

PTO Meeting October 3 2013—we discussed the increase in student enrollment at Marquette, the possible solutions to future overcrowding that the school corporation is investigating, and some ideas for Marquette families to get involved.

Current situation

- SBCSC operates under a “Consent Decree”
- Recent reading by federal Justice lawyer to SBCSC: enrollment at ALL schools in SB, particularly magnets, was being handled incorrectly
- Enrollment change: the SBCSC must meet neighborhood education needs as the first priority.
 - Even over the long-term concern for racial balance
- Because Marquette has been so successful, accommodating more neighborhood students means filling to near overflowing the classrooms—SUCCESS has attracted increased interest!
- Future: Marquette classrooms will have between 28-30 students
 - We are blessed to have the IAs as well!
- SBCSC-superintendent AND Board: 100% in support of Montessori and of Marquette’s success.

What to do with the possibility that classrooms will be over-full next year?

- Montessori standard is 30 students max in a classroom
- No teacher/student ratio rule in IN –no limit to class size
- Dr. Schmidt and her team are working hard to manage this mandated change in school populations
- Finding a solution is a work in progress, there’s a process under way, there are no guarantees, it’s all about money in a terrible economy and spending limits!

- SBCSC ‘aggressively’ pursuing as a solution to the potential overcrowding at Marquette
 - **One Idea:** Seek Funding for a transitional Upper Elementary 4-5-6 program connected with Marquette
 - Open a Montessori wing within Muesel
 - A school within a school under the leadership of Marquette
 - Maintain the Montessori curriculum
 - Include 5th grade in 2014 6th grade in 2015 for the complete Upper Elementary program under Montessori
 - (looking forward to the possibility of expanding up to 7th and 8th grade down the line)

- **This makes it possible to:** Use the three open classrooms in the Marquette building to open three more LE classrooms
 - Relieves the crowding in all the LE classrooms

Issues that must be addressed with this option:

- Costs
 - Teachers--7 needed (3 of the 7 currently teaching 4th grades)
 - Training for Montessori
 - Materials for new LE classrooms
 - Materials for 5th grade Montessori
 - IAs for 3 classrooms
 - Location
 - Muesel?
 - cannot use old Marquette

What if SBCSC can’t get the money—what then?

- To fix the overcrowding
 - Move the 4th grade to Muesel —a transitional 4th grade in a wing of Muesel’s building

- Open up 3 LE classrooms in the empty classrooms
 - Still need the new LE materials
 - SBCSC has made a firm commitment:
 - NO PORTABLES
 - NO CLASSES with more than 30 students