

**RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE COMMITTEE**

To: Board of Education
Lawrence Bo Wright, Superintendent of Schools

From: Patrick McCue, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Re: Classroom Space Recommendations

Date: January 14, 2020

The district's 2019-20 Instructional Space Committee met on October 17, November 14, and December 5, 2019, to review school enrollment trends and projections, residential development plans, current 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 ensure that our schools have adequate classroom space.

I. Current District Enrollment

The district currently enrolls 5,525 students – 5,387 of these students attend R-H schools, and 138 are placed in out-of-district settings (BOCES or special schools), which is up from 116 in 2018. Compared with last fall, in-district K-12 student enrollment has increased by 67 students, as shown in Table 1. This represents an increase of 160 students over the past five years and the second consecutive year of growth, although the overall trend over the past two decades has been a steady decline in enrollment. According to the Office of Information Systems, the increase of 67 students this fall cannot be attributed to any single factor – new registrants entered from a variety of districts, including the Rochester City School District and suburban districts, as well as from out of the area and state.

Table 1: Five-Year Fall District Enrollment*

	Total	Change
2019	5,387	+67
2018	5,320	+97
2017	5,223	-24
2016	5,247	-101
2015	5,348	+121
2014	5,227	

*Out of district placements not included

Table 2 displays the five-year enrollments by grade level bands. The fall enrollments for 2014 through 2016 (prior to the district-wide school reconfiguration, which returned 6th grade to the elementary level from secondary) are not the actual enrollments from those years but have been adjusted to reflect what the enrollments would have been based on the current post-reconfiguration attendance areas. This year's enrollment data shows an overall increase of 30 students at the elementary level (Grades K-6), and an increase of 37 students at secondary (Grades 7-12).

Table 2: Five-Year Fall Enrollments by Level*

	Elementary Grades K-3	Elementary Grades 4-6	Secondary Grades 7-9	Secondary Grades 10-12	Total
2019	1,682	1,211	1,260	1,234	5,387
2018	1,628	1,235	1,203	1,254	5,320
2017	1,573	1,209	1,198	1,243	5,223
2016	1,578	1,260	1,186	1,223	5,247
2015	1,661	1,213	1,216	1,258	5,348
2014	1,590	1,207	1,169	1,261	5,227

* Out of district placements not included. Data for 2014-16 is adjusted to reflect the current configuration.

II. Elementary School Enrollment and Projections

Prior to the district reconfiguration in 2017, enrollments at the five K-5 elementary schools were becoming increasingly imbalanced. As part of the plan for reconfiguration and enrollment management, the Board of Education approved revised elementary attendance areas, to help bring the schools into closer balance in order to maintain equity in services across the schools. As Table 3 illustrates, that goal has largely been achieved at the K-3 level.

Table 3: Five-Year Enrollments, Grades K-3*

	Crane[^]	Fyle	Leary[^]	Winslow	Total
2019	366	396	478	442	1,682
2018	355	411	422	440	1,628
2017	372	384	406	411	1,573
2016	373	411	381	413	1,578
2015	399	418	425	419	1,661
2014	376	391	417	406	1,590

* Data for 2014-16 is adjusted to reflect the current configuration.

[^] Includes students from other schools who are placed in Special Education classes.

The enrollment growth this fall included an increase of 54 students at K-3. Based on an analysis of new entrant attendance areas, it appears that, in addition to home construction, the district is experiencing an increase in families with children moving into older established neighborhoods (discussed on Page 5), helping to explain the enrollment increases at Crane (+11) and Winslow (+2). The increases this year at Crane and Leary (+56) also reflect the decision to consolidate the primary Integrated Co-Taught and Consultant Teacher special education programs, respectively, in those schools. Fyle is the only primary school to show an enrollment decline this year (-15).

Over the next five years, enrollment at the primary schools is projected to decrease by 36 students. As shown in Table 4, enrollments at all four schools will remain relatively stable, with Fyle, Leary and Winslow being similar sized, and Crane having additional room to grow. When the district's self-contained special education classes are excluded from the enrollment counts, Crane is the one primary school that is not similar in size to the others. Crane will continue to lag in enrollment, as planned, because it has fewer available classrooms than the other primary buildings. Although Leary and Winslow enrollments are

projected to increase next year, they are expected to level off and begin a steady decline in 2021-22 as the recent enrollment bubble leaves grades K-3. All projections take into account current enrollments, projected residential growth, and recent patterns in terms of the average percentages of students who enter or leave a particular grade level or school in any given year (known as the “survival rate”).

Table 4: Primary School Fall Enrollment Projections*

	Crane	Fyle	Leary	Winslow	Total
Current	348	396	458	442	1,644
2020	352	406	477	467	1,702
2021	358	403	471	465	1,697
2022	366	400	470	459	1,695
2023	357	400	450	444	1,651
2024	354	403	431	420	1,608

*Excluding self-contained Special Education classes (currently at Crane and Leary).

At the intermediate level, as shown in Table 5, enrollment since 2014 has been declining in the attendance area served by Sherman (-37 students), while growing in the Vollmer area (+41), reflecting patterns of new residential construction and overall population growth.

Table 5: Five-Year Enrollments, Grades 4-6*

	Sherman	Vollmer	Total
2019	572	639	1,211
2018	591	644	1,235
2017	561	648	1,209
2016	630	630	1,260
2015	622	591	1,213
2014	609	598	1,207

* Data for 2014-16 is adjusted to reflect the current configuration. Sherman encompasses the Crane and Winslow attendance areas; Vollmer encompasses Fyle and Leary.

Enrollment in grades 4-6 is projected to increase by 151 students over the next five years (see Table 6), as the enrollment bubble moves through the intermediate schools, peaking in 2024-25. This change, however, will not be evenly distributed between the two schools, due largely to differences in residential growth. Vollmer is projected to add 101 students by 2024-25, while Sherman is projected to grow by 50.

Table 6: Intermediate School Fall Enrollment Projections*

	Sherman	Vollmer	Total
Current	535	631	1,166
2020	537	650	1,187
2021	536	689	1,225
2022	533	704	1,237
2023	556	734	1,290
2024	585	732	1,317

*Excluding self-contained Special Education classes at both schools.

Elementary Classroom Space Requirements

District Regulation 4020-R establishes class size guidelines for elementary schools. At grades K-3, the class size target is 15 students, with a maximum of 17; at grades 4-6, the target is 20 students, with a maximum of 22. Using these guidelines, classroom space requirements over the next five years are expected to be as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Required Classrooms, Grades K-6, 2020-24

	Rooms Available*	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Rooms Needed
Crane	28	22	23	24	23	23	0
Fyle	31	26	26	25	26	25	0
Leary	36	31	30	30	29	28	0
Winslow	32	29	30	29	27	27	0
Sherman	34	26	26	26	26	28	0
Vollmer	35	30	34	35	35	35	0
Total	196	164	169	169	166	166	0

*Rooms available = Total Classrooms – 3 rooms (for related services, such as Speech, ESL and Reading)

The five-year classroom space projections require placing district-wide self-contained special education classes at elementary schools that have available space. Currently at the primary level, three Life Skills classes are placed at Leary, and two self-contained Regents-track classes are at Crane. At the intermediate level, two Life Skills classes are placed at Vollmer, and three Regents-track classes are at Sherman. Including those classes, the total anticipated classroom use and available space at the elementary schools is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Required Classrooms (Including Self-Contained Classes), 2020-24

	Rooms Available*	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Rooms Needed
Crane	28	24	25	26	25	25	0
Fyle	31	26	26	25	26	25	0
Leary	36	34	33	33	32	31	0
Winslow	32	29	30	29	27	27	0
Sherman	34	29	29	29	29	31	0
Vollmer	35	32	36	37	37	37	2
Total	196	174	179	179	176	176	2

*Rooms available = Total Classrooms – 3 rooms (for related services, such as Speech, ESL and Reading)

The projections indicate that the primary schools will continue to have more than adequate space to meet anticipated needs over the next five years. However, the growth at the intermediate level will put pressure on available space, and, if all other factors continue as is, Vollmer will be short by two classrooms in 2022-23 through 2024-25.

Discussion

Given the enrollment projections and available classroom space, the Instructional Space Committee believes that – with the exception of Vollmer – the elementary schools will continue to have more than adequate space to accommodate projected enrollment over the next five years. However, elementary enrollments this year increased again, continuing a shift from the long-term trend of declining district enrollments over the past decade. It is too soon to determine whether this two-year increase marks the beginning of a new trend or just a temporary surge, but it must be accounted for in the district’s long-range planning.

The projected growth in residential development, combined with the turnover of housing stock in older neighborhoods, is expected to produce continued moderate growth in overall enrollment. Henrietta officials project that new home construction will continue at its current steady pace for the foreseeable future, especially in the Riverton area, which feeds Fyle, Leary, Vollmer and Burger. In addition, local real estate brokers confirm that a larger number of families with young children are moving into the older neighborhoods in Henrietta, specifically in the Winton/Pinnacle Road corridor (Winslow) and around Bailey Road (Fyle). This trend is expected to continue to drive new enrollment. In Rush and West Brighton, population growth and housing developments are projected to be minimal.

The committee’s major concern is the growing imbalance of enrollments between the Burger and Roth feeder patterns. Burger and Vollmer are growing much faster than Roth and Sherman, and Vollmer’s enrollment is projected to exceed available space as soon as 2021-22. As shown in Table 8, if current projections hold, the school would need two additional classrooms over the next several years to meet projected space needs. This will likely necessitate significant action steps, as discussed in the recommendations on Pages 7-8.

III. Junior High School Enrollment and Projections

As shown in Table 9, enrollment at the junior high schools (previously middle schools) increased by 57 students this year, with Burger growing significantly (+75) and Roth decreasing by 18. Since 2014, overall junior high enrollment has grown steadily, increasing by 91 students. But, as expected, the growth has been concentrated at Burger (+107), while Roth’s enrollment has declined (-16). As a result, the enrollment gap between the junior high schools has reversed, with Burger now the larger school. This gap is expected to widen in the next few years, as growth at Burger will continue to be driven by home construction in the western part of Henrietta. Any growth from housing turnover in the older east-side neighborhoods most likely won’t be reflected in Roth’s enrollments for several more years.

Table 9: Five-Year Middle School/Junior High Enrollments

	Burger	Roth	Total
2019	666	594	1,260
2018	591	612	1,203
2017	537	661	1,198
2016	590	596	1,186
2015	607	609	1,216
2014	559	610	1,169

Table 10 illustrates that for the next five years, overall enrollments in grades 7-9 are expected to decrease and then begin increasing, as the enrollment bubble moves from the elementary level to secondary. Burger's enrollment is projected to increase by 79 over that period, while Roth's is projected to decrease by the same amount, further widening the enrollment gap (projected to be 210 students by 2024-25).

Table 10: Junior High School Fall Enrollment Projections*

	Burger	Roth	Total
Current	646	594	1,240
2020	667	540	1,207
2021	670	521	1,191
2022	664	512	1,176
2023	684	515	1,199
2024	725	515	1,240

* Excluding self-contained Special Education classes at Burger.

Junior High School Classroom Space Requirements

District Regulation 4020-R establishes class size guidelines for junior high schools. The class size target at grades 7-9 is 24 students for core content instruction, with a maximum of 26. Based on these guidelines, both schools have adequate classroom space for projected enrollment. As shown in Table 11, current average class sizes are below the district target. However, as with Vollmer, enrollments at Burger will need to be monitored over the next five years as residential construction in that attendance area continues to drive increased enrollments and class sizes.

Table 11: Core Area Average Class Sizes*, Fall 2019

	Burger	Roth
English	22.3	20.5
Math	23.4	22.0
Science	22.0	21.0
Social Studies	23.1	22.0

* Target 24, maximum 26

IV. Senior High School Enrollment and Projections

Over the past five years, Senior High School enrollment (grades 10-12) has experienced a steady decline (-85 students), as shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Five-Year Senior High School Enrollments

	SHS
2019	1,174
2018	1,186
2017	1,176
2016	1,162
2015	1,193
2014	1,259

Projecting forward, total enrollment at grades 10-12 over the next five years (including students who may enroll in the Alternative Program or the Transition Program) is expected to be relatively stable, with an increase of 36 students (see Table 13).

Table 13: Grades 10-12 Fall Enrollment Projections*

Current	1,234
2020	1,264
2021	1,252
2022	1,312
2023	1,282
2024	1,270

* Includes students who may be enrolled in the Alternative or Transition programs

Senior High School Classroom Space Requirements

District Regulation 4020-R establishes class size guidelines for the high school. At grades 10-12, the class size target is 25 for core content instruction; a maximum class size has not been established, due to single-section electives, Advanced Placement courses, etc. Based on these guidelines, the Senior High School will have more than adequate classroom space for projected enrollment over the next five years and beyond.

V. 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. Schools at all levels – primary, intermediate, junior high school and senior high school – are anticipated to have adequate space to meet the needs of expected enrollments and future growth, except for Vollmer Elementary School.

Nonetheless, as the projected elementary enrollment bubble moves through the intermediate schools (and eventually to the junior high schools), options must be considered to ease the pressure on classroom space. If the enrollment imbalance continues unchecked, the District could be in the undesirable position of lacking adequate space at Vollmer and Burger while classrooms sit empty at Sherman and Roth. In addition, the imbalance could cause equity issues for the larger schools, such as increasing demands on resources and support services (e.g. counseling, social work and nursing); larger class sizes, especially in the non-core areas; and widespread consolidation and sharing of classrooms and other space. Shifting resources to Vollmer and Burger may be an undesirable option, as it could strain resources at Sherman and Roth, resulting in further equity issues given the more significant student and family needs at those schools.

Therefore, the committee offers the following recommendations to the Board of Education:

1. Consider shifting some attendance areas from the Burger feeder pattern to the Roth feeder pattern, beginning in 4th grade. These targeted shifts of attendance areas would address the long-range imbalance in enrollment growth between Vollmer/Burger and Sherman/Roth, which is projected to widen in the coming

years. Making this change at 4th grade rather than kindergarten would preserve the neighborhood attendance zones for the primary schools, where there is projected to be no significant space needs in the coming years. Some important considerations:

- a. There should be an analysis of attendance areas to identify a few highly populated areas that can be shifted, rather than making widespread changes. The projected enrollment gap between Burger and Roth is expected to be about 200 students by 2024-25, so moving attendance areas totaling about 100 students would bring them into approximate balance. The committee has identified several attendance areas along the West Henrietta Road corridor for the Board to consider (see attached attendance area enrollment documents).
 - b. Care should be taken to minimize splitting neighborhoods between schools.
 - c. Potential changes must take into account socioeconomic information, in order to avoid exacerbating the gaps between the Burger and Roth communities.
 - d. Housing growth and sales trends should be considered, including the potential assignment of future developments to schools outside their current area.
 - e. Any changes need to be evaluated for their impact on district transportation.
2. To ease space needs at Vollmer, consider establishing a K-6 Life Skills program at Fyle Elementary School (moving the classes from Leary and Vollmer), which has room and currently houses no district special education programs. Or, if the district wants to keep the K-3 Life Skills at Leary, the 4-6 program could be housed there as well. Either way, students would be able to stay at the same school for grades K-6, and space would be freed up at Vollmer.
 3. Utilize the 2018-19 elementary space audit to evaluate the use of classroom space for related services, Cub Care Zone and non-essential functions (conference space, etc.) in the elementary schools. Some services and offices can be combined and/or reassigned to smaller spaces that are not suitable to be classrooms and still meet the various needs while freeing up classrooms, especially at Vollmer and Sherman.
 4. Continue to consult with town planners and real estate companies to monitor the growth in residential building, and to assess trends in sales of existing homes in established residential neighborhoods, especially in the Winslow and Fyle areas.

**Respectfully Submitted,
2019-20 Instructional Space Committee**

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