

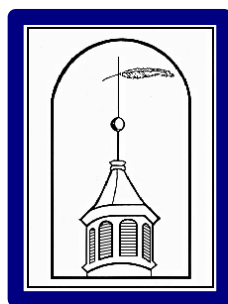
# **Neighborhood Schools Act**

**Plan A**

**and**

**Plan B**

*Appoquinimink School District*



**Presented to the Delaware State Board of Education**

**June 7, 2002**

# **PLAN A**

## **Grade Configuration Compliant Plan**

# **PLAN A**

## **Grade-Configuration Compliant Plan**

The State Board of Education denied approval of the Appoquinimink School District's original Neighborhood Plan by a signed Decision and Order dated March 25, 2002. Citing provisions in the Neighborhood School's Act, the Board found the proposed grade configuration submitted by the school district did not comply with the bill and asked the district to resubmit a plan that established the specified grade configuration. Appoquinimink's original plan was out of compliance with the NSA in that all kindergarten students in the district attend a kindergarten center. Section 223(b) of the bill is explicit and mandatory: a district's Neighborhood School Plan must consist of grades K-5 or K-6, grade 6 or 7 to grade 8 or 9, and 9-12 or 10-12.

In an attempt to be compliant with this section of the bill, the district developed Plan A, which is a grade configuration-compliant plan. Basically, the plan distributes the kindergarten and early childhood programs back to the elementary schools. Because the facility now being used as an early childhood center was built to accommodate younger children and could not suitably accommodate older children, this facility would be converted to administrative offices and the present administrative office complex would be converted to another elementary school.

# **DETAILS OF PLAN A**

## **Advantages of Plan A**

- Grade configuration compliance for the Neighborhood Schools Act will be met.
- The district will have another elementary school suitable for students in grades K through 5.
- Adequate land surrounds the school for further expansion.
- Students would attend the school closest to their homes.

## **Disadvantages of Plan A**

- The Appoquinimink School District is very pleased with the Early Childhood Center. Educating kindergarten and pre-school children in one center has provided opportunities for excellent staff development and programming.
- The plan is costly. Renovation of the administrative offices would be extensive amounting to \$2,189,975. (See Attachment A.)
- The present administrative offices would allow only six classrooms (See Attachment B.)
- Money planned for the expansion of the administrative offices would have to be used for additional classrooms. This would require a vote by the community to use funds differently. Funds available (\$1,628,900) would allow the construction of ten classrooms.
- District office administrators would need to convert the present Early Childhood Center into a workable district office. Estimated cost would be approximately \$230,000.
- Overcrowded conditions would continue to exist. Two of the five elementary schools would still be over capacity.
- Total cost of this plan would be \$4,048,875.

**Program Information For Renovations**  
**To The**  
**District Administrative Offices**

Provide renovations to the existing one-story 9,600 square foot administrative office building. The renovations will include the following:

- new heating and air conditioning systems
- upgrade electrical systems
- upgrade telephone and data wirings
- upgrade automatic temperature control system
- upgrade light fixtures
- upgrade of plumbing systems
- new automatic fire suppression system and water storage tank
- renovated toilet room facilities
- upgrade fire and security alarm systems
- replace windows, doors, door frames, and hardware
- new ceilings
- new flooring
- remove non-bearing and non-masonry partitions
- provide new frame partitions as program requires
- new finishes
- patch and paint exterior trim
- gutters and downspouts
- upgrade existing kitchenette area
- landscaping
- asphalt overlay for existing parking area
- new entrance/exit to northbound Route 13

**Estimated Cost.....\$2,189,975**

# **PLAN B**

**Alternative Plan**

# **PLAN B**

## **Alternative Plan**

Plan B, the Alternative Plan, is the plan originally submitted to the State Board of Education in January of 2002. This plan keeps the present grade configuration in the district with the addition of classroom space at Silver Lake Elementary School. Beginning in the 2002/2003 school year, the year that the new Olive B. Loss Elementary School opens, all elementary schools will accommodate students in grades 1-5.

- Presently, students in the Middletown area who are in walking distance of Silver Lake Elementary School are being transported to Cedar Lane Elementary School, which is approximately two miles north of the town limits. In order to return those students to their neighborhood school, two new classrooms were built in the commons areas of Silver Lake Elementary School.

*Cost of Project.....\$ 46,000*

- Students in the Lakeside development of Middletown were being transported out of their development because there was no walkway between the development and Silver Lake Elementary School. To allow students to safely walk to school, a walkway was built connecting the development and the school property.

*Cost of Project.....\$ 4,800*

*Total Cost.....\$ 50,800*

# **DETAILS OF PLAN B**

## **Advantages of Plan B**

- The Appoquinimink School District is very pleased with the Early Childhood Center. Educating kindergarten and pre-school children in one center has provided opportunities for excellent staff development and programming.
- This plan has had wide-based community support. A committee of 21 members comprised of parents, teachers, administrators, bus contractors, and bus operators developed the plan.
- The plan was well publicized. It was presented to the Appoquinimink School District Board of Education in July of 2001 and placed on a public comment period for three months before being approved in November of 2001. (See attached community newsletter.)
- The plan would be less disruptive to the school district, especially the district office administrators.
- The plan is less costly: \$50,800 as opposed to \$4,048,875.
- The plan meets the intent of the Neighborhood Schools Act in that it allows children to attend the closest school. In addition, it provides the safest and shortest bus runs for students.

## **Disadvantages of Plan B**

- Grade configuration compliance for the Neighborhood Schools Act will not be met.

# Appoquinimink School District

## Enrollment Information – Plan A

Name of School	Capacity	Configuration	Projected Enrollment 2002/2003	+ or – Capacity
Early Childhood Center	Admin.	0	0	0
Silver Lake Elementary School	542	K-5	634	+ 92
Cedar Lane Elementary School	800	K-5	639	-161
Townsend Elementary School	418	K-5	445	+ 27
Olive B. Loss Elementary School	600	K-5	577	- 23
District Office Conversion	384	K-5	384	0
Redding Middle School	719	6-8	834	+115
Middletown Middle School	1,002	6-8	752	-250
Middletown High School	<u>1,700</u>	9-12	<u>1,619</u>	-81
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>6,165</b>		<b>5,884</b>	

# Appoquinimink School District

## Enrollment Information – Plan B

Name of School	Capacity	Configuration	Projected Enrollment 2002/2003	+ or – Capacity
Early Childhood Center	330/660	K	424	-118/236
Silver Lake Elementary School	542	1-5	646	+104
Cedar Lane Elementary School	800	1-5	661	-139
Townsend Elementary School	418	1-5	477	+ 59
Olive B. Loss Elementary School	600	1-5	471	-129
Redding Middle School	719	6-8	834	+115
Middletown Middle School	1,002	6-8	752	-250
Middletown High School	<u>1,700</u>	9-12	<u>1,619</u>	-81
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>6,441</b>		<b>5,884</b>	

