

**Space and Facilities Concerns Committee
Regional District 14
Bethlehem-Woodbury, Connecticut**

MEMO

Facilities/Space Concerns in Region 14

The committee for addressing the facilities and space concerns has been established and has set an initial meeting date of February 12, 7 PM at Mitchell School. After meeting with Maryanne VanAken, we decided to charge the committee with addressing three major issues that are directly related to space needs both current and future. These issues are space/facilities, grade configuration, and curriculum. Initial talking points concerning these three categories are outlined below.

Space/Facilities

Currently, there is not adequate space in the elementary schools to appropriately carry out all the programs that are necessary to best educate students. The programs that are most directly affected are special education, speech and language, and enrichment. To some degree, the services of both paraprofessionals and Title I teachers are compromised due to lack of space. Development of new programs to keep pace with current educational trends is also hampered. The committee needs to consider what space should be available in the future to support the growing population in Region 14. Consideration should be given to space for expanded programs currently in place, and development of new programs such as a three and four year old program and a full day kindergarten. Consideration should be given to reorganizing grades in existing buildings, expanding facilities, or building another school to house a specific grade configuration.

Grade Configuration

The committee should look at the feasibility of reorganizing the district if this approach could better utilize space and maintain the integrity of educational programs and satisfy the social and emotional needs of students. Discussions along this line could study options such as schools organized as K-2/Pre-K-2, 3-5/3-6, 7-8/7-9, 9-12/10-12 or any other configuration that would meet the needs of both the region and students and their parents. Grade re-configuration might also be considered within the confines of existing regional school space.

Curriculum

The curriculum of an educational system is ultimately what drives both space and facilities needs. Consideration must be given to both current and future needs and programs. Our current elementary schools' curriculum is lacking in addressing Pre-