

**Northeast Dubois County School Corporation Public Meeting #1**  
November 27, 2018

The first public meeting was held November 27, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria. The event was well attended (see attached Sign-In Sheet). VPS presented updated financial and enrollment data. It was made clear that the School Board is planning and working towards a position to not need to renew the General Fund Referendum in five years. Below are the questions and answers given.

1. Q: What is your (VPS) recommendation?  
A: To engage the public in solving the issue, which is that there is far more capacity in the school buildings than there are students. Current Capacity is 1,300 and enrollment at 819.
2. Q: Do they know how many and why students have left to go to other schools?  
A: We will find out and let you know at the next meeting. It is being tracked but mostly due to programs or work locations. Currently in the last year the school corporation took in more than left for a positive net gain.
3. Q: Do we know the breakdown of each facility capacity?  
A.: Yes. 1,300 total student capacity, but only 819 students. Middle School and HS are at 400+ each and the elementary schools have a total capacity of 500.
4. Q: Can you explain state Revenue and revenue per student?  
A: The school corporation receives approximately \$5,500.00 per student. It increases on an average of about 1.2% a year. For each student drop in enrollment the corporation loses \$5,500.00 in revenue.
5. Q: What did Barr-Reeve do to increase enrollment?  
A: Not sure exactly...it's a similar community. I believe it is the perception of the school corporation as a whole and the districts they border.
6. Q: Are there only three options?  
A: No. Those are just possible options. Another option would be to go to a K-6, 7-12 and only utilize two buildings. We are here to discuss solutions and come up with a feasible configuration.
7. Q: Does Celestine have to be forced to be ADA compliant?  
A: Yes, it should be if a complaint was filed. By code it should already be.
8. Q: How quickly could Celestine be closed?  
A: Could be as early as next year. Goal is to put school corp. in best possible situation. Currently the middle school could absorb the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Dubois Elementary could absorb the rest. Ultimately, it will be a board decision.
9. Q: What about special programs to "draw people in", like culinary programs? Career Tech?  
A: We will find out and let you know at the next meeting. In general, the costs to add the programs, for example football, exceed the revenue retained by the corporation.

10. Q: How many positions would be saved by consolidating schools?  
A: Hope to have numbers by next meeting. This will mostly be determined by the options explored. The corporation has been trimming staff through retirements mostly to date.
11. Q: What kind of research is being done to consider future growth of Celestine?  
A: No big housing starts going on. We will look at the birth rates since 2016 but the trend is a continued decrease.
12. Q: Superintendent refers to "buckets" of money; bond issue; what can be paid out of that?  
A: As you decrease in enrollment, you lose money from the state that goes into the general fund. This fund pays salaries, utilities, insurance etc. Up until this year there were four distinct funds. That has been changed to two and it has become a little easier to move excess funds from one fund to another.
13. Q: Where does the funding come from for this study?  
A: General Fund. VPS is getting paid \$5,000.00. We did not conduct the 2016 study, so I can't tell you how much it cost or how it was funded.
14. Q: Do we know the cost to run each building?  
A: We will have those costs for the next meeting.
15. Q: Can we get a copy of your power point presentation?  
A: Yes. We'll post it on the district website along with all of these questions and answers. \*\*It's already posted on the school corp. website.
16. Q: What if we don't have Facebook? How are we supposed to know about these meetings?  
A: The meeting invitation was also posted on the school corp. website and a Reminder message will be sent out.
17. Q: What did you do at Barr-Reeve from an architectural standpoint?  
A: It's their reputation; the perception is that the school corporation is better. Upgrades, ADA, sold bonds for new gym and classrooms but these are not driving their growth.
18. Q: Did Barr-Reeve conduct a study on why students are coming or going?  
A: Athletics? Academics? I believe it is the reputation of the school corporation drawing students from surrounding corporations. I would say that you are on a similar playing field in terms of reputation.
19. Q: If Celestine closed, has study been conducted, are we going to lose students from the Corporation?  
A: Possibly. It depends on transportation. The current configuration of 4 buildings and declining enrollment is becoming unsustainable.
20. Q: Are busses at capacity? Would we need fewer busses?  
A: No, it wouldn't be significant. Not sure there would be a big impact on bus transportation.
21. Q: 3 options-if there are others before the board votes, will the public get to see?  
A: Yes. That's what we're meeting for now. We will inform you, hear what you have, and carry the information back to the board.

22. Q: What other options are there?  
A: Based on enrollment numbers, I could see going to two school buildings with a Pre-K through 6 and a 7-12.
23. Q: Has there been a study to combine grades 7-12? Is that a good or bad idea?  
A: Concerns about 7<sup>th</sup> graders mixing with 12<sup>th</sup> graders. 7-12 configuration could be done, but it would take remodeling to provide a wing for 7/8 grades and minimize mixing of students with older students.
24. Q: How much money needs to be cut to avoid a general fund referendum in the future?  
A: In simple terms, the referendum generates \$600,000.00, so without it the corporation would need to roughly eliminate \$600,000.00 in expenses.
25. Q: How do you project enrollment?  
A: The projection is for enrollment to continue to decline as it has been.
26. Q: At Celestine how is the deed structured and does it go back to the Parish?  
A: If the school corporation does not use it for educational programs it will revert back to the parish for \$1.00, I believe.
27. Q: How much money will be raised in the bond issue in 2019 for construction?  
A: 3.2 million.
28. Q: 2024 Bond?  
A: Approximately 4.3 million.
29. Q: Repayment options?  
A: The repayment plan is driven by what will keep the tax rate level. This will be a board decision.
30. Q: Hypothetically, 7-12 in one building-is the current high school set up/ready for it, and would they have 2 separate administrations?  
A: It would require renovations. Renovate art/music/special educ. wing to create a 7/8 wing. It has the square footage but would not work in the current configuration. The configuration of the administrative team would be a board decision. Public opinion that the 7/8 grades would need their own administrator.
31. Q: Who owns Dubois Elementary and what happens to it if it closes?  
A: It is my understanding this is a school corporation facility. If closed it will either be sold as surplus or potentially demolished.
32. Q: Will the Diocese buy back the building? Is the school corp. stuck with it? What about Dubois Elementary? I heard it's already sold.  
A: We will find out and let you know at the next meeting.

Most of the discussion focused on funding and enrollment. The three options presented in 2016 were discussed, as well as a fourth option of a Pre-K-6 and a 7-12 configuration.

The following questions were asked to be answered at the next meeting:

1. Who owns Dubois Elementary School?
2. How much would be saved by closing each building based upon the configurations?
3. Will there be significant expenses with transportation?
4. Where/why are kids transferring to other schools?

The next meeting will begin to dive into looking at plans and configurations of the options discussed, as well as address questions that required more input.

# VPS ARCHITECTURE

528 Main Street, Suite 400  
Evansville, IN 47708  
P: 812.423.7729  
F: 812.425.4561

## Public Meeting Sign-In Sheet

**Project:** Northeast Dubois County School Corporation Study  
**Owner:** Northeast Dubois County School Corporation  
**VPS Project No:** 2018034.00  
**Date:** November 27, 2018

| Name                    | School   |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sue Jane Poppe          | NEDES, NEDMS, NEDHS                            |
| Abbey ??????            | Celestine Elementary                           |
| Tammy & Steven Polen    | NEDMS  |
| Michael & Kelly Tretter | NEDMS, NEDHS                                   |
| Ryan Wineinger          | Celestine Elementary                           |
| Anita Murphy            | Dubois Branch Public Library                   |
| Brian Dodd              | NEDHS  |
| Tony R. Smock           | NEDMS  |
| Paula Wehr              | Celestine Elementary                           |
| Jami Gress              | Celestine Elementary                           |
| Kim Miley               | NEDES, NEDMS                                   |
| Christine Betz          | Celestine Elementary Teacher / Junior Daughter |
| Tara Rasche             | NEDHS  |
| Tracey G?????           | NEDHS  |
| Judy Haase              | Celestine Elementary Secretary                 |
| Denise Schroering       | Celestine Elementary                           |
| Gene Bonifer            | All-grandparent                                |
| Stan & Karla Goodman    | Celestine Elementary, NEDMS                    |
|                         |  |
|                         |  |
|                         |  |
|                         |  |
|                         |  |

\*Please note that while only 21 people signed in, there were approximately 45 to 50 people in attendance.

# Northeast Dubois School Corporation



A large crowd of graduates in blue caps and gowns is visible in the background, suggesting a commencement ceremony. The graduates are wearing blue caps with gold tassels and blue gowns with gold stoles. They are standing in rows, and the scene is brightly lit, likely outdoors.

## **BOARD GOALS:**

**Provide a quality, competitive education**

**Continue to be financially responsible**

**Eliminate the need for future general fund referendum**

## How are we spending the referendum money?

- State mandated retirement costs of all employees - \$320,000
- Extra-curricular salaries - \$175,000
- Pre-school teacher / Elementary Music teacher - \$70,000
- We were able to give employee raises for the first time in 5 years and we hope to continue to give standard of living raises each year

## What we are doing to be financially stable when referendum ends?

- Returned Director of School Improvement, Assessment and Technology to part-time – summer 2017
- Eliminated a Language Arts position at the High School – summer 2017
- Eliminated (2) Aide positions – summer 2017
- In 2017 changes saved \$110,000.00 **\*\*off-set by decrease in enrollment (\$182,280 loss)**

## WHY NOW?

- Our duty to be fiscally responsible
- Need to plan NOW for the FUTURE
- Must keep tax rates stable
- Need to prepare for the end of the referendum, only 5 more years
- Debt will fall off in 2020
- Financial Advisor recommends having plan in place by February 2019 to prepare for 2020 budget
- Need to keep monitoring enrollment and plan finances accordingly

# 2016 Study Recommendations:

I.a. Maintain the current operating structure

I.b. Conduct a general fund operating tax referendum

Option A: In 2020 at the High School renovations are recommended to the academic classrooms, vocational work areas, cafeteria and athletic facilities and an addition of a classroom wing and gymnasium to be included for occupation by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. This addition of state of art facility for delivery of educational services for grades 7 – 12 through and beyond mid-century.

Restructure of the current grade structure and facilities used in the corporation:

The organizational structure would reflect

- 1 Elementary School grades K-2
- 1 Middle School grades 3, 4, 5 and 6
- 1 Junior Senior High grades 7 -12

Option B: Classroom addition at Dubois Elementary School to house K-4 to include students from Celestine Elementary School:

- 1 Elementary School grades K-4
- 1 Middle School grades 5,6,7and 8
- 1 High School grades 9 -12

Option C: Upgrade and modernize Celestine Elementary School utilizing the century old façade as the centerpiece for renovation:

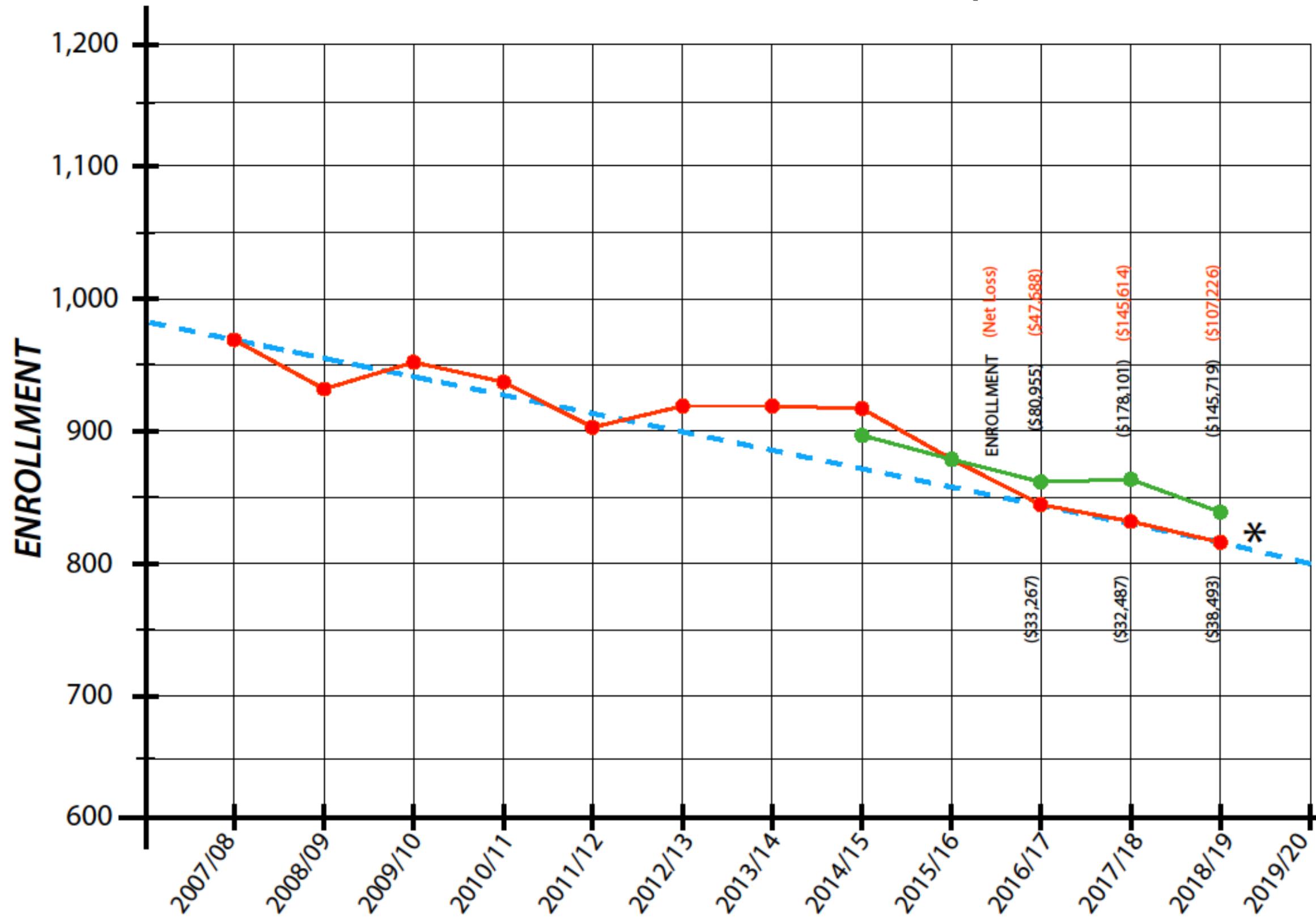
Renovations to classrooms, additional office space, modernized cafeteria and added classrooms to house increase population of students:

- 2 Elementary School grades K-4
- 1 Middle School grades 5,6,7and 8
- 1 High School grades 9 -12

## 2016 Study Enrollment Estimates with 2017 – 2018 Actuals:

| Year                      | '15-16     | '16-17     | '17-18        | '18-19        | '19-20                     |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Celestine                 | 94         | 89         | 85            | 85            | 83                         |
| Dubois                    | 221        | 218        | 210           | 210           | 203                        |
| MS                        | 288        | 277        | 282           | 266           | 261                        |
| HS                        | 276        | 280        | 289           | 285           | 288                        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>879</b> | <b>864</b> | <b>866</b>    | <b>846</b>    | <b>835</b>                 |
| <b>*Actual Enrollment</b> |            |            | <b>*(833)</b> | <b>*(819)</b> | <b>** (807) Projection</b> |

# Annual Enrollment Graph



(Total addition cost savings 2016 - 2018 \$301,926)

## State Revenue and Revenue per Student:

### Revenue from State:

|         |             |                |             |             |
|---------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2012-13 | \$5,877,803 | +KG(\$151,000) | \$6,029,003 |             |
| 2013-14 | \$5,821,638 | +KG(\$165,600) | \$5,987,238 | (\$41,765)  |
| 2014-15 | \$5,768,461 | +KG(\$141,600) | \$5,910,061 | (\$77,177)  |
| 2015-16 | \$5,628,154 |                | \$5,628,154 | (\$281,907) |
| 2016-17 | \$5,518,156 |                | \$5,518,156 | (\$109,998) |
| 2017-18 | \$5,360,310 |                | \$5,360,310 | (\$157,846) |
|         |             |                | Total       | (\$668,693) |

### Revenue per student:

|      |         |
|------|---------|
| 2014 | \$5,256 |
| 2015 | \$5,321 |
| 2016 | \$5,397 |
| 2017 | \$5,436 |
| 2018 | \$5,444 |
| 2019 | \$5,523 |

**\*\*Average +\$53.40/ a student per year increase  
1 % increase annually**

# Educational Facility Capacities:

## Celestine Elementary School:

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Original Occupancy                 | 1941   |
| Additions/ Renovation              | 2010 Classrooms remodeled<br>2011 Classrooms remodeled |
| School Site Area                   | 8 acres  |
| Building Area                      | 14,848 square feet                                     |
| Classrooms                         | 6  |
| <b>Current Grade Configuration</b> | <b>K-4</b>   |
| <b>Student Capacity</b>            | <b>150</b>   |
| Current Enrollment                 | 94   |

## Dubois Elementary School:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Original Occupancy                 | 1944  |
| Additions/ Renovation              | 2012 Remodeled all classrooms<br>2012 Remodeled and moved offices |
| School Site Area                   | 2 acres   |
| Building Area                      | 36,020 square feet  |
| Classrooms                         | 14  |
| <b>Current Grade Configuration</b> | <b>PK-4</b>   |
| <b>Student Capacity</b>            | <b>350</b>  |
| Current Enrollment                 | 221   |

## Dubois Middle School:

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Original Occupancy                 | 1959   |
| Additions/ Renovation              | 2014 Remodeled 7 rooms<br>2015 Remodeled 4 rooms |
| School Site Area                   | 12 acres   |
| Building Area                      | 73,723 square feet                               |
| Classrooms                         | 25   |
| <b>Current Grade Configuration</b> | <b>5-8</b>                                       |
| <b>Student Capacity</b>            | <b>400</b>                                       |
| Current Enrollment                 | 288  |

## Dubois High School:

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Original Occupancy                 | 1976               |
| Additions/ Renovation              | 2014 Remodeled     |
| School Site Area                   | 53 acres           |
| Building Area                      | 96,666 square feet |
| Classrooms                         | 24                 |
| <b>Current Grade Configuration</b> | <b>9-12</b>        |
| <b>Student Capacity</b>            | <b>400</b>         |
| Current Enrollment                 | 276                |

**Total Capacity - 1300 Students**  
**Actual Enrollment as of 2018 - 819 Students**

| 2018-19         | K  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Celestine Elem. | 21 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 20 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 85    |
| Dubois Elem.    | 49 | 37 | 46 | 41 | 44 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 217   |
| Dubois Middle   |    |    |    |    |    | 55 | 64 | 60 | 65 |    |    |    |    | 244   |
| High School     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 70 | 65 | 66 | 72 | 273   |
| Totals          | 70 | 52 | 61 | 55 | 64 | 55 | 64 | 60 | 65 | 70 | 65 | 66 | 72 | 819   |

**Enrollment 2017-2018**

ADM September

|                 | K  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Celestine Elem. | 14 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 19 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 85    |
| Dubois Elem.    | 43 | 44 | 39 | 41 | 36 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 203   |
| Dubois Middle   |    |    |    |    |    | 65 | 62 | 67 | 71 |    |    |    |    | 265   |
| High School     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 63 | 69 | 72 | 76 | 280   |
| Totals          | 57 | 61 | 55 | 60 | 55 | 65 | 62 | 67 | 71 | 63 | 69 | 72 | 76 | 833   |



# Questions?