

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

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**School Board Workshop  
November 12, 2008**

**Floridians for Quality Education**

Maureen Dinnen, School Board Vice Chair, came before the Board to speak about a non-profit group of parents, teachers, principals and volunteers to support public education and to help advocate for better funding for public schools in the future. Groups from around the State are coming together for a common purpose. All counties in the State of Florida are in the same boat as Broward County, education is under funded.

In 2008 many school districts in Florida had to deal with major cuts in funding while trying to meet teacher and student needs in the classrooms. The State of Florida does not spend enough of the state budget on schools and public education and needs to redirect more of its budget to education for county school systems.

Florida spends less per student on education than any other state in the nation. Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina rank much higher in educational spending.

Broward County Public Schools suffered a \$94 million budget cut from 2007-2009 and are expecting an additional \$35 million budget cut in January 2009, as predicted by the Florida Department of Education.

The Floridians for Quality Education will be the umbrella organization, which will tie everyone together. This group, in the future, will organize a series of events during the next legislative session with all groups contributing to achieve their goal of more funding for education. One suggestion the Board Members made is to organize students from all over the state to voice an urgent call to build more schools.

For more information and to show your support for public education, please visit [www.MakeEducationAPriority.org](http://www.MakeEducationAPriority.org).

**Educational State Plant Survey – Impact on Boundaries**

Two School Board workshops have been scheduled to inform the Board about State mandates and their implications on school boundaries. The three drivers that will affect school boundaries are: Driver #1- State Plant Survey, Driver #2=Class Size, and Driver #3-School Concurrency.

The first workshop was scheduled on November 6, 2008 to inform the School Board Members about Driver #1, the State Plant Survey. The School District will be unable to fund projects that are not approved in the Plant Survey. Construction would depend on needed student seats. Relocatables are

now considered a part of the District's overall capacity in the State Plant Survey. To add capacity to the District overall, relocatables must be considered before building new classrooms.

Today, staff came before the Board to discuss Driver #2-Class Size Reduction and Driver #3-Concurrency and the implications of these State mandates on school boundaries.

In 2008, Class Size Reduction is determined by school-wide average and Broward County has met this state standard. Relocatables are used to house students in order to meet class size.

In 2010-11 class size will be determined period by period and will have to be 100% compliant.

Grades PreK - 3 = 18 students for each classroom period

Grades 4 - 8 = 22 students for each classroom period

Grades 9 -12 = 25 students for each classroom period (core classes: Foreign Languages, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, & Reading)

A new tracking system, period-by-period analysis planning tool, has been developed to keep track of how many students are in each class in every school and can identify all available space. Scheduling of classes will be a huge factor in meeting class size and training for these unique class size situations will be given to principals, school staff and area staff.

Driver #3, Public School Concurrency Level of Service was discussed. In June 2005, School Concurrency law was passed. This law provided a tool intended to ensure that necessary public school facilities are available to serve new residential development at the time development impact occurs. In 2007, the Interlocal Agreement was developed with the county and local municipalities in Broward County. The Board approved an amended Interlocal Agreement between the School Board of Broward County, Florida, Broward County Commission and 27 Broward County Municipalities in January of 2008. The Interlocal Agreement defined Broward County's Level of Service as 110% of permanent fish capacity, and service areas are defined as individual school boundaries.

School concurrency ensures that new residential developments are accountable for their impact on the District's schools. In addition, it provides a mechanism to ensure that school capacity is available to address residential development growth in the county.

Class Size Reduction and Concurrency are conflicting mandates. Class Size, per the State, uses relocatables as permanent capacity and can house students to meet this mandate. Concurrency, on the other hand, does not recognize relocatables as permanent capacity and cannot be used in determining the number of pupils to be serviced by the facility. This is called Level of Service Standard (LOS). Only the permanent capacity of the school can be used to determine LOS. The concurrency service area is the school boundary for each school and will be measured when an application for residential development is reviewed for public school concurrency purposes. LOS must be met by 2011-12.

To put this in simpler terms, a school's enrollment is 1,144. The permanent facility would house 939 students. Another 205 students would be housed in relocatables thus meeting class size. Using the same example of 1,144 student enrollment, the permanent facility can house 939 students plus 10% allowed by concurrency, which equals 1,033 students. The difference is 111 students. Under

concurrency the 111 students would have to be moved to another school because relocatables cannot be used as permanent capacity.

As mind-boggling as this is, staff is moving forward to meet these mandates and is looking to the Board for input and direction.

Board Members want to go back to the table with local municipalities regarding Concurrency not allowing relocatables as permanent capacity as the State does for class size.

The School Board Members were disappointed that the press was not present to hear about the consequences of class size. School Counselors will have to be vigilant in getting the classes the student needs. Class size has many disadvantages to our students.

November 25<sup>th</sup> Workshop is scheduled to discuss the specific schools impacted by these three drivers.

Material for this presentation is available at the November 12, 2008 School Board Workshop on the eAgenda.

**JFN:jd**