

Staff Analysis of Jupiter Community Steering Committee Interim Report

Enrollment Decline:

- Jupiter Community Steering Committee Interim report analysis regarding enrollment decline is simplistic. All forecasting factors are not considered;
- Historical increases between 8th and 9th grade enrollment of 12-30% are not considered;
- The Town's estimate of 6,151 new residential housing units over the next 15-20 years means an additional 375 to 500 high school students; some of these students will come over the next 3 to 5 years;
- The Interim Report mixes up enrollment changes during the school year with changes from one school year to the next;

Choice/Address Issues:

- Interim Report data on enrollment decline from eliminating false addresses is not based upon any bona fide data. Presenting data without an underlying assumption or data source calls the veracity of the data into question.
- Interim Report calls for discontinuing special waiver approvals into overcrowded schools. Reassignments into Jupiter High School are already limited.
- The district is implementing academies and choice programs at all district high schools. These programs offer additional options for students. Due to overcrowding, Jupiter High School has admitted less than the minimum allowable number of out-of-district students into choice programs the last three school years.

Projected Enrollment

In Spring 2006 the district demographer projected 2967 students for Jupiter High School. Actual October enrollment was 3038 students **or 71 students higher than projected.**

The projections that were prepared in Spring 2006 projections showed an increase of 20 students to 2987 students in SY2007-08 based upon the current boundary area; **the updated projected enrollment for SY2007-08 is 3023 students or 36 students higher than the Spring 2006 enrollment projection for SY2007-08.** The updated projection assumes no increase in out-of-district enrollment at Jupiter High School.

JCSC Interim Report Table 1 shows a decline in enrollment based upon existing students of 88 students in SY2007-08; 202 students in SY2008-09; and, 453 students in SY2009-10. Section III B. Table 2 shows the data. This analysis is simplistic. Projections consider a number of factors including but not limited to: existing student enrollment by grade, historical cohort survival rates, attrition rates between grades, historical influx of students from private schools, changes in the percentage of total students within the boundary attending Jupiter High School over time and students from new developments.

The ratio of ninth grade students to eight grade students living within the JHS boundary area has varied from 1.29 to 1.12 over the last four school years. The larger number of ninth grade students is due in part to students from K-8 private schools entering public school in ninth grade. The ninth grade cohort is typically 10% to 30% larger than the eighth grade cohort from the previous school year.

Public school students from new developments are factored into projections. The 6000 plus planned new homes identified in the interim report are estimated to add between 375 and 500 additional students within the projected 15-20 year build out. New students from planned developments will offset some of the projected decline in existing students.

JCSC Interim Report discusses student migration/attrition losses (TABLE 1 page 3 and Section E. page 11). The Steering Committee is mixing up enrollment changes during the school year with enrollment changes between one school year and the next school year. Migration changes from October to October each year are captured by cohort survival ratios in the computer model. Enrollment declines are typical at high schools during the school year. The enrollment changes at Jupiter High School in SY2004-05 and SY2005-06 are shown in the following table.

School Year	11th day	Oct FTE	Feb FTE	June
SY2004-05	2731	2743	2668	2590
SY2005-06	2977	2917	2883	2822
SY2006-07	3060	3038	2998 (Dec)	NA

The 11th day enrollment in SY2005-06 was 309 students higher than the Feb FTE enrollment in SY2004-05; the 11th day enrollment in SY2006-07 was 177 students higher than the Feb FTE in SY2005-06.

Choice and Address Issues

The JCSC Interim report estimates of enrollment declines based upon eliminating false registrations are not based on any bone fide data. The JCSC Interim report notes that the Interim Report assumption regarding the estimate is “To Be Determined” (bottom of page 7). Presenting data without an underlying assumption or data source calls the voracity of the data into question. The report estimates a reduction of 120 students per school year over the next three years. There is no data to support this estimate.

The JCSC Interim report identifies an alternative best practice approach of discontinuing special wavier approvals into overcrowded schools. Reassignments into overcrowded schools are already limited to seniors who move and wish to finish at the former school, students of employees (CTA contract provision), and severe hardships. The district follows State rules with regard to McKay Scholarships.

The district is implementing academies and choice programs at all district high schools. These programs offer additional options for students. Due to overcrowding, Jupiter High School has admitted less than the minimum allowable number of out-of-district students into choice programs the last three school years. To the extent possible, more in-boundary students have been admitted to choice programs. Effective this school year, the ROTC program is only open to in-boundary students.