



Enrollment Balancing Project

Guiding Principles

October 18, 2016

The Winnetka Public Schools community empowers every student to flourish in an innovative, experiential environment. We support and challenge all learners to actively engage in continual growth and achievement to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Commitments Regarding EBP Process

- Maintaining high-quality educational programming for all students
- [Engaging our staff and community in decision-making](#)
- Providing clear information regarding the EBP process in a timely fashion via our website and multiple forms of communication
- [Listening and responding to feedback from our community about this important issue](#)

Survey: to Assist with Setting Guiding Principles

Community and Staff invited to respond re: potential Guiding Principles

- Requested ranking of three choices of nine possible principles
- Invited comment or support for other options for consideration
- Analyzed data resulting from three choice model
- Analyzed comments for themes (minimum of six comments) and other principles that might emerge based on multiple mentions
- Ranked options from most to least favored
- Five guiding principles emerged with 10%+ of respondent groups supporting (community, staff or total respondents)

Survey outcomes: top five guiding principles

- 1 Whenever possible, maintain current class size guidelines for the varying grade levels/programs rather than increasing class size guidelines at the elementary or middle school levels (current levels at kindergarten - second grade 17-20 students; third - fourth grade 17-21 students; fifth-sixth grade 18-23 students; seventh-eighth grade 18-24 students)
- 2 When possible, avoid moving students from their current school assignments (current students stay in their schools; new students are assigned to school(s) with available space)
- 3 If school attendance boundaries are redrawn, younger siblings should be assigned to the same schools as their older sibling(s)
- 4 Ensure that the elementary schools have equitable enrollments and building utilization for the next five years
- 5 Adhere to optimal space use recommendations (which are defined by school facility studies as 70-80% of maximum capacity) to support current educational programs

Responses to Survey



- 375 total survey respondents
- Respondents invited to comment or express support for other options
- 252 Community members responded on-line; no paper copies completed; 104 comments were recorded
- 123 Staff responded on-line; 15 comments were recorded

Survey outcomes – comment clusters

- Comments clustered in six areas including:
 - ✧ Students (boundaries, class sizes, balance school/classroom sizes)
 - ✧ Finance (least costly options, minimize tax burden)
 - ✧ Facilities (avoid facility adds, seek voluntary reassessments, flexibility)
 - ✧ Options (re-cluster grades, move/reconfigure boundaries)
 - ✧ Programs (extended day K, program equity, focus on excellent programming, minimize traveling staff)
 - ✧ Process (try to work to long-term solution, maintain property values, disliked survey)



Purpose of Advisory Committee

1. Review relevant information
2. Learn about the issues
3. Design options for consideration
4. Craft recommendation for Board



How Will Guiding Principles Be Used in Process?



- Common values of community and District staff will help define Guiding Principles to assist in decision-making
- Guiding Principles to be approved by School Board
- Advisory Committee to use information to analyze options and develop recommendation to inform Board
- Board is charged with final decision and will decide and take action in spring

Q & A

