



Elementary & Secondary Subcommittee Meeting

August 4, 2022

Our mission... advancing student learning, achievement, and success.





Our Purpose

Welcome!

Our purpose is to explore ideas around restructuring the Wausau School District and make recommendations to the School Board about the decision-making process and possible restructuring.





Guiding Questions To Process During Committee Information

- What did you hear that intrigues you?
- What did you hear that concerns you?
- What questions come to mind that need urgent answers?
- What new ideas has this discussion generated?



Our Purpose

Elementary: The purpose of the elementary subcommittee is to **develop recommendations** for the Wausau School Board as to whether the District should restructure elementary schools.





The Elementary Subcommittee

Some of the problems the Elementary is facing:

- Inconsistent student success
- Inconsistent student access to programs and supports
- Inconsistent staffing across schools
- Inconsistent staff working conditions across schools
- Challenges with attracting and retaining quality staff
- Declining enrollment
- Unfavorable open enrollment trends
- Continued long-term financial challenges





The Elementary Subcommittee

The subcommittee could recommend:

1. Restructuring the Wausau School District by closing and/or merging schools
2. Continuing the current structures
3. A third, as of yet unrealized, option





The Elementary Subcommittee

June 2

Committee Purpose/Possible Outcomes/Questions for moving forward

June 16

Presentation of information based on questions asked in meeting #1.
Review of previous (November 2021) merger/closer scenario based on identified challenges we face.

June 30

Continued feedback activity for all participants and presentation of long-term financial challenges.

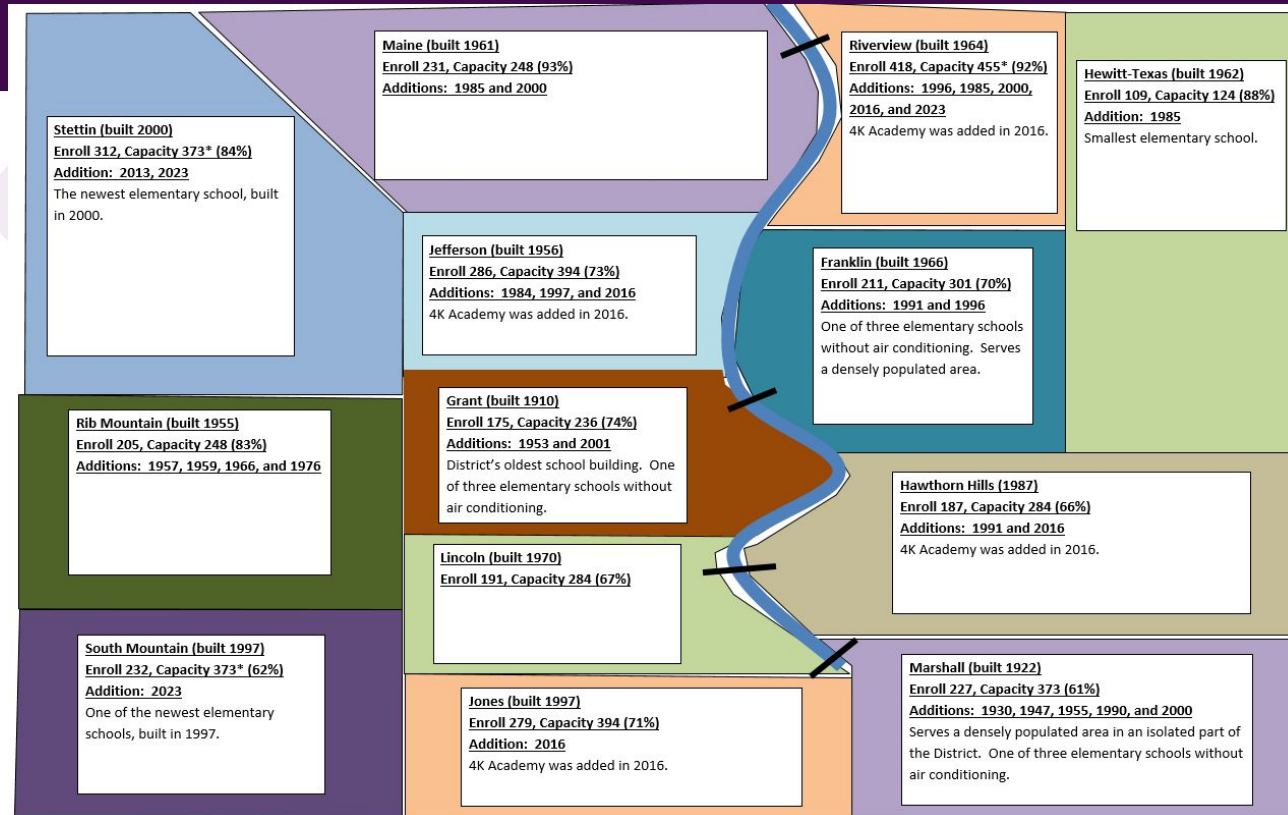
July 21

Opportunity to provide benefits and challenges to merger/closer information shared to date and ask specific questions.





The Elementary Subcommittee





The Elementary Subcommittee





The Elementary Subcommittee

ISSUE: Inconsistent Student Success	STRATEGY: Close/Merge Elementary Schools
Model Description:	How might closing and/or merging elementary schools in the Wausau School District impact the experience for students, staff, families?

Evidence, data, and/or information on this strategy:

|

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

Additional information needed:

QUESTIONS





The Elementary Subcommittee

July 21st Responses and Questions





What Is Your Takeaway?





What Questions Do You Have?

- What do the scenarios look like from a transportation standpoint? Ensuring all students get to school.
- How does downtown revitalization impact student enrollment. What if it increases?





Our Purpose

Secondary: The purpose of the secondary subcommittee is to **develop recommendations** for the Wausau School Board as to whether the District should restructure our high schools.





The Secondary Subcommittee



Problems to Solve

- Inconsistent student success
- Inconsistent student access to programs and supports
- Inconsistent staffing across schools
- Inconsistent staff working conditions across schools
- Challenges with attracting and retaining quality staff
- Declining enrollment
- Unfavorable open enrollment trends
- Continued long-term financial challenges



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Problems to Solve



- Inconsistent student success
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- Continued long-term financial challenges

Committee Feedback

- ★ Academic Offerings
- ★ Co-Curricular Offerings
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Efficiencies/ Finances
- ★ Enrollment
- ★ School Models

[\(Subcommittee Notes 06-02-22\)](#)



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Committee Feedback —————→

- ★ Academic Offerings
- ★ Co-Curricular Offerings
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Efficiencies/ Finances
- ★ Enrollment
- ★ School Models

[\(Subcommittee Notes 06-02-22\)](#)

Desired Outcomes

- **Improve academic access and experiences**
- **Improve co-curricular access and experiences**
- *Maintain or improve financial status*
- *Offer viable transportation plan*
- *Address intangibles: identity, traditions, culture*



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Summary & Synthesis

Status Quo - No Change

Change Boundaries

Junior High (8-9) &
Senior High (10-12)

Dual Campus (9-10 & 11-12)

One High School

Academy?

Desired Outcomes

- Improve academic access/experiences
- Improve co-curricular access/experiences

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EDUCATION DECISION MAKING FLOWCHART

IS THIS BEST FOR THE
LEARNER?

Yes!

No!

Is it easy?

Don't Do It!

Yes!

No

Make it Happen!

Identify Barriers

Find Solutions

Make it Happen!

GEORGE COUROS

YOU
ARE
HERE

Good for Learners but Not Easy

- ◆ Identify Barriers
- ◆ Find Solutions
- ◆ Make It Happen



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Related Issues/Considerations

- Transportation
- Staffing
- Facilities
- Enrollment (example)

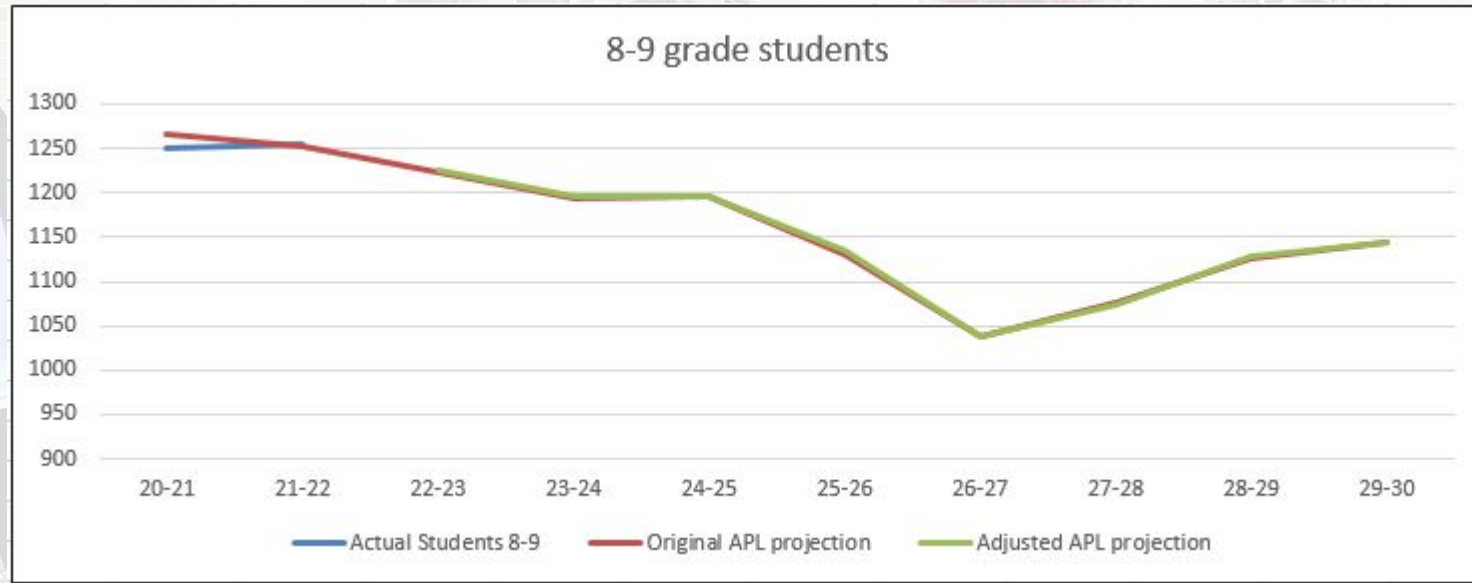
All present challenges and opportunities in any model.
Most are too complex to easily study across multiple models.

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Enrollment (“Jr High” Grades 8-9)

(2019 Applied Populations Lab Enrollment Study - Includes all 8 & 9 students)

	<u>20-21</u>	<u>21-22</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>27-28</u>	<u>28-29</u>	<u>29-30</u>
Actual Students 8-9	1251	1255								
Original APL projection	1266	1252	1224	1194	1197	1131	1037	1076	1127	1144
Adjusted APL projection			1226	1196	1197	1135	1038	1075	1128	1145

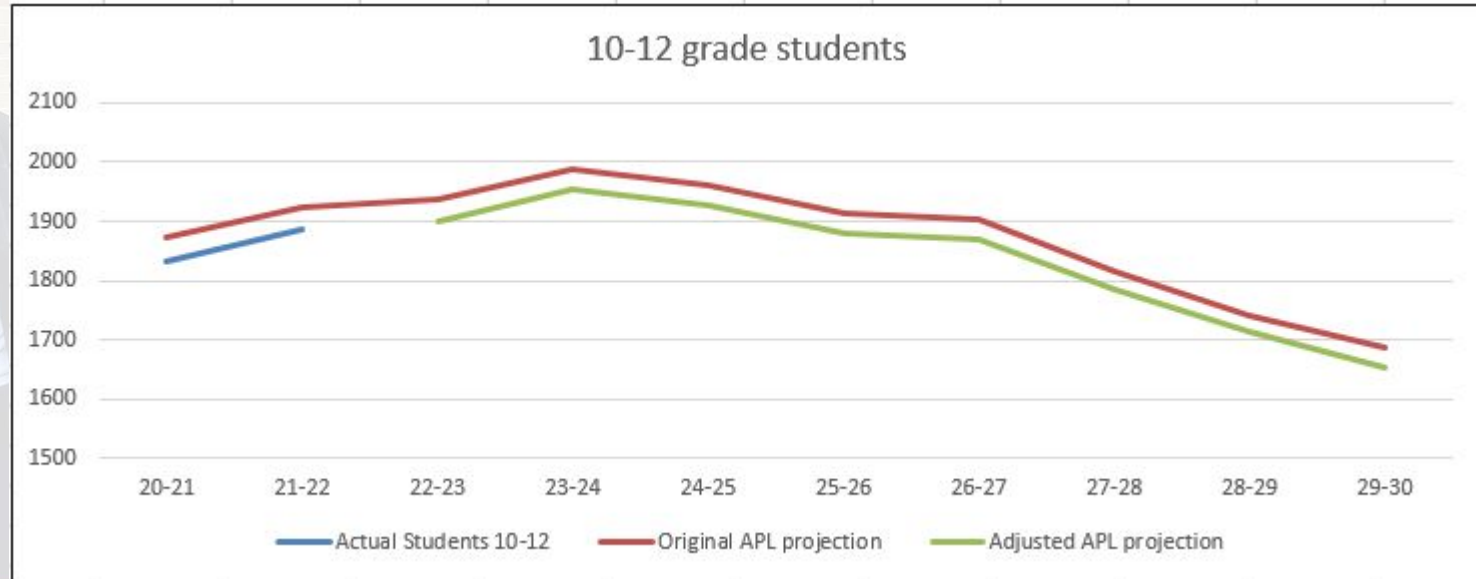


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Enrollment (“Sr High” Grades 10-12)

(2019 Applied Populations Lab Enrollment Study - includes all 10-12 students)

	<u>20-21</u>	<u>21-22</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>25-26</u>	<u>26-27</u>	<u>27-28</u>	<u>28-29</u>	<u>29-30</u>
Actual Students 10-12	1833	1888								
Original APL projection	1872	1923	1936	1988	1962	1913	1902	1815	1741	1685
Adjusted APL projection			1900	1953	1928	1880	1868	1785	1712	1654



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The Secondary Subcommittee

Exit Ticket Prompts from July 21

- What might others need/want to know about our process and recommendations?
- What input and feedback might we need from others?
- Any additional comments?



[Secondary Committee Responses](#)



The Secondary Subcommittee





The Secondary Subcommittee





What Is Your Takeaway?

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What's Next?

- Proposed timeline for next steps
- Let's not rush this. Let's do this right.
- Engage principals on August 8
- Engage staff in September in person and via survey
- Engage community in September & October in person and survey
- Who is willing to help?

Tentative Timeline

- Aug 4: Share with the Elementary Subcommittee
- Aug 8: Update School Board (Board Workshop)
- ~~Aug 9-15: Staff Survey~~
- Aug 18: Subcommittee Meeting
- TBD: Student Focus Groups, Community Meetings, Qualtrics, Board Meetings



What Questions Do You Have?

- What happens to the middle schools?
- Is there capacity for 10-12 at one building?
- Need to show national, state, and Wausau enrollment trends – not just us. Be open and honest. Starting there will help people understand we are probably going to get forced into decisions. It's better to be proactive rather than wait. Wants added slides with it.
- Emotions here. Identify our stakeholders (both logical and emotional). Messaging needs to be cohesive. Need to be a community – there's support, saw it in the referendum, speak to as many stakeholders as possible.
- Impact on elementary will happen sooner than parents think. Need to be transparent about that and loop them in.





What Questions Do You Have?

- Proposed timeline Feedback:
 - Directed invitations first before ya'll come out. Sit around a table first, have honest conversations. Then, expand. We will get better feedback first.
 - What about WIPPS being involved in those small conversations?
 - Don't forget about students – their voice is crucial
 - Being proactive, it doesn't have to happen now
 - Educate first, then feedback. Understand problem first before solution.
 - Emphasize committees just developing framework, community helping us build it final product
 - Showing data; open ended question.





What Questions Do You Have?

- Proposed timeline Feedback:
 - Need solution/plan because this can all be scary especially for students. Don't have solutions, we have ideas we want you to help us.
 - It's about timeline and perception. Staff and students will be living it; most disrupted in this. More we can get buy-in.
- Reaction to approach:
 - Pause over adding 5th grade in with 7th grade.
 - Why would you have to bring 5th grade up – thinks that's a whole other conversation.
 - Retaining staff: this is a big piece too.

*Slogan: One Wausau





With The Time Remaining..... Break Back into Elementary and Secondary Groups

Elementary Task:

Set the Stage for August 18th - final thoughts after presentations this evening.

Secondary Task:



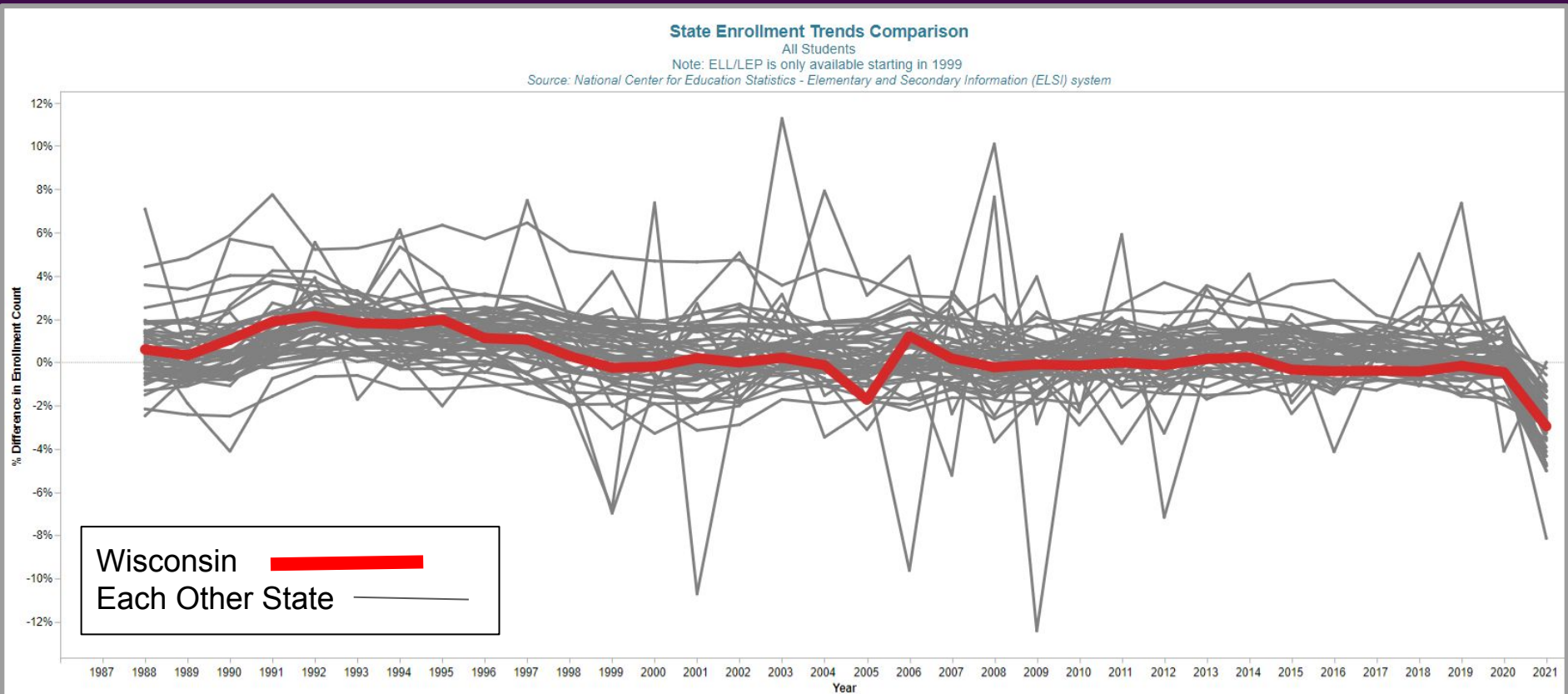
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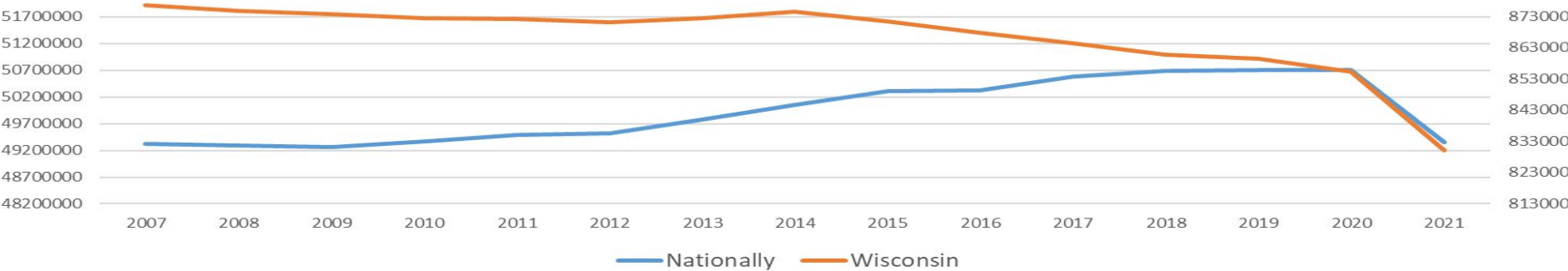
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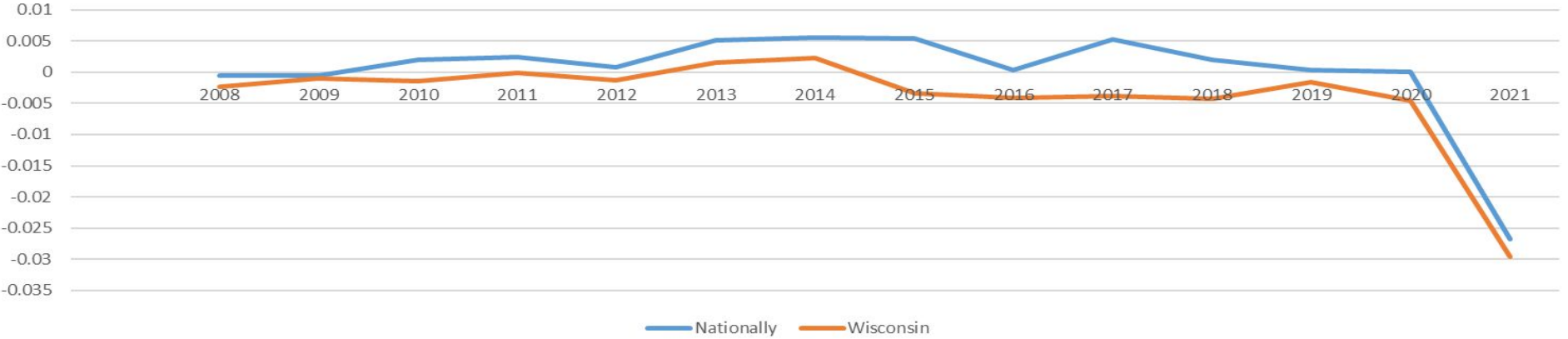


Some additional thoughts following Aug 4 meeting (Bob)

PK-12 Enrollment Nationally vs. Wisconsin



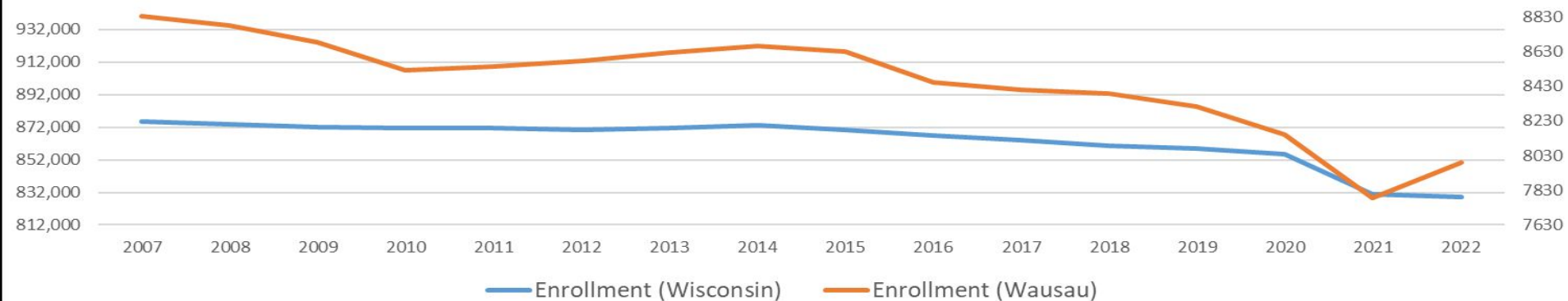
PK-12 % Enrollment Changes Nationally vs. Wisconsin





Some additional thoughts following Aug 4 meeting (Bob)

PK-12 Enrollment Wisconsin vs. Wausau



PK-12 %Enrollment Changes Wisconsin vs. Wausau

