



Northville Public Schools
Northville, Michigan

April 25, 2005

Dear Northville Community,

In November 2004, the Board of Education commissioned a Committee, **The Short Term Options Committee**, to develop recommendations to assist the Board in resolving projected capacity problems.

It was quickly determined that Ridge Wood and Amerman Elementary Schools were experiencing overcrowding, with Ridge Wood the most severe.

The thirty-two member Committee deliberated from January 3 – March 21, 2005 and recommended the following Options for Board consideration.

- Construct 1-2 new elementary schools.
- Alter the existing attendance boundaries to alleviate Ridge Wood's overcrowding.
- Relocate Ridge Wood's Kindergarten students to other elementary schools (except for Amerman).
- Move Ridge Wood's 5th grade students to Silver Springs and Winchester.
- Adopt the "Overflow Concept" as an emergency measure if Ridge Wood exceeds capacity.

The Board of Education held two (2) Town Hall meetings to gain community input. The Board also held four (4) study sessions to discuss, analyze and modify the Short Term Committee's recommendations.

The Board developed a list of criteria to evaluate the Short Term Options Committee's recommendations. They are as follows:

- Distribute Ridge Wood's overcrowding to other elementary schools throughout the District.
- Adopt the Short Term Options Committee recommendation that offers flexibility to respond to fluctuations in enrollment.
- Anticipate which recommendation may best complement the much needed 7th elementary school.
- Minimize the impact on those who have moved multiple times.
- Minimize transportation time and expense to the extent possible.
- Maintain the feeder school concept for middle schools.
- Keep subdivisions intact to the extent possible.
- Open enrollment will remain an option based on capacity by grade level.

New Elementary Schools

The need for 1-2 new elementary schools was clearly demonstrated from the findings of the Enrollment Projections Committee and as confirmed by the Short Term Options Committee. The Board of Education is currently acting to secure property and funding for a 7th elementary school.

Attendance Boundary Alteration

An effective attendance boundary change would involve moving students from elementary schools to create space for Ridge Wood Elementary School students. Moving Ridge Wood Elementary subdivisions to new schools without moving some students from receiving schools would overwhelm receiving schools or, in the case of moving a smaller subdivision, would not alleviate Ridge Wood Elementary overcrowding. The options presented were limited to moving only Ridge Wood Elementary subdivisions. It was felt that introducing a more comprehensive approach at the end of the process, without additional time for public involvement, was not desirable.

A more comprehensive boundary adjustment will take place prior to the anticipated opening of the 7th elementary school (Fall 07).

Moving Ridge Wood's 5th Grade Students

Moving Ridge Wood's 5th grade students to Silver Springs and Winchester was not viewed as a viable solution because of the uncertainty of 5th grade enrollment (05-06 = 88 and 06-07 = 130 +/-) and the impact that it would have on the two receiving schools. This recommendation does not allow for as much flexibility in year two as the option chosen and it would affect students who have been previously moved as a result of previous attendance boundary changes.

Overflow Concept

Adopting an overflow concept (where new children to Ridge Wood would be distributed to elementary schools where capacity exists) could be reconsidered only as an emergency measure if Ridge Wood's enrollment exceeds projections.

As a short term solution, the overflow concept was deemed to be difficult to administer and would, potentially, involve high transportation costs.

Kindergarten Relocation Plan

The Kindergarten Relocation Plan sends Ridge Wood kindergarten students to Moraine, Silver Springs, Thornton Creek and Winchester Elementary schools for their kindergarten experience and if capacity exists, allows those students to attend Ridge Wood for the first grade.

The Kindergarten Relocation Plan is the plan that will be presented for Board of Education approval at the April 26th Board of Education meeting at Ridge Wood Elementary School.

This recommendation best distributes the overcrowding, offers the most flexibility, minimizes the impact on those moved multiple times, does not impact the middle school feeder

concept. The District will monitor enrollment at Ridge Wood Elementary School and determine whether kindergarten students may return to Ridge Wood for 1st grade.

The elementary schools listed below will receive the following Ridge Wood Kindergarten students for the next two (2) years (2005-2006 and 2006-2007):

Moraine

Fox Hollow, Pine Creek and Paramount Estates

Silver Springs

Woodlands North, Woods of Edenderry and Hills of Crestwood

Thornton Creek

Northville Ridge and Stone Water

Winchester

Northville Hills and Woodlands South

The above students may have the opportunity to apply to attend Ridge Wood for first grade, or may have to return to Ridge Wood depending upon capacity constraints. The process will be communicated in the near future as enrollment numbers for 06-07 are determined.

Wondergarten will be located at all elementary schools, except Amerman. Amerman kindergarten students will continue to attend Wondergarten at Main Street.

Please note that **ALL** Arcadia Ridge Students will attend Thornton Creek for the 05-06 and 06-07 school years.

Upon Board approval, families affected by the Kindergarten Relocation Plan will, in the very near future, receive transition information from their school principal.

Sincerely,

Leonard R. Rezmierski
Superintendent

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