

**Northville Public Schools
Short Term Options Committee
March 14 2005**

M I N U T E S

Dave Bolitho welcomed the Short Term Options Committee and several guests at 6:03 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of Main Street.

Those Present included; Steve Anderson, David Bolitho, Vickie Chevoor, Tim Cotter, James Cracraft, Gina Cunningham, Patti Damaska, Kristin Evans, Eileen Freeman, Eric Hanpeter, Erika Iafate, Jane Jones, John Leverton, Beth Leverton, Jennifer Luikart, Carol Maise, Frank Maraffino, Ann McCutcheon, Kurt Meister, Sue Meyer, Rick Pivetz, Brian Rathsburg, Nancy Raynes, Diane Tanner, Doug Thaxton, Christy Thaxton and Rob Watson

Guests: Debbie Grant-Kelterborn, Karen Schaumann, Marilyn Bachorik, Dottie Garrity, Merilee Zane, Marilyn Kowalkowski, Sandra Morante

The minutes from the March 12th meeting were reviewed and corrected. The Kindergarten Relocation Plan was not proven to be a two year solution because it is not possible to predict how many families would transfer to Ridge Wood for the first grade.

A committee member modeled the Kindergarten Relocation Plan and presented two alternative Models as follows:

Kindergarten Relocation Plan Contents

- Move Ridge Wood Kindergarten to Thornton Creek, Moraine, Winchester and Silver Springs
- Utilize Portable Classrooms
 - One single at Amerman of 2 years
 - One single and one double at Ridge Wood for 2006/2007
 - Result would be a 5-10% increase in class size across the elementary schools

The Committee reviewed the KRP outcome which shows that the overcapacity is equitably shared by all elementary schools. There was a great deal of concern expressed for increasing class size. This model did not include use of existing capacity (vacant rooms) or putting specials on carts prior to adding portable classrooms. The option remains open for discussion and consideration.

Alternative Proposal 1 is as follows:

- Put specials on carts where opportunity exists.
- Convert three ECC classrooms to K-5 classrooms at Ridge Wood, transfer Ridge Wood, ECC children to Thornton Creek
- Utilize portable classrooms
 - 1 single at Amerman
 - 2 doubles at Ridge Wood
- 5% increase in classroom size across elementary

The Outcome sheet shows Amerman, Ridge Wood and Winchester slightly over capacity.

The advantages of Alternate Proposal 1 versus the KRP were presented as follows:

- No short term moves for all K-5
- K-5 currently is not affected
- No impact on current busing plan versus complication to relocate kindergarten students
- Utilizes Ridge Wood portables, don't have to move them
- Does not split individual families (kindergarten students not attending school with siblings)

The disadvantages were shown to be higher class sizes at Ridge Wood and 30 sections. The maximum is 29 unless two kindergarten classes are combined to attend specials.

This alternative proposal was thoroughly discussed and was left for further consideration, but the increase in K-5 class size was troublesome to Committee members because the Committee had already rejected the option to increase class size.

A fact sheet showing the usage, size and number of ECC classrooms at Ridge Wood and the number of rooms used at the other elementary schools was distributed. It was mentioned that the ECC Program has just completed an extensive accreditation process, thus loss or change of classroom spaces would require the ECC program repeat the accreditation process.

Alternative Proposal 2 is as follows:

Redraw Ridge Wood attendance boundaries to send subdivision(s) to a different school.

- Example was shown by moving a Ridge Wood subdivision to another school.
- Utilize portable classrooms as follows;
 - Single at Amerman
 - Double at Thornton Creek
- Put specials on carts

This proposal matches Option #19. Discussion about possibly tying this to a long term guarantee to families that are moved, that they would remain at the new school for several years. It was determined that due to the rapid enrollment increase and new subdivisions under construction in Novi and South Lyon, it would not be possible to give guarantees. It was decided that this Option should be generic, not mentioning specific

subdivisions, but stating generally that a Ridge Wood attendance boundary change is an available option if it moves the requisite number of children to another elementary school. Several specific combinations of subdivision moves were discussed. The capacity at Ridge Wood, with the six new classrooms is approximately 520. This enrollment figure does not have specials on carts, thus representing building design capacity. As previously practiced, the Special Classrooms would be used for K-5 instruction prior to a boundary change or use of portables.

The concept of splitting a subdivision was discussed. The Committee was divided as to whether they would support this Option.

The Committee discussed the subdivisions that have been moved from school to school over the past 4 years and how many times they have been moved.

A committee member asked for an explanation of the impact on a family of a boundary change move to another school. Another committee member responded.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that regardless of the options recommended to the Board, Arcadia Ridge would have to be boundaried to a school other than Ridge Wood. The Committee concurred.

The Committee then began the process of reviewing the list of Options to attempt to clarify which ones have been rejected, remain alive or could be combined with others starting with Option 35 and working in reverse order. The Committee progressed to Option 19.

At next Monday's meeting the Committee will continue to discuss the remaining Options and begin to apply the critical attributes.

It was acknowledged that the Committee would not be ready to report to the Board on March 22nd.

Please note that the attached Options list has been revised.

The Committee, by consensus, agreed that the boundary change Option is one Option that will be recommended to the Board of Education. (applause and cheers still echo in the conference room)

The Committee, by consensus, agreed that the construction of a new elementary school will be recommended to the Board of Education. (ditto)

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on March 21st at 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m at Main Street School.