

**Elementary School
Attendance Area Task Force
Recommendation Report**

*Submitted to
Dr. Larry P. Nybladh, Superintendent*

**Moorhead Area Public Schools
810 Fourth Avenue South
Moorhead, Minnesota**

December 4, 2003

Table of Contents

I.	Background.....	1
II.	Introduction.....	2
III.	Recommendation for Elementary School Attendance Areas	
	A. Robert Asp Elementary School Attendance Area.....	3
	B. Ellen Hopkins Elementary School Attendance Area.....	4
	C. S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School Attendance Area.....	5
	D. Rationale	6
IV.	Summary.....	7
V.	Appendix	
	Appendix A: Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force Charge Statement	
	Appendix B: Map of Elementary School Attendance Area Recommendation	

I. Background

In March 2002, voters in the Moorhead School District supported a bond referendum that will provide for improvements to all district facilities. The district's master facilities plan includes the construction of a new K-5 elementary school and a new 6-8 middle school, the remodeling of Robert Asp and Moorhead Junior High to K-5 elementary schools, additions and renovations at Moorhead High School, and the conversion of Probstfield Elementary School into a district education center for Early Childhood Family Education, Early Intervention Services, Head Start, Adult Basic Education, Community Education and district offices. This proposal is designed to enhance educational effectiveness, create economic efficiency, provide equity, and modernize the district's infrastructure.

As the Moorhead Area Public Schools progresses toward full implementation of the master facilities plan in the fall of 2004, the school district will go from four elementary schools to three elementary schools. Currently there are four elementary schools with grades K-4/5 (George Washington, Thomas Edison, Riverside and Probstfield). Beginning in 2004-05, there will be three grades K-5 elementary schools with similar capacity: Robert Asp Elementary School in north Moorhead, Ellen Hopkins Elementary School toward the center of Moorhead, and S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School in south Moorhead.

As a result of these changes, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Larry P. Nybladh recommended the formation of an Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force (Appendix A). The Community Task Force approach, which involves community collaboration and consensus building for its decision-making process, would be used. The task force would be comprised of staff, administrative, School Board, parent, real estate professional, and city and county representatives.

Members of the Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force are:

Julie Arnold	Dan Bacon	Dann Bjornstad
Lisa Christian	Jim Cummings	Beth Henning
Rosemary Hirschert	Kevin Kopperud	Lynne Kovash
Tim Magnusson, Vice Chair	Diane Mead	Brenda Rapske
Mark and Sue Ringham	Jeff Schaumann	Terri Smith
Mark Weston, Chair		

The purpose of the Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force was to research, examine, and consider alternative options for the district's elementary school attendance areas for implementation in 2004-05. The task force was charged with determining a recommendation for three elementary school attendance areas and submitting the recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools.

II. Introduction

The 16 members of the school district's Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force began meeting October 30, 2003, to research, examine, and consider alternative options for the district's elementary school attendance areas for implementation in 2004-05. The task force named Mark Weston as chair and Tim Magnusson as vice chair.

To complete its charge, the task force met approximately every other week through November with a final meeting December 4, 2003. Presentations at the first meeting provided background information for task force members to consider during their discussions.

The presentations covered the current attendance areas, estimated capacity of the elementary schools, administrative transfers, boundary exceptions, district transportation policy, Spanish Immersion Program enrollment, district goals, ethnicity and free / reduced-price meal status, and future school district, city and county growth.

At the beginning of the process the task force discussed the district's goals for the process. District goals include efficiency, effectiveness, equity and future growth. Efficiency is important as it relates to the attendance areas and transportation efficiency and minimizing the amount of travel for students. Effectiveness as it relates to the attendance areas means that a diverse mix of students is attending each of the three elementary schools. Equity refers to having three equitable elementary schools. Regardless of where a person lives the same education opportunities should be available.

Information was provided about the Spanish Immersion Program which has students from throughout the district, although most are from the Probstfield attendance area. The immersion program will be located at Ellen Hopkins beginning in 2004-05.

Lynne Kovash, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided information on the district's projected enrollment. Jeff Schaumann, City of Moorhead, and Tim Magnusson, Clay County, provided the task force members with information on growth projections for the city and county. Current areas of growth are on the east side by the Meadows, in the Village Green area, and by the new elementary school. Currently the city has experienced an increase in building permits. However, it is difficult to determine whether the increase necessarily means an increase in student enrollment. The county is not projecting significant residential growth.

The task force requested that several preliminary scenarios be developed for discussion. Dan Bacon, Director of Transportation, provided five initial scenarios for further discussion by task force members. Task force members examined the scenarios taking into account the goals of the district. Alternatives to the initial scenarios were discussed and evaluated.

Following additional research and discussion, the task force completed its charge. The Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force provides the following recommendation regarding the attendance areas for the district's elementary schools.

III. Recommendations for Elementary School Attendance Areas

A. Robert Asp Elementary School Attendance Area

Recommendation:

The Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force recommends that the attendance area for Robert Asp Elementary School be as follows:

- The northern edge would be the school district boundary.
- The southern edge would extend from the Red River along Center Avenue to 14th Street, south one block to Main Avenue, east following Main Avenue to 17th Street South, south on 17th Street to 4th Avenue South (including all residences facing 17th Street South), east on 4th Avenue South to Main Avenue, following Main Avenue to 20th Street South, then south on 20th Street to 12th Avenue South, east on 12th Avenue South to the district boundary, excluding the subdivision Meadows South Addition (Appendix B).



Projected Enrollment at Robert Asp Elementary School				
	Projected Enrollment*	Subtract Spanish Immersion	Projected Enrollment without Immersion	Estimated Building Capacity (without swing rooms)
Kindergarten	125	-	125	
Grade 1	105	5	100	
Grade 2	121	5	116	
Grade 3	112	4	108	
Grade 4	146	12	134	
Grade 5	122	3	119	
	731	29	702	767

* Source: Office of Teaching and Learning November 2003 Projections

B. Ellen Hopkins Elementary School Attendance Area

Recommendation:

The Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force recommends that the attendance area for Ellen Hopkins Elementary School be as follows:

- The northern edge would extend from the Red River along Center Avenue to 14th Street, south one block to Main Avenue, east following Main Avenue to 17th Street South, south on 17th Street to 4th Avenue South (excluding all residences facing 17th Street South), east on 4th Avenue South to Main Avenue, following Main Avenue to 20th Street South, then south on 20th Street.
- The eastern edge would be 20th Street South from Main Avenue to I-94.
- The southern edge, starting from 20th Street on the east, would be I-94 from 20th Street S. to Eighth Street, north along Eighth Street to 20th Avenue South, then west on 20th Avenue South to the Red River (Appendix B).



Projected Enrollment at Ellen Hopkins Elementary School				
	Projected Enrollment*	Add Spanish Immersion	Projected Enrollment with Immersion	Estimated Building Capacity (without swing rooms)
Kindergarten	133	-	133	
Grade 1	108	29	137	
Grade 2	107	18	125	
Grade 3	110	17	127	
Grade 4	115	22	137	
Grade 5	86	16	102	
	659	102	761	767

* Source: Office of Teaching and Learning November 2003 Projections

C. S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School Attendance Area

Recommendation:

The Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force recommends that the attendance area for S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School be as follows:

- The northern edge would extend from the Red River east along 20th Avenue South to Eighth Street South, south on Eighth Street to I-94, east along I-94 to 20th Street, north on 20th Street South to 12th Avenue South, and east to the district boundary, including the subdivision Meadows South Addition.
- The southern edge would be the school district boundary (Appendix B).



Projected Enrollment at S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School				
	Projected Enrollment*	Subtract Spanish Immersion	Projected Enrollment without Immersion	Estimated Building Capacity (without swing rooms)
Kindergarten	167	-	167	
Grade 1	119	24	95	
Grade 2	100	13	87	
Grade 3	124	13	111	
Grade 4	142	10	132	
Grade 5	136	13	123	
	788	73	715	767

* Source: Office of Teaching and Learning November 2003 Projections

D. Rationale

- The attendance area recommendation provides for three equitable sized elementary schools. The projected enrollment indicates that building capacity will be similar at all three facilities: 92 percent, 99 percent, and 91 percent.
- The attendance area recommendation provides for a balance of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Approximate percentages of free and reduced students in grades 1-5 at the three schools would be 35 percent, 30 percent and 24 percent.
- The attendance area recommendation allows for some growth in S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School where new residential construction is occurring nearby. Administrative transfers and boundary exceptions would provide the district with additional flexibility.
- The attendance area recommendation uses main roads and traffic corridors as boundaries, and also primarily keeps established and emerging neighborhoods intact.

V. Summary

In March 2002, voters in the Moorhead School District supported a bond referendum that will provide for improvements to all district facilities. The district's master facilities plan includes the construction of a new K-5 elementary school and a new 6-8 middle school, the remodeling of Robert Asp School and Moorhead Junior High to K-5 elementary schools, an addition and renovation at Moorhead High School, and the conversion of Probstfield Elementary School into a district education center for Early Childhood Family Education, Head Start, Early Intervention Services, Adult Basic Education, Community Education and district offices.

These facilities are designed to span the needs of preschool, school-aged and adult learners and are central to the district's goals of enhancing educational effectiveness, creating economic efficiency, providing equity in programs and services, and modernizing the district's facilities.

As the school district implements the master facilities plan, the number of elementary schools will be reduced from four to three. To determine attendance areas for the three elementary schools, an Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force with parent, staff, administrative, School Board, city and county representatives was formed.

On October 30, 2003, the sixteen members of the Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force convened to begin a decision-making process to research, consider alternative options, and reach a consensus for the elementary school attendance areas for implementation in 2004-05. The recommendation presented in this report by the Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force recognizes the changes occurring to the school district's facilities and reflects the Moorhead Area Public Schools' efforts to create a more positive future.

The task force worked to determine elementary school attendance areas that will serve the school district into the future. The task force believes this recommendation meets all of the district's goals.



Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force

Purpose:

The primary purpose of the Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force will be to research, examine, and consider alternative options for the district's elementary school attendance areas for implementation in 2004-05. Desired objectives shall be determined. Information and data shall drive the examination. A recommendation report shall be provided to the Superintendent.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Select chairperson and recorder.
- Review present enrollment and census data.
- Review projected enrollment and census data.
- Review projected city and county growth projections.
- Review No Child Left Behind (NCLB) groupings for impact upon attendance areas.
- Establish objectives and goals for attendance areas.
- Examine alternative options for attendance areas.
- Evaluate alternatives.
- Determine a preferred attendance area option.
- Determine a process and criteria for boundary exemptions.
- Prepare a report, complete with findings and recommendations, regarding the preferred elementary school attendance area option.
- Submit the report to the Superintendent of Schools.

Time Frame:

- The Elementary School Attendance Area Task Force shall meet regularly as needed commencing approximately September 15, 2003.
- Preferably, the recommendation report shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools on or before December 15, 2003.

Community Task Force Membership:

The task force membership shall include:

- 6 K-5 parent representatives with representative from each building,
- 1 School Board representative,
- 1 Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning,
- 1 Assistant Superintendent for Business Services,
- 1 District Transportation Director,
- 1 Clay County planning representative,
- 1 City of Moorhead planning representative,
- 1 real estate professional,
- 1 principal representative, and
- 1 teacher representative.



Robert Asp
Elementary School



Ellen Hopkins
Elementary School

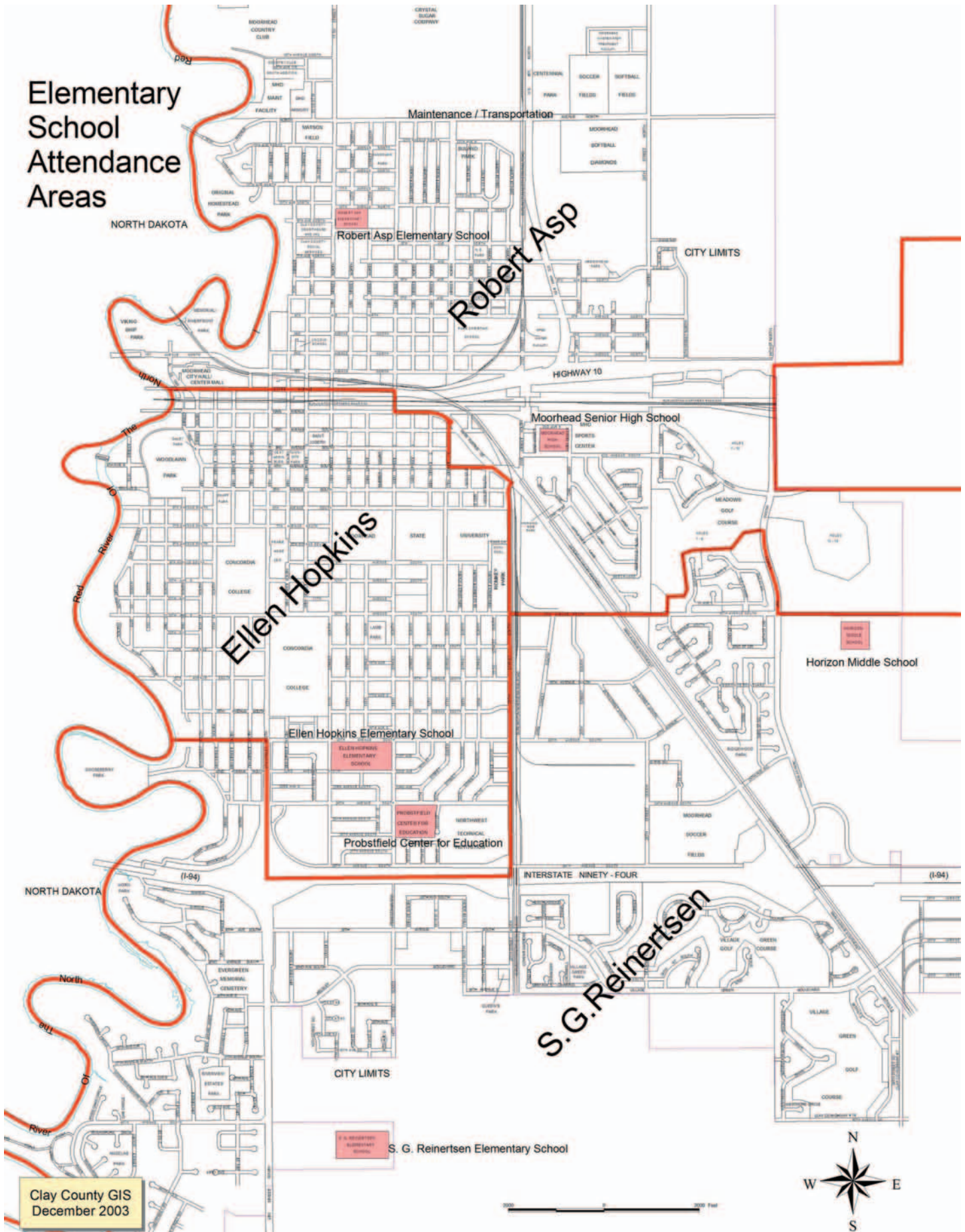


S.G. Reinertsen
Elementary School

"The beauty of the district's master facility plan for elementary schools is equity. Beginning in the fall of 2004, no matter where a child lives in Moorhead, he or she will have access to the same size school with the same educational opportunities."

*– Dr. Larry P. Nybladh
addressing the F-M Area
Realtors Association on
May 13, 2003*

Elementary School Attendance Areas



Clay County GIS
December 2003

