



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assistant Superintendent

Dave Jones

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-5867

Email djones2@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Memorandum

To: Members, Board of Education

From: Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

Date: January 29, 2008

RE: Fireweed Space Request

Since we received Fireweed Academy's (FWA) request for additional space in West Homer Elementary (WHE) for the 08/09 school year, I have spent time evaluating current space usage, and possible future usage of space at WHE.

Currently, WHE has high enrollments in the fifth and sixth grades, and they use Room 318 as a pullout science room to help alleviate the higher enrollments. The FY 08/09 Budget includes a staffing formula change for grades four through six that decreases class size by two students. This change results in the addition of one teacher for WHE who will be placed in Room 318, and class size will be reduced to the point that pullouts will not be needed to alleviate high enrollment problems.

Room 108 at WHE was designated to be used as the District Professional Development Room for the Southern Peninsula Schools for the 07/08 school year. District Administration has determined that a different site can be found for the District Professional Development Room in the 08/09 school year, which opens Room 108 for possible use by FWA.

The two changes above would result in all WHE classroom space being occupied for the 08/09 school year. Room 311 could possibly be made available for half day usage. It is currently being used as office space in the afternoons by a teacher that does not service WHE or FWA students in the room. Assignment of office space in a different Homer school would open the space for usage in the afternoons.

I believe the above changes would pretty well maximize the space available at WHE for the projected enrollments of WHE and FWA. However, there are two scenarios that could raise possible concerns for 08/09 school year.

The first concern would be if WHE received an unexpected enrollment increase as it did for the 07/08 school year. There would be no space available to add an additional teacher to meet the enrollment increase, and the reduced class size targeted by the budget changes would not happen. One possible solution to this problem would be to examine the students attending WHE on Out Of Area Attendance Requests.

The second concern would arise if the Programmatic Staffing proposal being considered in the budget process was adopted and implemented. The effect on WHE would be an additional .5 FTE Counselor and an additional .5 FTE Interventionist who would then need space in the building. The potential space previously mentioned in Room 311 could address part of this need.

If the WHE and FWA staffs work together professionally, students at both schools will benefit from this arrangement. It is my recommendation that FWA be given the use of Room 108 for the 08/09 school year.