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# District Restructuring Options

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## Responsibility of District Leadership

- Consistent Audit of District Operations and Programming
  - Appropriate Student Services
  - Appropriate Use of Resources
  - Best Outcome for All

## Essential Questions Related to Pleasant Valley

What are the benefits and/or concerns connected to reorganizing Pleasant Valley Elementary?

### Beacon Autism Center

- Beacon Autism Center is operated by the Beacon consortium which is made up of 13 local school districts.
- BAC rents Carthage facilities for the general operational costs.
- Beacon invoices each district for their share of the resources.
- Current facility is at capacity and meets the minimum space resources to conduct the program.

## **Beacon Autism Center (BAC) - Is It Really Needed?**

- Beacon Autism Center has a waiting list nearly double its current capacity.
- The high needs State School in Joplin is closing at the end of the year and will likely increase the waiting list.
- Current facility is at capacity and meets the minimum space requirements for the program.
- Very limited outdoor space and no large room activity space.

## **BAC - Why Pleasant Valley?**

- Pleasant Valley is already a school. Changes would require minimal cost.
- Pleasant Valley continues to decrease in K-3 student population.
- BAC serves area school districts, making the outside of town location ideal.
- Pleasant Valley is small, but big enough to allow for program growth.

## BAC - Where Are We Now?

- The Beacon board has not voted on the expansion. However, in preliminary meetings, the board expressed excitement about moving forward.
- If the program moved to the Pleasant Valley campus, the campus will continue to be referred to as Pleasant Valley.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: Will Pleasant Valley still be part of the Carthage School District?
  - *A: Yes. Pleasant Valley will continue to be owned and maintained by the Carthage School District.*
- Q: What if the district needs PV to function as an elementary school again in the future?
  - *A: If there are needs in the future, Carthage retains the right to use Pleasant Valley as needed.*

## Frequently Asked Questions - Faculty and Staff

- **Q: What's going to happen to Pleasant Valley faculty and staff?**
  - All faculty and staff will retain their employment with Carthage School if a change is made.

## Frequently Asked Questions - Students

- **Q: Where will Pleasant Valley Students go? And is there room there?**
  - Current student enrollment at Pleasant for the 2026-2027 school year is projected to 68 students. Subtracting boundary transfers, that number is around 59.
  - PV students will attend Steadley Elementary - space exists.

## PV Student Population

- Current estimates for the 2026-27 School Year.

Grade	Resident	Boundary Transfer	Total
K	11	0	11
1	23	2	25
2	11	4	15
3	14	3	17
Total	59	9	68

## Frequently Asked Questions - Class Sizes

- **Q: But won't moving students into Steadley increase class sizes?**
  - Actually, class sizes is one of the arguments for change.
  - PV as a single grade level creates equity issues with class sizes across the district.
    - PV classes may have higher numbers of students than the rest of the district due to not having another classroom to share the load.
    - Other times, PV may have far lower numbers of students than other classes across the district

## Frequently Asked Questions - Preschool

- Q: There are 5 preschool classes at currently at PV. What's happening with those classes if a move takes place?
  - A: Most of these students do not reside in the PV boundaries. Parents have requested a more central location and the ability to choose a ½ day option.
  - Three full-day classes will be moved to Steadley Elementary; two half-day classes will be at Mark Twain.
  - Both buildings can accommodate these additions.

## Frequently Asked Questions - Transportation

- Q: How will this impact transportation services?
  - A: K-3 students in the PV boundary will experience approximately 8 extra minutes on their daily bus ride to and from school.
  - 4-12 grade students should not experience much change.
    - Transportation routes will possibly improve with one less elementary hub.



## Teacher Collaboration

- As a Professional Learning Community school district, the collaboration of grade level teachers is highly valued.
- PV teachers have not been able to access this collaborative benefit to learn and share with other grade level teachers.



## Traveling Staff

- Specials teachers, counselor, special education teacher, all speech pathologist travel to PV daily to provide supports.
- There will still be some traveling by some positions, but the amount will decrease drastically.



*Are there other areas in the district that could be used to expand the Autism Center?*

- This is the only space in the district that could be expanded without major expense in renovation.
- There will be little work done to utilize Pleasant Valley as an Autism School. The district will not support large scale modification.

***In Conclusion,***

*Are there tangible benefits for reorganizing Pleasant Valley Elementary to provide a location for the area Beacon Autism Center at Pleasant Valley?*

- Steadley is a great school for PV students and has the room.
- Good stewardship of resources.
- Benefits for transportation, class size equity, teacher collaboration.
- Explanation of Beacon Autism Program to a real school.