

Co-op group questions from 10-28-15 community meeting

1. Why are we doing this—even considering this co-op

We are doing this for several very good reasons:

	Wilbur	Creston	Keller	
K	14	7	4	25
1	12	6	10	28
2	19	4	5	28
3	18	2	4	24
4	21	9	4	34
5	16	7	4	27
6	26	2	1	29
7	29	13		42
71 2016-2017 JH Enrollment				
8	25	5		30
9	30	10		40
10	21	5		26
11	34	12		46
142 2016-2017 HS Enrollment				
12	19	6		25

- Creston benefits from being a small school in some ways. However, if the critical mass is too small, the academic engagement can waiver. There are not enough people to bounce ideas off, start new conversations, discover creative outlets, etc. In addition, socially it is sometimes hard to bond when there are only 2-4 other students in your grade.
- There are significant advantages to Wilbur also. All classes in grades 7-12 would be split. This allows students to be in a different class than someone who they find hard to get along with. Also, class sizes would be smaller – cut in half. Whereas we now have up to 32 students in a class, with the co-op, all classes would be between 18-22 students/class.
- We would be able to offer extra elective classes for our students. And perhaps most exciting, we would be able to offer 2-4 college prep classes for juniors and seniors.

2. Will this change be beneficial to W/C/K Junior High students and Creston HS students
 - **We firmly believe that the co-op will have many benefits for all students**

3. Do Wilbur students and staff members feel Junior High is so crowded in Wilbur
 - **Junior High is crowded but it is efficient and functional. They currently have their own ASB, fundraisers, dances, field day, and other fun activities.**
 - **It is a reality that we have over 60 junior high students and the only space that is their own is the hallway outside their classes.**

4. Spoke of Ritzville/Lind experience—positive—harder for parents than kids
 - **Lind/Ritzville is a good example. Our School Board development team has visited LRS and were very impressed by what they saw.**
 - **As with most things, students tend to adjust quicker and easier than parents**

5. Transportation times/busing issues
 - **Transportation supervisors will work on times and schedules.**
 - **Some students will have slightly longer commutes in order to get from home school to attending school**
 - **Students that live in town and don't normally ride a bus may have to be at school to ride a bus to the other town.**

6. Consideration of travel time for Keller students—and 7 Bays students
 - **The reality is that it will be a long commute for some students**

7. How will transportation budget be affected
 - **Transportation directors and superintendents have already begun working on a draft transportation plan.**
 - **It will not be significantly affected – but some students will have to transfer buses from their home school to either Wilbur or Creston.**

8. Safety of students—busing , especially in winter

- **School buses are purported to be the safest form of transportation. Both fleets are well-maintained and meet all safety requirements. The safety of our children is paramount.**

9. Levy money—how is it shared

- **Levy money will stay within each district.**

10. Will each school run own levy

- **Yes**

11. What if levies fail

- **Levy failures are disheartening and devastating to any community and district.**
- **By working hard to bring a positive change to our schools, we truly hope that our communities will continue to support us and our kids will never have to experience the resulting struggle of a failed levy.**

12. Tax base for each district

- **District boundary lines remain the same**

13. What class opportunities for 7-12

- **College Prep English and/or History**
- **Driver's Education in the schedule**
- **Art and technical electives to be determined**
- **Weight training**
- **Ag- Mechanics**
- **Band/Choir**
- **Creative Writing**
- **Odyssey Ware – online classes**
- **Other electives as determined**

14. Will there be AP classes

- **We plan to offer higher-level classes (AP, College in the Classroom, College Prep—teachers will determine which format is best for our advanced level students)**

15. Are special programs (college bound) going to be illuminated

- **We are planning to increase college bound opportunities.**

16. What is an enhanced class—what is better

- **An enhanced class is one which is specifically tailored to preparing students for their first year in college. There are several options in this regard:**
 - **Advanced Placement (AP) which is based on a final test in order to get credit**
 - **College in the Classroom which is an actual college credit class (students will pay for and earn credits for college)**
 - **College Prep classes – designed by the school district for extra rigor in order to prepare students for college**

17. Concerns about increase in class size—both district

- **Although the graduating class size will be larger, the actual teaching class size will be smaller in Wilbur due to the fact that all classes, Grade 7-12 will be divided into 2 classes.**
- **Creston class sizes will be larger than current, but this will facilitate increased opportunities for group work, and varied discussion.**
- **Benefit to teacher, less preps**

18. Shuffling of teachers between schools

- **Some shuffling will occur, but teachers will be consulted on the schedule, and drive-time considered**

19. How will it impact teachers traveling between schools

- **As of the most recent draft schedule, 7 teachers will be traveling:**
 - **Four will teach in both schools during the day**

- **Three will teach for a full day away from their home district**

20. What kind of input has staff had?

- **Staff have been informed through staff meetings, email communication and combined community meetings**
- **A 'Pave the Way' committee of teachers was formed to help guide the steps with the two staffs**
- **On Wednesday, Nov 4, the secondary staffs from both schools met to look at curriculum and next steps**

21. Does this increase cost per student –effect cost class size

- **This decision is cost neutral**

22. What kind of administrative cost savings

- **None at this time**

23. Will there be state funding incentives or revenue losses

- **Should be revenue neutral.**

24. Culture of each school

- **A new culture – new identity will have to be forged. It will be the job of administrators, teachers, etc. to help foster a feeling of community within the schools.**

25. What about the special events that each school has (unique to their school or not)

- **We in no way want to mandate tradition. However, some activities might need to be moved to off-campus and after school. Community organizations might also choose to maintain any traditions that the schools do not choose to sponsor.**

26. What about bi-county spelling "B" etc.

- **Our students will have a bit more competition in the initial selecting rounds. This is healthy and positive and will cause all students to reach a little higher and strive a little harder. Great preparation for college and for life.**

27. Will 6th graders be part of middle school

- **No, they will remain elementary**

28. Can you still choice in elementary

- **This is never encouraged, but special considerations can be brought to the superintendents**

29. Middle school prep for high school (fears)

- **Both schools have strong teaching staffs in Middle School. We don't anticipate any problems with any student being prepared for High School**

30. Jr High kids would miss out on role models in High School if no High School kids in Creston

- **The alternate thought is that junior high students will not have the undue influence of high school students in their lives.**
- **Some parents really like the fact that their child will not have to mix with students too far above their child's grade level.**

31. Some students worry about "Creston" kids vs "Wilbur" kids

- **It must be a high priority to meld the two schools into one community**
- **We hope that students will see each other as classmates and not someone from a different town. Athletics have been a great example of all students working together.**
- **Teachers need to be aware of this concern and not address anyone as being from one community or another.**

32. Wilbur K-6 – 2yr at Creston- then back to Wilbur—some parents wanted K-12 all at same school

- **We fully understand that the co-op was not on the table when families made decisions about their child's schooling. However, we still feel that there are more advantages to the co-op than disadvantages.**

33. How much has Keller been involved in discussion

- **Keller Elementary will remain a feeder school for Wilbur/Creston. Keller students have the option of attending Wilbur, Lake Roosevelt, or Republic Secondary school. The parents of all Keller students who attend Wilbur Schools were invited to the Community Meeting. The Wilbur and Keller school boards met in joint session in September and the co-op plans were presented and discussed. In addition, the superintendents from Wilbur and Keller have been in regular communication, and Mr. Gaub and a Wilbur School Board member plan to visit the Keller Community in the near future to inform Keller residents of the co-op plans.**

34. Did Keller parents get info for this meeting

- **Absolutely. Every Keller parent that has a child in the Wilbur school got an instant alert message.**

35. How will it affect our Special Education students—how will their needs be addressed

- **The SPED directors, parents and teachers will work together to make sure that every student on an IEP is served to the highest capacity within the co-op system. The superintendents have worked together to recommend that Loy Reeves be the educational psychologist for both districts which would mean that the gatekeeper for students on IEP's would be the same in both districts. In addition, Wilbur and Creston currently share the same nurse and the same speech therapist.**

36. Do the schools currently share counselors?

- **Wilbur has 3 counselors attending with varying job descriptions. Wilbur/Creston school districts share one of the counselors.**

37. Need for consistent discipline for both schools

- **Principals will work together on the discipline policies and due process; staff will have input.**

38. Senior projects and Senior trip

- **A committee comprised of senior teachers from both schools will be formed to look at the senior project. They will make a recommendation to the board as to the requirements for the senior project.**
- **Decisions about the senior trip will be decided with the School Board and Administration.**

39. How will senior projects be handled

- **Both schools pride themselves on offering a rigorous senior project. Teaching staff from both schools will work together to ensure that the senior projects mesh in such a way that high standards are maintained.**

40. Competition for scholarships

- **Scholarship committees make up their own criteria for distributing scholarships. The school district does not dictate to them in any way.**

41. Where do choice kids come in if we divide scholarships between schools

- **This totally depends on how the scholarship is set up. In Wilbur, the Marie Davis scholarship states that any student who has attended the Wilbur School for 2 years is eligible to apply. It does not specify residency of student. The scholarship has been awarded to students living in Keller, Coulee City and Grand Coulee, in addition to students from the Wilbur community.**

42. Would it be up to the individual scholarship committees

- **Yes**

43. Would current choice students be grandfathered

- **Yes**

44. Scholarships –valedictorian

- **Please see above for scholarship information. Wilbur does not designate a valedictorian. During the transition year, Creston might choose to designate a valedictorian. After the initial year, all students will be ranked together.**

45. Will there be one graduation or two

- **There will be one graduation ceremony.**

46. Are high school diplomas different from each school

- **Starting right off, we would suggest all diplomas say “Wilbur-Creston High School”**

47. Students records from school to school

- **Each school will retain their own records**

48. What will Skyward look like for both schools

- **This is a big change for teaching staff. They will have to maintain two Skyward accounts – one for Wilbur and one for Creston**
- **For parents, Skyward will look exactly the same**

49. Have they asked student population

- **The Executive ASB from both schools have been informed about the progress on the co-op.**

50. Will students have a vote

- **Input from the students has been gathered to hear the concerns that they have about joining schools. Just as with the parents, they will be answered and posted on-line. Knowing these concerns, teachers can be aware and can hopefully address them as we move forward.**

51. Dialog with students

- **In process**

52. What about community vote

- **School Board members are elected representatives who are responsible to the voting public. If there are any questions/concerns please email the directors and let your voice be heard.**

53. Need communities with parents involved

- **We rely on our communities and our parents to support us in every way. We will seek community support and will value their input.**

54. Are we moving this forward too quickly

- **The process will be taken very seriously. It will not be implemented until it is apparent that the all systems are in place to succeed.**

55. What are the benchmarks for timelines to progress

- **Superintendents will determine a final action date. After which teachers and administrators must know whether to plan for a co-op or a single district for the following school year.**

56. Will board consider all these questions before making decision

- **The board is very aware that they serve the patrons in each of their communities, and they will consider any and all questions and comments about the comment. However, because they are the elected leaders, at some point they will have to consider all their options and make a long-term decision which they perceive to be in the best interest of their communities.**

57. Time line of change

- **Our target is to have everything in place to begin the co-op in September 2016.**

58. Are other schools interested in joining the Co-op

- **Not that we know about at this time...**

59. Are we committed to this co-op once the paperwork is turned in

- **We will not file the paperwork with the state until we are sure this is the direction we want to take.**

60. If co-op unsuccessful, can we revert back to separate schools

- **If we make the considered decision to co-op, we have no doubt that it will be a success. But yes, it can be an option.**

61. Alumni Association have to dissolve

- Alumni of any school are always alumni – and rightly so – no one can take that away from any organization. It is our hope that the Alumni Association will continue to grow and thrive and provide valuable service to their community.

62. What impact to sports

- Minimal impact to sports. We have been in a Wilbur/Creston Athletic Co-op since 1985 and it has worked very well. Wilbur Junior high students will get to remain in class for an extra 20 minutes each day due to the fact that they will not have to ride the shuttle from Wilbur to Creston. Most junior high sports will remain at Creston. High School sports will be predominantly in Wilbur.

63. How would Jr High iPads work since they are different now

- Creston is in the process of ordering/setting up iPads for Junior High students. All Junior High students from both schools will be equipped with iPads by the end of the first semester.

64. Single parents with student in other town with emergency situation

- It always adds a layer of concern to parents when their child is in a different town. We understand your concern and know that you are entrusting the safety of your child to us during the day. We take that trust very seriously. We feel confident that the 8 mile difference between Wilbur/Creston is not too prohibitive a distance if a child was in an emergency situation. And until you get to the school, we will treat your child with the utmost care.

65. How will it affect closed/ open campus at lunchtime

- As of now, the High School will remain open campus

66. How will it affect number of lunches served at school?

- **Lunch count could be reduced at Wilbur**
- **Lunch count should increase at Creston**

67. Need to consider parents may pull students

- **Every parent has the right to advocate for their child and to make educational decisions that are in the best interest of his/her child. We will offer a strong academic program, and don't anticipate too many people not taking advantage of the educational opportunities in the co-op.**