

DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Present: Joseph Martino, Chair; Gladys Cooper, Bob Taborsak, Board Members; Dave Krafick, Principal; Julia Horne, Principal; Melanie Lucas, Transportation; John Iommazzo, Julie SanSeverino, PTO Representatives; Ross Haber, Consultant; and Dr. Sal Pascarella, Dr. William Glass, Atty. Kim Thompson, Administration

Absent: Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Mary Cronin, Christina Sweeney

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joseph Martino at 7:08 p.m. Members of the Committee introduced themselves and Chairman Martino introduced Ross Haber. Mr. Haber told the Committee that there would be no preliminary presentation as adjustments were made earlier in the day and time did not allow. He presented an updated enrollment projection based on September 30, 2013. Mr. Haber is focusing on general education students to get reasonable class sizes and to see where the room exists for them. Mr. Haber talked about the 40 to 50% mobility rate he was told existed in Danbury. He explained that this has to do with a balance of numbers in the school, and we are opening and closing with relatively the same number of students. The numbers do not show astronomical differences.

Mr. Haber presented a map explaining one of the changes concerning Morris Street School. He showed a move from Morris Street School to Park Avenue School of approximately 97 students. The second school that we would draw approximately 53 students from is Mill Ridge Primary and those students would attend Shelter Rock School. The third school in critical condition is Ellsworth Avenue School. By taking an area off and putting it in the Stadley Rough School district, we could reduce Ellsworth Avenue School by 40 students.

Mr. Haber feels we are slowly coming to a point where we can finalize our options. We still have flexibility to move some programs once we solidify our plans. Mr. Martino explained the options and how the Committee arrived at the tentative plan. He asked how the Committee felt about the options. Dr. Glass said he liked the suggestions made and felt that it was a good job. B. Taborsak feels the public should be advised and the numbers will increase and we will need more buses and more administrative help. Mr. Haber said we need to have room for growth in the future and felt a move of only 250 students out of a 10,000+ population was a minimal one. Ms. Cooper said the map is clear and her main concern is racial balance.

Mr. Haber suggested we have one more meeting and then go public. Dr. Pascarella would like to test all of this and then present it to the Board. He suggests having another meeting at 6:00 p.m.

on Wednesday, October 23, and then make a presentation to the Board at its October 23 meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Martino said we will set up a sister school arrangement. We presently have Shelter Rock students attending Great Plain School, and the other possibilities are South Street students attending Park Avenue School and Ellsworth Avenue students attending Stadley Rough School.

Dr. Pascarella reiterated that we will have the Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 23. It will be put on the agenda for the Board Meeting on October 23 as an Information Item. Following that, we will have a Community Forum, and then we will go back to the Board for discussion and voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph D. Martino