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Schools feud over closings - Page 2

The district is operating on a \$17.1 million budget. To maintain reduced level service funding from 2010 to 2011 may require an increase in local assessments of \$2 million, officials said, with those assessments per town equaling:

- Blandford, \$266,040;
- Chester, \$334,120;
- Huntington, \$492,460;
- Middlefield, \$106,100;
- Montgomery, \$169,440;
- Russell, \$418,060; and
- Worthington, \$213,780.

Money-saving options being considered include:

Keeping all five elementary schools open, resulting in more multi-age classes, larger class sizes and fewer "specials," such as art and music;

Keeping all five elementary schools open with Blandford, Chester and Conwell only open as schools of choice with no busing provided;

Keeping Blandford, Chester, Conwell and Russell open and closing Littleville;

Keeping Littleville and Chester open and closing Blandford, Conwell and Russell; and

Redistricting school boundaries.

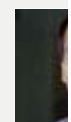
On Nov. 18, the Elementary Advisory Committee, after sifting input from the hearings, is to issue its recommendations to the school committee. The school committee will vote on Dec. 9 on whether to close one or more of the district's five elementary schools.

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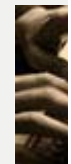
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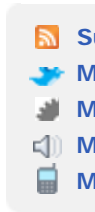
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