



Schalmont
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pre-K Advisory Committee
Updates & Recommendations

October 28, 2024



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

The Pre-Advisory Committee

- Committee includes over 30 people, representing staff and community members throughout the entire Schalmont community.
- Committee met 11 times over the past two years and a core group continues to do so.



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

The Committee Charge:



To explore all aspects of Pre-K instruction and what it would take to pursue the addition of this program at Schalmont.



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

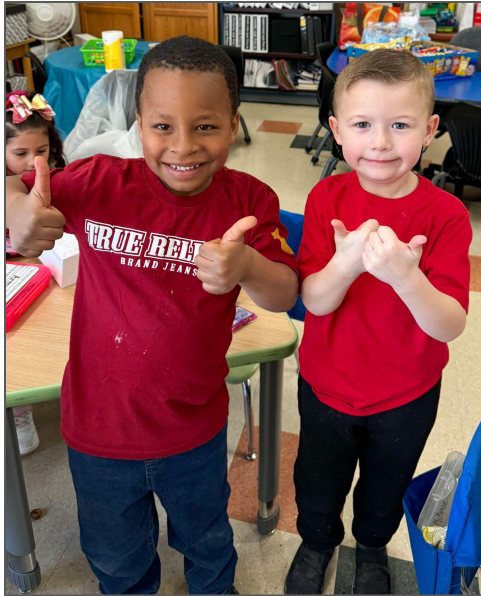
Areas of Exploration:

- Curriculum
- Materials
- Transportation
- Meals
- Length of Program
- Location
- Staffing
- Parking
- Arrival & Dismissal
- Funding (guest speakers from NYS Department of Early Learning)



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

Important Funding Point to Consider:



- The State Aid allocation (\$510,000) is based on a per pupil expenditure (\$5,400 per student).
- You can only access funding AFTER you have enrolled students.
(i.e. If you have 18 students, you are provided \$97,000; you can't access more money than the number of students you are serving.)



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

Important Regulations to Consider

- Pre-K Class Size is capped at 18 students, and requires one teacher and one teacher assistant (or up to 22 students but you must add an additional teacher assistant; **no exceptions**).
- In order to access funding, the Pre-K day must be *at least* five (5) hours in length; **no exceptions**.



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

Committee Advisory Recommendations:

- Schalmont would offer a full-day program (5.5 hours), maximizing the currently vacant Woestina Elementary School (built to be a primary building and recently leased to Capital Region BOCES for such purposes).
- Transportation would **not** be provided due to cost and a litany of other regulations (car seats, bus attendants, requirement to transport to all private pre-ks if the District opened this opportunity).
- Program *could* run 8:30-2:00 and 9:00-2:30; splitting drop-off of students by class to recognize limited capacity of Route 5S (if needed).
- All Staff would be employed directly by Schalmont; **not** sub-contracted out to third party agencies (get what you pay for).



Committee Advisory Recommendations

- Lunch would occur in the classroom as per best practice recommendations, with teacher lunch and prep, provided creatively through a student-centered schedule and negotiated via the Schalmont Teachers Association (STA). Students would not be required to purchase lunch, but meals would be available for those that met the free/reduced lunch requirements (meals are not free for Pre-K as they are grades K-12).
- Special area support would be provided through physical education, with remaining special area explorations occurring in the classroom.



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

Sample Student Schedule



8:30-9:00: Arrival

9:00-9:15: Group Preparation and Transition Activities

9:15-9:30: Group Morning Meeting

9:30-9:40: Music and Movement Break

9:40- 9:55: Handwashing and Snack Break

9:55-10:55: Creative Choice Time (Play)

10:55-11:15: Small Group Instruction (letter/number sense)

11:15-11:55: Outdoor Time

11:55-12:35: Lunch (in the classroom with staff)

12:35-12:55: Whole Group Read Aloud

12:55-1:15: Quiet Activities (meditation, quiet time, moderate rest)

1:15-1:45: Small Group Instruction (letter/number sense)

1:45-2:00: Group Meeting/Dismissal



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

Full Projected Cost:

Staff Needed to Fully Maximize Capacity of Woestina:

- 6 Classroom Teachers; 6 Teacher Assistants
- 1.0 Clerical Staff
- 1.0 Nurse
- 1.0 Security
- 0.5 Cleaning Staff
- 0.5 Kitchen/Monitor Staff
 - (Arrival and dismissal; distribution of lunches)
- 0.2 Special Area Staff (i.e. Physical Education)
- 1.0 Supervision/Administration*
- Supplies/Start-Up Materials



Total Cost: \$2.9 million (\$2.4 million if all NYS funding is accessed)



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

Recommended Initial Cost (for program to begin in Fall 2025)

- 3 Classroom Teachers; 3 Teacher Assistants (54 students)
- 1.0 Clerical Staff
- 1.0 Nurse
- 1.0 Security
- 0.5 Cleaning Staff
- 0.5 Kitchen/Monitor Staff
- 0.1 Special Area Staff (Physical Education)
- 1.0 Supervision (Teacher on Special Assignment); administrative oversight by current administrative team members (observations and administrative tasks completed by this person, but daily supervision and monitoring of program while students in session does not require a full-time leader stationed at Woestina)
- Supplies/Start-Up Materials



Total Cost: ~\$1.4 million (\$1.1 million if per pupil allocation of NYS funding is accessed)

Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

Overall Recommendations

- Open and prepare Woestina to fully function by Fall 2025 (security system, PA system, replacement of hot water tank, painting).
- Begin in January 2025 (if State Aid is stable for Pre-K and Foundation numbers) with a Pre-K Registration process that allows for the filling of 54 spots; accept all within the Registration Period; conduct a lottery if more than 54 spots are requested.
- Notify families by February 1.
- Spend remainder of the year/summer hiring and preparing for Pre-K Cohort Class of 2025.



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.

Board of Education Next Steps

- Approve continuing with the aforementioned plan (pending State Aid Runs are stable).
- Approving the creation of 2025-2026 Budget that reflects additional General Fund Spending due to the addition of staffing not offset by Pre-K Funding.
- Allow for the publication of Registration Information for Pre-K.
- Continue to receive and updates and modify planning as needed based on ever-changing data (State Funding, overall enrollment interest, etc.).



Graduating students prepared for the 21st century.