

Approved
Milford Board of Education

Workshop Minutes
October 29, 2014

Board members present:

John DeRosa
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Laura Fucci
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin
Anthony Piselli
C. Robert Satti, Jr.
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
James Richetelli
Michael Cummings

Others present:

Mike Zuba, Milone and MacBroom
Rebecca Aubner, Milone and MacBroom

Board Members absent:

Michael DeGrego

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Board Room at the Parsons complex. She then led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Glennon announced Mr. DeGrego would not be present.

She introduced Mr. Zuba and explained the purpose of the workshop was to define some priorities around redistricting and to understand the process. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Zuba.

II. LONG RANGE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Mr. Zuba navigated a PowerPoint presentation that began the Board's discussion around the work that needs to be done prior to redistricting. He indicated the goal is to move forward in the smoothest way possible with a focus on parity, equity in resources, program deployment and the functional capacity of the elementary schools, which he set at 85%.

Much focus was given to the criteria development. The consultants first referred to the criteria established by the Long Range Planning Committee. Following, the Board heard examples of criteria used for other school districts signifying the various needs.

He then asked the Board to share their thoughts on what should be included in the criteria. The Board agreed to use the first four recommendations developed by the Long Range Planning Committee.

After discussion the Board put together the following preliminary list of criteria:

- Where possible strive for direct feeders or progress larger groups of students (from LRPC)
- Mitigate impact on students already redistricted through phasing and/or grandfathering/ remain cognizant of and sensitive to those families (from LRPC)
- Adhere to natural boundaries to the greatest extent feasible (from LRPC)
- Minimize student travel time and transportation costs (from LRPC)
- Maintain walking policy and walkers

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- Ensure sustainability of new districts so that MPS does not have to redistrict in the near future
- Balance enrollments to ensure parity in available resources across schools
- Maintain class sizes
- Ensure flexibility for program expansion
- Strive for centrality of schools within their respective districts
- Keep neighborhoods together, not necessarily at their current schools
- Avoid unequal distribution of redistricting burden
- Avoid over-burdening any school with socio-economic needs of students
- Remain cognizant and sensitive to Special Ed/ self-contained program needs

The Board agreed to have administration determine which schools would house the Pre-K classrooms.

Mr. Cummings noted that more resource rooms would be needed in Title-1 schools.

Mrs. Glennon asked what the next step would be.

Mr. Zuba indicated an enrollment update was being done now and he would work with administration on programming needs. Ms. Glennon reminded all that although nine program rooms were being mentioned, no decisions had been made.

The list of preliminary redistricting criteria will be sent to the Board members. The Board members will need to prioritize the list individually and when we meet again, the group will need to prioritize the criteria together.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin requested that the Board members be sent the PowerPoint presentation and a dot density map of the elementary schools.

Mr. Zuba also noted that redistricting cannot be done until the Board makes its decision to have seven or eight elementary schools in place for the 2015-16 school year and the ultimate middle school configuration is decided on. He indicated a direct feeder system was a priority of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Board needs to decide how it wants to proceed.

Mrs. Glennon asked for clarification of the building capacity numbers. Mr. Zuba had mentioned 85% capacity for elementary schools and she wondered what the recommendation is for middle school. Mr. Zuba indicated that would be around 90%. He added that capacity is broken out by different scenarios i.e. programs, resource rooms, team models in middle school etc. He also recommended allowing flexibility for bubbles of enrollment that may work through the elementary schools by using “placeholder space.”

Mr. DeRosa asked about the role of population density and Mr. Zuba indicates it was huge.

Being no further business to discuss, Ms. Glennon asked for motion to adjourn.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Fucci a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approved

Mrs. Pam Griffin
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Laura Fucci
Corresponding Secretary