

WPS Swing Space/Redistricting Proposal SY 2022-2024

October 5, 2021



Wellesley Public Schools

Learning • Caring • Innovating

Overall Hunnewell/Hardy Construction Timeline

Hunnewell

- Construction begins in Summer 2022
- Swing space needed for students and staff for approximately 1.5 years
- Estimated move-in date to new Hunnewell school: February 2024

Hardy

- Construction begins on back of current Hardy site in early 2023
- Current school will operate during construction
- Estimated move-in date to new Hardy school: September 2024



Town Approval Timeline of Hardy/Hunnewell Projects

Special Town Meeting

- October 25th-27th

Townwide Debt Exclusion Vote

- December 7, 2021



How Best to Address Three Related School Needs?

- **Need #1:** Internal Swing Space for Hunnewell during construction
- **Need #2:** Acutely declining enrollment at Upham school
- **Need #3:** Full redistricting slated to occur for SY2024-25

Guiding Principle: Minimize overall student disruptions/transitions in the planning and implementation of swing space/redistricting



Need #1: Hunnewell Internal Swing Space



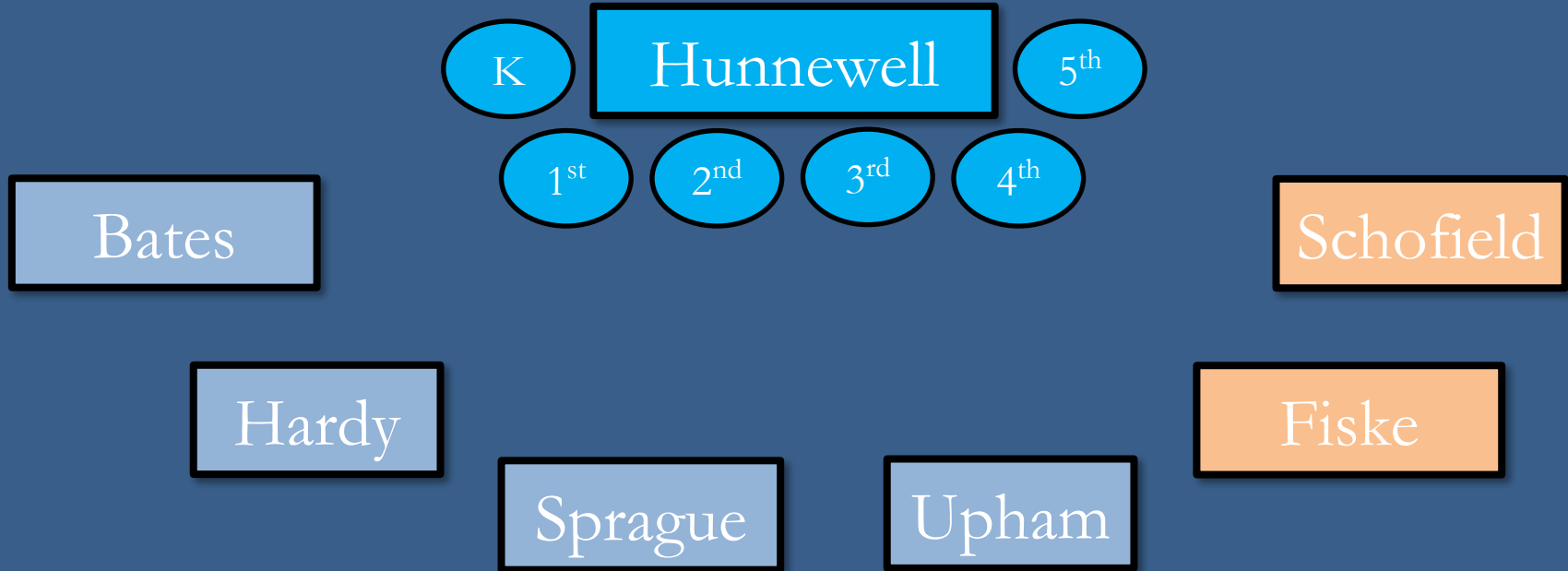
Hunnewell Internal Swing Space Needs

- Hunnewell is projected to have approximately 228 students in SY 2022-23 who have to be re-assigned, along with staff, when construction begins on the new school.
- Hunnewell also hosts the Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC), an in-district, specialized program serving students throughout Wellesley, that needs to be relocated.
- The original swing space plan (2019) called for multiple WPS elementary schools to host specific Hunnewell grade levels during construction.



Swing Space Option A

How would this work?

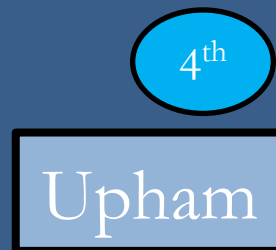
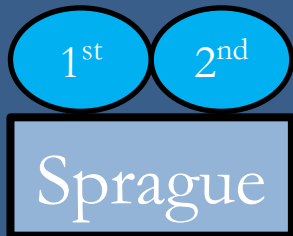
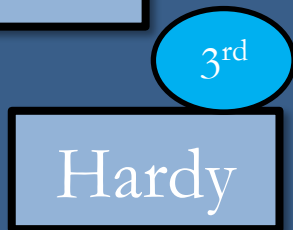
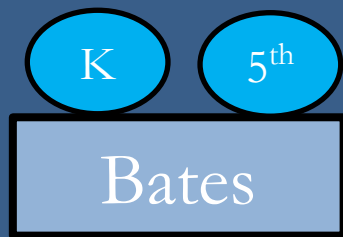


Swing Space Option A

How would this work?

Year One

Sept 2022 – June 2023



Swing Space Option A

How would this work?

Year Two

Sept 2023 – Feb 2024

K

1st

Bates

Hunnewell

Schofield

4th

Hardy

2st

3rd

Sprague

5th

Upham

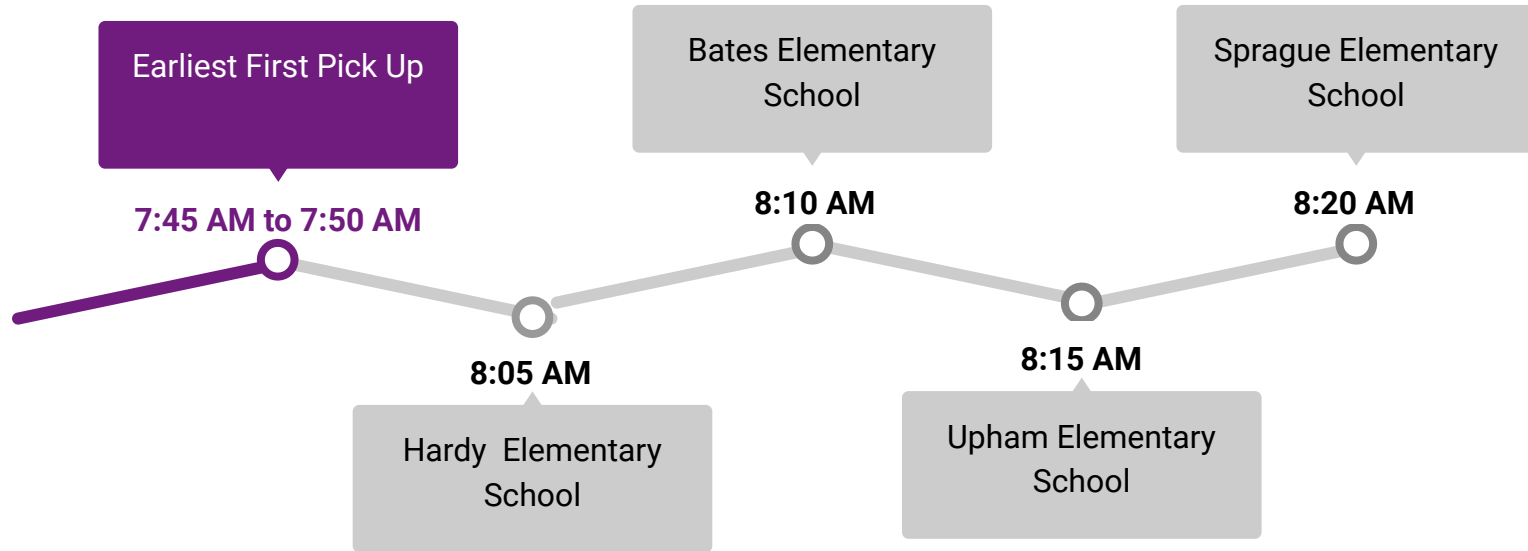
Fiske

Overview of Option A Transportation Model

- WPS will offer a no-cost transportation option to Hunnewell families throughout the swing space time period
- All students in the neighborhood transported on a single bus, which will make stops at each host school (Bates, Hardy, Upham, Sprague)
- Hunnewell attendance zone is divided into 6 bus zones.
 - Six buses needed;
 - Six Bus Monitors needed; and
 - Time on bus is estimated between 8 - 12 minutes and 35 - 38 minute route.



Option A: Neighborhood Pick Up to Bates, Hardy, Sprague, Upham



Estimated travel time is 8 - 12 minutes to 35 - 38 minutes.
Consistent with current bus routes.



Need #2: Addressing Declining Enrollment at Upham



Upham 5-Year Student Enrollment

SY 2017-18	SY 2018-19	SY 2019-20	SY 2020-21	SY 2021-22	SY 2022-23 Projected
236	232	225	157	168	170



Upham Enrollment by Grade Level SY 2021-22

Kindergarten	16 Students
	16 Students
Grade 1	11 Students
	10 Students
Grade 2	13 Students
	12 Students
Grade 3	13 Students
	13 Students
Grade 4	16 Students
	16 Students
Grade 5	16 Students
	16 Students



Challenges of Low Enrollment

- Maintaining viability of learning communities within grade levels
- Trying to avoid single grade level sections
- Reassigning families from other attendance zones (Bates/Sprague)
- Lack of equity in class sizes with other schools
- Additional cost of staffing to avoid single grade level sections
- Impact of impending closure
- After-school program availability



Need #3: Elementary Redistricting Slated to Occur in 2024 (Option A)



Elementary Redistricting Overview (Option A)

- Full, elementary redistricting plan approved by the School Committee in February 2020.
- Redistricting slated to occur once construction of Hunnewell and Hardy is complete.
- Upham would then close and WPS would transition from 7 to 6 elementary schools.



Guiding Principle: Attempt to minimize student disruptions/transitions in the planning and implementation of swing space/redistricting

Based on this guiding principle, is there a comprehensive solution that addresses swing space, declining enrollment, and redistricting?

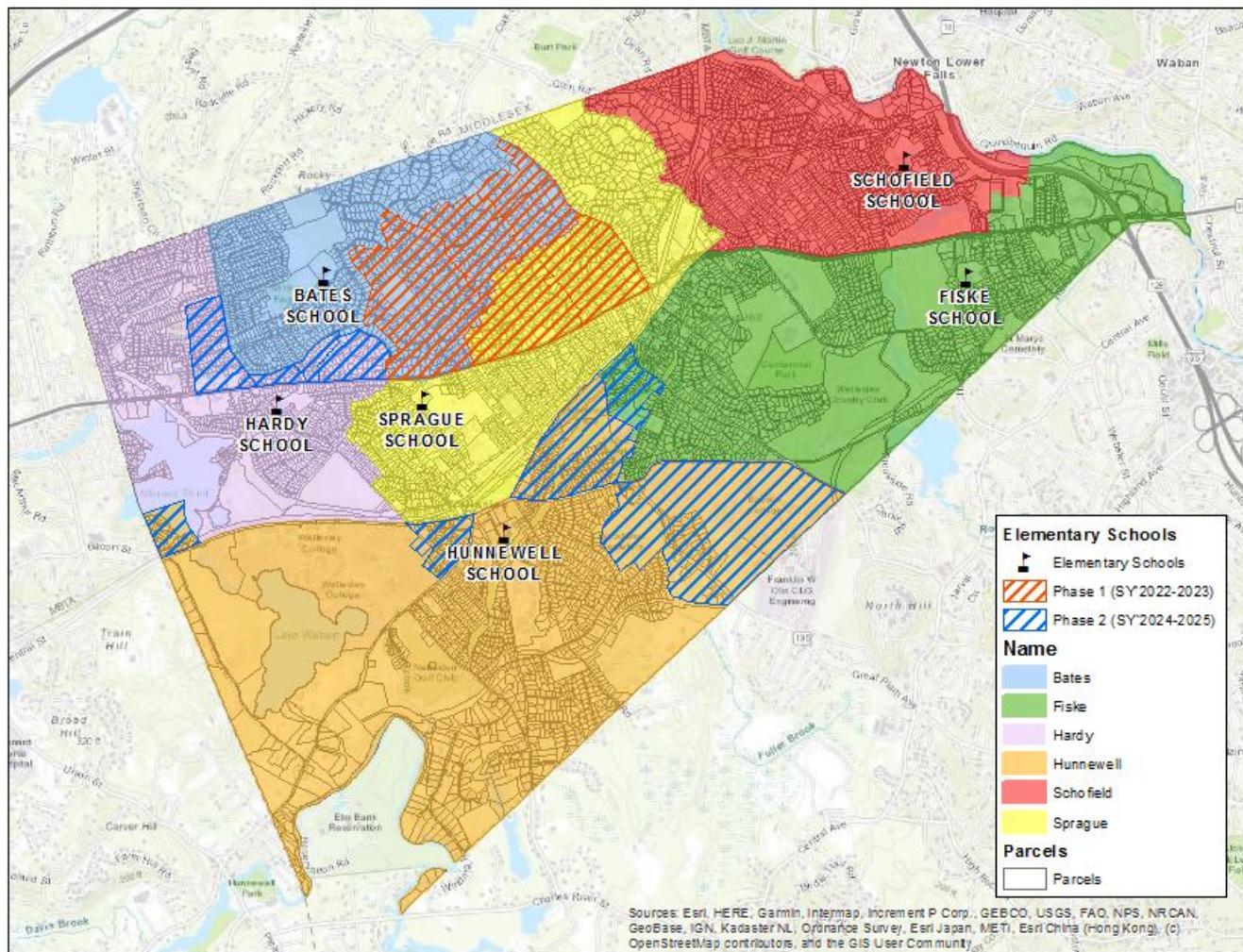


Details of Phased-In Redistricting/Swing Space Proposal (Option B)

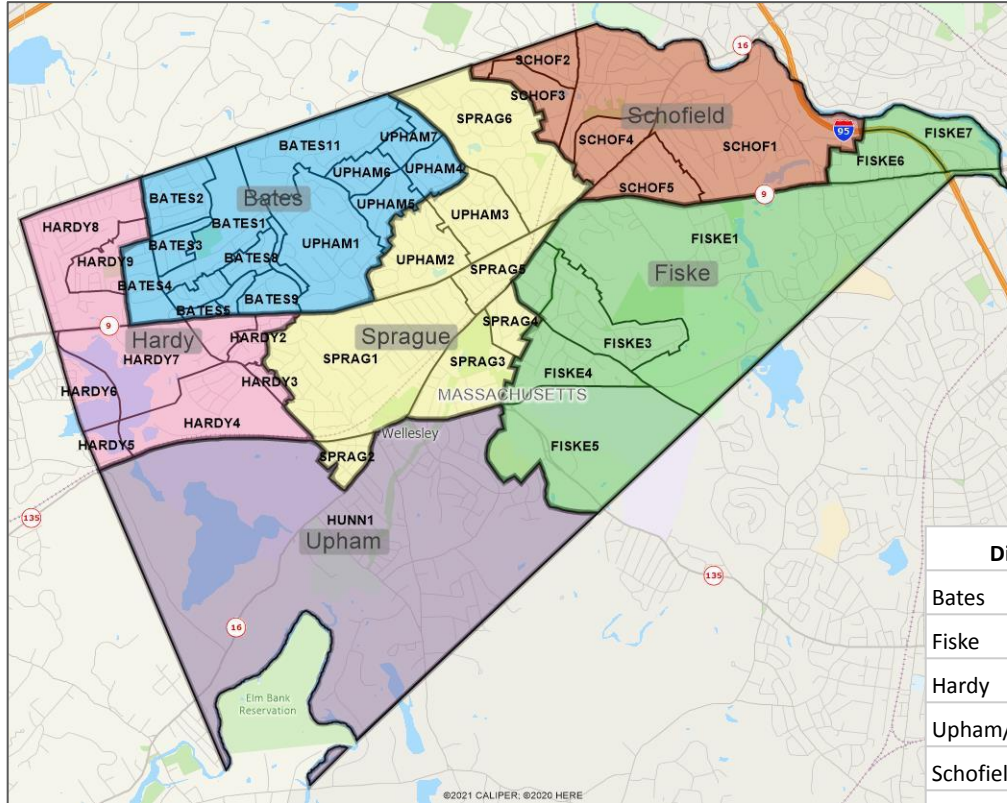


Proposed Phasing of WPS Elementary Redistricting Plan (Option B)

*Phase 1 (SY'2022-2023) and
Phase 2 (SY'2024-2025)
redistricting areas*



Proposed Phase 1 of WPS Elementary Redistricting Plan - SY'2022-23 (Option B)

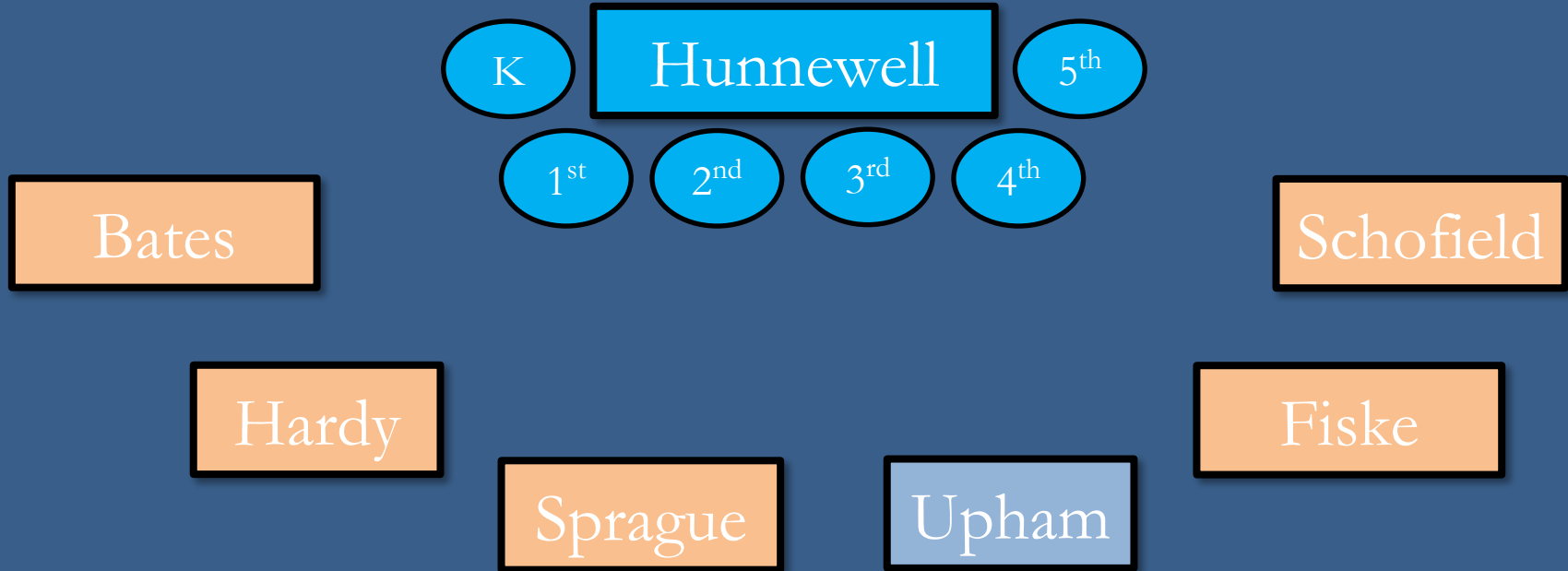


- All students would continue at their currently assigned schools except for Upham and Hunnewell
- Upham students would be assigned to Bates and Sprague per the approved redistricting map
- Students in the Skills program from Upham would be assigned to Hardy
- Non-resident Upham students would be assigned to Bates or Sprague
- The Hunnewell school would use the Upham school for swing space

District	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	K Thru 5
Bates	74	64	50	57	69	71	385
Fiske	49	44	36	48	48	35	260
Hardy	35	39	35	36	39	36	220
Upham/Hunnewell	42	34	36	33	42	41	228
Schofield	62	55	60	59	51	62	349
Sprague	58	49	40	55	61	73	336
	320	285	257	288	310	318	1778

Swing Space Option B

How would this work?



Swing Space Option B

How would this work?

Years One & Two

Sept 2022 – Feb 2024

Bates

Hardy

Sprague

Hunnewell
Grades K-5



Upham

Schofield

Fiske

Overview of Option B Transportation Model

- WPS will offer a no-cost transportation option to Hunnewell families throughout the swing space time period
- All students in the neighborhood transported on a single bus, which will travel directly to Upham
- Hunnewell attendance zone is divided into 5 bus zones.
 - Five buses needed;
 - No Bus Monitors needed; and
 - Time on bus is estimated between 8 - 12 minutes and 25 - 30 minute route.



Option B: Neighborhood Pick Up to Upham



Estimated travel time is 8 - 12 minutes to 25 - 30 minutes.
Consistent with current bus routes.



Details of Phased-In Redistricting/Swing Space Proposal (Option C)



Option C Background

- Development of third option in response to community feedback:
 - Concern that Upham is bearing the burden of transitions
 - Concern about transitions for students in the Skills and TLC programs
 - Concern about assigning Hunnewell 4th and 5th Graders to multiple schools
 - Cost is a consideration but should not be the main driver
 - It feels as though communities are being pitted against each other
 - Is there a way to modify the current options so that some of the solutions are shared by schools?
 - The community would welcome another option to consider



Option C Details (Year One: SY 2022-23)

Hunnewell

- The K-4 TLC program moves to the Hardy School
- The full Hunnewell 4th Grade class moves to the Hardy School
- The 5th Grade TLC program moves to the Sprague School
- The full Hunnewell 5th Grade class moves to the Sprague School
- The remaining Hunnewell Grades (K-3) are reassigned to the Upham School



Option C Details (Year One: SY 2022-23)

Upham

- The full Skills program remains at Upham
- Grades K & 1 are reassigned to Bates and Sprague per the redistricting plan
- Any new families registering for grades K-5 (as of January 1, 2022) are reassigned to Bates and Sprague per the redistricting plan (with the exception of new students in the Skills program)
- Any Upham grades 2-5 families that wish to voluntarily be reassigned to Bates or Sprague per the redistricting plan will be assigned to those schools
- The new K-5 classes at the Upham school are a blend of Upham and Hunnewell students (That would include incoming K-3 classes from Hunnewell and Grades Upham grades 2-5)
- The estimated total enrollment for Upham in this scenario is 260 (worst case scenario), which will be tight. Our hope is that enough Upham families in grades 2-3 will want to be reassigned to their future home school to avoid that late transition, which would bring this overall number down. Upham cannot house more than 13 sections while also hosting the full Skills program.



Option C Details (Year Two: SY 2023-24)

- All students (except 5th graders) progress one grade level at the same school
 - Upham School
 - K-5 Skills
 - Upham Grades 3-5
 - Hunnewell Grades K-4
 - Hardy School
 - Hardy K-5
 - Hunnewell Grade 5
 - Hunnewell TLC Grade 5
 - Bates/Sprague Schools
 - Bates/Sprague K-5
 - Upham K-2
- The transition into the new Hunnewell School occurs during the summer of 2024.



Swing Space “Option C”

Hunnewell

Year One
SY 2022-23

Upham

Grade
2-5

K-5
Skills

Grade
K-3

K-1

Grade
5

TLC 5

K-1

Grade
4

K-4
TLC

Hardy

Sprague

Bates

Swing Space “Option C”

Hunnewell

Year Two
SY 2023-24

Upham

Grade
3-5

K-5
Skills

Grade
K-4

Grade
5

K-5
TLC

Hardy

K-2

Sprague

K-2

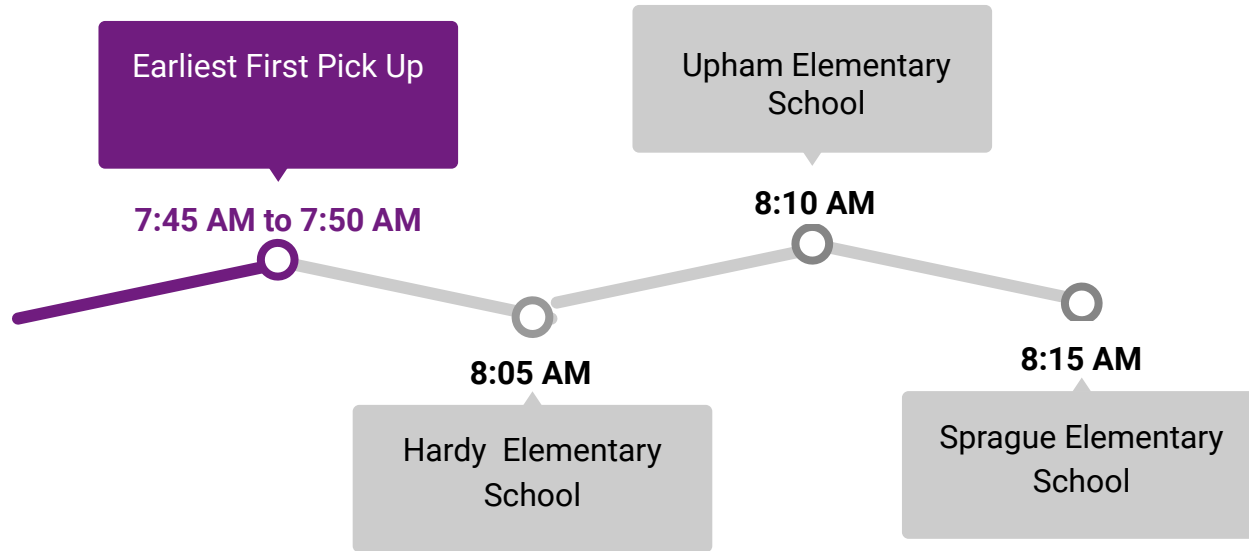
Bates

Overview of Option C Transportation Model

- WPS will offer a no-cost transportation option to Hunnewell families throughout the swing space time period
- All students in the neighborhood transported on a single bus, which will make stops at each host school (Hardy, Upham, Sprague)
- Hunnewell attendance zone is divided into 6 bus zones.
 - Six buses needed;
 - Six Bus Monitors needed; and
 - Time on bus is estimated between 8 - 12 minutes and 35 - 38 minute route.



Option C: Neighborhood Pick Up to Hardy, Sprague, Upham



Estimated travel time is 8 - 12 minutes to 35 - 38 minutes.
Consistent with current bus routes.



Cost Comparison of Swing Space Options A / B / C

Description	Option A	Description	Option B	Description	Option C
Building Construction	\$100,000	Building Construction	\$0	Building Construction	\$0
Site Work, Signage, Police Details, etc.	\$100,000	Site work only	\$100,000	Site work only	\$100,000
Consultant Fees	\$250,000	Consultant Fees	\$100,000	Consultant Fees	\$100,000
Busing and TLC Program	\$2,800,000	Busing (no TLC program costs)	\$1,150,000	Busing (G5 TLC program costs)	\$1,700,000
Moving, Storage & Other Contingencies	\$450,000	Moving, Storage & Other Contingencies	\$350,000	Moving, Storage & Other Contingencies	\$350,000
Estimated Budget	\$3,700,000	Estimated Budget	\$1,700,000	Estimated Budget	\$2,250,000



Additional Areas of Work/Collaboration

- Continue to refine staffing needs based on enrollment estimates
- Develop a redistricting approach for non-resident students|
- Preparation for the transition of specialized programs for swing space and redistricting
- Work with Bates/Hardy/Sprague school communities on transition plans that will help students and families integrate into their new schools



Key Points of Comparison of Options A & B

Option A	Option B	Option C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upham closes in June 2024 • All elementary redistricting occurs at one time • Hunnewell swing space implemented across 4 schools • Hunnewell move Feb. 2024 • Upham enrollment decline addressed through short term solutions • Longer preparation time for Skills program transition to Hardy • Maintains class size guidelines • Original timeline/expectations • Higher cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upham closes in June 2022 • Elementary redistricting occurs in two phases • Hunnewell swing space implemented at 1 school • Hunnewell move Feb. 2024 • Upham enrollment decline addressed through redistricting • Short preparation time for Skills program transition to Hardy • Maintains class size guidelines • New timeline/expectations • Lower cost than Option A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upham closes in June 2024 • Redistricting is phased in over a two-year period • Hunnewell swing space implemented across 3 schools • Hunnewell move June 2024 • Upham enrollment decline addressed through phased redistricting • Short preparation time for TLC program transition to Hardy/Sprague • Maintain class size guidelines • New timeline/expectations • Lower cost than Option A



Skills & TLC Program Planning: Options A & B

Option A	Option B	Option C
Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Skills Program & Staff move to Hardy in Fall '24 • Multi-step transition planning takes place during '22-'23 and '23-'24 	Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Skills Program & Staff move to Hardy in Fall '22 • Transition planning takes place during '21-'22 • Move to new building in Fall '24 	Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Skills Program & Staff move to Hardy in Fall '24 • Multi-step transition planning takes place during '22-'23 and '23-'24
TLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full TLC Program & Staff disperse to four schools (Bates, Hardy, Sprague, Upham) in Fall '22 • Increase TLC classrooms from 2 to 5 across 4 buildings; hire 3 add'l teachers, 3 add'l behavior specialists, 1 add'l BCBA & 1 add'l psychologist • TLC staff move to different schools in Fall '23 	TLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full TLC Program & Staff remain with Hunnewell School @ Upham • No additional staff or hiring • Move to new Hunnewell School in February '24 	TLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full TLC Program & Staff disperse to two schools (Sprague & Hardy) in Fall '22 • Move to new Hunnewell School in Fall '24 • Hire 1 additional teacher and 1 additional behavior specialist

Next Steps

- Seeking Feedback on proposal
 - Please send comments to SchoolPlanning@wellesleyps.org
- School Committee Listening Session (10/5/21)
- School Committee Vote (10/12/21)



QUESTIONS?

