



David Fleishman
Superintendent of Schools

January 10, 2018

Dear Newton Families,

As many of you are aware, we are in the midst of an exciting time of facilities renovation and expansion in the Newton Public Schools. Angier and Zervas Elementary schools are now complete and students, faculty, and staff are enjoying their new buildings. The Cabot school renovation and addition is underway and will open in the fall of 2019.

A key aspect of our long-range facilities plan is not only the rebuilding and renovation of aging buildings but also expanding capacity to meet the needs of our growing student population. As we build capacity, it becomes necessary for us to review school boundary lines to take advantage of new space and relieve overcrowded schools. In the 2014-15 school year, we completed Phase 1 of this student assignment process, which moved boundary lines for some elementary school populations. In the 2017-18 school year, we will complete Phase 2.

Shifting elementary boundary lines represents a significant change for the impacted communities. I have included you in this message because you live in a district that is under review and may be impacted by changes. While most residences across the City will remain in their current districts, our new, renovated and additional spaces necessitate some movement. However, one important piece to know from the start is that siblings will not be separated. The change in boundaries will only impact newly enrolled students and will be implemented in September 2019.

To determine the optimal placement and necessary shifts of boundary lines, we have created a Student Assignment Working Group (SAWG.) The SAWG will develop criteria for evaluating various assignment scenarios based on mapping data and other information. A recommendation will be made to the School Committee by the end of this school year.

Communication and community engagement are essential when making such changes. In addition to providing regular updates at School Committee meetings, there will be public meetings focused solely on this topic. Student assignment planning will be on the agenda when School Committee members join me at PTO meetings in each of the schools over the next few months.

Our goal is to facilitate a process that is thoughtful and sensitive. We will be certain to update you over the course of the year. Further information will be provided on our website at <http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/sawgphase2>. You may also email sawg@newton.k12.ma.us to be added to our distribution list for regular updates.

Sincerely,

David Fleishman
Superintendent of Schools