



To: Board of Education
 Fr: Matt Gibson
 Re: **November 11, 2008 Agenda Item 4.B. 2009-2010 Chapter 220 Seats**

Background – This agenda item follows information presented and discussed at an October 14 work session on non-resident enrollment planning, a Chapter 220 Planning Council meeting on October 28, and a board discussion item on October 28. The purposes of this agenda item is to review additional information provided in response to October 28 questions and take action on the recommended board motion (or alternatives).

Q/A from October 28 –

Q. Is there a legal obligation to open any new C220 seats in the district?

A. The School District of Elmbrook is under no legal obligation to participate/open any new seats in the C220 program, as codified in Subchapter VI, Wis. Stat. Ch. 121. The statute says that school districts “may” enter into agreements. Thus, participation is voluntary. However, the District does have a legal obligation to the students currently attending Elmbrook under Ch. 121 (Source: Mark Kapocius).

Q. If new C220 seats aren't opened in the district, can residents still apply to transfer out of the district?

A. Nicole McDowell, MPS Chapter 220 Coordinator, responded that they would still accept Chapter 220 students from Elmbrook to Milwaukee even if Elmbrook elected not to take new students for the 2008-09 school year. She stated that since we would still be in the program with existing students, MPS would continue to serve our residents (Source: Marty Armato).

Q. What are the demographics of the students that have been expelled or voluntarily withdrawn from the district during the past three years?

A. Data have been compiled for the 2005-06 through 2007-08 school years as follows (Source: Marty Armato).

**Expulsion and Withdrawal Summary
 2005-06 through 2007-08**

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Total
Residents	2	5	1	41	49
Ch 220	0	6	0	0	6
Open Enrollment	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	2	11	1	42	56

Q. Is more information available on Chapter 220 attrition, either historical or prospective for the future?

A. The attrition information presented on October 28 provided raw data for students leaving the Elmbrook District. In addition, the table below provides a cursory look at the percentage of students exiting the district (it is not a longitudinal study of actual students starting in kindergarten and moving through the system). The table is a snapshot in time using third Friday enrollments and the number of students that left by the end of the school year or did not return for the following school year.

The attrition number is minus the graduates. For C220 students, it is also minus the nine students that became residents of the Elmbrook District and the one student that moved to another suburban district and remained here under Open Enrollment. According to these data, the C220 attrition rate is higher than the resident rate.

	Resident and Chapter 220 Attrition Comparison					
	2007-08		2006-07		2005-06	
	Third Friday Enrollment	Attrition	Third Friday Enrollment	Attrition	Third Friday Enrollment	Attrition
Residents	6916	319 (4.6%)	6924	374 (5.4%)	6941	380 (5.5%)
Chapter 220	304	22 (7.2%)	294	22 (7.5%)	303	29 (9.6%)

Parents are required to complete a withdrawal form when leaving the District. This provides us with the rationale for the withdrawal and also provides information as to whether the student will be enrolling in another district, a private/parochial school, or will be home schooled. For C220 students, we provide the reason for the withdrawal on an Exit Report to MPS.

Further analysis of the original attrition table indicated that of the 48 students that transferred to another Wisconsin public school, 21 returned to MPS. Therefore, 27 (six, eleven, and ten) C220 students were forced to leave the Elmbrook District due to a family move out of Milwaukee but not within Elmbrook boundaries. Those students then must enroll in their new district so subtracting them from the numbers above would generate the following attrition rates.

	Adjusted for MPS Students (families) That Moved Out of Milwaukee.					
	2007-08		2006-07		2005-06	
	Third Friday Enrollment	Attrition	Third Friday Enrollment	Attrition	Third Friday Enrollment	Attrition
Chapter 220	304	16 (5.3%)	294	11 (3.7%)	303	19 (6.3%)

There is a significant difference in family moving procedures for C220 students as compared to resident students. When residents move out of the community, they have the option to remain in the District via a tuition waiver and may apply for Open Enrollment to remain in future years. When C220 students move out of Milwaukee, they do not have the option to complete a tuition waiver, as they were never residents of Elmbrook. Also, the transportation service that the family may have been dependent upon to get to Elmbrook is stopped and the student automatically becomes a student in the new district (although Elmbrook may allow the student to complete the semester or the year to earn the credits, depending on the timing of the move). There has only been one case where a C220 student moved out of Milwaukee, applied for Open Enrollment, and remained in Elmbrook.

As noted in the table above, the adjusted C220 attrition rate is not significantly different than that of residents, with two of the years being higher and one year being lower than residents (Source: Marty Armato).

Q. What academic progress occurs as C220 students progress through the grades (cohort data)?

A. The District doesn't currently collect or disaggregate student performance data in this way. Therefore it would be a special project to identify grades and scores of individual students by hand and aggregate the results at a time when our knowledge management specialist is pushed to get regularly scheduled assessments and surveys out. If there were time to do this project, the District would likely only be able to report that C220 students are making progress or not, as more detailed reporting for small cell sizes could identify confidential individual student performance data (Source: Eileen Depka)

Q. What is the ethnic breakdown without our total enrollment broken down by resident, Open Enrollment, and C220?

A. Please see the attached table (Source: Julie Biksadski).

Recommended Board Motion – That the Board of Education opens 27 Chapter 220 new seats to include 12 new seats in kindergarten, 10 new seats in first grade, and 5 new seats in second grade; plus contingencies of up to 5 seats if needed in grades K-2 for siblings, 5 seats if needed in grades K-2 in spring, and 1 seat if needed in grades 6, 7, or 8 for a displaced C220 student from another suburban district; for a total of up to 38 new seats and contingencies.

Notes - The recommended motion results in a decrease of C220 students of 6.1% next year and leaves room for a gradual increase in Open Enrollment seats when they become an agenda item in January or a reduction in overall enrollment.

Balancing continuing support for the C220 program, the reasons for the recommended gradual decrease in new C220 seats are as follows:

- To more than mirror the decline in resident enrollment,
- To provide space to gradually transition to more Open Enrollment seats if desired in January given the revenue that they provide outside the revenue cap, and
- To ease the impact of the gradual loss of integration aid on property taxes.

For reference, the administrative direction provided to Julie Biksadski who is working on updating the five-year enrollment projections to be presented at the November 25 board meeting is a continued gradual reduction in C220 enrollment of 20 students/year which, if approved by the C220 Planning Council and Board of Education annually could reduce the C220 enrollment from 297 students this year to ~200 students in 2013-14.

For reference, Alternative A provided on October 28 would decrease C220 seats by 11.8% (corrected from 8% listed on October 28 document) and Alternative B (not supported by the Board on October 28) would decrease C220 seats by 2.7%.

MG/November 6, 2008/chapter220recommendation11608

ELMBROOK ENROLLMENT DEMOGRAPHICS (2007-08)

2008-2009	Asian	Blacks	Hispanics	Amer Indian	White	Total
Chapter 220	100	188	9	0	0	297
Open Enrollment	51	24	17	2	349	443
Resident	572	147	164	4	5732	6619
Total	723	359	190	6	6081	7359

2007-2008	Asian	Blacks	Hispanics	Amer Indian	White	Total
Chapter 220	92	205	6	0	n/a	303
Open Enrollment	44	30	25	1	341	441
Resident	554	150	158	3	6047	6912
Total	690	385	189	4	6388	7656

2006-2007	Asian	Blacks	Hispanics	Amer Indian	White	Total
Chapter 220	94	191	8	1	n/a	294
Open Enrollment	42	34	28	1	324	429
Resident	488	157	158	4	6117	6924
Total	624	382	194	6	6441	7647