

TO: Dr. Graham and the Board of Education

From: Denise Anthony and the Instructional Space Committee
Nick Diponzio, Crane Elementary School
Amber Brewster, Fyle Elementary School
Shawna Becene, Leary Elementary School
Dustin Wolgast, Leary Elementary School
Trish Koops, Sherman Elementary School
Amy Pluskwa, Sherman Elementary School
Laura Smith, Sherman Elementary School
Pamela Ficarra, Winslow Elementary School
Rita Moufarrege, Winslow Elementary School
Jean Chaudri, Burger Middle School
John Frederick, Roth Middle School
Jeff McNeil, Roth Middle School
Betsy Marshall, Senior High School
Richard Repka, Senior High School
Beth Patton, Administrative Representative
Stan Polmateer, District Facilities
Robert Graham, Teacher Representative
Norm Lein, Teacher Representative
Diane McBride, Board of Education
Pamela Reinhardt, Board of Education

Re: 2008-2009 Instructional Space Committee Report and Recommendations

Date: January 4, 2009

The Charge

The Instructional Space Committee meets annually to answer the key question:

Do we have sufficient room to meet current and future program needs in our elementary, middle and high schools? Can we maintain our small class size initiative?

This year, the Instructional Space Committee met three times to examine enrollment data and building capacities. Meetings were held on October 15, and November 13, and December 8, 2008. Committee members represented teachers, administrators, parents and the community. The committee studied enrollment data and projections, reviewed residential growth plans and examined the trends of non-RH placements so as to make recommendations to the Superintendent and the Board of Education about any attendance area adjustments or construction necessary to meet future instructional space needs.

The Study

1. What is the state of our enrollment and were last year's enrollment projections accurate?

Total District enrollment in 2008 was 5671 students on the official BEDS day count which is 14 less students than the previous year. Elementary school enrollment is up about 72 students district wide. Secondary school enrollment is down about 86 students district wide. Out of district placements decreased by 40 students with a particular impact on parochial placement decline mainly caused by the closing of Good Shepherd School.

Kindergarten enrollment projections are derived from census birth rates and the annual kindergarten census count. Kindergarten projections were very accurate at all buildings except Winslow Elementary School where ten less kindergarten students attended this year than projected. The other grade level enrollments were predicted by examining the most recent five-year enrollments and determining "survival ratios" for each school and grade level. There were some inconsistencies in the projections at Fyle, Leary, Sherman and Winslow in grades one through five. Crane Elementary projections were nearly perfect. At Fyle and Sherman, we have more students than we projected and at Leary and Winslow, we have less students than we projected. Overall, the projections look very good on the district-wide scale but the fluctuations at a few of the buildings were noted and adjusted for going forward.

2. What future residential growth will impact our space needs?

Residential growth is occurring across the district even in this economy and mainly in concentrations that continue to affect Leary, Sherman, and Fyle Elementary Schools on the west-side of the school district.

These residential projects are significant to monitor in terms of instructional space needs:

Development	Number of Homes	Impact Area
Berkshire Park	480 homes over the next five years	Leary
Greywood Meadows	120 homes	Fyle
Citygate	700 mixed housing opportunities	Crane
Riverton Parcel F	104 homes	Sherman

3. What do future enrollment projections indicate?

Future enrollment projections indicate that our instructional space needs at Sherman and Fyle Schools will continue to grow at a rate that may exceed the space available. Leary Elementary School will be aided in future housing growth by the locker room conversions in 2009-2010 and the new addition which is slated to become available for the 2010-2011 school year. Sherman is at maximum capacity this year even with the locker room conversions and the committee recognizes that the Riverton Parcel F subdivision is problematic to Sherman space availability. Fyle will benefit from locker room conversions in 2009-10 but development potential along Farrell Road Extension is problematic to this school as we move forward in the next five years. Secondary classroom space seems to be adequate through the projected period with only Roth Middle School edging towards capacity at the further most end of projection period.

**Elementary Classroom Availability vs. Classroom Needs
2008-2011**

	2008		2009		2010		2011	
School	Have	Need	Have	Need	Have	Need	Have	Need
Crane	32	30	32	30	32	32	32	31
Fyle	30	30	32*	30	32	30	32	30
Leary	30	31	32*	31	36	33	36	34
Sherman	32	32	32	31	32	31	32	30
Winslow	34	30	34	29	34	29	34	29

**** Please note:** Leary and Fyle are converting locker rooms into regular classrooms during the summer of 2009. These conversions are reflected in the numbers above but may not be ready for classroom use until January 2010. Good Shepherd annex will cover the problem at Leary for 2009-2010. We are examining a temporary solution at Fyle to accommodate 2009-2010.

4. Will we continue to have adequate room in the elementary schools to preserve small class size?

The committee feels that in the short-run we will be able to provide for adequate elementary classroom space and preserve small class size, if we manage new properties and their school designations. We did a review of new developments and how many students we grow for every 100 new homes, using recent data from Berkshire Park and the Preserve subdivisions. We estimate that we get about thirty students at the elementary level for every 100 homes. We need to consider Riverton Parcel F as a subdivision of 104 homes that will then produce about thirty students (two classrooms). Sherman Elementary School would reach 100% capacity or beyond as this development proceeds. Greywood Meadows is a subdivision of about 120 homes and possibly more in the future.

A subdivision of that size would produce about 2-3 classrooms of students. Fyle would be at 100% capacity or beyond as this development proceeds. Crane does not have the capacity to accommodate the possible development at Citygate. Winslow does have space and Leary also has some space because of the addition.

5. Should the middle school transfer policy continue?

Yes. The committee sees no problem with allowing the continuance of choice to parents to send their middle school children to Burger, rather than Roth. Many students drive by Burger Middle School on the way to Roth. As Burger Middle School will have new space from the current construction project, the transfer option works for Burger Middle School. Only about fifteen students engage in this choice option.

Committee Recommendations

In the short-term, the committee would like to recommend to the board the idea of designating new properties for attendance available rather than having new developments feed into existing attendance area maps as designed. By designating properties prior to construction, we avoid redistricting homes down the road. For instance:

- a. Riverton Parcel F is slated to go to Sherman. The committee recommends that it be redirected to Leary so as to allow Sherman to be a backup for the Greywood Meadows/Fyle development. The developer would be notified now as homes are under construction and not yet inhabited.
- b. When Greywood Meadows begins, then either Fyle or Sherman would be the designated schools depending on space. Balanced enrollment at Fyle would redirect Greywood Meadows to Sherman. These decisions would be made and the developer informed before houses are inhabited. Recommendations a and b work together to adjust new developments in the short-term.
- c. Form an area #82 along Pinnacle Road and direct any future development there to Winslow as opposed to Leary. This is proactive thinking that assists with the space availability at Winslow and the adjustments in recommendation a and b.
- d. Designate Citygate construction from Crane to Winslow now before anything develops and inform the developers about this before any properties are inhabited.

Elementary space concerns exist in the long-term. The committee would like the board to consider a feasibility study for creating a Pre K-K center at Vollmer. There are many pros and cons to exploring this idea but in terms of space, this would free up three classrooms at each building by relocating the kindergarten classrooms district-wide. Good Shepherd and Winslow could house programs displaced from Vollmer in this configuration. Another study to ponder is the use of Vollmer as an elementary school, if not as a Pre K-K center. This idea involves redistricting, however, which is not favorable to our residents.

Winslow has space that is difficult to utilize by any other means than full district-wide redistricting. The classroom space in the east is not accessible to the growth in the west.

The committee does not favor any small redistricting attempts as they are only temporary band-aids to a larger problem. The committee also does not want to redistrict the entire school district. Redistricting is a possible but not favored solution from the committee's perspective.

Another long-term idea is to monitor and evaluate the potential for another addition(s) at Sherman or Fyle or both. This is not an immediate need but one that lies on the horizon if we do not choose to use Vollmer as a Pre K – K Center or its own school. The committee concerns for this consideration lie with costs and efficiencies.

Next year, the committee will again re-examine the numbers and data in detail at both the elementary and middle levels. Continued elementary growth will eventually impact the middle levels.

Thank you for consideration of this report.