

# District 220 Enrollment Monitoring Committee

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Q. Is the EMC currently addressing middle school boundaries?**

A. The Board of Education has currently charged the EMC to look at elementary enrollment and boundaries throughout District 220.

2. **Q. When will the EMC be addressing middle school boundaries?**

A. The EMC has currently only been charged with addressing elementary enrollment and boundaries. The EMC will not evaluate middle school boundaries until charged with this task by the Board of Education.

3. **Q. What guidelines are in place to guide the EMC during the process of looking at district wide elementary enrollment?**

A. The Board of Education created Guiding Principles for the EMC before charging the Committee with its current task. Those Guiding Principles are as follows:

*The Board of Education recognizes that some of these principles will occasionally conflict with one another. As decisions are made, the Superintendent and the Board of Education will consider the values and weigh them along with the prevailing community needs, attitudes, desires, and the District's budget.*

1. The EMC will identify areas of growth and enrollment trends, and consider this growth (current and future) in the development of recommendations that will distribute students within the capacity limitations of each school.

2. The EMC will be guided by the efficient and effective use of school facilities and educational programs.

3. The EMC will strive to distribute student population in order to insure equal access to quality and program availability for all children (including gifted, special needs, etc.)

4. The EMC will attempt to assign students to a school that is within a safe, walk-able distance. If none exists, the EMC will attempt to assign students to the schools that are closest to their home.

*Criteria: First priority should be given to those students within 1.5 miles (as measured by sidewalk or road routes) of any given facility (Illinois' State walk vs. bus criteria).*

5. The EMC will minimize busing to the extent possible. Bussing diminishes the time students could spend in more productive ways and increases taxpayer expense, taking funds that could be spent in the classroom for instruction.

6. The EMC recommendations will be aimed at providing school assignments where children from the same neighborhood will progress through the system together whenever possible.

7. The EMC will attempt to preserve neighborhood identities within a school to the greatest extent possible.

8. The EMC will maximize the stability of attendance area boundaries for future years in order to minimize change (long-term) for students and parents of District 220.

*Criteria: "Grandfathering" may be considered as part of any recommendation to the Board of Education if attendance boundaries are changed.*

9. The EMC will strive to divide attendance areas by natural (e.g. rivers, forest preserves) and man-made (e.g. major roads) boundaries to the extent possible.

10. The EMC will follow legal principles while developing attendance boundary scenarios as set forth by Federal law, State law, and the Illinois School Code.

11. The EMC recommendations shall be in line with established District 220 Board of Education Policy.

12. The EMC will consider the thoughts and viewpoints of District 220 residents when developing its attendance boundary scenarios through effective communication with residents.

4. **Q. Does the Board of Education have a role in determining changes in attendance boundaries, or does the EMC have the authority to make changes themselves?**

A. The EMC serves as an advisory group to the Board of Education. The EMC will update the Board of Education as requested on their progress throughout the process. The EMC will bring options to the Board of Education for their consideration that meet with the approval of at least 60% of the group. The final decision on any recommendation rests with the Board of Education.

5. **Q. When will a decision be made regarding elementary boundaries?**

A. The EMC has been asked to present their recommendations regarding elementary enrollment and boundaries to the Board of Education in January 2008. The Board of Education will then evaluate these recommendations and make their decision.

6. **Q. Will fifth grade students be allowed to stay at their current elementary school if redistrict is recommended?**

A. "Grandfathering" may be considered as part of any recommendation to the Board of Education if attendance boundaries are changed.

7. **Q. Is it possible my children will be attending school in another school district because the external borders of District 220 change?**

A. The current external borders of District 220 will not be changing, and anyone who currently lives within the district will remain in District 220.

8. **Q. Does the EMC have authority to instruct the School District Administration or Board of Education to add additional teachers to any school within the district?**

A. Staffing assignments are not an EMC responsibility. All questions regarding staffing should be directed to the building principal or proper administrator.

9. **Q. Will the EMC be making recommendations regarding bus routes?**

A. No, all questions regarding busing related issues should be directed to the building principal or proper administrator.

10. **Q. Does the EMC have anything to do with the Dual Language Program?**

A. The EMC has no influence on the Dual Language Program. The School Board and district administration have selected where current and future Dual Language classrooms will be located within the district.

11. **Q. Will the EMC suggest changes in classroom configurations such as single level to multi-age?**

A. No, questions regarding classroom configuration should be directed to the individual building principal.

12. **Q. Is it possible for the EMC to consider locations other than District 220 schools, such as local park districts, as options for redistricting?**

A. The EMC may only suggest moving children to schools located within District 220.

13. **Q. Is the EMC considering the impact future development may have on an individual elementary school?**

A. Yes, the EMC has been provided two demographic studies, as well as actual enrollment numbers from September 2007. The Committee is considering what the impact of future developments may have on both an individual school, as well as the district as a whole.

14. **Q. What has the EMC done to ensure they are “experts” about the geography of the district and the uniqueness of each individual building?**

A. A vast majority of EMC members participated in a district tour during the initial weeks of the committees work. In addition, each committee member was required to tour each District 220 school.

15. **Q. Why doesn't the district simply add additional classrooms, either by building or modular units like the middle schools, to Rose Elementary School to address the development in the South?**

A. The addition of classroom space to Rose School will not by itself solve the growth problem within this elementary attendance area. If this were to happen, additional space would also need to be added in the areas of physical education, library, art, and music, as there are not enough of these spaces to support extra “sections” of additional students during the scheduled school day.

16. **Q. Did the EMC ask for input via a survey?**

A. No, the EMC sent a community letter asking for community input regarding elementary attendance boundaries, there was no survey. The letter was sent via email to district parents three times during the months of June and July. In addition, a printed copy of this letter was sent home with all elementary students and was also included in the July District 220 newsletter sent to all households within the district.