



Elementary Building Use Task Force

Public Forum
October 24, 2012

The Charge

- The charge of the Task Force is to identify options and priorities regarding the utilization of elementary space, and conduct a cost/benefit analysis for each option to ensure an equitable, high quality educational program for all students.
- The Task Force is an advisory body which will make recommendations to the Superintendent.

Why Now?

- Enrollment
- Space Utilization Study

Operating Assumptions

- Uncertainty is unsettling.
- The Task Force will be recommending top choices, not deciding the final outcome.
- No final decisions have been made.
- New ideas are welcome.
- Adults first. Later we will bring in student voices and concerns.

The Variables

- Class size
- Resulting use of existing space and any construction requirements
- Feasibility given enrollment
- Staffing needs
- Future flexibility
- Implications for implementation and roll out of any changes
- Redistricting
- Impact on the whole child, along with specific implications for children, staff, families, and community
- Educational equity
- Transportation
- Overall cost

The Options

(to date)

- Grade Level Schools

Each of the three buildings would

house two grade levels: K-1, 2-3, 4-5.

The Options

- Neighborhood Schools

Each of the three buildings would house students in Grades K-5, within its geographic catchment area.

The Options

- Current Configuration

There would be no changes in grade configuration (Loker housing all K students, Happy Hollow and Claypit Hill housing students in Grades 1 - 5).

This option may have implications for building construction within the current buildings.

The Options

- Current Plus a Split Grade 1

In this option, Loker would house all K students and only those Grade 1 students who live in the Happy Hollow district. That is, Happy Hollow would become a Grade 2 - 5 school and Claypit Hill would remain a 1 - 5 school.

The Options

- Current Plus the Entire Grade 1

In this option, Loker would house all K and Grade 1 students. Happy Hollow and Claypit Hill would become Grade 2 - 5 schools.

The Options

- Upper Elementary School

In this model, one school would house all the Grade 4 and Grade 5 students and the remaining two buildings would house students in K, Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3.

The Options

- Other

We add this category to emphasize that the Take Force is open to other ideas as it brainstorms possible options.

Timeline

The current enrollment projections, even after taking into consideration unexpected increases at the kindergarten level, do not require the district to make a hasty permanent change by next September.

Therefore, the current inclination of the Task Force is to hold off any permanent change -- so that it can be chosen carefully and executed judiciously -- until September, 2014 at the earliest.

Timeline

There remain areas of concern, especially tight common space at the Happy Hollow, that may still require an interim approach for September, 2013.

It is too early to judge this at this point in time, and it will certainly be influenced by the option that is ultimately chosen by the School Committee.

Next Steps

- Public Comment
- Continuation of cost/benefit analysis
- Recommendations to the Superintendent, and subsequently to the School Committee
- As this unfolds, there will be a need to more fully research and weigh the priority options, and there certainly will be a need for ongoing input from each constituency group.

The Matrix

	Current Configuration	Grade Level Schools	Neighborhood Schools	Current + Split Grade I	Current + Entire Grade I	Upper Elementary School
	LK: K, HH: 1-5, CH: 1-5	K-1, 2-3, 4-5	K-5	LK: K and HH1, HH: 2-5, CH: 1-5	LK: K-1, HH: 2-5, CH:2-5	K-3 in two schools, 4-5 in one school
Staffing Needs						
Class Size						
Impact on the Whole Child: Children, Staff, Families&Community						
Transportation						
Educational Equity						
Cost						
6 Other Variables...						

Next Steps

- We trust that in the coming weeks, parents, staff members, students, and community members will all remain open to each option put forward -- keeping in mind that we are just gathering information and opinions. Our hope is that we can achieve consensus in the process.



Public Comment