

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
July 13, 2005

Talented Program Survey

Franzen's Talented program survey follows this report. All buildings have been working hard to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of the program in order to strive for continuous improvement in program delivery.

State School Board Conference

Registration materials for combined school board, superintendents, and school business officials' conference have arrived. The conference is held in Chicago annually each November. This year, conference starts the afternoon of November 18, 2005 and goes through Sunday. Please be prepared to let me know if you plan on attending so that I can submit the registrations in a timely manner.

Benson Enrollment

As you know, there is a great deal of interest in class sizes at Benson. As I write this, there are 88 students enrolled in first grade and 75 students enrolled in second. Since second hit 75, I am not currently considering moving a teacher from that grade level. Therefore, we are holding right now at four sections at each grade level. I know that the if new enrollees at first grade start increasing those class sizes to the point where they reach 25, the Board and community will have a high level of concern. The Board of Education, at its October 12, 1994 meeting, set a class size "standard" of 25 students per class. There was no specified "requirement" to open a new class should the standard be exceeded.

It is too early to determine if any other staffing needs are necessary at first grade. I am requesting that, should the first grade enrollment exceed 96, the Board authorize me to hire a teacher aide or aides. Should the first grade enrollment exceed 100, I request that the Board authorize me to hire a teacher.

By coming to consensus on this authorization the administration, in collaboration with the teaching staff, can determine an appropriate course of action in a timely manner. As a routine course of action, administration hires teacher aides without specific prior authorization. This will negate any need for an emergency meeting on this topic. Should this provision be necessary to use, the administration will keep the Board and parents abreast of the situation.

Finally, I will continue to monitor second grade enrollment to see if 75 students is maintained.

Title I Reading

District 10 has had a reading teacher assisting identified students at both Benson and Franzen for several years. Most, if not all of the salary has been paid by the Title 1 grant. Typically, the teacher taught 3 days per week at Benson and 2 days per week at Franzen. The principals of both schools came to me with a proposal to reconfigure Title I reading services to service more students by providing an additional day at Franzen. Their proposal consisted of replacing the full time teacher with two .6 teachers. The full time teacher has requested a leave of absence so no one is being displaced. I support this initiative. The grant will pay both salaries.

Moss and Bloomberg

District 10's retained law firm, Moss and Bloomberg, will be merging with a large, downtown law firm. The specialty of both firms is municipal law. The merger should be transparent to us. The announcement of the merger follows this report.

The Student Enrollment count as of June 8, 2005 follows.