



Optimizing For Equity

Jackson Public Schools' 3-Year Plan to Redesign
Schools to Support *Excellence For All*

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Superintendent

Why Are We Recommending These Changes?



Provide **equitable access to resources** for students and teachers across the entire district.



Establish **stable school communities** that foster positive relationships between scholars and caring adults.

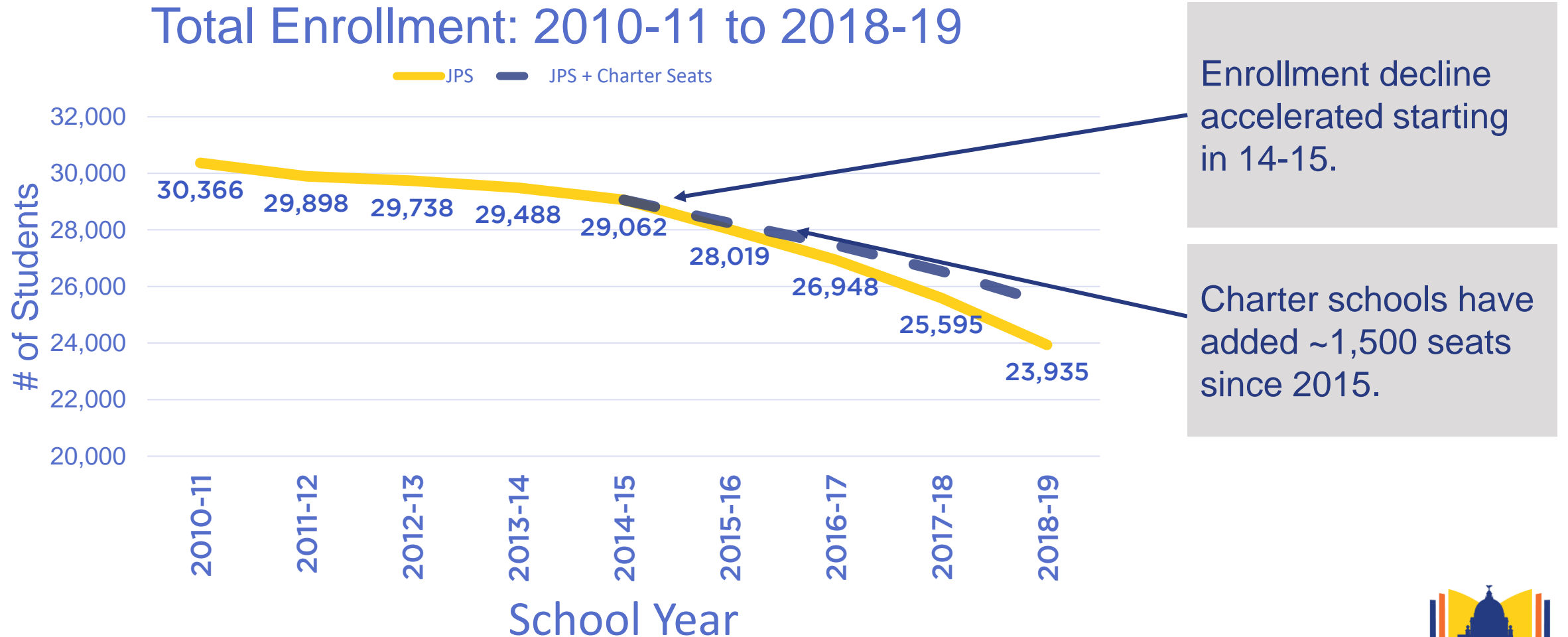


Provide **high quality instruction** through ongoing professional development for teachers.



Maintain **fiscal sustainability** to maximize our current investments in teaching and learning for JPS scholars and their families.

Since 2010-11, JPS has lost roughly 6,700 students, or over 20% of its student enrollment



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Total Enrollment: 2010-11 to 2018-19

— JPS — JPS + Charter Seats

Given these enrollment trends, we cannot continue to do “school as usual.” We must take disciplined action to mitigate the enrollment slide and provide excellence for all.



Enrollment decline accelerated starting 2015-16

Charter schools have added ~1,500 seats since 2015.



What is *Optimizing For Equity*?

Optimizing For Equity is our three-year proposal to redesign our district and fulfill our strategic plan commitments by:

1. Expanding Prekindergarten Access at **McWillie Elementary** (Commitment #1: A Strong Start).
2. Repurposing **Van Winkle Elementary** as a Prekindergarten Center serving 4-year-olds in South Jackson (Commitment #1: A Strong Start).
3. Closing **Barr Elementary** & Merging with Pecan Park Elementary School (Commitment #2: Innovative Teaching & Learning; Maintain fiscal sustainability).



What is *Optimizing For Equity*?

4. Consolidating **Siwell & Cardozo Middle** Schools (Commitment #2; Equitable Access to Resources).
5. Consolidating **Hardy & Blackburn Middle** Schools (Commitment #2; Equitable Access to Resources).
6. Repurposing Rowan Middle as a districtwide **Center for Teaching & Learning** (Commitment #3: Talented & Empowered Teams).
7. Commissioning a community taskforce to develop a plan to strengthen the **Lanier High School Feeder Pattern** including enrollment, facilities, and academic programming (Stable School Communities).





Through our internal and external conversations with scholars, parents, teachers, leaders, partners, alumni and community members, it is clear **we all desire to put our scholars in the best possible position to succeed.**



Elementary Redesign

1. McWillie Elementary
2. VanWinkle Elementary
3. Barr Elementary

Why Expand Prekindergarten?

“During the community sessions and on surveys, participants overwhelmingly agreed that comprehensive early childhood education is important because it helps prepare the children for school.”

For those parents who did not have children that participated in early childhood education programs, the reason cited most often was availability.”

- Jackson Public Schools
One Voice Report (pg. 27)



Why Expand Prekindergarten? Our Kindergarten Readiness Data

Prior Enrollment	Fall Count	Fall K Readiness (MKAS Readiness Benchmark: 530)
Childcare	270	487.5
Family care	17	514.8
Head Start	681	464.2
Home	402	450.1
Pre-K Private	87	521.4
JPS Pre-K	637	532.1*
Repeater	77	491.0
Unknown	18	492.0
Grand Total	2189	488.1

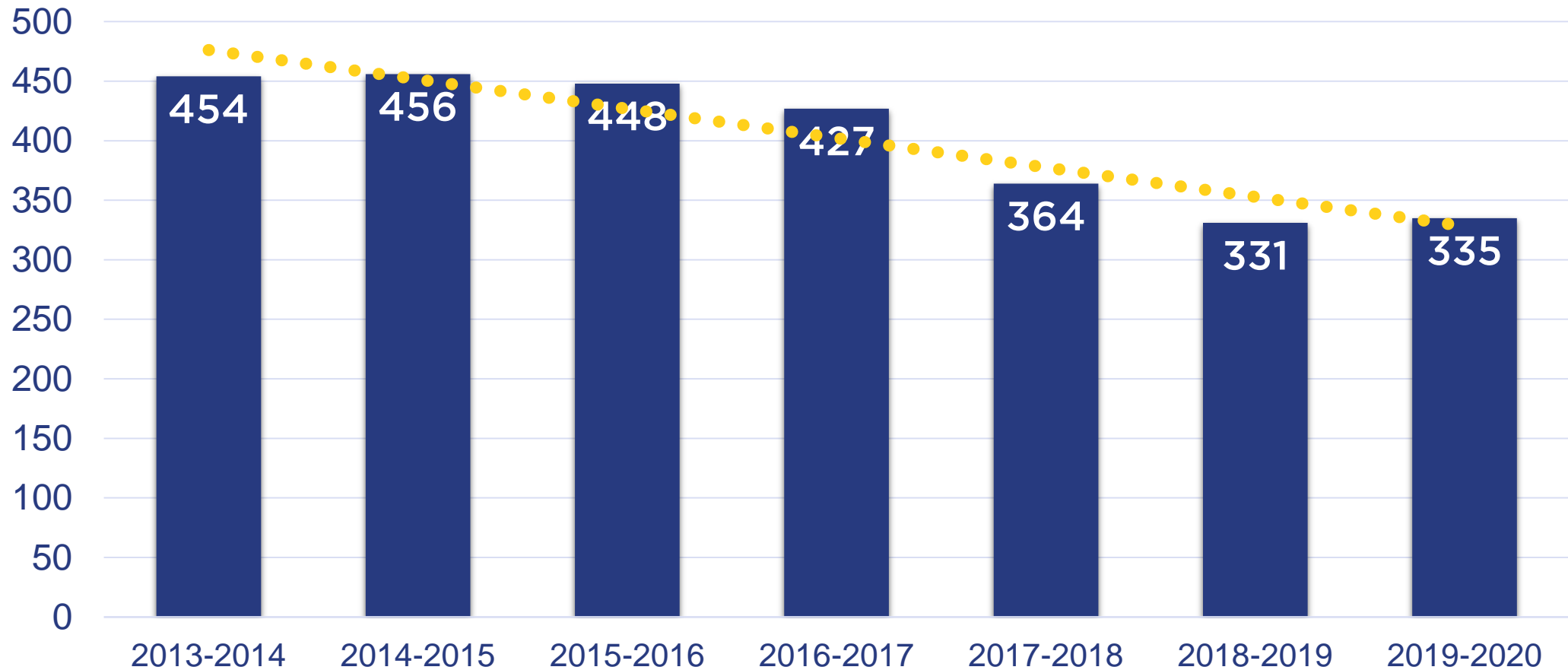


Our Proposal for McWillie Elementary

- We are proposing an expansion of Pre-K offerings at McWillie Elementary to serve more North Jackson families (increase by 5 sections or approximately 100 4-year olds).
- Due to a very low 6th grade enrollment, the 6th-grade Montessori program would end in 5th grade.
- This proposal will also support growth for the kindergarten program at Boyd Elementary and decrease the transitions from kindergarten into 1st grade.



Enrollment at Van Winkle Elementary (2013-Present)



Our Proposal for Van Winkle Elementary

- Repurpose Van Winkle Elementary as a PreKindergarten center.
- Ideal site given its physical layout in Montessori “pods” and accessible restrooms that meet state Pre-K guidelines without retrofitting.
- Serve students in the Provine, Jim Hill, Forest Hill, and Wingfield High School feeder patterns.
- K-5 scholars at Van Winkle will be rezoned to Clausell and Bates Elementary Schools. Rezoning maps are in development.

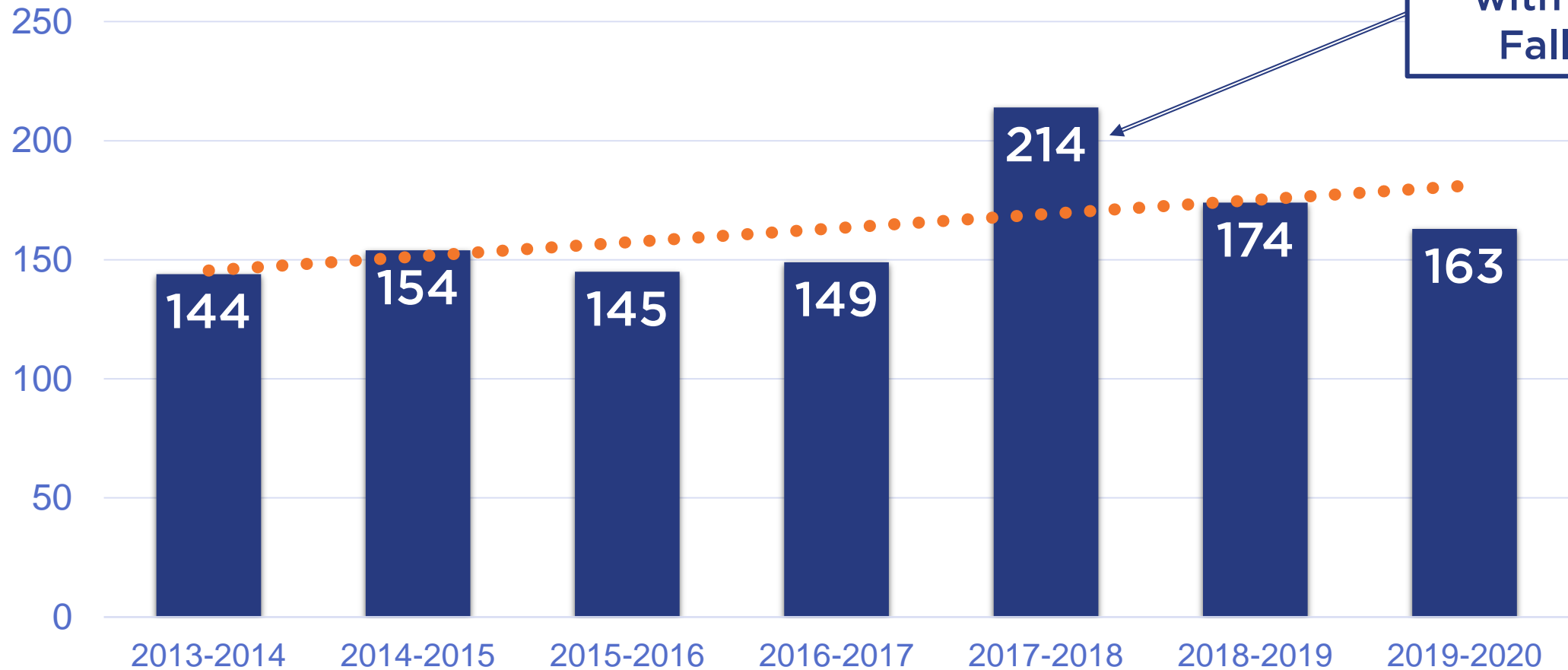


Our Proposal For Van Winkle

- The English Language site and related supports will be shifted to Bates Elementary.
- We are presently collaborating with Hinds County Human Resource Agency to align programming and integrate funding for early childhood.
- Van Winkle site would also allow us to expand inclusive prekindergarten offerings for students with special needs.
- Transportation and exceptional education services will be provided for students who will attend Bates and Van Winkle.
- Families may apply also for special program school enrollment at Casey (K-5), Power APAC (4-5), and Obama Magnet (K-5).



Enrollment at Barr Elementary (2013-Present)



Our Proposal for Barr Elementary

- Barr Elementary would close effective July 2020 due to declining enrollment and facilities challenges. The basement of the building is inoperable (including the cafeteria) due to intermittent flooding and daily meals are currently delivered from Forest Hill High School.
- Approximately 140 Barr students will attend Pecan Park Elementary School (Currently Rated “A” by the Mississippi Department of Education) in the 2020-2021 school year.
- Transportation will be provided to students within the Barr zone.



Our Proposal For Barr

- Families may apply also for special program school enrollment at Casey (K-5), Power APAC (4-5), and Obama Magnet (K-5).





Middle School Redesign

- 4. Siwell-Cardozo Consolidation
- 5. Hardy-Blackburn Consolidation

Benefits of Sustainable Middle School Enrollments



Enhanced
Teacher
Collaboration



Greater Equity in
Course & Elective
Offerings



Increased Access
to Certified
Educators



Fiscal Savings for
Staffing



Current Combined Costs:

\$4,722,390.37

Potential Savings (Consolidated):

-\$822,390.37 to -\$991,790.37

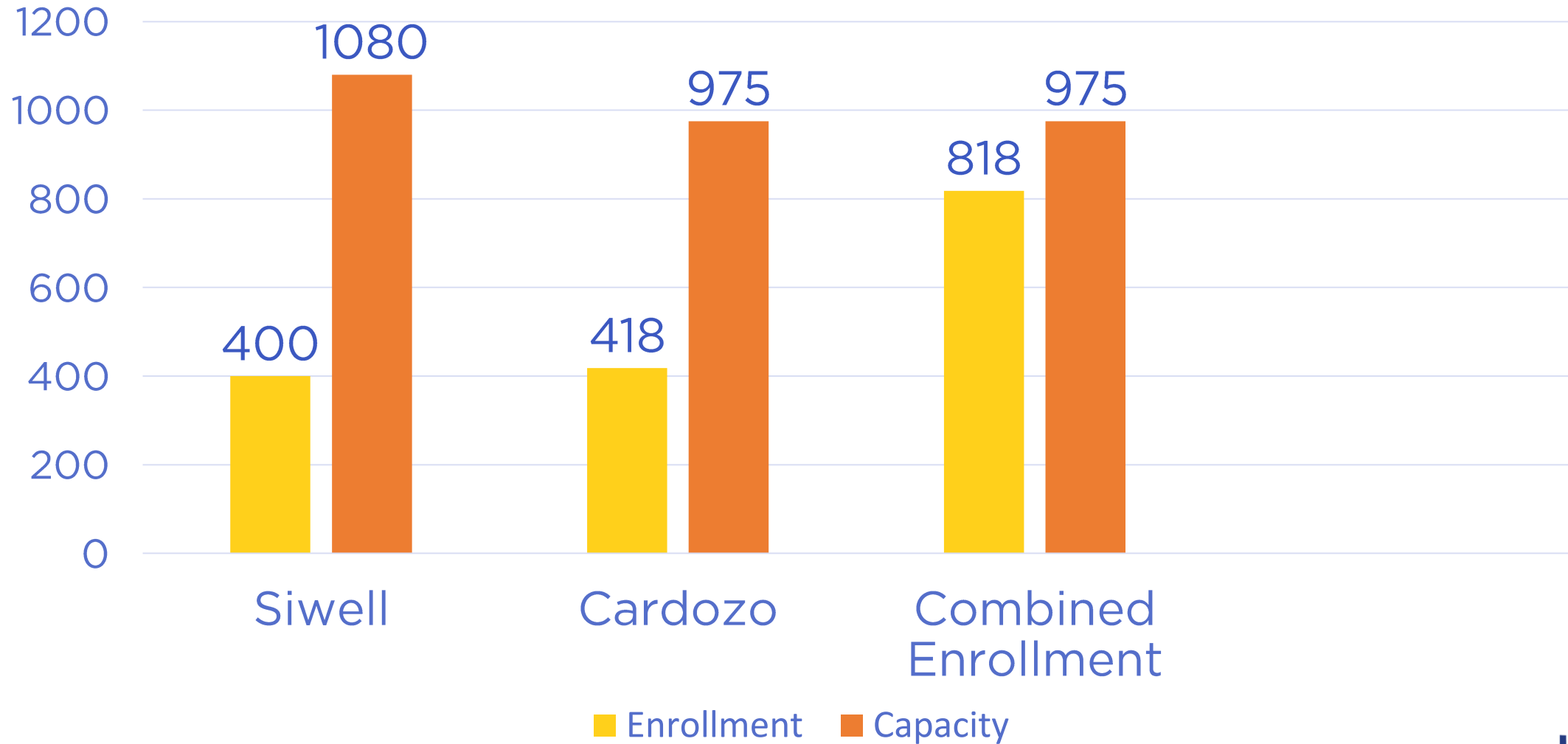
Current Combined Costs:

\$5,037,042.58

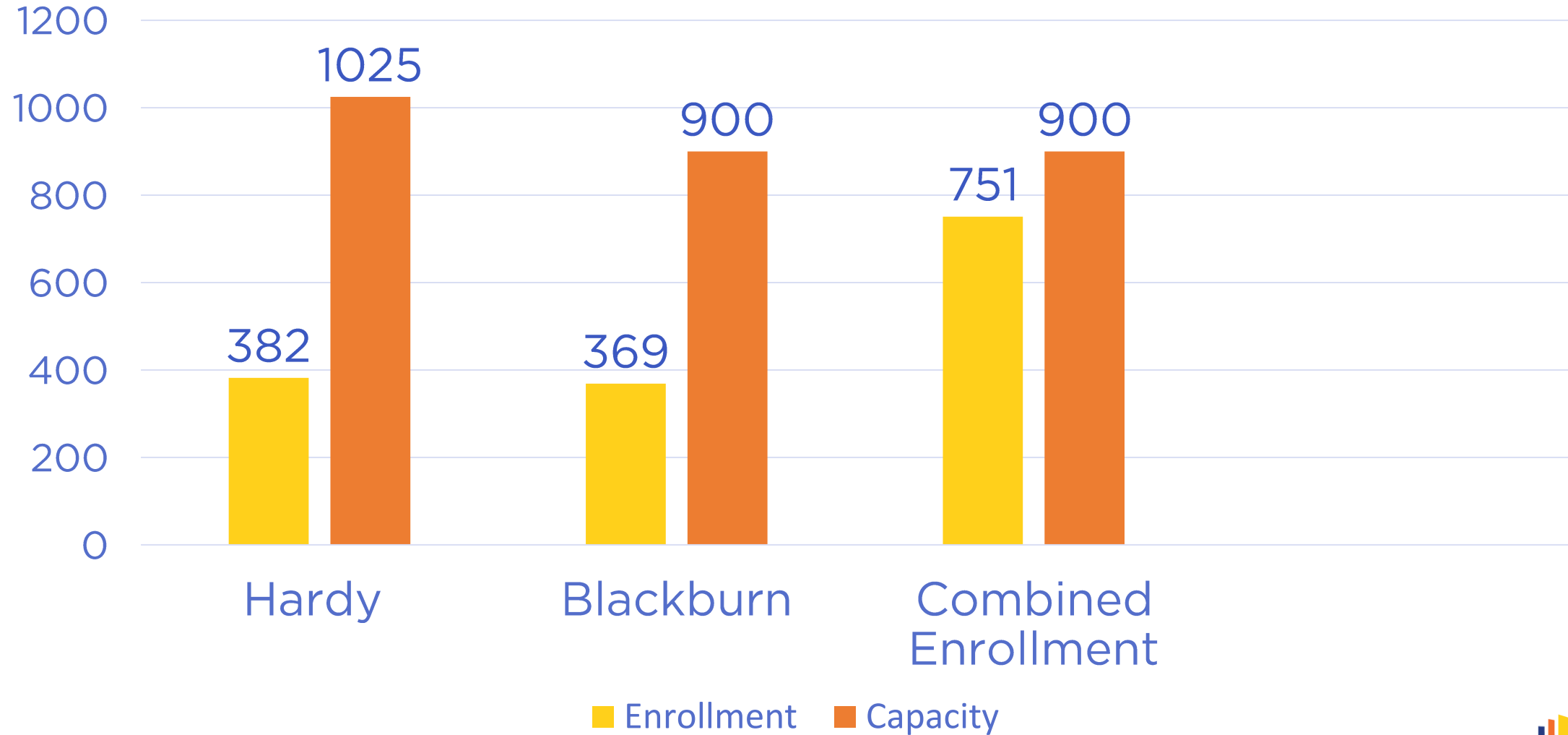
Potential Savings (Consolidated):

-\$1,187,042.58 to -\$1,422,422.58

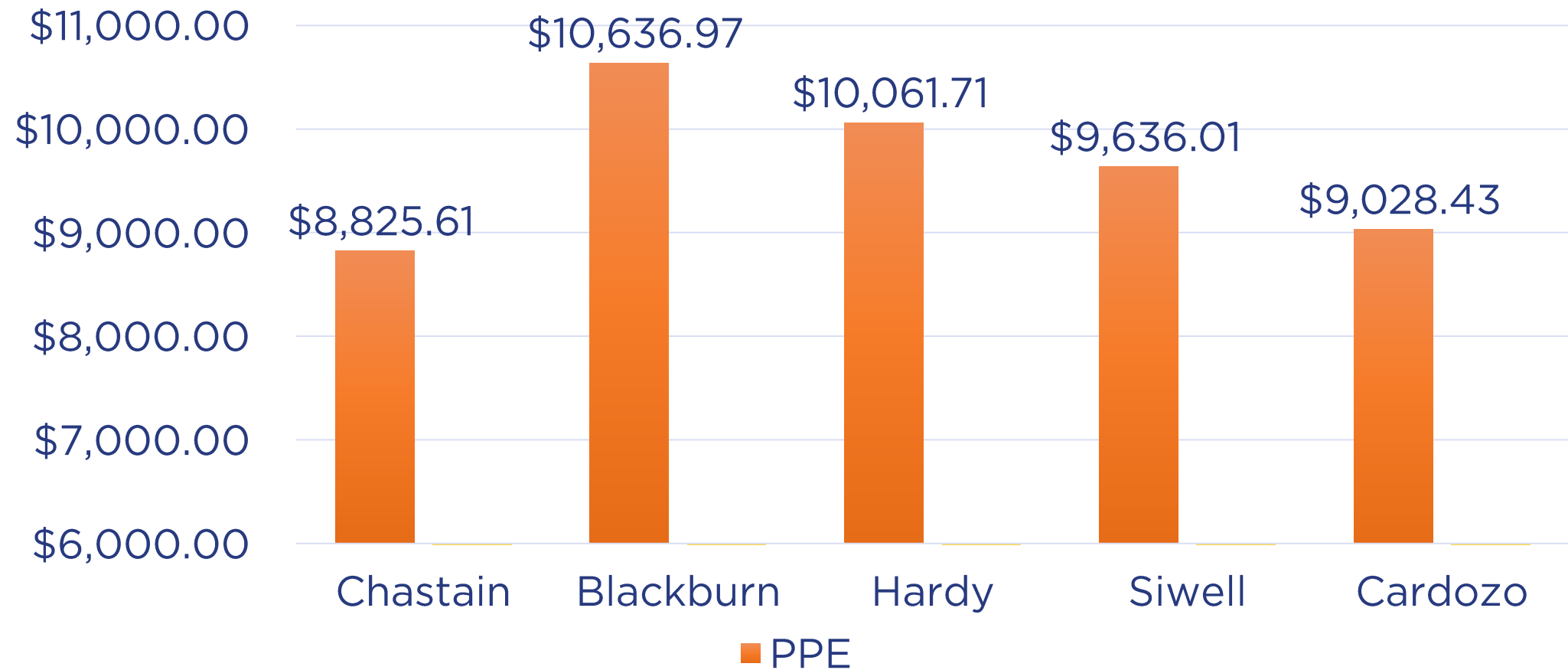
School Enrollment & Building Utilization



School Enrollment & Building Utilization



Per Pupil Expenditure (Spending)





Our Proposals for Middle Schools

- Siwell & Hardy Middle Schools would close effective June 2020.
- Siwell would be merged with the newer and updated Cardozo building. Siwell zoned students north of Hwy 80 would be rezoned to Blackburn.
- Hardy would be merged with the newer and updated Blackburn building.
- These mergers would enhance our building utilization and better steward our resources.



Our Proposals for Middle Schools

- These mergers would also allow for greater equity in course offerings:
 - Health
 - Spanish
 - Art
- Transportation and Exceptional Education Services will be provided.
- Intentional programming to promote integration of the school communities would occur this spring (i.e. shared Field Day, community service, summer opportunities).





High School & District Level

6. Teaching & Learning Center at Rowan
(Fall 2021)

7. Lanier High School Plan
Implementation (Fall 2022)

Our Proposal for Teaching & Learning

- In accord with our strategic plan, we would repurpose Rowan Middle as a district-wide, world-class Teaching & Learning Center.
- Students currently enrolled in the REAP program would be relocated next door at currently shuttered Brown Elementary.
- Renovations to Rowan will occur during the 2020-2021 school year with a target opening in Fall 2021

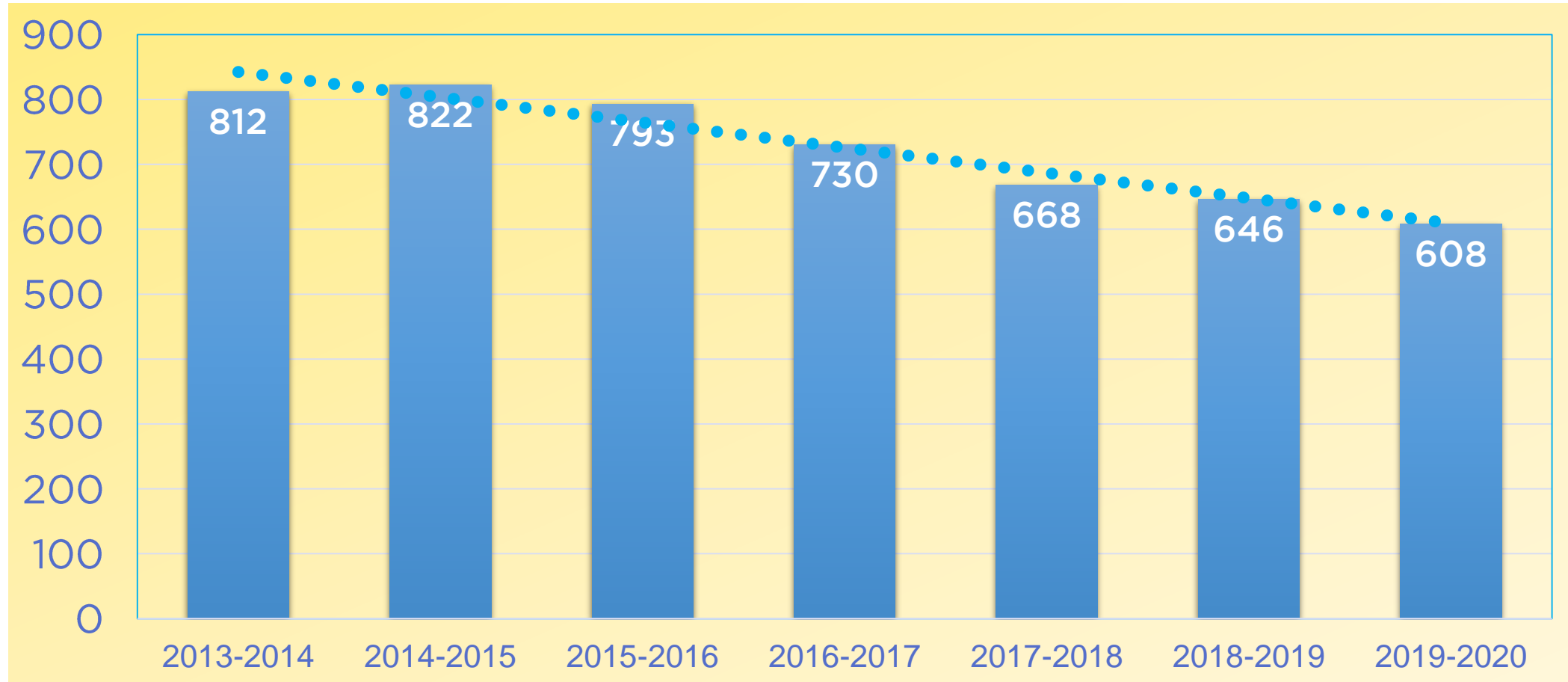


Our Proposal for Teaching & Learning

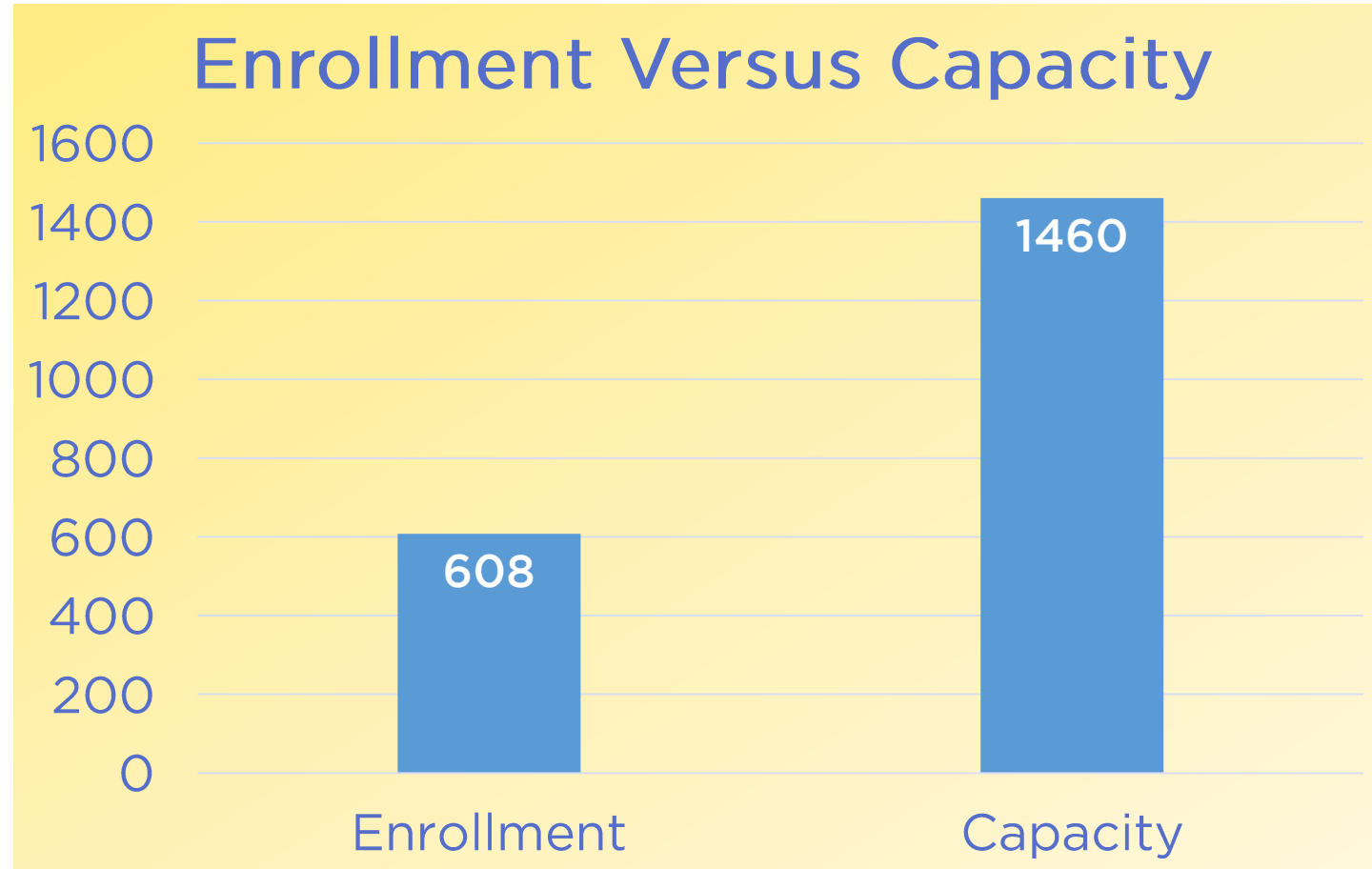
- This proposal also envisions creating revenue for the District in the following ways:
 - Regional host for professional development offerings (intra-district and inter-district);
 - Location for sharing expertise related to School Resource Officers and Campus Enforcement (active shooter trainings, MDE sponsored sessions, etc.);
 - Convenient Catering and Full-Service Cafeteria option for professional development participants.



Enrollment at Lanier High School (2013-Present)



Enrollment at Lanier High School (2013-Present)



Our Proposal for Lanier H.S. Feeder Pattern

- Assign community stakeholder taskforce to develop plan strengthening the Lanier High School Feeder Pattern.
- Specific proposal to be developed by community stakeholder taskforce addressing enrollment, program offerings, and facilities (in Spring 2020).
- Target Launch for Plan in Fall 2022.





Our Next Steps

Optimizing For Equity

Spring 2020

How Will Staff Be Affected?

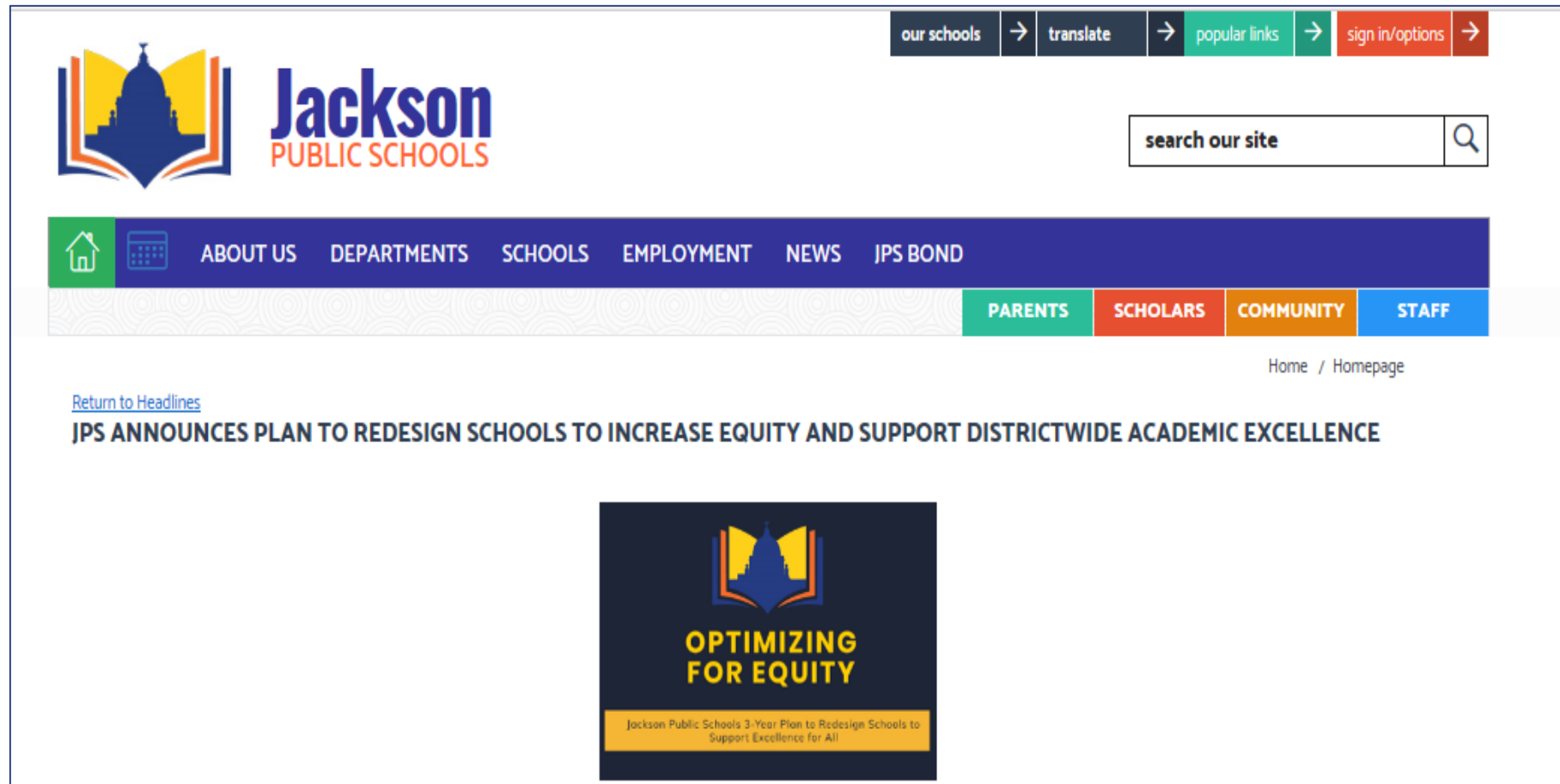
The Human Resources team will schedule one-on-one consultations with any staff member impacted by these proposed changes.

Certified educators will have first-priority to roles in the newly consolidated schools. Additionally, they will be eligible for a request to transfer to a new JPS placement school (Transfer Period: January 6-17, 2020).

Classified staff will be notified of vacancies within their departments. All classified staff will receive a biweekly electronic newsletter informing them of ALL classified vacancies and have first-priority for roles based on favorable job performance.



What Are Our Next Steps?



The screenshot shows the Jackson Public Schools website homepage. At the top left is the logo, which features a stylized blue and yellow building inside an open book shape, with the text "Jackson PUBLIC SCHOOLS" to its right. To the right of the logo is a navigation bar with links: "our schools", "translate", "popular links", and "sign in/options", each with a right-pointing arrow. Below this is a search bar with the text "search our site" and a magnifying glass icon. A dark blue horizontal menu contains links: "ABOUT US", "DEPARTMENTS", "SCHOOLS", "EMPLOYMENT", "NEWS", and "IPS BOND". Below this menu is a row of four colored buttons: "PARENTS" (green), "SCHOLARS" (red), "COMMUNITY" (orange), and "STAFF" (blue). Below the buttons, the text "Home / Homepage" is visible. A link "Return to Headlines" is followed by the main headline: "JPS ANNOUNCES PLAN TO REDESIGN SCHOOLS TO INCREASE EQUITY AND SUPPORT DISTRICTWIDE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE". Below the headline is a large dark blue square graphic. Inside the square is the same book-and-building logo at the top, followed by the text "OPTIMIZING FOR EQUITY" in large yellow letters. At the bottom of the square, in a yellow box, is the text "Jackson Public Schools 3-Year Plan to Redesign Schools to Support Excellence for All".

www.jackson.k12.ms.us/OptimizingForEquity



What Are Our Next Steps?

- We will continue our Family Meetings at impacted schools.
- We will collect comment cards and address any unanswered questions or concerns on our website.
- Our proposal will be presented at the next Board of Trustees meeting for action on Tuesday, January 7 at 5:30 pm.





**Thank you for your
continued engagement
in our shared efforts to
transform JPS!**