

# Emerson Elementary School

1017 E. Harrison Avenue  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

*Emerson Pride Emerson Pride Emerson Pride*

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Julie Atwood, Principal

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To Salt Lake City Board of Education:

Emerson Elementary, along with all the elementary schools that feed into Clayton Middle School, was asked to explore the option of becoming a K-8 school. A written recommendation to the school board by the end of January was requested.

A K-8 committee was formed which was comprised of three parents, four teachers, one classified staff member and one administrator. The committee was given the charge to research the K-8 option and explore its potential for the Emerson community, students, parents and teachers. After researching and holding staff and community meetings, we found a strong interest in the K-8 idea. Positive feedback was received from parents, staff and students.

Emerson Elementary is a very unique school. We have neighborhood school students, three self-contained Special Education classrooms and the International Pathways program, all housed in one school building. Our enrollment in the neighborhood school is approximately 300 students. There are approximately 40-45 students in each of our fourth, fifth and sixth grades. As we looked at our student numbers and tried to determine the number of FTE's necessary for a successful K-8 program, we found that it would be very difficult to obtain the number of teachers needed.

After carefully reviewing the data, looking at information, and meeting extensively as a school team and with other knowledgeable personnel, it is our recommendation to the Salt Lake City School Board, that Emerson Elementary not be included at this time, as a K-8 school.

It is important to us that the Salt Lake City School Board and our district leadership know that we have had many discussions about the possibility of Emerson Elementary becoming a thematic magnet school or a district dependent charter school. We are in a unique situation because Emerson Elementary is one of the few remaining Salt Lake City School District schools that has not been rebuilt or retrofitted. Our school could be designed uniquely to fit the needs of a thematic magnet or charter school that could be K-8.

Some of the possibilities we have discussed are becoming:

- An Academy of World Languages
- A Math, Science and Technology School

We appreciate the opportunity we have had to investigate the K-8 option at Emerson Elementary. We hope to continue exploring various opportunities for growth at Emerson to meet the changing needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Emerson K-8 School Team:

Chairperson-Gloria Shirley *Gloria Shirley*  
SCC Chairperson-Shelly Teuscher *Shelly Teuscher*  
SIC Chairperson-Mike Harman *Mike Harman*  
Parent Representative-Anthony Bennett *(excused from meeting)*  
Parent Representative-Stacey McLean *Stacey Jo McLean*  
Teacher Representative- Marcia Srogus *Marcia Srogus*  
IP Teacher Representative-Tina Jensen *Tina Jensen*  
Classified Representative-Linda Ilott *Linda Ilott*  
Administrator-Julie Atwood *Julie B. Atwood*