

Itasca School District #10
Itasca, IL 60143

SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2008

The purpose of the special Board of Education meeting was for a discussion on class size.

- I. President DiCiolla called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Mrs. Dyra
Mr. Sprandel
Mrs. Miller
Mrs. DiCiolla

ABSENT

Mr. Maier
Mrs. Hogan
Ms. Pawinski

In Board Secretary Maier's absence, Board President DiCiolla appointed Board member Miller as Secretary.

Also in Attendance:

Dr. Marcia Tornatore, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Daniel J. Aggen, Business Manager
Dr. Joanna Medwick, Principal, Elmer H. Franzen Intermediate School
Dr. Reinhard Nickisch, Principal, F.E. Peacock Middle School
Dr. Dawn Turner, Principal, Raymond Benson Primary School
Ms. Deb Mitsui, Recording Secretary
Interested members of the community

- II. Mrs. DiCiolla led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Class Size Discussion - Dr. Tornatore gave a brief overview of the class size totals as of August 13, 2008:

Kindergarten:	80 students
Grade 1:	86 students
Grade 2:	98 students
Grade 3:	115 students (with 3 registration forms outstanding)
Grade 4:	106 students (with 1 registration form outstanding)
Grade 5:	91 students
Grade 6:	78 students
Grade 7:	89 students
Grade 8:	88 students

At the middle school level, it is anticipated that the enrollment figures will increase. Traditionally, middle school students turn in a large number of registration forms on "Registration Day" which is scheduled

for Friday, August 15th, 2008. Based on previous history, we also know that enrollment counts can and usually do increase within every grade level at each building during the first few weeks of a new school year.

At Benson Primary School and Peacock Middle School, the class size targets are well within the guidelines for Itasca School District 10.

In preparation for the incoming third grade class at Franzen Intermediate School, a fifth section was added to accommodate the class count. At the fifth grade level, the class size target is within the guideline for Itasca School District 10. The fourth grade level is at target level as of today's date. The special meeting was called in order to give the Board, staff and community an opportunity to discuss enrollment options to best suit the needs of the incoming fourth grade class.

President DiCiolla asked for staff comments. Dr. Medwick reviewed the number of inclusion students that will be integrated into the 3-5 grade classrooms for the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Wendy Hanczar, grade 4 teacher, shared her concern with students working in hallways due to lack of unavailable classroom space. The computer room was provided to in order to accommodate the fifth section of third grade. Mrs. Melissa Flanigan, grade 4 teacher, stated that students and staff would adjust to the changes however students should not have to compromise their learning. Mrs. Danielle Rosales, grade 5 teacher, reported that this year's fourth grade enrollment would be next year's fifth grade enrollment. It is obvious there is a lack of space in the classrooms, but there is also a lack of space to store classroom materials. There isn't space available to separate students into groups, example: resource and/or Talented and Gifted (TAG). Mrs. Linda Wit also spoke about the media center being two-thirds the space that it had been. There will be no space in the media center for one-on-one instructional assistance. Dr. Medwick added that something must be done in order to continue with programs offered by the district to continue to meet the needs of all of our students.

Discussion ensued among Board members regarding increased class size at the fourth grade level. Options discussed: (1) adding a fifth section of fourth grade. The classroom would be placed in the space currently housing the art and music classroom, with art and music being placed on a cart for the next 2-3 months while modular units are considered; (2) keeping four sections of fourth grade and adding 4-teacher aides for each of the classrooms; (3) adding a fifth section of fourth grade, with the art and music being placed on a portable cart all year while additional options/solutions are investigated.

Mrs. Erin Kozakis, music teacher, voiced her concern that placing art and music on a cart would drastically change their curriculum. She is hopeful that this is a short-term remedy but not a long-term solution. Putting the programs on a cart will also disrupt the regular classroom. Also mentioned were portable walls between fourth and fifth grade classrooms and the effect of sound issues associated with music

instruction. Art and music on a cart will also impact the scheduling of those programs at both the primary and intermediate levels.

Dr. Medwick stated that if a fifth section for fourth grade were to be added that the current art/music room would not be utilized for the additional teacher, but rather she would transfer staff within the building so as to make a regular classroom available for the newly added fourth grade. Dr. Medwick also indicated that she would prepare a 5th section of 4th grade class list for posting on August 14th should the Board move to hire an additional teacher.

Dr. Tornatore restated that what she heard prior from Dr. Medwick was that the building staff would choose an instructional aide for the existing four 4th grade classrooms for the entire year before choosing to have art and music on a cart. Dr. Medwick responded that if a portable mobile modular unit were available, they would put art and music on a cart until the unit could be utilized as a classroom, but within the school year.

President DiCiolla directed Dr. Medwick to be prepared to speak at the August 13, 2008 Board of Education Meeting regarding her staff's consensus on their requests for the 4th grade enrollment issue.

The Board directed Mr. Daniel Aggen, Business Manager, to review the budget in order to possibly accommodate one of the options. Mr. Aggen was also asked to look into services that provide demographic data predications and to share that information to the August 13, 2008 Board of Education Meeting.

The Board thanked the teachers, aides and principals for attending the special meeting and being proactive in bringing their issues to the Board.

- IV. Closed Session - A motion to move for discussion on support staff negotiations to closed session was made by Board Member Dyra and seconded by Member Sprandel.

While in closed session, no action was taken.

A motion was made by Board Member Dyra and seconded by President DiCiolla to return to open session.

- V. There being no further business, President DiCiolla adjourned the special meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Fred Maier, Secretary
Board of Education

Nancy DiCiolla, President
Board of Education

Class Size Discussion

As of August 4th, building secretaries and principals have worked with Deb Mitsui in providing an accurate up-to-date count of students who have returned their registrations forms for the 2008-2009 school. These enrollment counts are shown on the “Monthly Enrollment Report” within the August 2008 School Board packet.

Although the counts are accurate as of August 4th, it is important to share that additional registration packets have been distributed to additional families for their children to register. The counts change daily as the registration packets are returned to the district. As in prior years, Peacock Middle School will receive most of their remaining packet during the “Peacock Registration Day” that will be held on Friday, August 15th. Shown in the table below, we have listed the existing count of students along with the number of registration packets that have distributed recently but not yet returned to the district.

GRADE LEVEL	RETURNED REGISTRATION PACKETS AS OF AUGUST 4TH	COUNT OF REGISTRATION PACKETS DISTRIBUTED BUT NOT YET RETURNED
K	80	3
1	83	4
2	100	3
3	110	8
4	103	3
5	89	2
6	74	16
7	88	15
8	83	16

This data is being provided to the Board so as to allow discussion regarding District #10’s current class sizes for the 2008-2009 school year. In reviewing the class sizes shown above, confirmed enrollment counts for the 4th grade level are close to or at the “class size target” guidelines for District #10.