



Newberry Elementary School

25705 S.W. 15th Avenue

Newberry, Florida 32669

(352) 472-1100 Fax (352) 472-1120

J. Info. Item



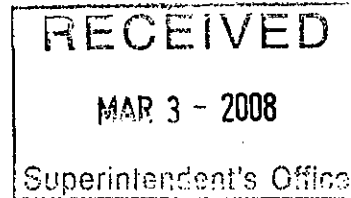
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Copies: Board



Principal, Lacy A. Redd

To: Dr. Boyd
From: Lacy A. Redd, Principal
Date: 2/30/08
Re: Facilities/5th Grade



Dr. Boyd:

As you know, Newberry Elementary is growing and our facilities are over capacity. As of today we have 623 students and our facility is built for 507 students. I will need three additional portables for the fall to meet the mandated class sizes with our current numbers. Our cafeteria, clinic, office, bathrooms, playground, computer lab and parking are all impacted negatively by our growth. We understand that with the current budget situation, it would be very hard for the district to provide the needed additional portables, furniture, computers, and upgrades at our campus. Therefore on behalf of my faculty, who support this request 100%, we would like to request that you meet with the board and reconsider the decision not to move the 5th graders to Oak View. Oak View currently has the space and we believe they have a very good plan in place to assist these students and parents with this move. I have met with our school advisory council and PTO board, see attached letter of support from those groups. I have also attached one letter opposing the change from one of my SAC members. My fifth grade teachers all want to go with the students over to the middle school to teach and my faculty believes that these teachers can make parents feel assured that their children will be treated like 5th graders and kept safe. We are very eager to work with the middle school on a plan to help make this transition successful. Thank you for consideration in this matter and as always thank you for your support.

Lacy

To: Dr. Dan Boyd
From: Newberry Elementary SAC and PTO Presidents
Date: 2/29/08
Re: Moving the 5th Grade to Oak View

Mrs. Redd, our Principal met with our PTO and SAC on 2/28/07 to discuss the current growth and class size amendment needs for next school year. Currently the school will need three additional portables for the fall. She also shared the current budget shortfalls the district and state will be facing for the fall which could affect the school being able to get portables, furniture, computers and upgrades needed at the school to handle additional portables. It is the opinion of those present at this meeting that it is in the best interest of all the children at Newberry Elementary with the current budget situation for the board to consider again moving the 5th grade to Oak View for this fall. The option of the art and music teachers giving up their permanent space is not something we feel is in the best interest of their programs as it would sacrifice the wonderful program we have for the other 550 students and is unfair to the rest of the teachers in the school who would not have a quiet planning period to prepare for our children. The faculty at the school including the fifth grade teachers agrees with our recommendation and the fifth grade teachers all want to go with the students to the middle school. We believe by them going with the students, parents concerns will be diminished. Please consider this decision again and we appreciate the support you give our school.

Sincerely,



Sandy Paquette, PTO President



SAC Chair, Kyra Purvis

Hi Lacy,

I have a meeting in Orlando tomorrow and can't attend the SAC meeting. But, for what it's worth I want you to know my feelings as I have already given them to Tina Pinkoson.

Although I do not have a child that will be affected, I am and always will be a child advocate. Therefore, I am opposed to sending 5th graders to Oak View Middle School. I realize the hardship on you and the school board to come up with money for the portables. But, Oak View Middle School IS NOT equipped to handle 5th graders. In my opinion, they don't have a good handle on the students/ teachers they have now.

My main concern is you vs. Karen Clarke; 5th graders need compassion, empathy and understanding. They need a different kind of discipline and encouragement that they will not get at Oak View. Also, I know you all say they will be isolated from the other grades but there is no reasonable way to do that and trust me you don't want 5th graders to know what my 8th grader knows.

In closing, I do realize the children will adjust. They won't even realize what they are missing. Most of them will be excited to be "in middle school!"
But, it will show up in their grades, their attitudes and most of all in their future.

The bottom line is it will be an injustice to take them away from the wonderful environment you've created at Newberry Elementary!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Leschanz
Concerned Parent
SAC Member