

**Subject:** Fitzgerald is growing! FPS School Board explores options to accommodate increasing enrollment

Dear Fitzgerald Parents and Guardians,

The word is getting out about the top-notch education we provide for our students at Fitzgerald Public Schools. In fact, we are one of only two school districts in Macomb County that have gained enrollment for two consecutive years. Fitzgerald gained 12 students in 2015 and 20 more students in 2016 according to the fall count days.

We are so excited about this growth – Fitzgerald is truly a district that is developing an outstanding reputation in Macomb County and across the State of Michigan. This school year alone we had 30 more kindergarteners enroll than expected which resulted in hiring another teacher to help meet our growing demand. The projections indicate that the number will increase again this fall. But, as a result of our growth, we have no more existing classroom space available in our two current elementary schools.

On Thursday, February 9, the Board of Education acknowledged that we are running out of space in the elementary schools and asked me to explore different options. We wanted to inform you that in the coming weeks, we will be exploring options that will allow us to maintain our standard of excellence while supporting this exciting growth. We will keep you updated as we receive more details about this process and will be reaching out to parents and community members for feedback.

This growth is all possible because of our amazing Fitzgerald Family and we truly feel blessed to have this opportunity to continue growing. Thanks to our families, students, staff and focus on student achievement and performance, our success at Fitzgerald is becoming a story that we're sharing in the community and beyond.

Sincerely,

Barbara VanSweden