ELMBROOK SCHOOLS
School District of Elmbrook

MEMO

To: Board of Education
From: Melinda Mueller, Communications Manager
Date: October 7, 2010
Re: Feedback at September Superintendent Chats

Attached is a report of data compiled on the Feedback Forms that were distributed to attendees of the Superintendent Chats on September 21, 22 and 23, 2010.

Feedback will give you a general idea of agreement/disagreement on recommendations, where people placed their priorities on criteria to look at if an elementary school closing is needed, and in what order attendees thought recommendations should become action.

Disclaimer: This was not a formal, scientific survey; all data were carefully entered and reported manually. While initially we asked for demographic information (parent, non-parent, staff) on the form to get an idea of who was attending, we didn't anticipate that we would disaggregate the data. However, given that we could, it was done to help the Board understand if there were major differences in opinions between these groups.

Some people chose not to answer all questions, so response percentages and "scores" were given based on the number of responses to that individual question.

If you have any questions about how data were compiled or analyzed, please contact me at 262-781-3030 ext. 1176. We are keeping all forms on record.

Total forms collected: 596
Total parents: 417
Total non-parents: 143
Total staff: 38 (because two staff also indicated they were parents/non-parents, their data was counted in two sections, which is why the total of these three groups is 598, not 596)

Attachments:

- Feedback Form for Reference
- Spreadsheet with Form Responses
- Other suggestions for criteria to use when choosing which elementary school to close, if a closing is needed

Community Feedback on Topics Presented at September 21, 22, and 23 Superintendent Chats

Please check one:
Parent - school(s) in which I have children: _____ No children in school: _____ Staff: _____

1. Acknowledging that the District may need to implement many of the Enrollment Management Study Team (EMST) recommendations and other ideas to decrease expenditures and/or enhance revenues to help close the projected revenue/expenditure gap, your feedback is welcomed on agreement, timing/extent and/or disagreement.

EMST Recommendations	Agree	Timing/Extent	Disagree
Implement resident four-year-old Kindergarten in 2011-12		__ 2011-12 __ Later	
Phase Out Chapter 220 and Convert to Open Enrollment at Middle or High School in 2011-12		__ 2011-12 __ Later	
Close one elementary school yet preserve feeder system in 2012-13		__ 2012-13 __ Sooner __ Later	
Increase Open Enrollment, to reach up to 18% of total District enrollment by 2014-15		__ 2012-13 __Increase faster __Increase slower	
Increase class sizes by average of one in 2014-15		__ 2014-15 __ Sooner __ Later	

2. What criteria should the District utilize to determine which elementary school should remain open for a longer period of time, should any school closings be needed? Here is a starting list of five potential criteria for Board of Education consideration. Please feel free to add to it and then circle your top three criteria to be advisory to the Board.

   - Current and projected resident enrollment of the school
   - Logistics of redistricting study to sustain feeder system and minimize multiple moves should a second school need to close during the elementary school experience of a family
   - Physical condition of the school
   - Location of the school
   - Greatest total cost savings to the district following feasibility study
   - Other:
   - Other:
   - Other:

3. How should the District sequence the following potential future actions (1= first, 6 = last)

   ___ Reduce non-mandated programs and services
   ___ Propose operational override referenda to exceed revenue caps
   ___ Attempt to limit salary and benefit expenditure increases to revenue increases
   ___ Close an elementary school and redistrict students as needed
   ___ Increase class sizes
   ___ Relocate the Central Administrative Office to save operational costs

4. Did you feel this Superintendent Chat was valuable? ___ Yes ___ No
   Suggestions for improvement of future community engagement sessions:

Superintendent Chat Feedback September 21, 22, 23, 2010	All # responses	All % or score	Parents # responses	Parents % or score	Community # responses	Community % or score	Staff # responses	Staff % or score
Total # Forms Collected	596		417		143		38	
4K Agree	523	90%	368	91%	123	88%	35	95%
4K 2011-12	391		280		84		28	
4K Later	22		18		4		0	
4K Disagree	56	10%	37	9%	17	12%	2	5%
Transition C220/OE Agree	339	63%	249	67%	75	58%	19	56%
Transition C220/OE 2011-12	196		143		43		8	
Transition C220/OE Later	53		38		12		4	
Transition C220/Disagree	198	37%	125	33%	55	42%	15	44%
Close School Agree	136	24%	110	29%	17	13%	13	33%
Close School 2012-13	41		47		5		3	
Close School Sooner	33		21		5		4	
Close School Later	53		48		6		3	
Close School Disagree	421	76%	272	71%	119	87%	26	66%
Increase OE Agree	397	76%	273	75%	94	73%	32	89%
Increase OE 2012-13	110		76		23		12	
Increase OE Faster	87		60		20		8	
	107		87		17		1	
Increase OE Disagree	128	24%	92	25%	34	27%	4	11%
Increase Class Size Agree	316	58%	206	55%	93	68%	14	39%
Increase Class Size 2014-15	79		56		19		3	
Increase Class Size Sooner	102		58		38		5	
Increase Class Size Later	72		52		15		5	
Increase Class Size Disagree	230	42%	170	45%	43	32%	22	61%
Close school criteria: Projected school enrollment	195	1.15 (out of 5)	147	1.15 (out of 5)	38	1.15 (out of 5)	13	1.3 (out of 5)
Close school criteria: Logistics of redistricting study	182	1.1	137	1.05	37	1.1	11	1.1
Close school criteria: Physical condition of school	144	0.85	115	0.9	21	0.65	9	0.9
Close school criteria: Location of school	172	1	115	0.9	47	1.45	10	1
Close school criteria: Greatest cost savings	156	0.9	127	1	22	0.65	7	0.7
Rating Sequence: Reduce programs & services	2,128	Rated 4	1549	Rated 4	469	Rated 5	115	Rated 3
Rating Sequence: Propose operational referendum	1,790	3	1317	3	393	3	93	2
Rating Sequence: Limit salaries & benefits	1,308	2	893	2	305	2	148	5
Rating Sequence: Close an elementary school	2,530	6	1751	6	638	6	159	6
Rating Sequence: Increase class sizes	2,153	5	1599	5	441	4	143	4
Rating Sequence: Relocate CAO	965	1	681	1	230	1	58	1
Chat was valuable	502	98%	382	98%	111	97%	34	100%
Chat was not valuable	11	2%	7	2%	4	3%	0	0%

Superintendent Chat Feedback: September 21, 22, 23, 2010
"Other" Criteria Listed if a School Closing is Needed
Many of these criteria were listed multiple times, and are in no particular order.
Some other comments were listed but were removed if not considered "criteria."

Macro impact on community property values as a declination would reduce tax revenue
Impact on businesses
Academic achievement of graduates of each elementary school
How much the school contributes to the District
Determine which area is more desirable for young families moving in
Which school raises the most $$ privately
How well the school functions currently/quality of education at the school
Consider that Elm Grove only has one elementary school
Cultural impact of school on community
Parent involvement and ability to raise funds independently
Risk analysis of students from each possible closed elementary school switching to private/parochial
Percentage of tax revenue for district from each elementary school community
Upheaval and distress
School's test scores
Intrinsic value the school brings to the District
Tax basis of community of school location
Location of school within municipality
Real estate market study impact
Revenue if property sold
Number of children directly affected
Pay attention to turn over of housing in neighborhoods
Option that lets the majority of students attend a school closest to their home
Consideration of Tonawanda's open concept
% of non-resident enrollment at schools
Transportation costs and commute time for students
Size of attendance area
School building/area that could be better re-purposed for the district
Greatest effect on surrounding schools
Effects on siblings
Request real estate evaluation from a financial perspective to gain the greatest financial or minmize the least amount of loss
Examine lease opportunities given location
School size