

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE DISTRICT 36 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES DEMOGRAPHIC & CAPACITY STUDY TO BEGIN IN JULY 2016

Winnetka, Ill. -- To address imbalanced attendance patterns at the three District 36 elementary schools, forecast enrollment trends, and identify anticipated future space needs, the School Board approved a Demographic & Capacity Study on June 29, 2016, which will begin immediately. Over the course of the summer and fall, the District will work with demographers and geographers from McKibben Demographic Research, LLC, and Cropper GIS to develop enrollment forecasts by school, by grade. While the District annually monitors enrollment trends and data, the need for more sophisticated long-term forecasting became apparent as the District considered the implementation of an Extended-Day Kindergarten program. In June 2016, temporary classrooms were installed at Crow Island School, the District's largest elementary school at 390 students, to provide immediate space relief.

The study will include data collected from sources such as the Village of Winnetka, Cook County, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, and District 36 records. Demographers will also tour schools to calculate building capacities and space utilization. An initial demographic and capacity report is anticipated for the School Board meeting on August 16, 2016.

This report will inform decisions related to addressing the current enrollment and long-term needs of the District. Long-term solutions may include waiting for enrollment to self-correct, reconfiguring grades housed at school buildings, a school boundary shift, or school construction. Before any decisions are made, staff and community members will be invited to provide input at engagement sessions to be held this fall and winter. The School Board is anticipated to take action on this topic in spring 2017.

About The Winnetka Public Schools District 36

The Winnetka Public Schools is a community that honors the whole child, fosters creativity, inspires lifelong learning, and develops civic responsibility. District 36 is comprised of three elementary schools (Crow Island School, Greeley School, and Hubbard Woods School), The Skokie School (grades 5 and 6) and Carleton Washburne School (grades 7 and 8), where there is a progressive, experiential approach to developing learners who are compassionate citizens, who contribute to their community, and who are well prepared for a dynamic future. For more information, visit www.winnetka36.org.

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