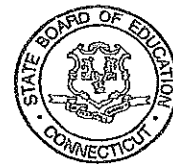


BURR PRESCHOOL OPT-IN

	HOME SCHOOL	ETHNICITY	# OF STUDENTS	ETHNICITY	# OF STUDENTS	ETHNICITY	GRAND TOTAL ETHNICITY ALL YEARS
2013-2014							
	North Stratfield	Hispanic/White	1	White	4	White	21
				Hispanic/White	1	Hisp/White	6
	Holland Hill	White	1	Asian	1	Asian	11
				Black	1	Black	4
	Riverfield	White	1	Total	7	Native/Amer	2
						Hispanic	1
	Mckinley	White	2			Total to Date	45
		Asian	1				
		Black	1				
2012-2013							
	North Stratfield	Hispanic/White	2	White	6		
				Hispanic/White	3		
	Holland Hill	White	2	Asian	2		
				Native American	1		
	Sherman	Asian	1	Total	12		
	Riverfield	Native American	1				
	Mckinley	White	4				
		Hispanic/White	1				
		Asian	1				
2011-2012							
	Mckinley	Hispanic/White	1	White	1		
		Hispanic	1	Hisp/White	1		
		White	1	Asian	4		
		Asian	3	Black	2		
				Native/Amer	1		
	Holland Hill	Black	2	Hispanic	1		
		Asian	1	Total	10		
	Riverfield	Native American	1				



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



May 13, 2013

Dr. David Title
Superintendent of Schools
Fairfield Public Schools
501 Kings Highway East
Fairfield, CT 06795

Dear Dr. Title:

On May 1, 2013, the Connecticut State Board of Education ("CSBE") accepted a report concerning the racial imbalance statistics for all schools in the state. This report indicates that McKinley School has impending imbalance. Pursuant to its approved plan to correct racial imbalance at McKinley School, the Fairfield Board of Education has taken various actions to encourage more diversity throughout the district. I appreciate your efforts in amending your district's plan. The Department of Education will continue to monitor the statistics for your district.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-713-6512.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Anastasio".

Laura Anastasio, Staff Attorney
Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs

LLA:jd

Attachment

UNAUDITED DATA FILE

Connecticut State Department of Education 2012 Public School Enrollment By District By Racial Imbalance Categories

Imbalance is determined pursuant to CGS §10-226e-3 and §10-226e-4, comparing school proportions with the district proportions of students in the same grade.
Note: Bold-faced fonts indicate the greater of the district or school minority percentage figures for each school.

Dist #	Schl #	DISTRICT	SCHOOL	District % Minority	Dist. Total	School % Minority	Schl. Total	Absolute Imbalance
051 Fairfield School District								
6		McKinley School		19.00%	4627	43.41%	440	24.41
4		Holland Hill School		19.00%	4627	32.37%	380	13.37
18		Osborn Hill School		19.00%	4627	8.88%	518	10.12
12		Riverfield School		19.00%	4627	12.96%	409	6.04
13		Sherman School		19.00%	4627	13.36%	449	5.63
1		Dwight Elementary School		19.00%	4627	14.03%	278	4.97
51		Tomlinson Middle School		18.03%	2535	22.98%	744	4.96
7		Hill Hill School		19.00%	4627	14.16%	445	4.84
62		Fairfield Warde High School		19.36%	2970	23.84%	1418	4.48
60		Fairfield Ludlowe High School		19.36%	2970	15.27%	1552	4.09
53		Roger Ludlowe Middle School		18.03%	2535	14.15%	940	3.88
2		Burr Elementary School		19.33%	4776	15.96%	445	3.37
14		Stratfield School		19.00%	4627	17.23%	505	1.77
17		Jennings School		19.00%	4627	20.66%	334	1.66
16		North Stratfield School		19.00%	4627	19.38%	454	.39
52		Fairfield Woods Middle School		18.03%	2535	17.98%	851	.05

*Diverse Schools are if district minority is greater 50% and school minority is between 25% and 75%.

*Source Data: Public School Information System October 2012 extracted on 3/6/2013

Thursday, April 04, 2013

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education
DATE: February 6, 2013
SUBJECT: Amendment to Fairfield Board of Education's Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance

Executive Summary

Introduction

On February 2, 2011, the Connecticut State Board of Education ("CSBE") approved an amendment to the Fairfield Board of Education's Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in McKinley School. Racial imbalance exists when the proportion of minority students for any school exceeds 25 percentage points more or less than the comparable proportion for the school district. The comparable proportion for the school district is determined by comparing the total number of racial minorities in a school to the district-wide total pupil enrollment in the same grades.

History/Background

The McKinley School ("McKinley") in Fairfield was originally identified as racially imbalanced in April 2007. The Fairfield Board of Education ("Fairfield Board") proposed an opt-in/opt-out option in its original racial imbalance plan. Specifically, McKinley parents were given the opportunity to transfer their children to one of three elementary schools identified by the Fairfield Board. As a result of McKinley's continued imbalance, on April 12, 2010, Commissioner Mark McQuillan asked the Fairfield Board to submit an addendum to its plan. In its proposed addendum, the Fairfield Board proposed to expand the pre-school program for low-income students at Burr Elementary School ("Burr") from twenty to thirty-six students. Second, the Fairfield Board planned to merge the McKinley pre-school program with the Early Childhood Center at Warde High School. This proposal was implemented in September 2011. The effect of such change, however, will take several years to manifest in enrollment numbers for McKinley School.

The table below illustrates the racial imbalance statistics for McKinley.

School	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
McKinley Elementary School	28.74	27.40	25.45	28.70	25.81	26.81

On May 17, 2012, the Connecticut State Board of Education ("CSBE") accepted a report concerning the racial imbalance statistics for all schools in the state, which indicated that the

McKinley School continued to be racially imbalanced. As a result, the Commissioner requested the Fairfield Board to review its racial imbalance plan and propose an amendment to the plan. Included are the following documents: Enclosure A, the proposed change to the racial imbalance plan, submitted by Dr. David Title, Superintendent of Fairfield Public Schools; Enclosure B, the 2011 Public School Enrollment by District by Racial Imbalance Categories for Fairfield Public Schools; and Enclosure C, a copy of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies concerning the implementation of the racial imbalance law.

The Fairfield Board's Proposed Plan

The Fairfield Board plans to expand the pre-K option to include Dwight School with the expectation that families in the McKinley attendance zone will take advantage of the pre-K program. As with Burr School, the families will be able to continue attendance at Dwight School through eighth grade. In addition, the Fairfield Board proposes to eliminate the opt-out provision for families within the McKinley attendance zone. However, it will continue the opt-in provision, which will allow families from outside the McKinley attendance zone to send their children to McKinley. Finally, the Fairfield Board will dissolve the Racial Diversity Task Force and place the responsibility for monitoring the racial imbalance plan directly with the Fairfield Board.

State Board of Education Action/Recommendation

Pursuant to Section 10-226e-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies ("Regulations"), the CSBE shall determine whether a board of education's plan meet the requirements of the regulations and shall (1) approve, (2) conditionally approve or (3) disapprove the plan. I recommend that the CSBE approve this plan.

Follow-up Activities

Section 10-226e-7 of the Regulations requires that all plans be subject to continuing review and evaluation by the CSBE. This review will include annual monitoring to determine the Fairfield Board's progress in its plan to eliminate racial imbalance. If the CSBE finds that the actions of the Fairfield Board are not in conformity with the timetable submitted in the plan or if the Fairfield Board does not take substantial steps to implement the plan or fails to make sufficient progress, the CSBE may take further action to compel compliance. The Connecticut State Department of Education will monitor the Fairfield Board's progress, and I will recommend further action if necessary.

Prepared by:

Attorney Laura L. Anastasio
Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs

EXHIBIT A

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

David G. Title, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Phone (203) 255-8371
Fax (203) 255-8245

The Education Center

September 21, 2012

Mr. Stefan Pryor
Commissioner of Education
Connecticut State Department of Education
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Pryor:

I am writing in response to your letter of August 2012 in which you asked the Fairfield Public Schools to present to the State Board of Education its plan to remedy the racial imbalance in the Fairfield Public Schools. As of April 2012 the absolute imbalance at McKinley Elementary School stands at 26.81 percentage points, or 1.89 points above the maximum.

The State Board last reviewed and approved amendments to Fairfield's Plan on February 2, 2011. After this approval, Fairfield implemented the changes for the 2011-2012 school year. These changes, and the background on Fairfield's Racial Imbalance Plan, are summarized in a February 2, 2011 memo to the State Board of Education from Acting Commissioner George Coleman (attached). This memo includes the racial imbalance history at McKinley Elementary School from 2005 to the present.

Proposal to Add Preschool

Our data suggests that increasing the number of McKinley families attending preschool at Burr Elementary School, a school with approximately 15 percent minority students, is having a positive impact on the racial composition at McKinley. In September 2011, six students from McKinley opted to stay at Burr for their elementary years, one of whom is White. Our preliminary information from September 2012 is similar. There are a total of 36 children at the Burr preschool, half of whom are three-year-olds, and some of whom come from elementary schools other than McKinley. We project that we can raise the number of families opting into Burr from McKinley from 6 to 10 over the next two years as word spreads that McKinley families are welcome at Burr.

Therefore, we propose to add another preschool program for McKinley families at Dwight Elementary School (15 percent minority), a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School recipient. This new program will be modeled after the Burr program which has 36 students, 3 and 4 years of age, in two classrooms. This will serve the dual purpose of bringing a high quality preschool program to an underserved population and enhancing our ability to bring McKinley School into racial balance. If 10 of these preschool families opt to stay at Dwight over the next two years, we would bring McKinley School well under the 25 percentage point threshold.

Review of Other Components of the Plan

We successfully moved the preschool program at McKinley to Fairfield Warde High School not only to help achieve racial balance, but to also enhance the educational experience of our Warde preschool students. Previously, this program had predominantly served students with special needs. The net effect on the racial composition at McKinley was negligible; the impact on the educational experiences at Warde was significant and positive in many ways.

We surveyed elementary parents in our district on whether they would enroll their children outside their home school if a specialized school existed at McKinley. The result of this survey was that no program would be attractive enough to draw students to McKinley. It is also not feasible to expand McKinley School. Even with generous State funding, the site is already at maximum use and parking is extremely limited for the existing student population.

Since the 2009-2010 school year, our Plan has called for families at McKinley to be able to opt-out of that school. Of the 53 children who have taken this option, 25 are White and 28 are non-White. Therefore, this option has had little impact on racial imbalance, as these figures mirror the racial composition of the school as a whole.

Since the 2010-2011 school year, students from other schools in Fairfield have had the ability to opt-in to McKinley. During these three years (including September 2012), a total of 29 students have opted in to McKinley, 18 of whom are White. This option has had a positive impact on the racial balance at McKinley.

The Racial Diversity Task Force did receive technical assistance from the State. However, the responsibility for changes to Fairfield's Racial Imbalance Plan lies with the Board of Education. The task force, therefore, has shifted gears toward a community focus, sponsoring two "Community Conversations on Diversity" in Fairfield over the past two years. While this has been a positive development in view of the Town's changing demographics, our view is that the task force does not play a major role in recommending changes to Fairfield's Plan.

Recommended Changes

We recommend that the opt-out provision for families at McKinley be eliminated and the opt-in provision be retained for families wishing to send their children to McKinley. We recommend the elimination of the Racial Diversity Task Force and lodge the responsibility for Fairfield's Racial Imbalance Plan directly with the Fairfield Board of Education.

Fairfield's racial imbalance is just slightly over the statutory limit. We believe these additional steps will help to correct the problem.

Sincerely,



David G. Title

Attachment

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

501 Kings Highway East
Fairfield, Connecticut 06825



Phone (203) 255-8371
Fax (203) 255-8245

Office of the Superintendent

TO: Board of Education
FROM: David G. Title
DATE: 11/27/2012
SUBJECT: Additional Information on Pre-K at Dwight

At the October 9, 2012 Board of Education meeting, I presented a proposal to establish an additional pre-kindergarten classroom at Dwight Elementary School. This proposal would serve the dual purpose of complying with the state's mandate on racial balance and providing educational benefits to children in Fairfield. This memo provides some additional information.

The educational benefits of pre-kindergarten education are widely documented. I am attaching a two-page summary from the Harvard University Center on the Developing Child and a more extensive presentation from an unlikely source, the Minneapolis Federal Reserve. As Chair of the Governor's Early Childhood Cabinet I am deeply involved in early childhood issues statewide. I have heard a representative from Minneapolis outline not just the benefits that families derive from high quality early childhood education but also the benefits that accrue to a community as whole from this investment.

We plan to implement a tuition-based program at Dwight as we have at Burr, with projections based on a target of one-third full-tuition students, one-third half-tuition students and one-third tuition-free students. With these projections, we can cover all of the labor costs (teacher and paraprofessional) from revenue, leaving approximately \$100,000 in incremental transportation costs annually for two small buses. Transportation will be offered in geographic zones to minimize costs. For example, residents in the Riverfield area may be offered transportation to the Dwight program but not to Burr.

One-time costs include furniture costs of \$8,297, technology costs of \$11,268 and curriculum costs of \$4,000. Dwight's budget allocation for supplies will be raised by 36 students to cover other costs, just as we do at Burr.

The additional students projected at Dwight would rise by the following numbers:

2013-2014	0
2014-2015	5
2015-2016	10
2016-2017	15
2017-2018	20

According to the MGT study, this would result in a peak enrollment of 328 students at Dwight in 2017-2018. This projection will likely decline once MGT updates its projections based on actual enrollment. In any case, the school district calculates Dwight's capacity as 388 students, so there is room at the school to house this program with negligible impact on the present program.

In summary, this proposal has educational benefit for the dollars expended and is the least invasive manner for the school district to comply with the state's laws on racial imbalance.

Fairfield Public Schools

Projected Racial Imbalance 2012-2013 Through 2016-2017

	Mckinley Total	Mckinley Students at Burr/Dwight	Mckinley Actual	Mckinley Total Minority	Mckinley Minority at Burr/Dwight	Mckinley Actual Minority	Mckinley Minority	District Minority	Minority Difference
2012-2013	446	6	440	193	2	191	43.4%	19%	24.4%
2013-2014	446	13	433	193	6	187	43.2%	19.5%	23.7%
2014-2015	446	27	419	193	14	179	42.7%	20.0%	22.7%
2015-2016	446	41	405	193	22	171	42.2%	20.5%	21.7%
2016-2017	446	55	391	193	30	163	41.7%	21.0%	20.7%

Assumptions in this model:

1. Overall student population and the overall minority population at McKinley are unchanged through 2017.
2. Three minority students and four white students from each pre-school will elect to stay at either Burr or McKinley when they are eligible for kindergarten.
3. The district's overall minority population will increase by .5 percentage points each year through 2017.
4. There is no net impact on the continuation of the Opt-In provision (students from other schools electing to attend McKinley).

January 2013
 David G. Title, Ed. D.
 Superintendent of Schools