

Business, Finance and Planning

TO: School Committee

FROM: Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial & Administrative Officer

Julie Kirrane, Director of Business and Planning

DATE: October 1, 2018

RE: Student Assignment Working Group – Final Discussion

The Student Assignment working group has been active for the past year in order to adjust student assignment in advance of completion of the new Cabot School and the planned move of the Horace Mann School to the Carr building in September 2019. The Students Assignment Working Group's charge has been:

- 1. Review school boundary and buffer zone changes in conjunction with the long-range facility plan
- 2. Solicit feedback from all stakeholders
- 3. Engage the community
- 4. Make a student assignment recommendation
- 5. Conduct timely notification to impacted property owners
- 6. Approve school boundary changes one school year in advance

The recommended solution was presented to the School Committee in June 2018 and is expected to balance enrollment and improve school capacity for six schools including: Cabot, Burr, Peirce, Franklin, Horace Mann and Lincoln-Eliot. Notification of impacted property owners has been the focus since June, as well as listening to final feedback on the recommendation.

Approximately 1,400 residents in areas where there is a recommendation for change received notification. A letter from the Superintendent and a detailed listing of current and proposed school districts was included in the communication, which was sent twice, both in August and September, to ensure that the information was not missed during the summer. School Committee working group members Diana Fisher Gomberg and Margaret Albright were available to field questions and speak with residents.

Minor Adjustment to H.4

Feedback did lead the working group to make one minor change to its recommendation. An area that currently is a buffer zone between Horace Mann and Lincoln-Eliot (along Watertown Street) is now recommended to have **no change**. This impacts an estimated two students per year, and does not change the enrollment projections significantly. In the attached map of original recommendation, this area is noted as **Area of Change #7** and has been eliminated in the final recommendation.

In preparation for a vote on Student Assignment Proposed Solution H.4 at the October 22, 2018 School Committee meeting, a review of the final recommendation and a summary of the latest feedback will be provided in a brief presentation at School Committee.

Public comment is invited regarding the Student Assignment recommendation currently under consideration at School Committee meeting scheduled for October 1 and October 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at 100 Walnut Street, room 210. Public Comment on student assignment will immediately be followed by regular public comment.

A map of student assignment final recommended solution: Scenario H.4 is attached. All materials related to student assignment are posted on the district's website at: https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/3080



