

NORTHVILLE BOARD BRIEFS

2006/07

April 4, 2007

Board of Education Meetings

04/17/07 Old Village (ECC Program)
04/24/07 Ridge Wood Elementary
05/08/07 Old Village School
05/21/07 Amerman Elementary
06/12/07 Old Village (Center Program)
06/26/07 Old Village School

Board of Education

Mr. Kenneth A. Roth, President
Dr. Marilyn T. Price, Vice President
Ms. Libby Smith, Treasurer
Ms. Joan Wadsworth, Secretary
Ms. Judy Handley, Trustee
Dr. Karen M. Paciorek, Trustee
Ms. Judith Wollack, Trustee

At a Special Call meeting of the Board of Education at Old Village School, 405 W. Main, Northville, Michigan, the Board took the following action:

- The Board received numerous emails concerning the proposed boundary changes.
- Superintendent Rezmierski explained the boundary change process that began 6 months ago. The Board conducted 8 "Managing Our Growth" (MOG) sessions where they heard from 250+ citizens as to the potential needs for the district. He said the Board looked at multiple issues because of the state's economy. In the past 8-10 years, the district has been fortunate to have continual growth. However, this past year, the growth has gone from 240+ students down to 115. Dr. Rezmierski explained that the Board and Administration presented proposed boundary changes at 2 community forums held on March 13 and March 16, 2007. They viewed over 100 responses from citizens. They also met in study sessions on March 22 and March 29, 2007. The problem is the Board and Administration cannot project growth at this time due to people losing their jobs, homes not selling, and people moving out of state. They are trying to decide on the best plan possible that will work for the next 2 to 4 years.

Superintendent Rezmierski then reviewed the Administration's recommendation to the Board:

Elementary

- All of Northville Hills will go to Ridge Wood Elementary School (RWE).
- Northville Hills will have the opportunity to open enroll at Winchester Elementary School.
- Current 4th grade students from Woods of Edenderry, Crestwood, and Fox Hollow can open enroll at RWE and will be given priority.

Middle School

- Brooklane and Ravines will remain at Meads Mill Middle School (MM) and the district will monitor enrollment and make a middle school boundary change when necessary.
- Fox Hollow, Crestwood and Woods of Edenderry will transition to Hillside over the next 3 years with bus service to both middle schools as long as capacity exists at MM.
- Current 5th graders may be able to finish at MM as long as capacity exists.
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Dr. Rezmierski reminded citizens that Kindergarten Relocation Plan (KRP) is ending this year. RWE cannot handle the growth of students and boundary changes are necessary.

- Extensive discussion ensued between the Board and citizens. Citizens expressed the following concerns:
 - 26 students in Woodlands South are segregated from Northville Hills. Asking that Woodlands South be a part of Northville Hills boundary where students can attend Ridge Wood.
 - Clarification sought on guaranteeing that siblings of Kindergarten Relocation Plan be allowed to go to Ridge Wood.
 - Clarification regarding Hills of Crestwood offering transportation to 5th, 6th and 7th graders. Disappointment in asking three subdivisions (Crestwood, Woods of Edenderry and Fox Hollow) to move 52 students to Hillside so the district can create space at Meads Mill. Concern that most growing subdivisions funnels into Meads Mill except for Steeplechase.
 - Doesn't want to move child again. Assurance granted to citizens after the Kindergarten Relocation Plan was implemented that they would not be moved again.
 - Budget concerns in decreasing elementary teachers by 13.5. Question raised if changing the boundaries would result in a major layoff of teachers and how is this in the best interest of the child(ren).
- On behalf of the Board, President Roth reiterated what a difficult decision this is and how they take it with great seriousness. They discussed how RWE and MM can be near or at capacity and how this problem is not taken lightly. The Board has implemented a number of accommodations to help citizens by adding amendments or bussing or Open Enrollment. He stated that unfortunately there is no perfect plan. The Board also realizes that they cannot make everyone happy, but they are truly doing their best to accommodate as many people as possible.

MEETING/EVENTS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Board of Education	04/17/07	7:30 p.m.	OVS – Third Floor

Meeting adjourned 8:53 p.m.