

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Ad Hoc Student Assignment Committee
Saturday, March 12, 2016
Estabrook Elementary School - Cafeteria
117 Grove Street

Present: Chair William J. Hurley, Sandro Alessandrini, Judy Crocker, Eileen Jay, Superintendent Dr. Czajkowski

Absent: Jessie Steigerwald

Others Present: Carol Pilarski (Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Professional Development), Maureen Kavanaugh (Director of Planning and Assessment), and elementary principals, Ad Hoc Student Assignment Committee (SAC) members

The meeting convened at 10:07 a.m.

Presentation: Dr. C provided a comprehensive Overview and historical perspective on rapid student enrollment increase in recent years (2007-present) and the work of the Student Assignment Committee since inception in the Spring of 2015.

Maureen Kavanaugh spoke to a slide presentation showing growth at each elementary school since 2007-08.

Priya Sankalia and Kate Hickey from AppGeo projected and explained slides demonstrating Potential Student Assignment Scenarios including boundary changes and explanation of the potential use of ‘Buffer Zones’ which allow school assignment between two or more schools, including examples of other area towns that employ buffer zones.

The floor was opened to the nearly 160 people in attendance to ask questions. At least twenty parents asked questions of the Superintendent, Ms. Kavanaugh, and the AppGeo presenters. School Committee members offered comments/questions for clarification.

The Student Assignment Committee includes 12 parent representatives, two from each elementary school. They submitted to the school committee an depth letter of support for utilizing buffer zones as “..... the only way to provide school district administration the tools to manage and balance enrollment and ensure that educational parity continues.”The letter was submitted with the names of all 12 members. Mr. Hurley thanked the School Enrollment Committee for the letter and dedicated work that they have, and continue to perform.

Dr. Czajkowski explained next steps and reminded the audience that the next public forum on this topic will be presented next Wednesday evening from 7-9 pm, March 16th, at the Clarke Middle School.

The School Committee attended the Ad Hoc Student Assignment Committee (SAC).

The slide presentation can be viewed on the School Committee website.

Some questions asked by parents that attending the **Ad Hoc Student Assignment Committee Workshop** were:

- Ideally you have said that class sizes should be 18-21, classrooms sizes currently are way over that. What class size are you considering when making these redistricting proposals? Second grade class sizes are 24-25 is that acceptable for redistricting?
- Would the expectation be that if any of these scenarios go forth that it would continue for every year example 2017, 2018 etc..
- What are the class sizes being considering with the redistricting proposals?
- How will you handle the increase in class sizes after redistricting?
- Overcrowding is a Lexington Public Schools issue not a Bowman problem.
- Every school should share the burden of overcrowding.
- Projected growth at Estabrook – has logistics been viewed and will the same flow for Hastings?
- 5 year projections – Is there data?
- Will there be enough staff to fill the classrooms?
- Have decisions been made on the buffer zones?
- How will families be notified of the decisions?
- Do families have a choice on what schools they can attend in regards to buffer zones?
- Once a family has been assigned to a school will they be redistricted again?
- Parent volunteer to move survey?
- Long term impact?
- Definition on scenarios – please provide some clarification.
- Different schools have different size classrooms, is that being considered?
- If a family is in a buffer zone, will they be able to choose, or “preference” one of the schools designated to the buffer zone?
- Space vs. first priority over geographical

The Superintendent and other administrators and School Committee present responded to questions and invited parents to send further questions or suggestions to the web site that was provided.

12:16 p.m. Adjourn: On a motion made by Alessandrini and seconded by Crocker the School Committee voted unanimously 4-0 to adjourn.

Submitted: Wm. J. Hurley, Chairman

Materials: **Agenda; HO.1**-Memo from The Superintendent’s Ad Hoc Student Assignment Committee dated March 12, 2016; **HO.2**-Ad Hoc Student Assignment Committee Student Assignment Considerations; **HO.3**-Power Point Presentation-Student Assignment Analysis for the Lexington Public Schools-Public Forum & School Committee Workshop

- Place on Consent Agenda for SC Approval 4.26.16
- Voted Approved by the School Committee 4.26.16