

2017 Override Study Committee School Population & Capital Subcommittee
Wednesday, Jan. 10th, 2018 6:00 PM, Room 111, Town Hall

Members Present: Betsy DeWitt, Jeff Rudolph, Meggan Levene

Public present: Anthony Meyer, BHS Principal, Andrew Bott, Superintendent of PSB, Hal Mason, BHS Assistant Principal, Mark Gray, TMM P7, Mary Ellen Dunn - Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance, Dave Pollack, Chair of the School Committee

Meeting Notes:

Due to time constraints the sub-committee started immediately with a presentation from Anthony Meyer, Andrew Bott, and Hal Mason regarding information related to the number of classes across various disciplines at Brookline High School (BHS.) BHS currently has 2070 students enrolled and is planning to increase in size to ~2700 students over the next ten years. Class size at BHS is targeted for 18-20 students for standard level classes, 25 for honor classes, 24 for science classes (due to physical lab space restrictions), and 27-28 for advanced classes. As of 2017 they reported that they have less tolerance for smaller classes than they did in 2010. This was mainly due to the increase in enrollment. Many classes are listed dually, with standard and honors, or for example a Spanish 4 & 5 being attended simultaneously. When class sizes are stressed, the administration will look at the individual students trying to enroll in that class and see if there are some that would be better suited at a class above or below the class they are attempting to enroll in.

The group talked about two different software tools used by the school for managing school work, the first being an administrative tool (Aspen, produced by Follett) used to manage class offerings, enrollments, balancing those inputs versus available staff, classes/space, and even performing excel solver type functions where it will create a maximized schedule attempting to place as many students in as many requested classes as possible. The second tool is used for academics (Digital Learning Canvas) - students can use this tool to find assignments, submit work, etc. for individual classes.

Overall there is a basic flow for course selection. The number of classes requested leads to the number of teachers needed which leads to a budget ask. Town Meeting approves a budget in May of a year, and that leads back up the chain with how many teachers can be hired, and hence how many classes can be offered. At that point hiring can begin in earnest. One of the limitations of this model is that by May many educators have already been looking for fall employment, and may have already taken job offers vs. waiting to see what PSB will do. In a balanced budget year, hiring can happen on schedule, however in an override scenario, hiring can't begin without approval of the override as well. Mary Ellen has been working to try and streamline this hiring process.

At that point the group moved to look at a presentation regarding proposed BHS Administrative Structure changes. The current structure consists of 2 Deans (grade 10/12 and 9/11), 3.6 non-guidance counselor FTEs + 2 unaligned administrators (2018 & 2020 + 2019 + 2021.) The 3.6 FTEs consist of 4 0.8 FTE associate Deans and 1 0.4 FTE associate dean. As part of the

mostly 9th grade BHS expansion building, there is a proposal to change this structure. Model A drops one of the two unaligned deans and exchanges this dropped position for an Assistant Headmaster for Student Support. This will be a 2.8 FTE increase. Model B drops one of the two deans and exchanges this dropped position for an Assistant Headmaster for Student Support. This would be a 2.4 FTE increase. Overall, both of these models require fewer FTEs to support 2700 students at BHS than expanding the current model (that would require ~3.2 additional FTEs) Both the 2.4 and 2.8 model options would be phased in over the next 3 years.

Due to time constraints the remaining items on the agenda were not covered, and pushed to 1/17/2018. In closing Mary Ellen handed out three documents, The PSB Financial Assistance Program Overview 2017-208 School Year, The PSB Financial Assistance Application, and the PSB Policy Manual Section J that covers financial aid. These documents were received by sub-committee members. Mary Ellen commented that financial aid is currently funded at 175K per year.