Appendix E

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH DECLINING ENROLLMENT

Declining Enrollment Elementary Schools With Less Than Two Sections at Each Grade Level

- An elementary school with declining enrollment is examined to determine whether the school has less than two sections for each grade level and whether this condition will continue for at least 3 years.

Schools Within a Cluster/Attendance Area

- When a condition of declining enrollment and less than two sections per grade level continue for 3 years, demographic data are gathered and examined for the specific school and other elementary schools in the same cluster and attendance area. Examination of the data will determine whether all of the students in the cluster/attendance area may be educated in one or more fewer schools. The impact will not increase the current and projected enrollments of other schools beyond their capacities unless these capacities may be increased.
  - Current year’s enrollment
  - Number of grade-level sections
  - Number of sections as a ratio of school capacity
  - Three-year enrollment projections
  - Evidence of new residential housing affecting enrollment in the next 5-10 years

- If the students can be accommodated in one or more fewer schools, operational and fiscal data are examined for the elementary schools in the cluster and attendance area in order to determine which school to close.
  - Number of students within walking distance to school (1.5 miles)
  - Per square foot operational costs of maintenance and energy consumption
  - Per student operational costs of maintenance and energy consumption
  - Per student operational costs for staff consisting of principal, clerical, librarian, custodian, and food service personnel
  - Functional capacity of the building structure to accommodate programming for the next 5 years
  - Need for replacement/repair of major structural building systems over the next 5 years
• A decision is made to close a school(s) and the students of that school(s) are redistricted to other schools using the redistricting parameters.
  □ Every attempt will be made to keep bus routes no longer than 45 minutes in duration one way.
  □ Schools will not be created with high concentrations of children from low-income families.
  □ Efforts will be made to keep geographically and historically defined neighborhoods together and to consider the proximity of students to a school when redrawing boundary lines.
  □ When redrawing boundary lines, current attendance area islands and optional areas will be reduced wherever possible and new ones will not be created.

• Future school building uses are studied and a decision is made to:
  □ Move existing MMSD programs from currently rented space into the building
  □ Rent space to external entity
  □ Mothball
  □ Sell

Schools Within a Larger Geographic Area

• If the students cannot be educated in one or more fewer schools within the cluster or attendance area, redistricting other students to the declining enrollment school from a larger geographic area in order to create an elementary school with two sections at each grade level will be explored, using the redistricting parameters.
  □ Every attempt will be made to keep bus routes no longer than 45 minutes in duration one way.
  □ Schools will not be created with high concentrations of children from low-income families.
  □ Efforts will be made to keep geographically and historically defined neighborhoods together and to consider the proximity of students to a school when redrawing boundary lines.
  □ When redrawing boundary lines, current attendance area islands and optional areas will be reduced wherever possible and new ones will not be created.

• A decision regarding redistricting will be made. If it is decided not to redistrict students from a larger geographic area, no action will be taken and the situation will be reviewed in one year.
Declining Enrollment Elementary Schools at Less Than 67% Capacity

- Elementary schools with declining enrollment that maintain two or more sections at each grade level, but fall below 67% of the current school capacity as determined by the number of class sections will be identified.

- It will be determined whether other compatible MMSD programs may be moved into the school building to occupy the unused space.

- If no compatible district programs can be moved into the school, rental to compatible programs from external entities will be considered for the building.

- If the unused space in the school cannot be utilized by other programs, the school’s cluster and attendance area will be considered for consolidation following the process described for schools with less than two sections per grade level.