

Public Forum Grade 5-6 Academy

February 6, 2014



SMARTR Committee Rationale for Grade 5-6 Academy

- Renovates/revitalizes an historical school
- Addresses immediate need for classroom space in all schools currently at 98% use
- Provides flexibility for future school renovations by providing swing space during renovations
- Maximizes state reimbursement
- Achieves lower cost solution/investment
- Provides shared common areas at Bennet Academy
- Creates a desirable campus environment in downtown Manchester
- Complies with state mandated racial balance
- Provides educational benefits



Educational Benefits of the Grade 5-6 Academy

Academic

- Promotes an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to teaching by extending the team teaching model to grade 5
- Promotes greater curriculum and instructional accountability and alignment between grades
- Raises the level of academic expectations gradually over two years, supporting students as they transition from concrete to abstract thinking and helping them adjust to middle school.
- Promotes flexible staffing patterns to allow teachers to work with the same group of students over two years (looping)



Educational
Benefits of the
Grade 5-6
Academy

Continued

Social-Emotional

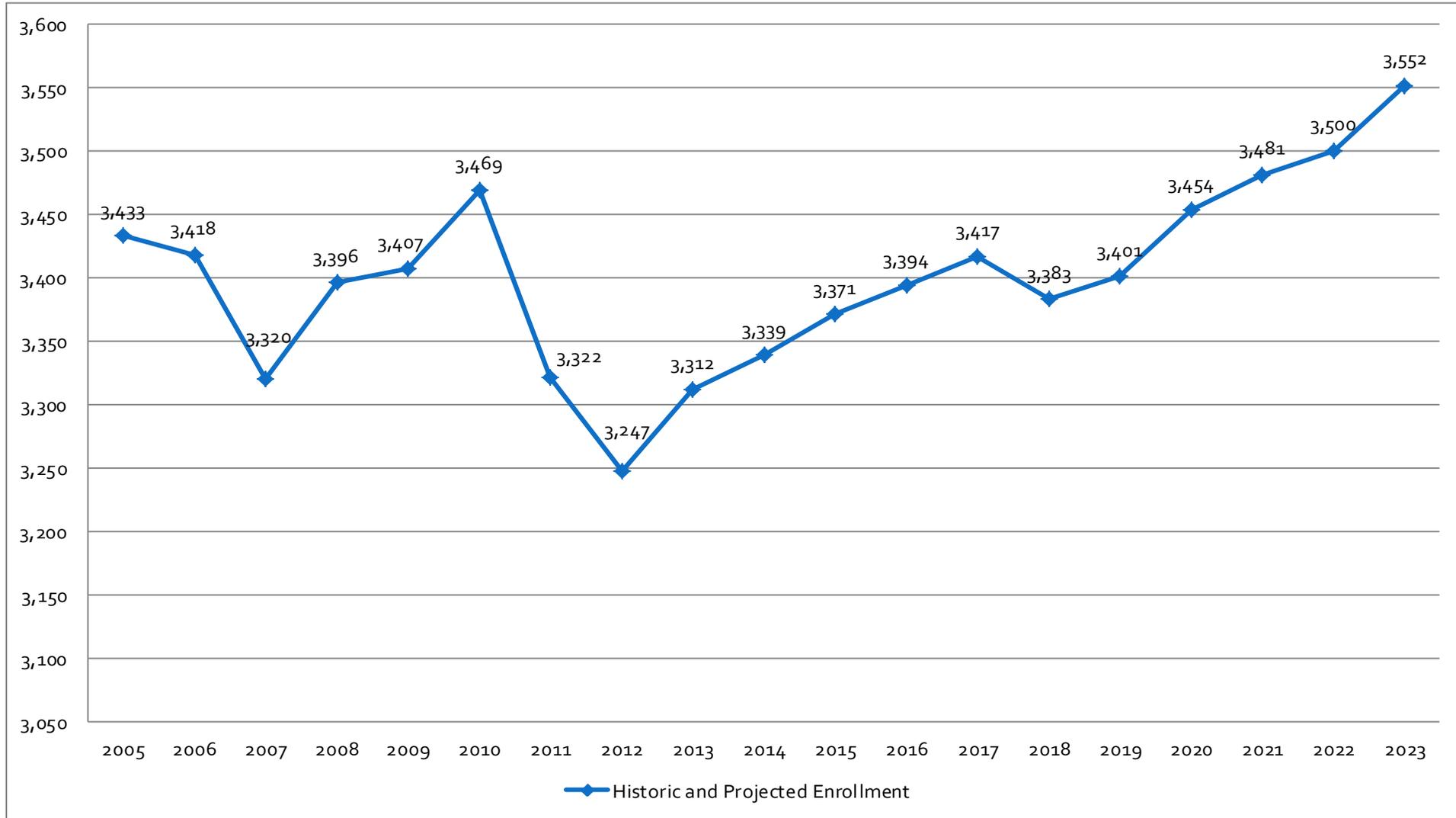
- Meets the unique needs of emerging adolescents by addressing social and emotional needs of ten to twelve year olds
- Allows students to better acclimate to the school for two rather than just one year
- Allows sixth graders, the oldest of the 5-6 pair, to acquire leadership opportunities in the school
- Allows administrators and staff to have a longer opportunity to be more familiar with and respond to the needs of students
- Improves parent engagement and investment by maintaining a connection with the school for two years.



Elementary School Classroom Inventory

School	Total Classrooms	Regular Full Size Classrooms	Art	Music	Other	Special Education District Programs	Available Classrooms
Bowers	24	21	1	1		1	0
Buckley	24	16	1	1		6	0
Highland Park	19	15	1	1	1 Computer 1 Science	0	0
Keeney St.	24	19	1	1	1 Computer	1	1
Martin	16	15	1	On Stage		0	0
Robertson	24	19	1	1		2	0
Verplanck	22	19	1	1		1	0
Waddell	22	18	1	1		2	0
Washington	22	20	1	1		0	0

PK - 5th Grade Historic and Projected Enrollments



Estimated Annual Taxes in Peak Year Based on 20-Year Bonds

Taxpayer Assessed at \$137,800 (median residential)	Taxpayer Assessed at \$175,000	Taxpayer Assessed at \$210,000
\$22	\$28	\$34

The estimates are based on:

- The anticipated bond sale schedule and interest rates
- The October 2012 Grand List

Projected Debt Service Payments for Fiscal Years 2014-2033: All Existing and Authorized Debt Plus Elementary School Initiative (in millions)

