

## **School Consolidation Steering Committee**

**Mission:** To give our North Country students the best possible education, we will work together and make use of our resources.

### **Initial Decisions:**

- 1) Quality Education
- 2) Grade Configuration
- 3) Optimal Facility Usage

### **Underlying assumptions:**

- Enrollment is projected to drop by 100 students in the next three years.
- A quality education requires a sufficient number of teachers in middle school and high school to teach core and specialized courses to include vocational and alternative education, as well as college preparation and advanced placement classes.
- Class sizes lower than 10 do not allow for adequate socialization for students and limit the teaching methods a teacher can utilize.
- All students deserve physical education, art, and music classes that meet or exceed the minimum state requirement for weekly participation.
- Additional opportunities in vocational education and opportunities to participate in drama and dance would be a welcome addition.

### **What we will have to accept in this process and in the outcome:**

- As adults we choose where we live.
- The process and the outcome will not make everyone happy.
- This process will take awhile.
- Not every facility will be utilized fully/equally and building, expanding, or renovating may need to happen to accommodate the new school configuration(s) that are decided upon.
- The hope is that over time taxpayer money will be saved since enrollment is projected to drop. Consolidating schools should mean fewer teachers will be needed but again **the main focus is to expand educational offerings for all students.**

**Issues to be dealt with eventually but are not constructive at this time in the planning phase:** bussing, sports teams, school colors, mascots, school names, class instructional time frames (block vs. period), tuition per student, and employment patterns.