

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
Cary Memorial Building, Battin Hall
1605 Massachusetts Avenue

6:00 p.m. **Call to Order:**

6:05 p.m. **Agenda:**

1. Discussion of Fiske Overcrowding

7:00 p.m. The School Committee will recess until 7:30 p.m. and reconvene in Battin Hall for the purpose of discussing Annual Town Meeting Articles.

The next scheduled meetings of the School Committee are as follows:

- Thursday, April 10, 2014 — 6:30 p.m., School Administration Building, Central Office Lower Level Conference Room #1, 146 Maple Street (This is a training for the School Committee on how to conduct a superintendent search.)
- Wednesday, April 16 — 6:30 p.m., Cary Memorial Building, Estabrook Room, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue (Regular Meeting)

All agenda items and the order of items are approximate and subject to change.

Report on Fiske School Overcrowding

March 11, 2014



Agenda

1. The Problem
2. The Process
3. Options
4. Next Steps

The Problem

The school is projected to be over capacity by 1 room in 2014-2015 (FY 15)

The school is projected to be over capacity by 4 rooms in 2015-2016 (FY 16)

The Process

1. Superintendent's Enrollment Report – Presented to the School Committee on November 19, 2013
2. Citizen Working Group – December 2013 to present
3. Parent meetings (Bridge, Dec. 13; Fiske, Jan. 22; Estabrook, March 6; and Hastings, March 17)

Options Considered

1. Redistrict students from Fiske to Estabrook
2. Add modular classrooms to Fiske School
3. Use the art or music room
4. Add additional part-time teachers to Grade 5

Option #1 - Redistricting

Advantage – The Estabrook School has extra classrooms that can absorb some Fiske students

Disadvantage –Redistricting is disruptive to children and the community. Also, any plan may not be viable beyond two years if enrollment continues to increase.

Option #2 – Add Modular Classrooms in 2016-2017*

- Add five unattached modular classrooms
- Add five attached modular classrooms
(Two classrooms and three classrooms)

* 2015-16 timeframe may be possible, but the risk of not completing the project by September 2015 is high.

Five Unattached Modular Classrooms



Add five modular classrooms that are at least 87 feet from the Fiske School. This option is not practical from a safety and educational perspective.

Five Attached Modular Classrooms



Add two modular classrooms (Close to fire lane and safety needs to be studied)

Add three Modular Classrooms (Close to fire lane and safety needs to be studied. Costly retaining wall required)

Option #3 – Use Art or Music Room (Fiske is projected to be over capacity by 1 room)

Grade	Use Class Size Guideline
K	19
	19
	20
	20
1	23
	23
	23
	24
2	22
	22
	22
	23
3	26
	26
	25
4	24
	25
	25
	25
5	22
	22
	21
	21
Total Enrollment	522
Sections	23
Available Classrooms	22
Surplus/Deficit	-1

School Committee Class Size Guidelines

Kindergarten: 18 to 20 students

Grade 1: 22 to 24 students

Grades 2 to 5: 24 to 26 students

Impact – Loss of Art or Music Room

Quality of Instruction

- A limitation on materials, equipment, and space
- A reduction in the time available to teach (the teacher must set up the class)
- Limited in-depth art projects (space and access to materials)
- Limited space for movement

Lack of Equity with Programs in Other Schools

Music Classes May Disrupt Nearby Classes

All Fiske Students Will Be Impacted

Option #4 – Add Part-Time Teachers to Large Grade 5 Classrooms (Recommended Option)

FY 15 Projected Enrollment Scenarios
(Status Quo vs. Adding Part-Time Teachers to Grade Five)

Grade	Use Class Size Guideline	Recommended Option
K	19	19
	19	19
	20	20
	20	20
1	23	23
	23	23
	23	23
	24	24
2	22	22
	22	22
	22	22
	23	23
3	26	26
	26	26
	25	25
4	24	24
	25	25
	25	25
	25	25
5	22	28 (add .55 FTE teacher)
	22	29 (add .55 FTE teacher)
	21	29 (add .55 FTE teacher)
	21	
Total Enrollment	522	522
Sections	23	22
Available Classrooms	22	22
Surplus/Deficit	-1	0

**School Committee
Class Size Guidelines**

Kindergarten: 18 to 20 students

Grade 1: 22 to 24 students

Grades 2 to 5: 24 to 26 students

2015-2016 Projected Space Problem

Grade	Use Class Size Guidelines	Use Art and Music Rooms	Use Art and Music Rooms with Larger Class Sizes <i>(add additional instructional Assistant Support, where needed)</i>
K	17	17	17
	18	18	18
	18	18	18
	18	18	18
1	21	21	21
	22	22	22
	22	22	22
	22	22	22
2	20	20	25
	20	20	26
	21	21	26
	21	21	26
3	23	23	23
	23	23	23
	23	23	23
	24	24	24
4	20	20	27
	20	20	27
	20	20	26
	20	20	26
5	25	25	25
	26	26	26
	26	26	26
	26	26	26
Total Enrollment	555	555	555
Sections	26	26	24
Available Classrooms	22	24	24
Surplus/Deficit	-4	-2	0

School Committee Class Size Guidelines

Kindergarten: 18 to 20 students

Grade 1: 22 to 24 students

Grades 2 to 5: 24 to 26 students

Next Steps

1. Seek community feedback through mid-April
2. School Committee approves of the best way to respond to Fiske overcrowding in FY 15
3. Update enrollment numbers next fall
4. Continue the Citizen Working Group on School Enrollment
5. Update the K-12 Facility Master Plan
6. Develop space options for the next few years

Fiske Enrollment / Classroom Shortage Survey Summary Report

Presented by the Fiske School PTO
to the Lexington Public Schools
School Committee
March 11, 2014



Who Responded?

- **337** respondents were identified as the **parent of a current or future** (within the next 2 years) Fiske School student (376 total responses).
- More than **87% have at least one child** who will attend Fiske School in the **2014-2015** school year.
- **35% have a preschool-aged child** in their family who expect to attend Fiske School in the future

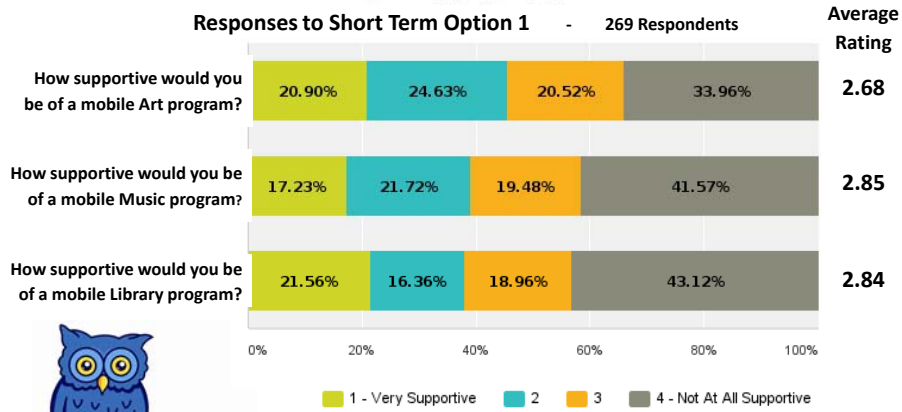


- **65** of these future students are expected to **enter Kindergarten at Fiske in the 2015-2016** school year.

Opinions regarding potential Short-Term Option 1

Short-Term Option 1: Converting the Fiske School Art Room, Music Room, and/or part of the Library into general education classrooms.

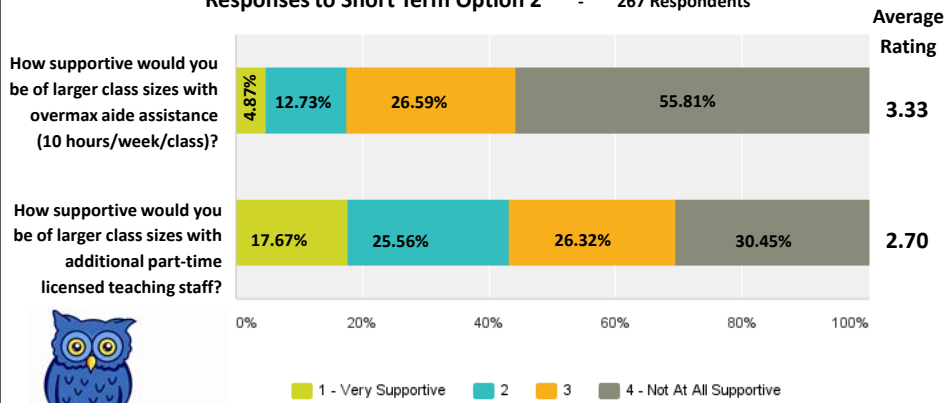
Responses to Short Term Option 1 - 269 Respondents



Opinions regarding the potential Short-Term Option 2

Short-Term Option 2: Increasing class sizes in two grades with additional teaching support in some of the classes.

Responses to Short Term Option 2 - 267 Respondents

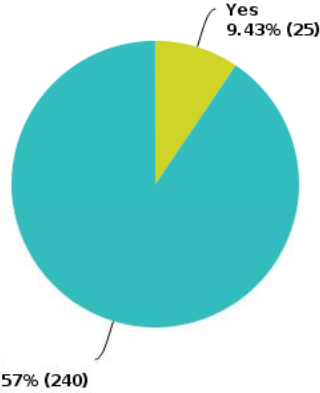


Opinions regarding the potential Short- and Long-Term Option 3

Short- and Long-Term Option 3: Voluntary redistricting. Would the respondent be willing to voluntarily redistrict their child(ren) to Estabrook School starting in September 2014?

Response to Short- and Long-Term Option 3:

265 Respondents



FISKE PTO

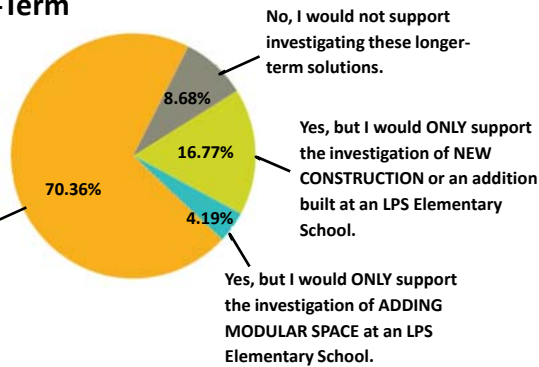
Opinions regarding the potential Long-Term Option 4

Long-term Option 4: Construction.

Response to Long-Term Option 4:

334 Respondents

Yes, I would support EITHER the investigation of NEW CONSTRUCTION or ADDING MODULAR space at an LPS elementary school.



FISKE PTO

Conclusions

- **All of the short-term options presented were undesirable** with the least favorite "to provide for overmax aides in classrooms with larger class sizes."
- **Redistricting** is "unpopular" based on the survey results, but could be viable if done voluntarily with the 25 respondents who indicated that they would consider redistricting an option for their families.
- Respondents provided very strong support for the investigation of **long-term construction solutions** to the overcrowding issue.



Please direct all questions and/or comments regarding this survey and presentation to the Fiske School PTO
fiskeschoolpto.org or fiskeschoolpto@gmail.com