

Red Wing Public Schools
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School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Class Sizes and Substitutes
Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action
Board Information or Report

<input type="checkbox"/>
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Background Information

To meet budget reconciliation targets for the 2021-22 school year, numerous teaching positions were eliminated and the budget for substitutes was reduced. Having school attendance zones also resulted in differences in class sizes within a grade in different buildings.

Examples of Current Issues:

- At Burnside, for example, about 25 students are in each Kindergarten class whereas Sunnyside has the next highest class of 19.
- At Red Wing High School, there are 33 classes with at least 35 students (not including physical education, study halls, or band). This represents about 13% of general education classes. One of those classes—German I—has 46 students learning in the Little Theater. Social studies, science, and English language arts have the most classes with over 35 students in a class.

As Principal Nemanich explained, most classes have 28-32 students and some have 20-25 students. Scheduling at a high school will always have some imbalances due to the nature of programming (upper level single section classes, concurrent enrollment classes for college credit, number of licensed staff to teacher specific courses, etc.).

- As experienced in other districts, there are already concerns about short-call substitute availability.

The purpose of this agenda topic today is to share information publicly. Over the next few weeks, the administrative team will be reviewing options for addressing some of these concerns, but it would be impossible to address many of the concerns without changing the budget reconciliation target for this year.

Some of the ways to address these issues:

- Pay for an additional one or two permanent substitutes through the ESSER III funding application.
- Grant teachers overloads.
- Reassign Tower View teachers to work part-time at RWHS second semester.
- Encourage students to take more classes through 5RiversOnline.

Recommendation

No action is needed at this meeting.