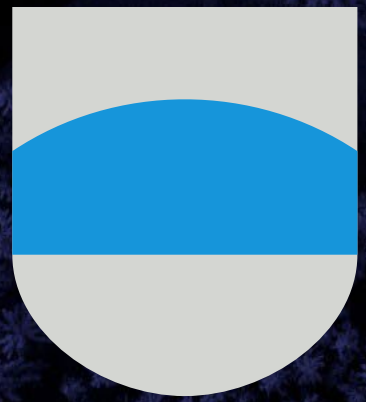


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Background 1/2

- The decline in the number of students due to falling birth rates has already begun in basic education and will continue until the early 2030s.
- Based on student enrollment projections for lower secondary schools, the same trend will also occur there, but with a delay.
- The number of children of early childhood education age has already decreased, but changes in birth rates and migration patterns will affect the size of future age groups.

Background 2/2

- Of the existing school buildings, Vuokatti Stone School and Salmela School have reached the end of their useful lives. For potential new buildings, information is needed on which organizations will occupy them and how many users the buildings should be designed to accommodate.
- This work requires a long-term plan to ensure that the overall range of services meets future needs and that high-quality services can continue to be provided in the future.
- Although the options mainly concern school and daycare center buildings, recreational services play a vital role in providing services to residents. If any of the options proceed to the project planning stage, the needs of recreational services must also be taken into account when planning potential new buildings.

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Service Network Plan

- **Does not include decisions to close individual facilities.**
- A long-term plan for the provision and organization of services.
- Describes the objectives and development priorities of the service network.
- Any changes to the service network will be decided separately by the relevant municipal decision-making body.

Growth Path Working Group

Regular Members

Halonen Jaana, Tehy

Halonen Juha-Matti

Pia Heikkinen, Super

Hyvönen Janne, Chair

Sarianne Kokkonen, JHL

Korhonen Hannu

Kotilainen Heidi

Mähönen Sami, Vice Chair

Manninen Ville, Director of Education

Mustonen Timo, Jyty

Määttä Piia, Youth Work Coordinator

Ojalammi Merja, Director of Education and Culture

Piira Teppo, Juko

Right to attend and speak

Kilpeläinen Mika, Municipal Manager

Lukkari Anne, Chair of the Municipal Council

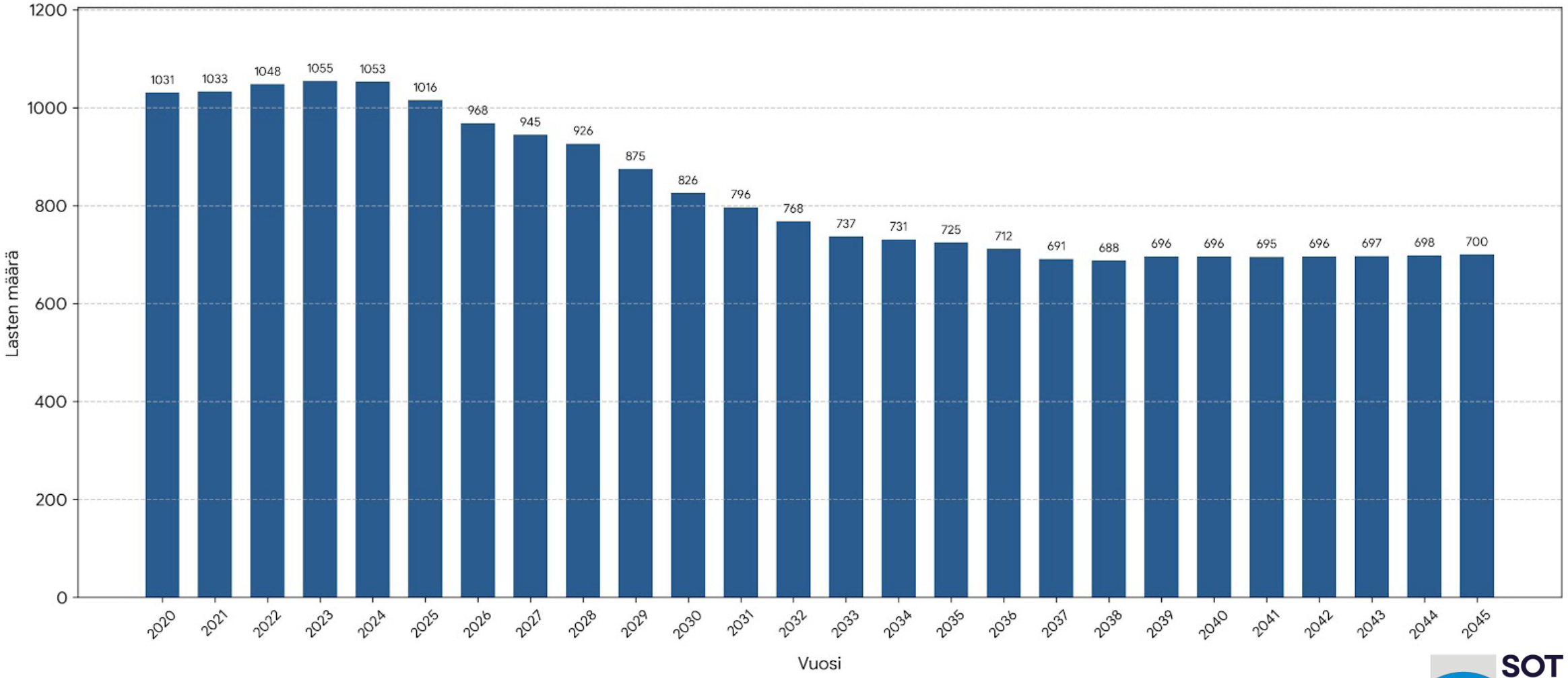
Lukkari Juho, Chair of the Municipal Board

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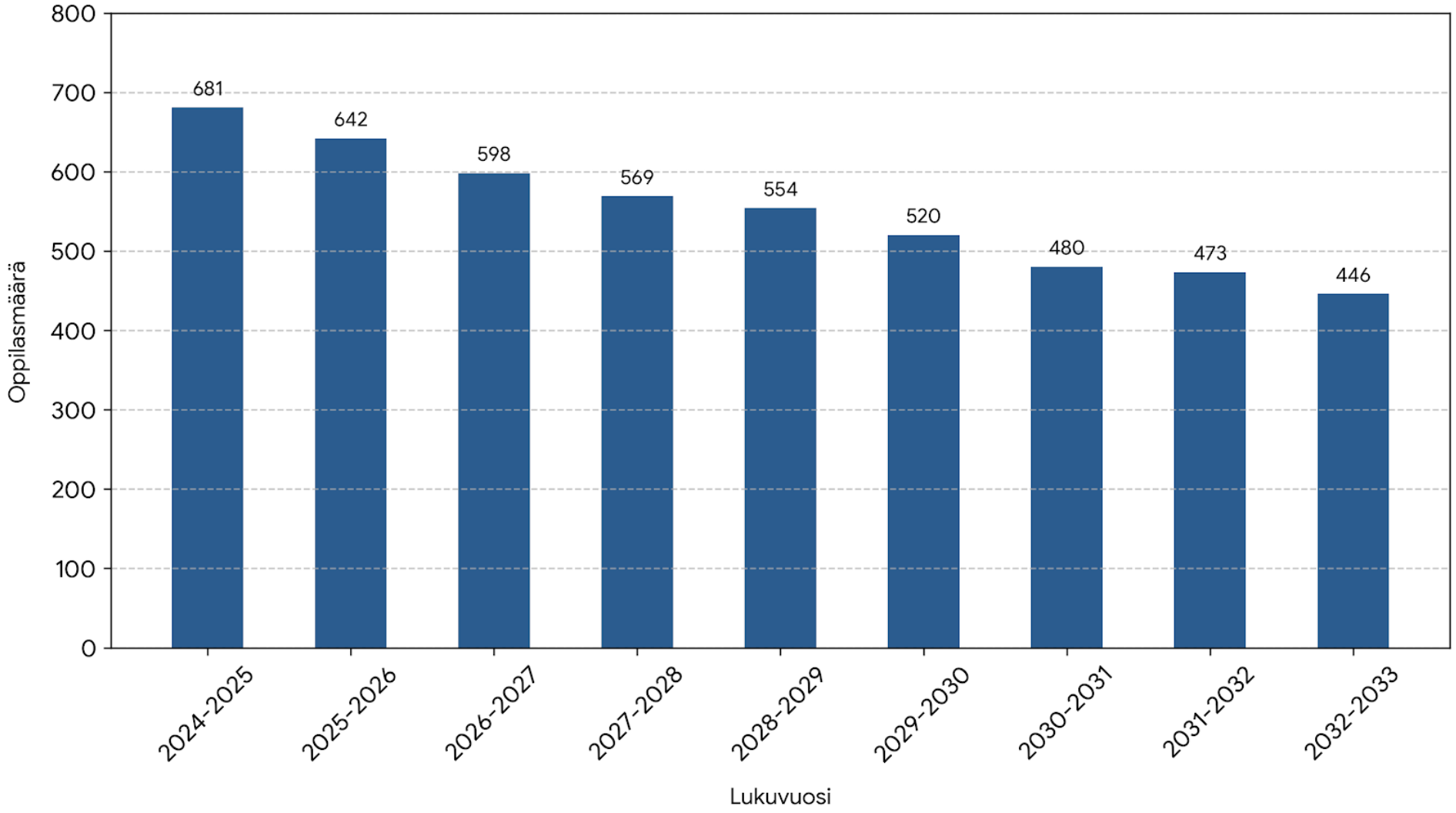
Key issues to be addressed as identified by the Growth Path Working Group

- The condition of the Salmela school building and the projected decline in student enrollment.
- The condition of the Vuokatti Stone School building and the investments required to provide instruction in crafts using hard materials after its demolition.
- The need for major renovations to the Leivola property and the declining number of students.
- The need for extensive renovation of Leivola Building E.
- The impact of potential changes to the school network on the appropriate location of early childhood education facilities and the provision of preschool education.
- The sharp decline in student enrollment at Tenetti Lower Secondary School during the 2030s and the resulting reduction in teachers' instructional hours, which could lead to difficulties in recruiting qualified teachers.

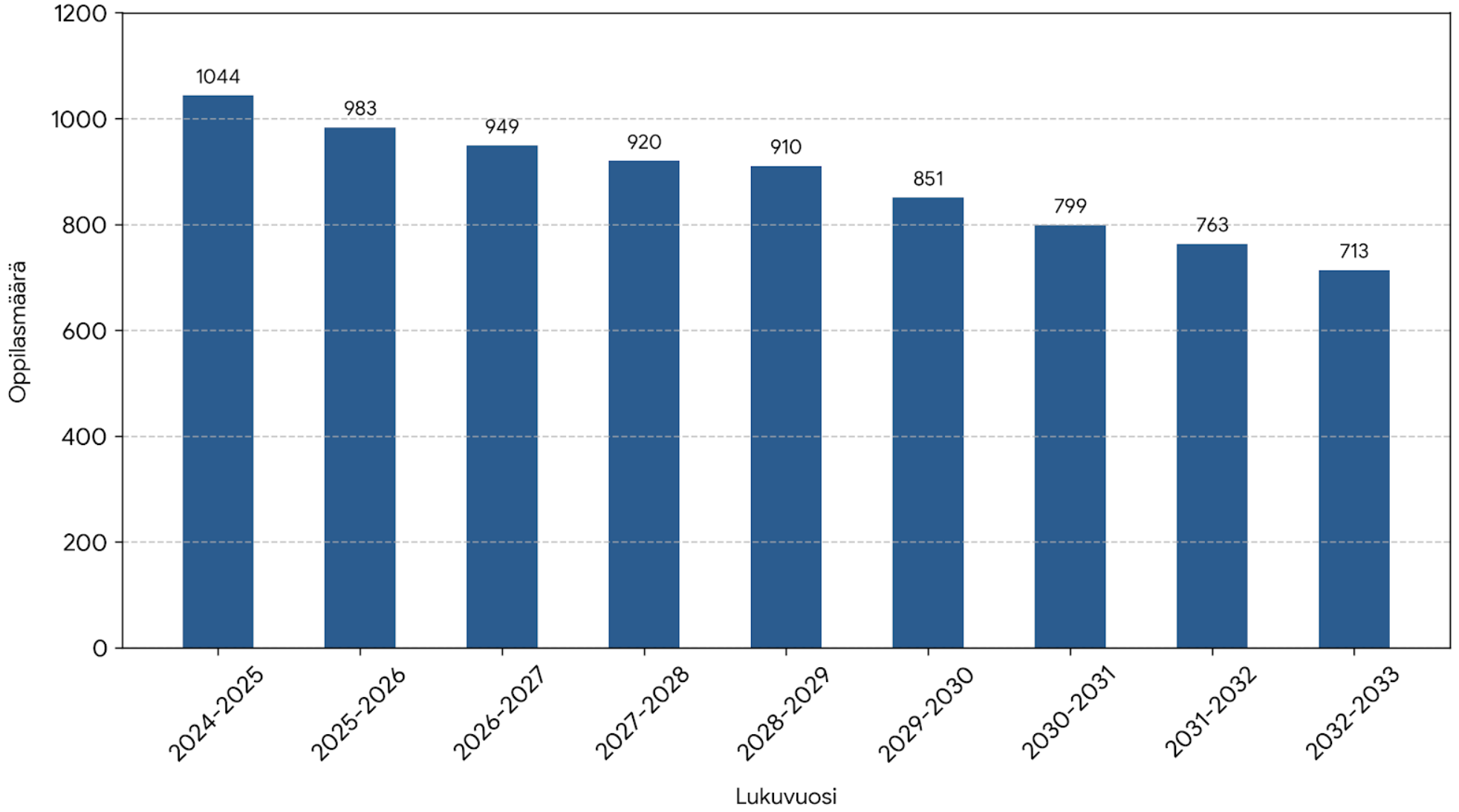
Trends in the Number of Children Aged 7–15 in Sotkamo (2020–2045)



Elementary School Student Enrollment Projections, 2024–2032



Basic Education Student Enrollment Projections, 2024–2032



Teaching Costs per Student in Comprehensive Schools (€/Student)

- The costs include building-related, meal, and cleaning expenses but exclude transportation costs and allocated overhead costs.
- The costs of special education, preparatory education, and intensive special support have been separated from Salmela School's costs. Special education costs have been separated from Tenetti School's costs.

Oppilaskohtaiset kustannukset kouluttain vuonna 2025

Koulu	Kustannus (€ / oppilas)
Kontinjoen koulu	10 339 €
Naapurinvaaran koulu	12 107 €
Pohjavaaran koulu	18 143 €
Leivolan koulu	9 149 €
Vuokatin koulu	9 401 €
Salmelan koulu	6 714 €
Tenetin koulu	12 520 €

Option 0:

- No changes will be made to the early childhood education and school network.
- Naapurinvaara and Kontinjoki will become two-teacher schools, while Leivola will gradually transition to multigrade teaching.
- New facilities will be built for Salmela School for the 2030–2031 school year, along with replacement facilities for Vuokatti Stone School for the 2029–2030 school year.

Option 0:

INVESTMENT	
Replacement of Vuokatti Stone School	€750,000
Construction of Salmela School	€10,000,000
School Renovation Investments	6,400,000
Total Investments	**€17,150,000**
OPERATING BUDGET SAVINGS	
Education Department Savings	- €324,000
Technical Department Savings	0 €
Change in School Transportation Costs	0 €
Total Annual Operating Budget Savings	**- €324,000**

Option 1 A

- To replace Vuokatti Stone School, facilities for teaching hard materials and three classrooms will be built for the 2029–2030 school year.
- Pohjavaara and Naapurinvaara Schools will be closed, and their students will transfer to Vuokatti School.
- A new school building will be constructed to replace Salmela School for the 2030–2031 school year. The needs of Leivola School students will be taken into account in its design, and Leivola School will be closed.
- Kontinjoki School will become a two-teacher school.
- A new daycare center will be built in Leivolanlahti, and children from Käpymetsä and Leivola daycare centers will transfer there.

Option 1 A

INVESTMENT	
Replacement of Vuokatti Stone School	€1,200,000
Construction of Salmela School	€13,500,000
Construction of the Leivolanlahti Daycare Center	€3,800,000
School Renovation Investments	€ 600,000
Total Investments	**€19,100,000**
OPERATING BUDGET SAVINGS	
Education Department Savings	- €668,000
Technical Department Savings	- €550,583
Change in School Transportation Costs	€30,000
Total Annual Operating Budget Savings	**€1,188,583**

Option 1 B

- Facilities required for teaching hard materials will be built to replace Vuokatti Stone School for the 2029–2030 school year.
- Pohjavaara School will be closed, and its students will transfer to Naapurinvaara School.
- Naapurinvaara School will subsequently be closed, and its students will transfer to Vuokatti School.
- A new school building will be constructed to replace Salmela School for the 2030–2031 school year. The needs of Leivola School students will be taken into account in its design, and Leivola School will be closed.
- Kontinjoki School will become a two-teacher school.
- A new daycare center will be built in Leivolanlahti, and children from Käpymetsä and Leivola daycare centers will transfer there.

Option 1 B

INVESTMENT	
Replacement of Vuokatti Stone School	€750,000
Construction of Salmela School	€13,500,000
Construction of the Leivolanlahti Daycare Center	€3,800,000
Renovation Investments	€ 600,000
Total Investments	**€18,650,000**
OPERATING BUDGET SAVINGS	
Education Department Savings	- €668,000
Technical Department Savings	- €550,583
Change in School Transportation Costs	€30,000
Total Annual Operating Budget Savings	**€1,188,583**

Option 2

- To replace Vuokatti Stone School, facilities for teaching hard materials and three classrooms will be built for the 2029–2030 school year.
- Pohjavaara and Naapurinvaara Schools will be closed, and their students will transfer to Vuokatti School.
- Leivola School will gradually transition to multigrade teaching.
- New facilities will be built for Salmela School for the 2030–2031 school year.

Option 2

INVESTMENT	
Replacement of Vuokatti Stone School	€1,200,000
Construction of Salmela School	€10,000,000
Renovation Investments	€4,100,000
Total Investments	**€15,300,000**
OPERATING BUDGET SAVINGS	
Education Department Savings	- €487,000
Technical Department Savings	- €243,947
Change in School Transportation Costs	€ 20,000
Total Annual Operating Budget Savings	**- €711,447**

Option 3 A

- Facilities will be built adjacent to Tenetti School to accommodate students from the new elementary school.
- Naapurinvaara, Pohjavaara, Leivola, Salmela and Vuokatti Schools will be closed.
- Satuvakka Daycare Center will move into Vuokatti School’s existing facilities, which will be renovated for use in early childhood education.
- A new daycare center will be built in Leivolanlahti, and children from Käpymetsä and Leivola daycare centers will transfer there.
- A recreational facility will be built on the current site of Salmela School.
- Puu-Salmela will be used for youth services and adult education center activities.

Option 3 A

INVESTMENT	
Construction of a New Elementary School	€16,300,000
Construction of the Leivolanlahti Daycare Center	€3,800,000
Renovations to Vuokatti School to accommodate Satuvakka Daycare Center.	€2,100,000
Recreational Center" in the Village Center.	€5,200,000
School Renovation Investments	€ 200,000
Total Investments	**€ 27,600,000**
OPERATING BUDGET SAVINGS	
Education Department Savings	- € 980,000
Technical Department Savings	- €977,528
Change in School Transportation Costs	€ 270,000
Total Annual Operating Budget Savings	**- €1,684,528**

Option 3 B

- Facilities for elementary school students will be built on the Salmela School site.
- Naapurinvaara, Pohjavaara, Leivola, and Vuokatti Schools will be closed.
- Satuvakka Daycare Center will move into Vuokatti School’s existing facilities, which will be renovated for use in early childhood education.
- A new daycare center will be built in Leivolanlahti, and children from Käpymetsä and Leivola daycare centers will transfer there.

Option 3 B

INVESTMENT	
Construction of a new elementary school, taking into account the needs of recreational services.	€20,100,000
Construction of the Leivolanlahti Daycare Center	€3,800,000
Renovations to Vuokatti School to accommodate Satuvakka Daycare Center.	€2,100,000
Renovation Investments	€ 200 000
Total Investments	**€26,200,000**
OPERATING BUDGET SAVINGS	
Education Department Savings	- €845,000
Technical Department Savings	- €923,622
Change in School Transportation Costs	€ 270,000
Total Annual Operating Budget Savings	**- €1,498,622**

Financial impact of the Service Network Plan and investment estimate 1/3

- The decline in the number of children of early childhood education and basic education age is estimated to reduce calculated central government transfers by approximately €287,000 between 2025 and 2033.
- If the adjustment measures proposed in the service network assessment are not implemented, the funding shortfall resulting from reduced central government transfers and the maintenance of the current cost structure must be covered through other means.
- Options include reducing other operating expenses, increasing fees and other revenues, utilizing assets, increasing indebtedness, or raising the municipal tax rate.

Financial impacts of the Service Network Plan and estimate of investments 2/3

- Investments identified in the Service Network Study that can be avoided or reassessed include, among others:
  - Approximately €700,000 for Pohjavaara School,
  - Approximately €1,200,000 for Naapurinvaara School, and
  - The renovation of Leivola School, costing €1,500,000.
- In addition to these, the scope and scale of investments in Salmela and Vuokatti Schools must be aligned with the future number of students and the service network solution.

Financial Impacts of the Service Network Plan and Investment Estimates 3/3

- Avoiding or reducing investments also strengthens the municipality’s financial position by lowering operating costs.
  - A lower level of investment reduces the need for borrowing, interest rate risk, future depreciation and capital costs.
  - Similarly, maintaining the current service network would increase not only renovation investments but also annual depreciation and the maintenance and energy costs of underutilized facilities.
  - Therefore, when assessing investments, it is necessary to consider not only the acquisition price but also the costs over the entire life cycle and the actual utilization rate of the buildings.
- The plan's impact on operating cost savings varies significantly, ranging from EUR 320,000 to EUR 1,680,000.
  - However, in options 3A and 3B, which generate the greatest operating budget savings, investment costs are significantly higher than in the other options.

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Comments

The survey can be completed until **3:00 PM on October 29, 2026**.

- By scanning the QR code below
- Online by visiting https://link.webropol.com/s/palveluverkkosuunnitelma2026
- You can complete the paper form at the Municipal Administrative Center's customer service point and at the library.

Comments can be submitted to the registry's email address, kirjaamo@sotkamo.fi **, until 3:00 PM on November 5, 2026.**

SOTKAMO.fi

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