

To: Dr. Ken Graham, Superintendent
Rush-Henrietta Central School District Board of Education

From: Instructional Space Committee 2009-2010

Denise Anthony, Chair

Laura Johnson, Melissa Holahan, Amber Brewster, Trish LaRocca, Shawna Becene, Dustin Wolgast, Rhonda Delaney, Trish Koops, Amy Pluskwa, Travis Anderson, Jean Chaudari, Jeff McNeil, Betsy Marshall, Richard Repka, Curt Diesenber, Stan Polmateer, Robert Graham, Norm Lein, Jason Shetler, Diane McBride, Pam Reinhardt

Re: 2010-2011 Classroom Space Recommendations

Date: January 12, 2010

The Instructional Space Committee met on October 21, November 19, and December 9, to review district enrollment data, residential development maps, school classroom maps, and enrollment projections to determine if future enrollment and residential growth could impact school classroom space. The Instructional Space Committee examined the information with the understanding that:

- ✚ elementary small class sizes will continue,
- ✚ middle school team sizes will continue,
- ✚ the middle school-choice option will continue, and
- ✚ building enrollment for all students at each level in the district will be continuous.

Current district enrollment data was reviewed as well as the projection data based on pre-school census and survival-ratio methodology. The data that summarizes current enrollment and projections through 2014 for each building is attached. Committee members agree that the data suggests that during the next five years:

- ✚ District enrollment will remain flat.
- ✚ Winslow and Sherman show declining enrollment.
- ✚ Leary, Fyle, and Crane show growth in enrollment. Leary growth is being accommodated by the new addition to be completed for fall 2010 allowing for the return of the kindergarten classes from the Leary Annex. All elementary buildings also gained two classrooms from the locker room conversions and this has stabilized Fyle but not Crane. Overcrowding at Crane is a concern that will be the focus of our recommendations this year.
- ✚ As a result of the elementary growth and our current middle school feeder patterns, Roth Middle School will grow and Burger Middle School will have a slight decline in enrollment. The disparity of the middle school enrollments is addressed as a recommendation for the 2012-2013 school year.
- ✚ The Senior High enrollment will decline over this period by more than 10 percent.

New residential developments in the towns of Rush, Brighton, and Henrietta factor into the enrollment projections. The growth at Leary and Fyle is a result of development in the Riverton areas. The growth at Crane is the result of housing turnover and apartment complex enrollment growth. The map of our school boundaries and the projected community development lists are attached. Committee members would like to call your attention to this information:

- ✚ Development BA (City Gate) is on hold but still looming. This area will feed to Winslow as per the 2009 space report.
- ✚ Development BB (Winfield Park) is a new subdivision in the planning stages. Currently, it would feed to Crane and our recommendations will address this.
- ✚ The redirection of Development HP (Riverton Parcel F) from Sherman to Leary has eased the crowding at Sherman.
- ✚ Development HN (Berkshire Park) has opened section three of a 10-section development with 80 homes per section. This influenced our recommendation for the Leary addition. The recession has slowed development but it continues.
- ✚ Development HQ (Greywood Meadows) is still on hold and the issues with the town continue.
- ✚ Development HT (Hylan Drive Apartments) is expanding by two buildings.

Elementary classroom use based on all the data discussed so far indicates that we are looking good through 2014 at all elementary schools except Crane. The document attached illustrates how many classrooms we would need based on the enrollment projections through the 2013-2014 school year. Beginning in 2010-2011, next year, Crane is expected to have classroom shortages. This year Crane had a very large kindergarten enrollment of 92 children. Currently, there are 97 kindergarteners. If you look into the projections for 2010-2011, there are 106 known preschoolers in the census for Crane's 2010 kindergarten class. Once we hit 102 students, this requires the opening of another kindergarten classroom, i.e. four classrooms for kindergarten, which become seven sections of grades 1-4. These two large kindergarten classes from this year and next year quickly take a toll on classroom usage in the building for the next four years and create a space shortage. The committee believes a solution needs to be implemented with regard to attendance for Crane beginning this fall.

The committee examined all attendances feeding into Crane. Only one attendance area provides the right number of students, not too large or too small, to think about moving. The area that feeds about one classroom worth of students into Crane next year as kindergarteners is area 74 – Whipple Park graduate housing. The enrollment of section 74 is attached for your review. The Instructional Space Committee aims to preserve not only class size but also continuity of building enrollment for each level. It is important that we start the Whipple Park kindergarteners in a location that they can remain throughout their elementary experience. It is for this same reason that relocation of any special education classes at Crane was not considered as a solution to the classroom shortage.

Based on this information, the Instructional Space Committee recommends to the Board of Education these action items:

- 1) Move section 74 (Whipple Park Graduate Housing) incoming kindergarten students to Fyle beginning 2010-2011.
- 2) Give families with older siblings in section 74 the option of remaining where they are or moving to Fyle beginning 2010-2011.
- 3) Move Development BB (Winfield Park) students to Winslow. This is a new development with no residents yet. The builder and information systems will be contacted.
- 4) Plan for the next special education class to begin at Leary where space will ensure continuous enrollment, and allow the current Crane special education classes to age out.
- 5) Increase 5th grade class sizes from 19 to 20 districtwide. This creates a needed classroom at Crane.
- 6) Examine the middle school enrollment pattern of Leary Elementary School. It is suggested that Leary residents west of West Henrietta Road attend Burger Middle School beginning either 2012 or 2013. This move will help remedy the projected disparity between Burger and Roth as Burger's enrollment dips below 500 and Roth's enrollment approaches 800 in 2012-2013. Currently, the Riverton residents of Leary drive by Burger Middle School each day on their way to Roth Middle School. The predominant population west of West Henrietta Road is Riverton development area 36.

The following ideas were considered by the committee but are not recommended:

- 1) Requiring older siblings in section 74 to move with incoming kindergarteners
- 2) Moving the two current Crane special education classes to Leary next year
- 3) Moving section HT (new and existing Hylan Park Apartments) from Crane to Sherman
- 4) Moving section 10 (Winton Road Apartments) from Crane to Winslow

A timely decision on the Whipple Park attendance area is encouraged as Fyle kindergarten registration begins on February 1 and Crane kindergarten registration begins on March 8. Parents in this area would need to be informed as quickly as possible and provided the forum for discussion through a public hearing.