'T AND NEVER HAVE GONE ON THAT MANY FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS. ADDITIONALLY, NOT ALL WATERVILLE FIELD TRIPS HAVE BEEN PAID FOR BY THE DISTRICT.

In 2015, there were 35 bus trips for Waterville students. In 2016, there were 32 bus trips, and in 2017, (so far) there have been 22 bus trips. The bus trips are figured in calendar years. These trips do not include the Suburban or van use but only bus trips. These trips include field trips, Project SEALED, band, kids club, homecoming activities and the musical.

Q44: TRANSPORTATION COSTS WERE ADDRESSED, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LOGISTICS? HOW LONG WOULD A YOUNG HARPERS FERRY STUDENT BE ON A BUS TO GET TO WAUKON?

Most students from Harpers Ferry will not be on the bus any longer than they are currently. There may be a few students though that may be on a bit longer, but no more than five minutes longer. No student from Harpers Ferry will be on the bus any longer than 45 minutes.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Q45: WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT PARENTS AND CHILDREN RELY ON?

The After School Program is funded with federal grants that are awarded every 3-5 years. The Waterville program is on year 5 of a 5-year grant this school year. We are currently writing the application for a new grant at Waterville. If we are awarded the grant and Waterville closes, the state has assured us that those funds would follow the students.

Q46: I UNDERSTAND THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM HAS BEEN FUNDED FOR WATERVILLE FOR NEXT YEAR. I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE DETAILS BUT I ASSUME, IF WATERVILLE CLOSES, HARPERS FERRY AND WATERVILLE PARENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DRIVE TO WAUKON TO PICK UP THEIR CHILDREN FROM EAST AND WEST IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROGRAM?

That is incorrect; the After School Program for Waterville has NOT been funded for next year. As was explained in the previous question: *The After School Program is funded with federal grants that are awarded every 3-5 years. The Waterville program is on year 5 of a 5-year grant this school year. We are currently writing the application for a new grant at Waterville. If we are awarded the grant and Waterville closes, the state has assured us that those funds would follow the students.*

If Waterville closes, the plan would be to hold the elementary After School Programs in Waukon and transportation is not provided.

PROPERTY / EQUIPMENT DISPOSITION

Q47: IF THE SCHOOL CLOSES WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE PROPERTY? WILL YOU ADVISE THE CITY OF WATERVILLE OF YOUR INTENTIONS FOR THE BUILDING AND LAND LOCATED IN THE CITY. IF THE SCHOOL CLOSES, DON'T YOU STILL HAVE TO UPKEEP THE BUILDING?

Currently the school board has no plans for the property if the school closes. Until the decision is made whether the school will stay open or not, no plans will be made. If the school closes, the school board will advise any appropriate parties of plans for the property.

Q48: IF WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY IS CLOSED WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ALL OF THE DESKS, TABLES, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, COOKING EQUIPMENT, ECT. ?

The Board of Education will need to determine what is to be done with the equipment if Waterville Elementary closes.

Q49: IF THE DECISION WERE MADE TO CLOSE WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY, WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE MEMORABILIA FROM THE WATERVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Currently there is no plan for any of the Waterville School memorabilia. The School Board is open to suggestions from the community.

Q50: IF THE SCHOOL BOARD DECIDES TO CLOSE WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY AT THE DECEMBER BOARD MEETING, WHEN WILL THE SCHOOL CLOSE?

If the decision were made to close Waterville Elementary, it would remain open for the 2017-18 school year.

Q51: IF THE WATERVILLE SCHOOL CLOSES, WILL THE LAND AND BUILDING LOOSE THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS?

As long as the property is owned by the school district or another governmental agency, the tax-exempt status will remain the same.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

The following are additional questions either asked at the public forum or submitted to the ACSD Board of Education after the forum.

Q52: REGARDING THE REPLY TO THE QUESTION ABOUT NUMBER OF SPECIAL BUS TRIPS CHARGED TO WATERVILLE SCHOOL. ONE OF THE POINTS THE WRITER WAS TRYING TO MAKE - THAT SEEMS TO BE OVERLOOKED IN THE RESPONSE - IS THAT NOT ALL OF THE TRIPS WERE PAID FOR BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. INDEED, SOME OF THE TRIPS WERE SPONSORED (PAID FOR) BY OUTSIDE GROUPS SUCH AS PARENTS FOR PROGRESS.

The Parents for Progress group is a great organization that donates hundreds of dollars a year to help fund projects and events for the Waterville Elementary students. Over the past three years, the Parents for Progress group has directly paid for the transportation of 1-2 of these trips a year.

Q53: HOW WOULD THE COST PER PUPIL NUMBERS LOOK IF WATERVILLE HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO KEEP ITS SIXTH GRADERS?

Based on projected enrollments and expenses, if there was still 6th grade in both Waterville and East Elementary, the 2018-19 cost per student would be about \$5,300/student at East Elementary and \$9,300/student at Waterville Elementary.

Q54: IS THERE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF STUDENTS NEEDED TO MAKE WATERVILLE ELEMENTARY VIABLE?

There are several factors being considered in making this decision. Although there is not a definitive number that would determine whether or not the school stays open, at the projected costs, in order to have a per student cost that is in-line with the other two elementary buildings, the enrollment for the 2018-19 school year would have to be between 80-90 students at Waterville Elementary.

Q55: IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL FAMILIES THAT LIVE WITHIN THE WATERVILLE BOUNDARIES, BUT ATTEND EITHER EAST OR WEST ELEMENTARY, SPECIFICALLY A LARGE FAMILY THAT LIVES ON CARDINAL ROAD. WHY HAVE THEY BEEN ALLOWED TO DO SO?

There are currently no students in the district with an address on Cardinal Road. In addition, our buses do not pick up any students on Cardinal Road. If a family lives within the Waterville Elementary boundaries, but uses a different address on school records and does not ride a bus to/from school, we have no way of knowing. The ACSD is one of the largest districts in the state in terms of transportation miles/routes and we do our best to ensure the safety of all students and abide by the district boundaries.

Q56: IS THERE A REASON THE DECISION HAS TO BE MADE IN DECEMBER?

The timeline set by the Board was selected in order allow time for transition planning and budgeting for the next school year, if the decision is to close the building.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Q57: HOW WOULD THE SALARY AND BENEFITS PROJECTIONS FOR WATERVILLE CHANGE IF THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL WAS SHARED AND THE COST ANALYSIS USED AVERAGE SALARIES INSTEAD OF ACTUAL?

Below is a breakdown of how the projected salary and benefits would look for Waterville Elementary if the principal position was shared between all three elementary buildings and district-wide averages were used for all positions. The total of \$609,300 is approximately \$19,600 higher than if actual salaries are used. This difference is mostly due to two factors: 1) The majority of the Waterville Elementary teachers' salaries are actually below the district-wide average and 2) The current principal at Waterville Elementary spends a portion of her day (.7) teaching Title I/SPED classes. Therefore, an additional teacher would need to be added if the principal position is shared. If this additional position did not have to be added, the total would be about \$565,100 (which is \$24,600 less than the current projections using actual salaries/benefits and would decrease the Waterville cost per pupil to approximately \$9,500/student).

Position	AVG Salary & Benefits
Principal	43,500
Secretary	34,300
Para Professional	15,700
Para Professional	15,700
Para Professional	15,700
Regular Education Teacher	71,800
Regular Education Teacher	71,800
Regular Education Teacher	71,800
Regular Education Teacher	71,800
Title I/SPED Teacher (.7 FTE)	44,200
Art/TAG Teacher (33% WV, 33% West, 34% East)	23,700
SPED Teacher (25% WV, 75% MS)	18,000
PE Teacher (20% WV, 80% East)	14,400
Music Teacher (25% WV, 30% East, 30% West, 15% MS)	15,700
Band Teacher (20% WV, 80% MS)	12,600
Guidance Counselor (25% WV, 50% East, 25% West)	15,700
Librarian (10% WV, 40% HS, 30% MS, 10% East, 10% West)	7,200
Substitutes	20,400
After School Program Site Coordinator	25,300
	609,300

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Q58: IN THE PACKET, I SEE WE SPENT \$43K TO REPLACE THE GYM ROOF IN WATERVILLE THIS SPRING. IS THERE A REASON THOSE FUNDS WERE NOT PRIORITIZED TO FIX THE DRINKING WATER OR ELECTRICAL ISSUES FIRST?

When prioritizing, we thought of doing the water or electrical first. Ultimately, the decision was made that before we worry about the water and electrical, we must first maintain the structure of the building. The shingles were in poor shape to the point of leaking into the gym. We had several areas in the gym that had water on the floor, which could cause the floor to buckle and create a larger expense to the school or even worse, we could have lost the gym floor completely. As you know, water and electrical do not mix, and before we could work with the electrical, we had to make sure the building was watertight. If we start tearing into any wiring deficiencies before the building is watertight, we could again cause major problems to an already serious problem. At the time the roof was complete, the water was not a serious issue.

Q59: ARE THE PPEL FUNDS SOMETHING WE CAN APPLY FOR ANNUALLY OR WAS THIS A ONE-TIME GRANT? IS THIS SOMETHING WE CAN APPLY FOR AGAIN AND USE FOR THE NECESSARY REPAIRS? ARE THERE OTHER POSSIBLE GRANTS FOR THESE TYPE OF REPAIRS WE COULD APPLY FOR?

The Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) is an 'annually' certified levy in amount up to .33 per thousand of assessed valuation. We also have a voter approved PPEL levy (\$1.10). The amount raised through this voter-approved levy is a combination of property taxes and income surtax. The voter approved PPEL levy is for a maximum of ten years. The current PPEL levy is in place until 2021. If this levy is to be renewed, it will need to come before a vote of the district constituents before that time.

The Harkin grant was one grant that we utilized for repairs and school construction in the past. This grant is no longer available. There are no other grants available for these types of repairs at this time.

Q60: IF WE DID ANY TYPE OF FUND RAISING ACTIVITY, WOULD THOSE FUNDS GO DIRECTLY TO WATERVILLE OR WOULD WE ONLY GET "OUR PORTION"?

Any fundraiser, approved by the Board, would have to declare what the funds would be used for in the application for the fundraiser. If it specifically stated these funds were to be used for Waterville Elementary, they would be used for that building and purpose stated in the fundraising application.

Q61: WHAT WILL BE THE ACADEMIC ADVANTAGES FOR WATERVILLE STUDENTS IF THEY MOVE TO EAST OR WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS?

All of our teachers work very hard to provide the highest quality education possible for students. The board has adopted the state approved curriculum at all of the elementary schools. The district carefully selects textbooks that support our district curriculum and are used at all elementary schools. Our district professional development has been conducted with all elementary schools together, providing all of our teachers with strong, consistent instructional strategies. And all three elementary schools have very good technology access and internet service. However, the small staff and class configuration at Waterville do become barriers in some educational situations.

A few of the advantages at East and West Elementary are Intervention, Collaboration and Variety. These advantages are discussed in more depth below.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Intervention

As related to FAST requirements, students receive additional support in reading if they do not meet the benchmarks. Students receive interventions either individually or in groups. At Waterville, because of the declining enrollment, class configuration and small staff, teachers are responsible for learning and teaching multiple strategies in one classroom; so the depth of teaching and learning is minimized. At East, the larger staff allows for teachers to group students with the same reading weakness, then each teacher learns and teaches 'one' of the strategies to that identified group of students. This allows the teacher to provide a deeper understanding of the intervention.

Collaboration

Access to same grade level teachers provides frequent opportunity to collaborate about content, instructional strategies and student needs. Teachers can more effectively and efficiently meet student needs by flexible groupings.

Variety

Waterville Elementary provides the opportunity to have strong relationships, however having few friends and teacher options can come with problems. By working collaboratively with a variety of peers, students gain valuable college and career skills, including teamwork, accountability and responsibility for the ownership of selected lessons. Students will have a larger pool of peers to work with, expanding their network of friends. Having more flexibility in teacher sections provides students the opportunity to meet different friends and avoid those that may not mix well. This can hold true for student combinations as well as teacher/student assignments.