



## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445

PHONE 617-730-2425 FAX 617-730-2108

## **Summary of October 3 Memo on District Boundary Review and Redefining School Boundaries**

(For the full memo please go to the Building Projects section of the District website and click on the 9<sup>th</sup> School Section)

Brookline is divided up geographically into school districts organized around each school building and supplemented by buffer zones that allow for balancing on a school-by-school basis and avoid overcrowding. The anticipated addition of a 9<sup>th</sup> elementary school will necessitate the reconsideration of school district boundaries – dividing the town up into nine rather than eight districts will require some boundary adjustment for each and every school district.

This process will be led by the Superintendent and overseen by the School Committee and begin in Fall 2017. We anticipate it to be a one to three year process that will take into account long-term enrollment projections, ongoing anticipated development, and a broad range of criteria. The process will be public and will require school and community input. The following list of criteria provides an overview of the factors that have in the past and will be utilized in formulating revisions in the student assignment policies and district boundaries. These considerations are not presented in rank order:

## **Student Assignment Considerations**

- 1. Provide targeted relief for overcrowding and large class sizes in existing schools.
- 2. Maintain class size guidelines across the system with a focus on creating equitable class size across all K-8 elementary schools.
- 3. Avoid creating socio-economic disproportionality in student assignments.
- 4. Maximize walkability with a goal of alignment with Brookline's Complete Streets Policy.
- 5. Maximize geographical continuity of the school assignment zones by respecting the geographic boundaries of existing neighborhoods.
- 6. Take into account major roadways and any traffic implications that will have an impact on the safety of students.
- 7. Take into account hills and other geographic features.
- 8. Consider impact of assignment on transportation efficiency and costs by minimizing the need for busing. Consider existing bus routes as a starting point.
- 9. Consider impact of assignment on programming costs (e.g. relocating special education programs).
- 10. Regain and maintain dedicated classroom space for art, music, special education and English language learner programs.
- 11. Consider capacity of cores spaces (cafeteria, library, gym, etc.), in addition to the number of classrooms available.
- 12. Plan with the goal of leaving some room for growth while accounting for known/expected future residential developments.
- 13. Minimize the impact of any change on current students (i.e. explore options such as the grandfathering of students and families).
- 14. Establish boundary review process to be addressed periodically perhaps once every 6-9 years.
- 15. Evaluate the continued use of buffer zones when enrolling new families as a tool to manage future enrollment growth.