

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

From: Instructional Space Committee 2010-2011

*Chair: Denise Anthony*

*Members attending: Travis Anderson, Amber Brewster, Rhonda Delaney, Jeanne Denis, Le Roy Greer, Janey Harper, Melissa Holahan, Laura Johnson, Trish Koops, Trish LaRocca, Betsy Marshall, Nancy Miller, Ken Nelson, Amy Pluskwa, Pam Reinhardt, Richard Repka, Dustin Wolgast*

Re: 2011-2012 Classroom Space Recommendations

Date: December 15, 2010

The Instructional Space Committee met on October 20, November 18, 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 and agrees that:

- ✚ elementary class sizes can continue with an average class size of 15, but perhaps not a strict maximum class size of 17.
- ✚ middle school team sizes can continue.
- ✚ the middle school choice option can continue.
- ✚ the high school has sufficient space with the possible exception of the area for physical education and additional science labs.

The committee reviewed current enrollment data, as well as projected data based on pre-school census and survival-ratio methodology. 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 and Fyle enrollment will continue to be impacted by new subdivisions in Riverton, but current space seems adequate.
- ✚ Overcrowding at Crane is a concern that will again be the focus of our recommendations this year. The growth at Crane is the result of housing turnover and apartment complex enrollment growth.
- ✚ The Senior High enrollment is in a slight decline.
- ✚ Middle school enrollment continues to show slight growth at Roth and little growth at Burger. Roth is being impacted by the feeder growth of Leary and the crowding at Crane.

The map of our school boundaries with projected community development lists is attached. Committee members would like to call your attention to this information:

- ✚ Development BA (City Gate) is on hold but still looming in three to five years. This area will feed to Winslow as per the 2009 space report.

- ✚ The redirection of attendance area 74 (Whipple Park) to Fyle did prevent the opening of a seventh attendance area of kindergarten at Crane for which they did not have a room.
- ✚ Development HN (Berkshire Park) has opened attendance area four of the development with 79 homes planned. This influenced our recommendation for the Leary addition. The recession has slowed but development continues.
- ✚ Development HQ (Greywood Meadows) is beginning and will impact Fyle in the near future.

All of the data discussed so far indicates that elementary classroom use looks good through 2015 at all elementary schools except Crane. The documents attached illustrate how many classrooms we would need based on the enrollment projections through the 2015 school year. Currently, Crane is at full capacity (100% of all classrooms are being used, with service areas doubling or tripling up room space). Beginning in 2012-2013, Crane is expected to have actual grade-level classroom shortages. The committee believes other solutions need to be implemented with regard to attendance for Crane beginning this fall.

The committee examined all attendance areas feeding into Crane. Only one area has enough students to consider moving it. Sixty students from attendance area 10 (Winton Village Apartments + Surrey Hill) now attend Crane Elementary School. Eight kindergarteners are projected to attend Crane next year. The enrollment of attendance area 10 is attached for your review. The Instructional Space Committee recommends for your consideration that attendance area 10 be phased into Winslow Elementary School. This is a **longer-term** solution that can assist Crane and better use classroom space available at Winslow. A meeting would need to be held by February 1, 2011 to inform attendance area 10 kindergarten parents of our plans. Both Winslow and Crane principals would need to help facilitate the parent meeting.

The reassignment of attendance area 10 to Winslow is not a sufficient **short-term** solution to Crane crowding. While the Instructional Space Committee aims to preserve not only class size but also continuity of building enrollment for each level, it seems necessary to also recommend that the Life Skills class for grades K-2 be relocated. The committee was hesitant to recommend this break in school residence for the class because continuity of placement is one of the factors the committee aims to preserve. However, with two Life Skills classes at Crane, there are additional related service needs for OT, PT, sensory, and speech, and these services also need space. Relocation of the primary Life Skills class not only opens up a classroom, but also frees up some of the service needs requiring rooms at Crane. This year all the students except one in the primary Life Skills class are new to Rush-Henrietta. There is a lot of turnover in these classes. Next year's enrollment may or may not include this year's students. The recommendation from the committee is to move the primary Life Skills class to Leary where there is sufficient space for it to age out over the next four to five years. In addition, Leary is the only elementary school without a Special Education self-contained class or Life Skills class.

## **Summary of Recommendations**

The Instructional Space Committee recommends to the Board of Education these items for further consideration:

- 1) Move attendance area 10 (Winton Village and Surrey Hill) from the Crane attendance area by phasing in incoming kindergarten students to Winslow beginning 2011-2012.
- 2) Give older siblings in attendance area 10 the option of remaining at Crane or moving to Winslow beginning 2011-2012. We are not grandfathering families at Crane. Past practice allows currently enrolled K-5 students from attendance area 10 the option of remaining at Crane, Their kindergarten siblings will move to Winslow, regardless. It would be a parent choice to have children in both schools.
- 3) Monitor the enrollment at Winslow as over time 60 students could potentially join the Winslow student body from Crane. The BOCES class residing at Winslow could be moved if Winslow were to become too full, especially if the City Gate project begins to produce enrollment.
- 4) Plan for the primary Life Skills class to move to Leary where available space will ensure continuous enrollment and allow the current Crane special education intermediate class to age out.