



WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Robert F. Gilbert – Superintendent
Cheryl Mammen – Special Services Director | Alfred Pullo, Jr. – Director of Business Services/Operations

MEMORANDUM

TO: Woodbridge Board of Education Members
FROM: Robert F. Gilbert
DATE: October 12, 2018
RE: **AD HOC CLASS SIZE COMMITTEE
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

The Ad Hoc Class Size Committee was set up in the spring of 2018. The committee consisted of Board members Margaret Hamilton and Lynn Piacyk, Principal Gina Prisco, Teachers Doreen Merrill, Peter Halsey and Cathy Zdrowski, Teacher Assistant Vicki Burford and Superintendent Bob Gilbert. The committee met a total of five (5) times.

The committee spent time reviewing: (1) class size research, (2) the current (1997) Class Size policy document as well as current BRS enrollment and class sizes, (3) New Haven area and DRG school district class size policies/guidelines, (4) historical data from the 1997 class size task force, (5) current educational classroom structures (workshop model, special education inclusionary practices, etc.) that have an impact on the layout and use of classrooms as well as (6) a discussion of how low/moderate class sizes have been historically valued by parents and the community.

Based on this review, the committee is recommending modifications to the language of the current policy (now referred to as "guidelines") and is also recommending to maintain the current ranges for Grades K-3 and 4-6. Please see revised guidelines below as well as the attached revision document.

CLASS SIZE GUIDELINES

The purpose of establishing guidelines on class size is not simply to establish numbers of students per classroom, but to define conditions that promote and support optimum learning environments, instructional approaches, teacher/student interactions and teacher/parent communications; and to insure that the classroom learning environment meets the needs in the differentiated elementary classroom.

Class Size: Beecher Road School

Recommended Range

Grades K - 3 17 to 19 Students per Class

Grades 4 - 6 19 to 21 Students per Class

Class sizes are subject to several variables including the actual number of students registered at the start of the school year per grade, safety, fiscal resources to address unanticipated discrepancies in actual student numbers, availability of instructional areas for teachers, and the varying needs of the children.

The principal will monitor class sizes when class size moves outside the recommended range. If student enrollment increases on or after the start of the school year, the Superintendent may exercise judgment in regards to exceeding the class sizes noted above. Administrative exceptions will be exercised to safeguard the educational continuity of students.

The Board of Education is kept apprised of class sizes via a monthly enrollment report and will review any recommendations and act accordingly.

CLASS SIZE **GUIDELINES** ~~TASK FORCE POLICY~~

The purpose of establishing guidelines on class size is not simply to establish numbers of students per classroom, but to define conditions that promote and support ~~acceptable~~ **optimum** learning environments, instructional approaches, teacher/student interactions and teacher/parent communications; and to insure that the classroom learning environment **meets the needs in the differentiated elementary classroom** ~~is structured to promote the continued implementation and advancement of resource-based learning principles.~~

Class Size: Beecher Road School **Recommended Range**

Grades K - 3	17 to	Students with a Maximum of	19 Students per Class
Grades 4 - 6	19 to	Students with a Maximum of	21 Students per Class

~~A~~ **acceptable** Class sizes are subject to several variables including the actual number of students registered at the start of the school year per grade, safety, fiscal resources to address unanticipated discrepancies in actual student numbers, availability of instructional areas for teachers, and the **varying** needs of the children.

The principal **will** ~~is charged with the responsibility for~~ monitoring class sizes and ~~reporting to the Superintendent at the start of each school year, and at any time, when class size is in danger of being compromised~~ **moves outside the recommended range**. If student enrollment increases on or after the start of the school year, the Superintendent may exercise his judgment in **regards to** exceeding **the** class sizes noted above. Administrative exceptions will be exercised to safeguard the educational continuity of students.

~~When a class reaches the maximum, the Superintendent is required to report to the Board of Education and the Board of Education will review recommendations to address class sizes that fall outside exceed the approved figures and act accordingly.~~ **The Board of Education is kept apprised of class sizes via a monthly enrollment report and will review any recommendations and act accordingly.**

Adopted by the Board of Education July 21, 1997