



ETHAN EBENSTEIN
Superintendent

Superintendent's Report

Summary on Relocation of Kindergarten Program

Action: Relocating the district's kindergarten program for 2010-2011 from Greenridge Elementary to Stoney Creek Elementary.

Key Factors:

- Current enrollment for kindergarten is projected at 190 students as of May 10, 2010. The district plans seven (7) sections of kindergarten to accommodate this number, requiring the use of four classrooms. Based on projected first and second grade enrollment next fall at Stoney Creek, classroom space is available to accommodate projected kindergarten enrollment. Capacity exists for kindergarten enrollment growth by one full section.
- Greenridge Elementary would continue to house the district's Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and preschool programs, and potentially a Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) should funding from the state be secured. All phone calls to Greenridge would be directly routed to secretarial staff at Stoney Creek. The CPPS Special Education department would be relocated to Greenridge to provide some administrative oversight and take advantage of the available office space.
- Under the proposed draft 2010-2011 budget presented in April, Greenridge and Stoney Creek would be sharing one building administrator between the two buildings.
- Other models of kindergarten programming were considered as to any potential cost savings in terms of certified and support staffing. These models included all day/alternate day and all day/everyday. Both of these models would require an increase in staffing to implement, thus an increase in operational costs.
- Time lines and schedules would need to be developed to facilitate the movement of kindergarten classrooms supplies, resources, and furniture (as needed) from Greenridge to Stoney Creek. Moving would be conducted by district custodial staff.

Positive Considerations:

- **Shared Administrative Responsibilities:** With Greenridge and Stoney Creek potentially sharing one building principal, having a K-2 configuration would allow for the conducting of single staff meetings as opposed to two. Further, a K-2 configuration would be conducive to district strategic planning initiatives and goal setting, common initiatives, and scheduling.
- **Professional Development:** A K-2 configuration would allow for a continuum of literacy instruction for early elementary grades. It lends itself to peer mentoring opportunities and the use of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to foster teamwork. The building will have had staff training provided on Capturing Kid's Hearts. Future trainings and development of student programs, such as flexible grouping for academic enrichment and remediation and age appropriate social/emotional behavioral supports, could also be developed fluidly across this grade span.
- **Savings:** It is estimated the district would save \$76,000-\$86,000 through reduced utilities and energy consumption, cleaning and maintenance, and support staff costs. Transportation to Greenridge would also not be scheduled at this time (dependent upon GSRP grant). Any additional cost savings of completely closing Greenridge would be minimal and future costs to bring the facility into compliance after a complete closure would be substantial.
- **Shared Resources:** Literacy coaches and English Language Development (ELD) instructors would be able to be shared more effectively at one building than divided between two, providing important staff and student support for district literacy initiatives.
- **Food Program Eligibility:** All kindergarten students would now be eligible to participate in the school food programs, including the Free and Reduced program. Currently, kindergarten students are ineligible for this program at Greenridge.
- **Student Transition:** By having students in one building K-2 configuration, this is one less transition between buildings students would have to make in our district during their K-12 academic career.

Areas of Concern:

- **Parking:** Parking for special events (such as plays, breakfast, and conferences) will be limited.
- **Storage:** With the quantity of manipulatives and hands-on activity materials utilized in K-2, storage will need to be examined.
- **Administrative Support:** With one building administrator and over 500 students under the age of eight, there is concern for adequate time for oversight of new proposed district student support initiatives. This includes, but is not limited to; implementation of new Literacy Coach support model, Response to Intervention (RtI) grant, flexible grouping, implementing and evaluating District Strategic Plan, and School Wide Title I implementation.