

Rescheduled Board Meeting – August 23, 2011

SUBJECT: STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION REPORT 2010-2011**Overview**

The following report provides 2010-2011 promotion and retention data for those students who did not meet the requirements for promotion to the next grade level at the close of the 2010-2011 school year. In District 68, retention is the exception rather than the rule, and every effort is made through ongoing interventions to make retention unnecessary.

Requirements for promotion differ between the elementary (K-5) grade levels and the junior high (6-8). At the elementary level, a range of developmental factors are considered whenever promotion for a student is in question. In addition to classroom data relative to a student's readiness to learn and ability to progress satisfactorily through the curriculum, more qualitative factors such as social maturity, birth date, and language acquisition are considered. At the primary level (K-2), developmental factors may be weighted more heavily in the decision to retain; achievement test score data and other measures aligned with cognitive ability are included at the intermediate grades.

At the junior high, a student's developmental and ability levels are also considered along with specific letter grade requirements that signify level of progress and achievement per class. With ability grouping in mathematics, and extensive programming for both acceleration and remediation, it is expected that students putting forth reasonable effort and completing required work should receive passing grades.

OOJH Academic Requirements

The District 68 Parent Handbook includes the following specific information regarding the academic requirements for promotion at Old Orchard Junior High:

It is expected that students will earn grades of D or better each quarter in all subjects. Students who do not pass a class are expected to remediate the grade. At any time during the school year, students who are not passing classes and/or do not remediate a failing grade may be excluded from participation in extracurricular activities, special events, and end of year trips. Additionally, 8th grade students who are required to attend summer school will not participate in graduation activities. Final decisions regarding participation in activities, remedial summer program attendance, participation in eighth grade graduation, and/or promotion to the next grade level are made by the administration in consultation with the teachers.

Promotion to the next grade level will be determined by the administration. In accordance with District procedure, consideration will be given to: chronological age; past academic achievement; mental capacity; social adjustment; social history; emotional stability; physical development; work habits; and special

education involvement. Additionally, the Light's Retention Scale will be used as a guide to assist in final promotion decisions.

2010-2011 Promotion and Retention Summary

Grades K-5: All students promoted

Grades 6-8: One student at Grade 6, two students at Grade 7, and one student at Grade 8 were required to attend summer school to remediate two or more class failures which occurred during the 2010-2011 school year. The following table illustrates their current status:

Student	Promoted/Retained	Comments
Male 6 th	Promoted to 7 th	Successfully completed summer school
Males 7 th	Promoted to 8 th	Successfully completed summer school
Male 8 th	Promoted to 9 th	Successfully completed summer school

Conclusion

District 68 *Administrative Procedure 5123-Promotion and Retention*, which reflects *Board Policy 5123-Promotion*, states that student retention must be considered on an individual, case-by-case basis. Together, chronological age, academic achievement, intellectual capacity, social history and adjustment, emotional stability, physical development, and work habits are factors used to determine appropriate expectations for student progress in school. Special education, psychological, and/or social work services are often integrated into individualized remediation plans prior to any decision regarding retention.

For the two incoming 8th grade students noted above, mandatory placement into the After School Academic Program will begin in September, 2011. The students will remain in the program until they are passing their classes independently. Social work services may be provided if recommended once the 2011-2012 school year has begun. We are hopeful that with these added support services in place, these students will experience success during the 2011-2012 school year.