

March 27, 2018  
Raymond, NH 03077

RECEIVED

MAR 28 2018

SAU #33  
Superintendent's Office

Dr. Tina McCoy  
Superintendent of School  
Raymond School District, SAU 33  
43 Harriman Hill Road  
Raymond, NH 03077

Dear Dr. McCoy;

As you are aware there has been an issue with space for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Lamprey River Elementary school for some years now. It came to my attention when the addition to the school was proposed because it would significantly increase my taxes. Thankfully many other taxpayers agreed with my position, and let the school board know that we can't afford this expense. However, to date no one has proposed a satisfactory solution to the problem.

I decided to do some research to determine if I could provide a reasonable solution. After reviewing the floor plan for the Middle school and speaking to the principal I felt there wasn't sufficient room there for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders. I then obtained:

- the floor plan for the LRES,
- a listing of the square footage for each of the classrooms within the building,
- the NH Education department's (NHED) classroom space requirements,
- NHED student/teacher ratio recommendations and requirements plus,
- data from the NHED's website for student/teacher rations for grades 1-4 for individual towns throughout Rockingham County.

My results:

1. Based on the NHED classroom space requirements, there is sufficient space within the school to house the 4<sup>th</sup> graders.
2. Redistributing the students from the Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade based on my figures, will free up enough classroom space to allow the 4<sup>th</sup> graders to move back into the building.

This redistribution will continue to be well within the NHED requirements and within their recommendations. Although these ratios do not fall within the School District rules they are consistent with other towns in Rockingham County. More importantly the current rules create an unreasonable burden for the taxpayer by leaving no options for resolving this problem other than building an addition, which the taxpayers have indicated they can't afford, and therefore is beyond the financial ability of the District.

In conclusion I would ask that this letter be added to the agenda of the next available school board meeting and that it be read at the meeting so that attendees are aware of this possible solution. If no one wishes to read it, I would be happy to do so myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan J Caldwell".

Susan J Caldwell

Enclosures:

LRES Floor Plan

Email with classroom square footage

NHED classroom space requirements

NHED recommended & required student/teacher ratios

Excel spreadsheet with data determining current classroom space, student/teacher ratios and those recommended per my review

Excel spreadsheet with student/teacher ratios for other towns in Rockingham County

SAU 33 rules

Good morning. I've been provided with the information below in response to your request. (This classroom numbers below would align with those on the documents already provided to you.)

**LRES Classroom Sizes**

Sizes are not to the exact inch

Room	Size
1	621
2	1072
3	665
5 - 24	900

50 - 53	1072
54	1138
55	1072

Kind regards,

Jennifer.

On Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 5:18 PM, Susan Caldwell <[sjcald@comcast.net](mailto:sjcald@comcast.net)> wrote:

Thank you!

Ed 321.10 Standards for Educational Space.

(a) Educational space shall include, but not be limited to, classrooms, laboratories, gymnasiums, and libraries.

(b) School facilities shall provide educational space sufficient to meet the requirements identified in the educational specifications in Ed 321 and the New Hampshire minimum standards for public school approval as specified in Ed 306.

(c) Approval of the size of classrooms or instructional spaces shall be determined by the acceptable number of square feet per student established in Ed 321.10( g)-(k), multiplied by the total projected number of the class or group or the minimum size specified in Ed 321.10 whichever is larger.

(d) The commissioner of the department or the commissioner's designee shall waive the requirements of Ed 321.10 when a finding of good cause has been provided by the requesting school district under Ed 321.30. A finding of good cause shall be based upon a determination by the commissioner of the department or the commissioner's designee that approval of the request for a waiver will not compromise the quality of education required in Ed 306 or is the best use of available resources.

(e) Every educational space, except gymnasiums and music rooms, shall contain a seat and work surface for each student, teacher, and teacher's aide, appropriate for the normal activity conducted in that space.

(f) Every general purpose classroom shall:

(1) Contain an erasable surface of at least 32 square feet and a surface suitable for projection purposes; and

(2) Be furnished with:

- a. Desks for students and teachers;
- b. Bookshelves; and
- c. Other common furniture and equipment.

(g) A kindergarten classroom shall provide at least 1,000 square feet, including storage, or 50 square feet per child, whichever is greater.

(h) For the elementary and middle schools, a general purpose classroom shall provide a minimum of 900 square feet, including storage, or 36 square feet per child, whichever is greater.

(i) For high schools, a general purpose classroom shall contain a minimum of 800 square feet, including storage, or 32 square feet per student, whichever is greater.

(j) Library-media centers shall be sized at 4 square feet per student for the core space design capacity or a minimum of 1800 square feet.

(k) Science laboratories and combination lab-classrooms shall be sized according to the joint recommendation of the National Association of Science Teachers and the Laboratory Safety Institute at 45 square feet per pupil for separate labs and 60 square feet per pupil for combination lab-classrooms or a minimum of 900 square feet for separate labs and 1200 square feet for combination lab-classrooms. There shall be a maximum of 24 laboratory work stations, at least one of which shall be suitable for students with disabilities and in compliance with RSA 275-C.

(l) When an area in a school building is used as multi-purpose space, standards for educational space shall take precedence over standards for support space. Multi-purpose space includes, but is not limited to, an area used for physical education that becomes the dining area at meal time.

(m) Required educational space shall not be reduced or eliminated in order to provide additional support space or space for extracurricular activities.

(n) Charter schools shall be exempt from the minimum space sizes in this section.

Ed 306.17 Class Size.

(a) Class size for instructional purposes, in each school shall be:

- (1) Kindergarten – grade 2, 25 students or fewer per educator, provided that each school shall strive to achieve the class size of 20 students or fewer per educator;
- (2) Grades 3 – 5, 30 students or fewer per educator, provided that each school shall strive to achieve the class size of 25 students or fewer per educator; and
- (3) Middle and senior high school, 30 students or fewer per educator.

(b) These class size requirements may be exceeded for study halls, band and chorus, and other types of large group instruction, including but not limited to, lectures, combined group instruction, and showing of educational television and films.

(c) In the interest of safety, the maximum number of students in laboratory classes in such areas as science and career and technical education shall be determined by the number of work stations and the size and design of the area. In no case shall the number of students in laboratory classes exceed 24.

Source. #5546, eff 7-1-93; ss by #6366, eff 10-30-96; amd by #7925, eff 7-24-03; ss by #8206, INTERIM, eff 11-18-04, EXPIRED: 5-17-05

New. #8354, eff 7-1-05; ss by #10556, eff 3-27-14

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Students</u>	<u>Rm #</u>	<u>SQ FT</u>	<u>Classrooms Required</u>	<u>Classrooms Utilized</u>	<u>Classrooms Not Required</u>	<u>Current Student Teacher Ratio</u>	<u>Proposed Student/Teacher Ratio</u>
k	84	50	1072	4	6	2	14	21
		51	1072					
		52	1072					
		53	1072					
		54	1138					
		55	1072					
1	92	5	900	4	6	2	15	23
		6	900					
		7	900					
		8	900					
		18	900					
		19	900					
2	92	15	900	4	6	2	15	23
		16	900					
		17	900					
		20	900					
		21	900					
		22	900					
3	91	9	900	4	4	0	23	23
		10	900					
		23	900					
		Pod/48	?					
<b>Subtotal of classrooms available in the building</b>						<b>6</b>		
<b>Classrooms needed for 4th graders</b>						<b>4</b>		
4	104	Pods		4	5	1	21	26
		44	?					
		45	?					
		46	?					
		47	?					
		49	?					

Students per classroom req. K-2 = 20-25

Students per classroom req. 3-4 = 25-30

**Data From NHDE**

<u>Towns</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Ave. Class Size</u>
Allenstown	1	17
	2	20
	2	18
	4	17
Amherst	1	23
	2	19
	3	22
	4	24
Atkinson	1	18
	2	16
	3	20
	4	24
Auburn	1	23
	2	20
	3	18
	4	20
Brentwood	1	19
	2	15
	3	20
	4	22
Candia	1	17
	2	17
	3	16
	4	14
Chester	1	16
	2	17
	3	17
	4	17
Danville	1	17
	2	16
	3	22
	4	24
Deerfield	1	19
	2	15
	3	22
	4	17
Derry	1	16
	2	18
	3	21
	4	21
East Kingston	1	19
	2	14
	3	13
	4	19

Epping	1	16
	2	17
	3	17
	4	18
Exeter	1	16
	2	17
	3	17
	4	18
Fremont	1	15
	2	13
	3	15
	4	14
Greenland	1	18
	2	15
	3	15
	4	15
Hampstead	1	14
	2	17
	3	24
	4	19
Hampton	1	16
	2	18
	3	16
	4	17
Hampton Falls	1	13
	2	16
	3	16
	4	16
Kensington	1	21
	2	18
	3	20
	4	14
Kingston	1	15
	2	16
	3	17
	4	17
Londonderry	1	17
	2	21
	3	20
	4	21
Newfields	1	8
	2	20
	3	22
	4	16



Newmarket	1	16
	2	15
	3	20
	4	19
North Hampton	1	17
	2	14
	3	15
	4	16
Northwood	1	18
	2	15
	3	20
	4	20
Nottingham	1	14
	2	17
	3	17
	4	24
Plaistow (Timberlane)	1	1
	2	18
	3	20
	4	22
Portsmouth	1	17
	2	18
	3	16
	4	15
Rye	1	14
	2	16
	3	16
	4	20
Salem	1	14
	2	19
	3	20
	4	20
Sandown	1	17
	2	19
	3	21
	4	22
Seabrook	1	14
	2	20
	3	15
	4	18
Stratham	1	17
	2	19
	3	18
	4	18

## Raymond School District Policy - IO

### CLASS SIZE

The School Board is aware that class size has bearing upon effective teaching. It therefore directs the Superintendent to work with Principals in establishing a reasonable and equitable class enrollment for each teacher.

The Board understands that achieving this goal is dependent upon the financial ability of the District. In determining the size of various classes, the administration will consider the following factors:

1. The type of load that will help the teacher be most effective with the students in the class
2. The experience of the teacher and his/her familiarity with Raymond programs and policies
3. Required preparation and correction time for the particular class
4. The degree of need for individualization of instruction.

As a general guideline, the Board supports the following maximum class sizes:

a. Preschool/Kindergarten	15 students per class
b. Grades 1 through 3	18 students per class
c. Grades 4 through 8	22 students per class
d. Grades 9 through 12	25 students per class

Adopted: August 14, 1975

R/R: 6/21/01

Revised: August 1, 2002

Revised: August 5, 2009