

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

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**School Board Workshop  
June 22, 2010**

**Class Size Reduction Amendment Period-by-Period Implementation Strategies & Costs**

The Superintendent introduced the Class Size Reduction (CSR) presentation, which would describe in detail the implementation plan for this school year's class-by-class strategy. This plan will be presented to the community at the scheduled Public Hearing being held today at 3:00 p.m.

Staff gave a brief history of the Class Size Amendment, which was approved by the voters in 2002-03. During Phase I of implementation, Class Size Reduction compliance was measured at the District level from 2003-04 through 2005-06 and the District was in compliance. In 2006-07, beginning Phase II, Class Size compliance was measured by schoolwide averages by grade grouping and the District was not in compliance for all schools. In 2007-08, five schools were identified to be full period-by-period implementation schools. Districtwide, schoolwide averages were met. In 2008-09, Phase III period-by-period implementation was to have begun statewide, but due to budget restraints, the State delayed period-by-period implementation and during the 2009-10 legislative session, determined to put on the fall ballot, the option to amend ~~relax~~ the period-by-period compliance measures. Because of the possibility of an amendment, it was expected that period-by-period would be measured during the February FTE survey; however, legislature determined that the amendment would be adhered to, and compliance measured during the October 2010 FTE/CSR survey period. Period-by-period or class-by-class implementation requires:

- Grades PK-3 - 18 students per class.
- Grades 4-8 - 22 students per class.
- Grades 9-12 - 25 students per class.

Staff researched what the cost to the District would be to implement period-by-period class-by-class in the fall of 2010. Two principal surveys were completed to estimate the cost for teacher funding and that amount is approximately \$79 million.

Next, staff discussed the strategies that would be used to meet Class Size, class-by-class, using Efficiency-Scheduling models. Some of these strategies for middle and high schools included:

- Increase the number of teachers teaching an extra period'.
- Re-code core electives to non-core electives.
- Nest courses (grade combination classes.)
- Utilize Florida Virtual or Broward Virtual education.
- Increase distance learning participation.
- Maximize dual enrollment course opportunities.

At the elementary level strategies to be used included:

- Combination or multi-age classes, determined by Principal when appropriate.
- Refine TERMS elementary schedule to meet class size requirements.

The Board expressed concerns regarding the nesting model, which included different grade levels in one classroom, and student enrollment in AP Courses. Staff is requested to keep an eye on those concerns.

Once schools complete their schedules, an area team will review each school to ensure that: Efficient Scheduling Strategies have been applied, appropriate staff is scheduled in the classroom, core classes were scheduled at the maximum load, and remedial reading classes were scheduled with no more than 22 students. The exception would be the Wilson reading classes, which would have no more than 15 students.

Staff stated that the School District has a moral obligation to provide the best scheduling for their students. Due to the class-by-class student number requirements, it is important that parents understand that there will have to be some moving of students in the fall to ensure each class has the appropriate number of students. It was suggested that before school started that parents be informed that because of period-by-period CSR implementation, that their student(s) might have to be moved to another classroom. The Board felt that it was very important that parents were informed of this possibility in order to prepare parents and their student(s). Students may be moved after the 20-day enrollment count to accommodate leveling of class sizes. It is expected that the tardiness of this year's FCAT scores will have an impact on classroom scheduling and funding as well.

In order for the School District to meet the funding demands of class-by-class, the Board would consider the .25 Supermajority additional millage. Due to the State's underfunding for the Class Size mandate, the School Board will have to consider this option. The School District may also deploy District & school based staff to the classroom, where appropriate, to help with possible teacher shortages.

It was suggested that during the Public Hearing it should be stated that when voters passed the Class Size Amendment in 2002, the State was to have provided all the funding necessary for period-by-period implementation. This has not been the case. The State has not sufficiently provided funding for Class Size Reduction. The School District has had to provide the funding, which has put a tremendous strain on the budget and has caused a shortfall over the past several years.

The penalty for not meeting Class Size Reduction, class-by-class, is extremely costly, almost as much as the implementation. Using the complicated formula the State designed, the penalty cost has been estimated to be \$72.6 million. The Class Size penalty is based on the number of students over in classes or periods that exceed the maximum students per class. If one class is over by one student, the entire District will face a penalty.

If the state returns a proportionate share of 75% of the total statewide penalty, as proposed in Legislation, Broward's penalty could be reduced to an estimated \$18.1 million.

A class size reduction public information Web site has been created: <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/classsize/>. This site also provides an opportunity for the public to provide feedback regarding the Class Size Reduction strategies. The Board suggested that all schools' Web sites be linked to this site so that everyone is getting the same information.

The Class Size Implementation plan discussed at this workshop can be found on the eAgenda June 22, 2010 workshop.

## **School Boundaries and Growth Management**

Staff came before the Board for the first discussion of the year regarding school boundaries and the updated information regarding the Second Amended Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for public school facility planning.

The Second Amended Interlocal Agreement modified the level of service (LOS) from 110% permanent capacity to 100% gross capacity. The 100% gross capacity allows schools to use their portables to meet LOS. Twenty-two cities out of twenty-seven approved to change the ILA. The School District is now in the process of getting State approval. Approval is expected and once received all signatories will be notified that the new ILA is in effect, School Board Policies 1161 and 5000 will be aligned, and starting with August 2010, the boundary process will utilize the new gross capacity LOS requirements.

In 2019-20 the LOS reverts to 110% permanent capacity. Board Members had a detailed discussion with staff regarding the 100% capacity and making sure portables can be used. Portables do have to meet certain criteria such as wiring for technology and covered walkways when appropriate. Staff pointed out that the School District, when beginning the conversation to amend the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), had every intention to replace all twenty-year old portables. It was in the School District's 5-year plan. Also, the District did a Plant Survey, which included a recommendation to replace all twenty-year old portables. The State cut all building funding, so that is no longer possible. However all of the portables in use are included in the State's Florida Inventory of School Houses numbers regardless of age, and therefore can be used to meet Class Size Amendment requirements and now with adoption of the Second Amendment to the ILA, also meet LOS. Staff is requested to do a school-by-school analysis and supply Board Members with the location of portables, if they will be used to meet LOS, and what other purpose they are used for. Once the analysis is done, staff is requested to share this information with all municipalities.

By 2014-15 all schools must meet the new LOS using 100% gross capacity, which affects boundaries and class size reduction.

Due to the loss of State funding and the possibility of a district wide domino affect boundary change, the amending of the Interlocal Agreement is a short-term and temporary solution. This plan allows the School District time to reevaluate the boundary situation and to create a long-range plan.

Staff was directed to proceed with the "watch" and "change" models. The "watch" model is a school that is over 100% gross capacity by up to four classrooms. This school may apply alternative enrollment options, allowable in Policy 5000, to meet LOS. The "change" model is a school that is over 100% gross capacity by more than four classrooms. Alternative enrollment options in policy 5000, may not allow sufficient space needed to meet LOS, and a boundary change may be needed. Schools that may need a boundary change will be brought forward to the August 31, 2010 workshop for the Board's direction.

One of the recommendations from last year's boundary process was to provide a tool kit of information to schools and parents that may be impacted by a boundary change. Staff is requested to provide Board Members with a tool kit, when available, for their information.

Board Members had a discussion regarding boundary change grade phase in and allowing reassignments. The Board felt that phasing in middle and high school students was

appropriate, but did not want elementary students phased in. After discussion, Board Members agreed that current policy meets the needs of elementary students based on space available. Regarding reassignments, Board Member requested that if a school has open seats and will be used to accept students from an overcrowded school in future boundary changes, to not give all open seats to reassignments. Also, regarding reassignments, consider the sending school's budget and the students and funding that will be lost at that location.

The August 31, 2010 workshop will begin the boundary process timeline and communication with schools and community members regarding any possible boundary changes.

Board Members discussed the November ballot and the different amendments that will be voted on. Class Size will be Amendment 8. In order to inform employees about the November ballot Board Member requested that a palm card be created with all the amendments that will be on the November ballot.

The boundary presentation can be found on the eAgenda June 22, 2010 workshop.

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