

Facts vs Fiction

We are aware of Facebook chatter, including a petition by parents, regarding grade assignments at the Robert W. Carbonaro School. **Much of what has been said is not true. Here are the facts:**

- The Board of Education **has not** been involved in decisions on grade level assignments, or sections at this time.
- Administrative recommendations are brought to the Board at the August meeting, which is on August 23.
- Board policy establishes class size limits of 25 on primary grades 30 on intermediate grades. There are educational reasons for this.
- Research shows small class size (under 20) benefits students during their first three years of school. There is no demonstrated benefit after.
- Slightly larger classes (numbers in the mid-20's) on the intermediate grade can help socialization and smooth the transition to High School.
- Principal Iacono advised me that there are only 51 students who will be in fifth grade at Carbonaro. That equates to two sections one of 25 the other 26. **Well within Board Policy and sound educational practice.**
- The Superintendent and Principal agreed to establish two sections on fifth grade, anticipating that three sections of Kindergarten would be needed. **This is still a possibility.**
- If the third section of Kindergarten does not materialize, the Superintendent believes the right thing to do is to promote the Special Education Kindergarten **which is now at Carbonaro** into First Grade Class and continue them at Carbonaro in a Primary Special Education Class, instead of making them move to another building.
- This would mean these children would not have to change schools for next year. Seven of the nine children who would be scheduled for this class are already students at Carbonaro.

In establishing class size and placement the best educational opportunities for all our students is our primary concern. This also includes allowing children to have a "home school," and not have to move from building to building.