



To: 21st Century Schools Enrollment Team Members

From: John Albrecht
Executive Director of Student and Legal Affairs
Chairperson, 21st Century Schools-Enrollment Team

Subject: Summary of the Enrollment Team Meeting of September 21, 2009

Meeting Date and Time: Monday, September 21, 2009
John Glenn High School Media Center
6:30 PM

Members Present: John Albrecht, Bridget White, Lori Brosnan,
Jack Martin, Johnnye Summerville, Susan Nagy,
Lorra Bennett, Laura Beckman, Sue Piereson,
John Mills, Joe Orban, Sherice Roark,
Brenda Miller-Polenychke, Jill Gaudet

1. Called to order at 6:32 PM
2. Each member present introduced themselves
3. The chairperson brought everyone up to date on the work of the Finance, Instruction, and Facilities Teams with a reference to the District's website for information provided to the public by the Communications Team.
4. The chairperson began a conversation regarding the Instruction Team visits to other districts with grade configurations different from that of Wayne-Westland. The discussion revolved around the specifics of the visit to Heritage School in Saline that occurred on the morning of September 21st. He explained that Heritage was built 13 years ago as a fifth grade-sixth grade upper elementary building. It has about 800 students with one principal and one counselor. Several members had questions about the visit: What was Heritage School's class size? It was

stated that it was 32 students per class with an average of about 30, and that classes could be overloaded to 34 with some additional compensation to teachers. What kinds of programs were available? Students all take part in music with choices of band, orchestra, or vocal music. Students also are exposed to exploratory classes in foreign languages of French, Spanish, and German. Art and physical education is also part of the curriculum. How is the school set up? It was clear to us that Saline Schools intentionally set Heritage School up as an elementary school. The principal told us that the students stay a little 'younger' in the sixth grade.

5. The survey data from the WWCS D Community Research Project was provided as promised. Little discussion took place on this topic as the role of the Enrollment Team will not encompass this work. However, it was stated that the work of the 21st Century Schools Committee in re-imagining Wayne-Westland Schools should help us build a community school atmosphere that would keep families with us while enticing some to return who left for other school choices.
6. The power point of our current enrollment with school boundaries was presented. A slide depicting our current configuration and where students from each building go when moving to the next level was shown. Each elementary school was displayed with its enrollment boundary, the number of students currently enrolled, the difference from last year at this time, and how many additional students could comfortably be enrolled to maximize the building's resources and capacity. Each middle school was displayed in the same manner. Finally, a spreadsheet with the four middle schools configured as 5-6 grade configurations and 7-8 grade configurations was displayed. It was pointed out that no names were assigned to the schools on the spreadsheet because no decisions or recommendations had been made yet. However, the chairperson did point out that it seemed that this configuration is quite prevalent regionally and nationally as well. The chair emphasized that this spreadsheet was developed only because the 5-6, 7-8 configuration was under consideration by the instruction team. During this conversation a parent member of the team asked whether the facility needs of students with special needs have been part of the discussions. John Mills addressed this concern in that he has been working with the Facilities Team to ensure that all of the Special Needs programs have adequate facilities and space for those programs.

Another parent asked about Heritage School's apparent quiet and calm atmosphere and was it always a 5-6 school. The chair addressed this by stating that Heritage was built as a 5-6 school. He also stated that they clearly had established some protocols that have endured through several changes in leadership.

7. Finally, and before adjourning, the team discussed when to meet next. It was decided that we needed to wait for direction from the committee as a whole before proceeding to begin to define new attendance areas. We felt it was important that there is direction given regarding how many schools, which schools, and what configuration would be our recommendation. Everyone agreed that we would be able to come back together with short notice as long as the meeting was a Monday and not before 5:45 PM.
8. Adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.