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**IOWA CITY COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Superintendent

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From: Dr. Lane Plugge, Superintendent  
Iowa City Community Schools

To: District Parents

RE: Information regarding the ICCSD Redistricting Process

Date: November 13, 2009

As many of our patrons are aware, the ICCSD has begun a process to study and develop long-term options regarding our boundaries and facilities. This redistricting process is being facilitated by consultants from RSP & Associates, Inc., a company with experience in helping schools study and use data to develop planning scenarios.

On Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the board room, a 30 – 35 member, board-appointed Redistricting Committee will convene to begin a five meeting, four month process. By mid-February, 2010, two to three scenarios will be presented to the board for a final decision.

The Board developed a charge to the Redistricting Committee as well as four criteria under which all scenarios will be developed. Please find additional information about the committee charge and criteria on the back of this memo.

How might you stay informed about this process? You may:

- Come to the Redistricting Committee meetings at the ICCSD central administrative offices at the above address (November 18, December 14, January 14, January 21 and February 11, beginning at 6:00 p.m.)
- Attend and provide feedback on the draft scenarios at one of two public forums (January 28 and January 29 at 7:00 location to be announced)
- Check the ICCSD website for news and information: [www.iccsd.k12.ia.us](http://www.iccsd.k12.ia.us)
- Send comments or questions to a special email address: [redistricting@iccsd.k12.ia.us](mailto:redistricting@iccsd.k12.ia.us)
- Beginning the week of November 16, complete an “online” input survey. A link to the survey will be sent via email to all district parents, will be available from the ICCSD website, and will be available in hard copy form. If you want a hard copy of the survey, call the ICCSD central administrative offices at 319-688-1000. The survey will be available in Spanish. Only one online survey may be completed per IP address (per computer)
- Watch or attend ICCSD Board of Directors meetings, in which updates will be discussed (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m., with no meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup>)

We are thankful to live in a community that is greatly engaged in teaching and learning, with high expectations for excellence and accountability. We are confident that the redistricting process will leverage this interest to create effective, insightful, and data-driven structures and plans for the students of the ICCSD well into the future. I encourage everyone to engage with us as we move forward on this important and exciting journey.

**Iowa City Community School District  
2009-2010 Redistricting Boundary Criteria**

The Board of Directors identified the following four boundary criteria for use by the Redistricting Committee to evaluate school boundary options. The Board values these criteria equally and is seeking options that balance and maximize all four criteria. The criteria are listed alphabetically.

- **Demographic Considerations**
  - Demographic diversity should be examined to minimize overloading any one or few schools with students that may require significant resources
  - Demographic variables may be defined as census House Hold (HH) salary average, home values, ethnicity, or Free/Reduced Lunch Counts (FRL). The board wishes the committee to focus on bringing high poverty school FRL numbers down to less than 20 percentage points above the district mean, when possible
- **Fiscal Consideration – Operational**
  - Where possible, boundaries should be planned to maximize district resources in a fiscally responsible manner and take advantage of economies of scale, including but not limited to closing or consolidating schools and grade configuration
  - Options should be revenue neutral except to accommodate increases in enrollment
  - This factor should consider staffing requirements, educational program needs, transportation costs, and other operational costs
- **Neighborhood Schools/Neighborhoods Intact**
  - Where possible, boundaries should be structured to maintain a neighborhood within one school's attendance area and should not be split between two schools
  - A neighborhood is defined as the smallest division of a subdivision and/or an area that can be subdivided by a natural line of demarcation, such as a stream or major traffic way
  - There should be logical limits on how small or large a neighborhood can be
  - When possible, students should attend school closest to their home.
- **Projected Enrollments/Building Utilization**
  - This factor considers building utilization, student enrollment, staffing needs and the educational program(s)
  - Where possible, attendance boundaries should be created to anticipate the projected enrollment and the program/current capacity of the building
  - Efficient building utilization should attempt to maximize student populations without exceeding capacity long-term

Committee Charge

- Develop two to three redistricting scenarios for the Board to consider implementing
- Develop recommendations for managing high school enrollment that address both short and long term projections
- Use the four boundary criteria to develop scenarios
- Redistricting could impact all grade configurations (elementary, junior high, high school)
- Think global – the community over self

Adopted: November 10, 2009