

## **RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

To: Board of Education  
From: Dr. Patrick McCue, Asst. Superintendent/Human Resources & Strategic Initiatives  
Re: Classroom Space Recommendations  
Date: January 12, 2016

The district's Instructional Space Committee met on October 22, November 12, and December 10 to review school enrollment trends and projections, residential development plans, school space use, and school attendance areas to determine whether there is adequate classroom space for future enrollment and, if not, to recommend actions that can be taken to provide needed classroom space.

This study has also taken into account the upcoming district-wide reconfiguration that will be implemented in the 2017-18 school year along with full-day kindergarten, including the revised elementary attendance areas approved by the Board of Education in 2015. The committee has considered both short-term planning for 2016-17 under the current school grade-level configuration as well as five-year planning under the reconfiguration.

### **Current Student Enrollment**

The district currently enrolls 5,457 students – 5,348 of these students attend R-H schools, and 109 are placed in out-of-district settings (BOCES or special schools). Of the 5,348 students attending R-H schools, 2,506 attend elementary schools (grades K-5) and 2,842 attend secondary schools (6-12).

	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Total*</b>
<b>2015</b>	2,506	2,842	5,348
<b>2014</b>	2,374	2,853	5,227
<b>2013</b>	2,379	2,876	5,255
<b>2012</b>	2,393	2,973	5,366
<b>2011</b>	2,398	3,036	5,434

\*Out of district placements not included

Compared to last year, K-12 student enrollment has increased by 121 students (see table above). The growth is concentrated at the elementary level, where enrollment has risen by 132 students from 2014. Secondary enrollment declined by 11 students, and out-of-district placements increased by 11.

During the past five school years, K-12 student enrollment has declined by 86 students. Elementary schools enroll 108 more students, and secondary schools enroll 194 fewer students.

### **Elementary School Enrollment**

	<b>Crane</b>	<b>Fyle</b>	<b>Leary</b>	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>Winslow</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015</b>	453	467	623	428	535	<b>2,506</b>
<b>2014</b>	420	436	575	451	492	<b>2,374</b>
<b>2013</b>	416	465	573	430	495	<b>2,379</b>
<b>2012</b>	406	494	547	457	489	<b>2,393</b>
<b>2011</b>	442	491	530	452	483	<b>2,398</b>

Over the past five years, elementary school enrollment has increased by 108 students, but that growth is due largely to an unusually high increase of 132 students this year. Additionally, enrollment trends differ among elementary schools. As shown above, over the past five years enrollment has declined at Crane, Fyle, and Sherman while it has increased at Leary and Winslow. However, enrollment increased this year at all schools except Sherman. One unique factor in 2015 is the Student Transition Plan, which has allowed families whose elementary attendance areas will change in the district reconfiguration to choose to send their children to their new school early. This has resulted in a shift of enrollment, primarily from Sherman (which will be converted to an intermediate school in 2017) to Fyle, Leary and Winslow.

### **Elementary School Enrollment Projections, 2016-17 School Year\***

	<b>Crane</b>	<b>Fyle</b>	<b>Leary</b>	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>Winslow</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015</b>	441	462	604	411	527	<b>2,445</b>
<b>2016</b>	451	481	672	399	538	<b>2,541</b>

\*Current K-5 school configuration, excluding self-contained Special Education classes

As shown above, for 2016-17, the final year of the current elementary configuration, enrollments are expected to increase moderately at Crane (+10), Fyle (+19) and Winslow (+11), increase significantly at Leary (+68), and to continue to decrease at Sherman (-12). The projected changes at Leary and Sherman are based on anticipated additional participation in the Student Transition Plan early transfer option, as well as continued growth in housing development in the Leary attendance area.

### **Primary School Enrollment Projections, Five Years\***

	<b>Crane</b>	<b>Fyle</b>	<b>Leary</b>	<b>Winslow</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2016</b>	401	435	430	431	<b>1,697</b>
<b>2017</b>	410	453	476	445	<b>1,784</b>
<b>2018</b>	433	464	474	471	<b>1,842</b>
<b>2019</b>	422	470	493	468	<b>1,853</b>
<b>2020</b>	434	456	485	461	<b>1,836</b>

\*New K-3 school configuration, excluding self-contained Special Education classes. Data for 2016 are not actual projected enrollments; they are for comparison purposes, using the 2017 attendance areas to show what enrollment in 2016 would be under the reconfiguration.

### **Intermediate School Enrollment Projections, Five Years\***

	<b>Sherman</b>	<b>Vollmer</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2016</b>	621	646	<b>1,267</b>
<b>2017</b>	581	684	<b>1,265</b>
<b>2018</b>	579	720	<b>1,299</b>
<b>2019</b>	618	716	<b>1,334</b>
<b>2020</b>	659	780	<b>1,439</b>

\*New 4-6 school configuration, excluding self-contained Special Education classes. Data for 2016 are not actual projected enrollments; they are for comparison purposes, using the 2017 attendance areas to show what enrollment in 2016 would be under the reconfiguration.

### **Elementary School Classroom Space Requirements**

Board of Education Regulation 4020-R establishes class size guidelines for elementary schools. At grades K-4, the current class size target is 15 with maximum class sizes of 17 at grades K-2 and 18 at grades 3-4. At grade 5, the class size target is 22 with a maximum class size of 24. However, efforts have been made in recent years to keep grade 5 class sizes close to 18 students.

Under the reconfiguration, the Board has revised the guidelines so that at the primary (K-3) schools, the target size will be 15 and the maximum will be 17 at all grade levels. At the intermediate (4-6) schools, the class size target will be 18 with a maximum class size of 20 at all grade levels.

Using these class size guidelines, classroom space requirements over the next five years will be as follows:

#### **Required Classrooms, 2016-17 School Year**

	<b>Rooms Available*</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>		<b>Rooms Needed</b>
<b>Crane</b>	<b>29</b>		27	29		0
<b>Fyle</b>	<b>31</b>		28	28		0
<b>Leary</b>	<b>36</b>		36	40		4
<b>Sherman</b>	<b>30</b>		28	26		0
<b>Winslow</b>	<b>33</b>		30	30		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>		149	153		<b>4</b>

\*Rooms available = Total Classrooms – 3 for related services (2 at Leary)

### Required Classrooms, 2017-20

	<b>Rooms Available*</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Rooms Needed</b>
<b>Crane</b>	<b>29</b>	26	27	26	28	0
<b>Fyle</b>	<b>31</b>	29	28	32	31	1
<b>Leary</b>	<b>36</b>	33	32	33	33	0
<b>Winslow</b>	<b>33</b>	28	30	30	29	0
<b>Sherman</b>	<b>40</b>	32	32	33	35	0
<b>Vollmer</b>	<b>40</b>	37	38	38	42	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	185	187	192	198	3

\*Rooms available = Total Classrooms – 3 for related services

These classroom space projections require placing self-contained special education classes (district and BOCES classes) at elementary schools with available space. The projected placement of these self-contained special education classes is as follows:

### K-5 Schools

	<b>Current</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Crane</b>	3	3
<b>Fyle</b>	1	1
<b>Leary</b>	2	2
<b>Sherman</b>	2	3
<b>Winslow</b>	1	0
<b>Total</b>	9	9

### Primary and Intermediate Schools

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Crane</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Fyle</b>	2	2	2	2
<b>Leary</b>	2	2	2	2
<b>Winslow</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Sherman</b>	2	2	2	2
<b>Vollmer</b>	2	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	8	8	8	8

## **Discussion**

The elementary schools continue to have adequate space to accommodate projected enrollment during the reconfiguration and over the next five years. Although this year saw an unusual increase in elementary enrollment – 121 students – analysis of enrollment data revealed no obvious pattern or cause for this jump. Enrollments increased across various schools, attendance areas and grade levels, and there was no unusual pattern in terms of transfer students' districts of origin. The increase will need to be monitored closely to determine whether it is an anomaly or the beginning of a trend that could impact space planning in the coming years.

However, while overall space is adequate to absorb the increased enrollment, due to the Student Transition Plan and continued housing growth in the Leary attendance area, some short-term changes will need to be made at Leary to accommodate additional expected enrollment next year, when Leary is projected to need four additional classrooms. Although Sherman will have space available due to anticipated transfer requests under the Transition Plan, that space (four classrooms) will be needed to accommodate the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program, which will be relocated for 2016-17 while construction begins at the Vollmer building as part of the reconfiguration capital project. One possibility for addressing space needs at Leary would be to relocate the two self-contained Life Skills classes from Leary to Crane, Fyle or Winslow, all of which will have space available. However, that alternative also was considered last year as part of space planning but was rejected by the Board due to the disruption it would cause for the students and families. These classes are scheduled to remain at Leary under the reconfiguration, so relocation for one year is not considered a desirable option.

A more viable strategy to address Leary's short-term space need would be to allow for larger class sizes at the school for one year, thus reducing the number of classrooms required. As part of the Student Transition Plan, the Board approved a temporary exemption to the elementary class size policy to allow for class sizes of up to 22 at the K-3 level for 2015-16 and 2016-17 only. Thus, Leary's space issue could be resolved by raising class sizes at certain grade levels within the allowable maximums, thus reducing the number of classrooms needed. As the table on the next page illustrates, for example, a reduction of one section of kindergarten, two sections of second grade and one section of third grade would reduce the number of classrooms needed from 40 to 36, which is the number of classrooms available, while keeping the class sizes within the Board's revised guidelines for the transition. Additionally, this option would provide adequate space for new entrants in kindergarten under the allowable transition maximum.

The Space Committee also considered the possibility of reducing one section of first grade, which would raise average class sizes to 20.0, well within the maximum, but not leave adequate room for new entrants (Leary averaged 9 new entrants at 1<sup>st</sup> grade over the past five years). The possibility of reducing a section at fifth grade (for an average size of 21.2) also could be considered as the administration evaluates staffing options for 2016-17, while accounting for variables such as looping groups, room availability, and enrollment changes.

### Leary Class Size Alternatives for 2016-17

Grade	Projected Enrollment	Projected Sections	Average Class Size	Reduced Sections	Adjusted Class Size
K	112	4*	16.0	<b>3</b>	18.7
1	100	6	16.7	6	16.7
2	120	8	15.0	<b>6</b>	20.0
3	111	7	15.9	<b>6</b>	18.5
4	123	7	17.6	7	17.6
5	106	6	17.7	6	17.7
SE	--	2	--	2	--
		<b>40</b>		<b>36</b>	

The kindergarten enrollment requires 7 half-day sections at the normal targeted maximum class size of 17, which would necessitate the use of 4 rooms, the equivalent of four full-day sections.

Longer-term, continued growth in residential developments in Henrietta will generate enrollment increases, primarily in the western part of town (the Leary and Fyle attendance areas). Enrollment management was a major goal of the district reconfiguration, and the Board's decision to revise attendance areas effective in 2017-18 will help to mitigate these increases and maintain a relative balance in enrollments among the elementary schools.

New developments in the Riverton area, such as Jayne's Riverview (up to 140 single-family homes in attendance area 76) are expected to drive enrollment growth at Fyle over the next five years, and such development will need to be monitored closely. If current projections hold true, Fyle is expected to reach capacity during that time, and will exceed available space by one classroom during 2019-20. This may necessitate a shift in the anticipated placement of two self-contained special education classes at Fyle. Both Winslow and Leary will have classroom space available, and Winslow seems the more logical alternative because Leary is already slated to house the self-contained Life Skills classes. In addition, residential growth is expected to continue in the Leary area in large developments such as Queens Park (attendance area 86), making it prudent to maintain a cushion of available space there. Winslow should experience some growth from the planned Town Center Apartments at the old county fairgrounds (attendance area 20), but the growth projected there will be manageable within available space.

Town planning officials in Brighton and Rush indicated a slowdown in expected residential construction that would impact district enrollments. In particular, one large proposed development that was of concern in 2014, Winfield Park in Brighton (attendance area 3), has not proceeded as quickly as planned due to utility concerns, so it should not have a great impact on Crane enrollment in the next few years but will need to be monitored.

Anticipated enrollment growth also has implications for the new intermediate schools. If projections hold true, the enrollments of Sherman and Vollmer will begin to diverge shortly after the reconfiguration, with the gap widening significantly in 2019 and especially 2020. That year, Vollmer is projected to have 780 students – 121 more than Sherman (see table at

top of Page 3), which means that 42 classrooms would be needed at Vollmer, two more than are currently planned in the capital project (see table at top of Page 4).

Given current information, space availability and the diminished reliability of projections beyond three years, the Space Committee is not recommending any further redrawing of attendance areas at this time. However, it will be important in the next two to three years to monitor residential growth and keep open the possibility of attendance area adjustments by the end of the decade to maintain enrollment balance between the Burger/Vollmer and Roth/Sherman areas. If enrollment growth pushes available space at Vollmer as projected, it is more likely that the self-contained Special Education classes that are currently scheduled to be assigned to Vollmer could be shifted to Sherman, especially if the corresponding K-3 classes are moved to Winslow to free up space at Fyle. That would allow those students to remain in the same attendance area as they move up through the grade levels.

### **Middle School Enrollment**

	<b>Burger</b>	<b>Roth</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015</b>	508	692	1,200
<b>2014</b>	489	705	1,194
<b>2013</b>	468	709	1,177
<b>2012</b>	489	736	1,225
<b>2011</b>	493	761	1,254

Over the past five years, middle school enrollment has decreased slightly (-54), with Burger growing by 15 students and Roth decreasing by 69. As a result, the enrollment gap between the middle schools is continuing to close, as families have exercised the middle school choice option. This year 33 students are attending Burger and 12 are attending Roth under this option, similar to past years. In addition, under the new Student Transition Plan, 18 students elected to make an early transition to a different middle school in 2015 in anticipation of the reconfiguration of attendance areas – 17 at Burger and 1 at Roth.

### **Middle School (6-8)/Junior High School (7-9) Enrollment Projections\***

	<b>Burger</b>	<b>Roth</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015</b>	486	683	1,169
<b>2016</b>	504	712	1,216
<b>2017</b>	568	667	1,235
<b>2018</b>	602	632	1,234
<b>2019</b>	682	646	1,328
<b>2020</b>	721	605	1,326

\* Excluding self-contained Special Education students. Totals for 2015 and 2016 are for grades 6-8; totals for 2017-20 are for grades 7-9

### **Middle School Classroom Space Requirements**

Board of Education Regulation 4020-R establishes class size guidelines for middle schools. At grades 6-8, the class size target is 24 for core content instruction, with a maximum of 26. These guidelines will continue to apply to grades 7-9 when the schools are reconfigured.

Based on these guidelines, both middle schools have adequate classroom space for projected enrollment for the next five years. Junior high enrollment is expected to increase by 157 students over the next 5 years, as the bubble of enrollment growth currently at the elementary level moves up the grade levels. However, as with the primary and intermediate schools, the majority of growth will be concentrated in the Burger attendance area. Once the new grade-level configurations and attendance areas are in effect, Burger is projected to grow by 153 students between 2017 and 2020, while Roth is expected to decrease by 62. This trend will need to be monitored and may necessitate reassignment of



self-contained classes or potential attendance area adjustments by 2020 to ensure sufficient space at Burger and to maintain enrollment balance between the schools.

### **High School Enrollment**

	<b>NGA</b>	<b>SHS</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015</b>	383	1,193	1,576
<b>2014</b>	400	1,259	1,659
<b>2013</b>	415	1,284	1,699
<b>2012</b>	442	1,306	1,748
<b>2011</b>	419	1,363	1,782

Over the past five years, high school enrollment has declined by 206 students across both schools. Enrollment has declined at the NGA by 36 and at the SHS by 170.

### **High School Enrollment Projections\***

	<b>NGA</b>	<b>SHS</b>	<b>9-12 Total</b>
<b>2015</b>	394	1,248	1,642
<b>2016</b>	412	1,212	1,624
<b>2017</b>	--	1,208	1,649
<b>2018</b>	--	1,236	1,616
<b>2019</b>	--	1,221	1,676
<b>2020</b>	--	1,269	1,710

\* Excluding self-contained Special Education students

High School enrollment is projected to continue to decrease next year, but overall 9-12 enrollment is expected to increase by 68 students over the next five years as the growth in elementary enrollment works its way through the junior high schools and eventually to the Senior High School. The Senior High's enrollment will remain relatively stable until 2020, when it is projected to increase to 1,269, a growth of 21 students from the current year. The NGA is scheduled to close after the 2016-17 school year as part of the reconfiguration.

### **High School Classroom Space Requirements**

Board of Education Regulation 4020-R establishes class size guidelines for high schools. At grades 9-12, the class size target is 25 for core content instruction. A maximum class size has not been established. These guidelines will continue to apply to grades 10-12 under the district reconfiguration. Based on these guidelines, the Senior High School has adequate classroom space for projected enrollment for the next five years.

## **Summary and Recommendations**

Based on analysis of the enrollment projections and space requirements for the next five years, the Instructional Space Committee concludes that the District's long-range space planning continues to be sound, as schools at all levels – elementary, middle and high school – are anticipated to have adequate space to meet the needs of expected enrollments. Enrollment management actions taken in 2014 and 2015 by the Board of Education – such as revising attendance areas, school reconfiguration, and classroom construction in the upcoming capital project – have positioned the District well to meet its space needs.

There are a few areas that need to be monitored based on the enrollment projections for the next five years; therefore, the committee recommends to the Board of Education the following actions for consideration:

1. For 2016-17, increase the maximum class size in grades K-3 at Leary Elementary School from 17 to 20, utilizing the Board's transition class size waiver, to ensure adequate classroom space for an expected increase in enrollment. This can be accomplished through section reductions at various grade levels.
2. Shift one or both self-contained Regents-track special education classes from Fyle Elementary to Winslow for the 2017-18 school year to accommodate expected enrollment growth from residential development in the Fyle attendance area.
3. Monitor projected growth in the Burger/Vollmer attendance area over the next three years, to determine whether (a) self-contained special education classes will need to be shifted to Roth/Sherman and/or (b) attendance areas will need adjustments.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Instructional Space Committee

Chair: Patrick McCue, Assistant Superintendent

Members: Mary Bloss, Amy Brewer, Amber Brewster, Andrea Catena, Karin Christensen, Gail Cook, Rhonda Delaney, Cheryl Engh, Brian Hill, Melissa Holahan, Patricia Koops, Ann Martin, Brenda Mastrangelo, Annette Muller, Ken Nelson, Laureen O'Connell, Beth Patton, Jamye Potucek, Pam Reinhardt, Sue Smith, Jennifer Tomalty, Renae Veneziano, Phyllis Wickerham, Michelle Wood, Angela Zanghi