

April 1, 2014, 7:30am

OSC School Program Task Force meeting

Task Force attendees: Lisa Serafin Sheehan, Tim Sullivan, Beth Jackson Stram, Jim Stergios (attended via phone)

Additional attendees: Bill Lupini, Susan Wolf Ditkoff, Cliff Brown, Dick Benka, Vicky Milstein, Peter Rowe, Rebecca Stone, Barbara Scotto, Alan Morse, Helen Charlupski, David Pollak, members of the public

### **Discussed current kindergarten registration and school assignment process and timing**

- Change last year – moved Peek and Practice to June – simulation of Kindergarten
  - o Different from screening (first piloted it 2 years ago) – happens in Spring, enables them to do balanced classrooms
- Anyone who is here by May 1-15 will get an assignment and a peek and practice event.
- Know about few IEPs entering in Kindergarten; about 40 from BEEP; some will go onto out of district
- Get letters from 95% of people in buffers expressing a preference
  - o Assignment of preferences is still very high (maybe 90%?) but has declined
  - o Of 630, 199 live in buffers (2012-2013) (don't know how many had siblings)
  - o Late assignment of buffers is difficult for afterschool placement
  - o Bill asked that the extended days hold off on assignments until the buffers are placed (previously if you were in a buffer zone you were absolutely excluded)
- Summer registration is then centralized. Last year it was 36 students (kindergarteners); 216 total. A lot of language screenings there; roughly the same as spring registration. So a lot of the kindergartners are multiple kids in a family and finding the right school where they all fit.
  - o Summer registration students are screened when they arrive in the fall (with one school exception, it does not happen in the summer).
- Class placements sent out August 1

New investments in central registration:

- Centralized registration will help with: accuracy of our data and ability to implement school policy to check on residency on an annual basis (could be anywhere between 30-100 that fall outside of policy, but time consuming to identify).

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- Staffing for residency checks is difficult – one part-time person, some help from police force
- And culture here is protective of these situations (but need to acknowledge that it is fraud)
- Families who become homeless are eligible to stay
- Previously Superintendent and Superintendent's assistant performed central registration function

If you moved the school assignment date to a later date

- Could you allow screenings for buffers to happen not necessarily at the school to allow for later assignments?
  - Challenge is the team that gets to know them is the team that makes the class assignments
  - Afterschool is still an issue
  - Peek and Practice and Registration already happen in June, moving it later would push it into summer
- Most assignments aren't made until mid-May (pushed that back already)
  - Memo sent yesterday is incorrect: Materials Fee and METCO assignment is also in May (not April)
  - Aside from siblings, who are placed in their siblings school
  - A lot of variation in siblings: last year there were 2 out of 20, this year 10
  - Try to have 2 or more in a school (not isolate)
  - And principal tries to place students together in a classroom
- In making assignments, PSB tries to pay attention to:
  - Where we are in May
  - What we know about historical patterns in summer registration

If you had a "cut-off" date for school assignments (after a certain date or target number, students could be assigned outside their neighborhood school to the school closest to their home with available space)

- Siblings in same school or give parents a choice to have students at a separate school
- Bus requirement kicks in at 1.5 miles
  - Within a K-8 district, this only affects Baker and Heath (others are small enough that students do not need to be bused)
- After Apr 1 on average there 100 kindergarteners that come in
- June 1 registration last year: 584 students (so roughly 40 students who register after that date)

Space available policies for non-resident programs

- The only policy that says space available is Materials Fee
- METCO's own policy indicates space available; but Brookline's own policy about METCO does not have space available language

## **Discussed 5-year projections and scenario modeling for school budget**

Many costs in the school are “chunky” – they only change given a certain large change in the size of the school population

Given that the model has a 5-year view (not a year-by-year view), we can smooth out some this “chunkiness” for modeling purposes. The group agreed on the following:

- Capital costs will chunky: they will go up and down given a certain number of classrooms required per the model that the Capital Subcommittee presented last week
- Operating costs will be smooth: based on target per student ratios for a given position

Meeting adjourned at 9am.