

TO: Dr. Graham and the Board of Education

From: Denise Anthony and the Instructional Space Committee

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Re: 2007-2008 Instructional Space Committee Report and Recommendations

Date: November 27, 2007

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?

This year, the Instructional Space Committee met three times to examine enrollment data and building capacity. Meetings were held on September 17, October 11, and November 8, 2007. Committee members represented teachers, staff, 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 a recommendation to the Superintendent and the Board of Education about any attendance area adjustments or construction necessary to meet future instructional needs.

As a part of the committee's work, it was also important to answer these questions:

- a. Were last year's enrollment projections accurate?**
- b. What future residential growth will impact our space needs?**
- c. What do future enrollment projections indicate?**
- d. Will we continue to have adequate room in the elementary schools to preserve small class size?**
- e. Were last year's Committee recommendations accurate?**
- f. Should the middle school transfer policy continue?**

Please refer to Appendices A-V for detailed documents used by the committee.

The Study

1. Were last year's enrollment projections accurate?

Yes. With only a slight inaccuracy at Sherman Elementary School, the enrollment projections continue to be quite accurate. Kindergarten enrollment projections are derived from census birth rates and the annual kindergarten census count. The other grade level enrollments are predicted by examining the most recent five-year enrollments and determining "survival ratios" for each school and grade level. **See Appendix A for "Frequently Asked Questions" about the projection methodology.**

Here are the projections we derived for the **2007-2008** school year using this methodology and how the projections aligned with the actual 2007 BEDS Enrollment data:

School	Projected Enrollment	Actual BEDS Enrollment	Difference (Error)
Crane	452	452	0
Fyle	440	447	+7
Leary	509	511	+2
Sherman	496	474	-22
Winslow	464	471	+7
Grades K-5	2361	2355	-6
Burger	504	497	-7
Roth	802	819	+17
Grade 6-8	1306	1316	+10
NGA	530	516	-14
SHS	1498	1498	0
Grades 9-12	2028	2014	-14
Grades K-12	5695	5685	-10

Please note: Enrollment Projection Assumptions include:

- a. Projections are based on enrollment trends from 2002 to 2007.
- b. Enrollment projections include self-contained special education students at their school of enrollment
- c. Elementary students placed in a school other than their home school due to the balanced enrollment policy are projected in the same placement next year.

Appendices B-Q provide detailed information regarding enrollment trends, class size, and projections.

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

Residential growth is occurring across the district at a modest rate and mainly in concentrations that continue to affect Leary Elementary School and possibly Sherman Elementary School.

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

Development	Number of Homes	Impact Area
Berkshire Park	80 homes per year for an additional eight year plan	Leary
Riverton Parcel F	104 homes over a two year period	Sherman
Stonefield Mews	23 homes	Winslow
The Preserve	32 homes	Fyle
Barberry Cove	30-40 homes	Leary
Wintergarden	118 homes	Sherman
Harvest Hills	20 homes	Leary

Appendix R provides detailed information from both the Towns of Henrietta and Rush regarding potential building development.

3. What do future enrollment projections indicate?

Future enrollment projections indicate that our instructional space needs at Leary Elementary School will continue to grow at a rate that exceeds the space available. All other elementary schools will have adequate space as we look forward and in particular, Winslow and Sherman Elementary Schools will have several classrooms available for use, according to the enrollment projections. 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
2007-2011**

	2007-2008		2008 - 2009		2009 - 2010		2010-2011	
School	Have	Need	Have	Need	Have	Need	Have	Need
Crane	28	28	31	28	31	29	31	30
Fyle	29	28	29	27	31	30	31	31
Leary	30	30	31	32	33	35	33	35
Sherman	30	29	32	30	32	29	32	28
Winslow	32	29	34	30	34	32	34	30

Please note: Winslow, Crane, and Sherman are converting locker rooms into regular classroom during the summer of 2008. Leary and Fyle are converting locker room into regular classrooms during the summer of 2009. These conversions are reflected in the numbers above. Also, room needs are not adjusted for looping patterns. Classroom numbers were calculated using 15 as the class size for Grades K-4 and 22 as the class size for Grade 5. **Appendix S provides detail about the classroom needs and availability.**

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

YES and NO. It does appear that we have adequate space across the combined district's elementary classrooms to preserve the small class size guidelines that we have adopted. We may not, however, have adequate space at Leary Elementary School as per its current attendance boundaries. Leary Elementary School is projected to exceed its current classroom space next year. Classrooms are available, however, at Winslow Elementary School beginning next year and at Sherman Elementary School beginning in two years according to current numbers. District-wide there is classroom availability. Attendance area changes will be necessary to tap into the district-wide capacity. Please also recognize that even with adjustments in attendance areas, the district could reach maximum elementary space usage, if growth persists beyond 2012.

5. Were last year's Committee recommendations accurate?

YES and NO. This year's committee has these comments about last year's recommendations:

- a. The committee's recommendations in 2006 for locker room conversions were appropriate and timely.
- b. The committee's recommendation to modify Regulation 5110 to allow the registrar to assign a student to a school outside of his or her attendance area if a grade level enrollment is filled was appropriate and timely. This is now our balanced enrollment policy.
- c. The committee's recommendation to modify an attendance area change between Sherman Elementary School and Fyle Elementary School known as attendance area 23A was appropriate and timely.
- d. The committee's recommendation to use "grandfathering" and not "legacy" techniques when making attendance area changes was also appropriate and timely.
- e. The committee's recommendation to relocate students in the northeastern corner of the Leary attendance area to Winslow school was somewhat appropriate. Last year, the movement of attendance areas 32, 33A, and 33 B from Leary Elementary School to Winslow Elementary School was recommended and adopted. The 2007 committee would like to modify this recommendation after reviewing the current data.
- f. The committee's recommendation that the choice option for middle schools be continued was appropriate.

6. 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

After examining the enrollment data and the space available, it is clear that Leary Elementary School will continue to have crowding issues. The development in the attendance areas of Leary continues to occur. Winslow Elementary School definitely has space beginning next school year to ease overcrowding at Leary. Last year, the Board of Education adopted attendance area changes for the northwest portion of Leary which included movement of areas 32, 33A, and 33B to Winslow from Leary. In actuality, only attendance area 33A was moved for the 2007-2008 school year. In light of that fact, the Instructional Space Committee would like the Board of Education to consider a revision to last year's decision to allow for additional flexibility to address the Leary growth patterns. **Please refer to the attendance area map, Appendices T-V, for reviewing the following considerations.**

We would like the Board of Education to consider:

- a. **Sending** attendance area 33B to Winslow Elementary School as previously adopted for the 2008-2009 school year using the grandfathering procedures established by the district
- b. **Reconfiguring** 33C by creating a new east-west boundary in attendance area 33C which would be north of Horseshoe Drive. Those residents north of Horseshoe Drive would be moved to Winslow for the 2008-2009 school year, using grandfathering procedures. Also, the board could consider mandating that any new homes in the southwest corner of 33 C would be swept into Winslow as they are constructed. It is suggested that attendance area 33C then be renamed so that:
33 C would become the area north of Horseshoe Drive between East Henrietta and Pinnacle and moved to Winslow Elementary School
33 D would become the area including Horseshoe Drive, Southern Hills, and Harvest Hills subdivision existing and new homes that would continue to attend Leary Elementary School
33E would become an area in the southwest corner of existing 33C bordered by Ward Hill Road to the south and Pinnacle to the East that upon development would attend Winslow Elementary School
- c. **Withholding** the assignment of attendance area 32 to Winslow Elementary School for 2008-2009 to monitor the attendance at Sherman Elementary School. It may be more advantageous to move attendance area 32 to Sherman Elementary School in 2009-2010, if space allows. This option provides for a secondary move

to ease crowding at Leary School that would not have existed if attendance area 32 was sent to Winslow next year.

- d. **Planning** for the next steps as these plans will maximize our combined district elementary capacity and should new construction persist the class size initiative would be difficult to maintain.