

To: Stacey Sexton, Chair, Redistricting Subcommittee
From: Christine DeBarge, Ed.D, Superintendent
Date: April 5, 2024
Re: Written Update for Redistricting Subcommittee

In my absence at the scheduled subcommittee meeting, please find updates below regarding the agenda items.

Agenda Item IV: Update on transportation related to redrawing boundaries

At the March 13, 2024, regular School Committee meeting, the Committee voted to allow students who will be affected by redrawn school attendance lines to “age out” of the school they will be attending in September 2025 even if it is not their new home school

The only other item for consideration for the subcommittee and Committee would be to allow those same students to receive transportation to the school of attendance (rather than assigned school based on redrawn lines).

The policy subcommittee has voted to move to the full Committee a policy change allowing elementary students who live more than one mile away to receive transportation beginning in Fall 2024.

I would suggest allowing Kuzmeskis to run the routes for the SY 2024-2025 and then determine ridership and transportation availability at that time. Routes will be requested following a full Committee vote on the above policy change proposal.

Agenda Item V: Update on Green River

I continue to review the requirements for taking Green River offline through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). I have the documents required and have reached out to MSBA with further questions.

This process will not be a fast process. The finalized steps for addressing the formal process required through MSBA and moving the building to the City’s responsibility and considering future uses are at the early stage. I would also wonder and suggest that if the building is returned to the City’s responsibility, decision-making about future uses would rest with the City Council or Mayor and not the School Committee.

I believe the remainder of the redistricting work can move forward despite the future of Green River still being addressed.

Please contact me with any questions.

Redistricting Sub-Committee Meeting
October 5, 2023
4:17 pm - 5:10 pm (approx time of adjournment)

In Attendance: Elizabeth Deneeve, Jean Wall, Karin Patenaude, Christine DeBarge, and
Jake Waldsmith

1. Minutes from July 17, 2023 meeting
ED motion to approve
JW second.
Approved 2-0

2. Public Comment
 - a. Brittany Cooley - Greenfield, mom of students at DSFC
-allow students to stay in home school - grandfathered in
-has a 3rd grader and a kindergarten student who she would like to see finish their time at DSFC

 - b. Sarah Lentz - Greenfield - just moved to town
-supports 5th grade being moved back to elementary schools

 - c. Lindsey Patterson - Greenfield
-4th grade at FSS
-supports moving the 5th grade back to the middle school
-would love for son to remain in elementary one more year
-could not find timeline and would like clarity on the process and when this will occur

 - d. Melissa Webb - Greenfield
-access to best education for all students no matter where they live is what matters
-was in favor of #1 as getting all students together at grade levels earlier would promote more friendships

3. Intradistrict Choice Issue
 - a. If we have intradistrict choice students phase out, DSFC would have challenges with space

 - b. If we stop intradistrict choice, then each school has 2 classes per grade level and special education programs do not need to move buildings

 - c. Elementary specialists would then have a "normal" schedule with a prep each day

- d. Jean Wall asked if there was intradistrict choice at all three schools and CD replied yes. If students were returned, special ed programs would not be disrupted.
4. ED asked for transportation options for Choice #1 from Jake Waldsmith
 - Jake indicated that there would need to be a 15 min lag start among all three elementary schools for transportation to work at the Option 1 model or additional buses would have to be added to the bus routes to accommodate that model. The budget could not afford this.
5. ED asked CD to put together a package proposal for the public to easily find the information of the Redistricting and all the work that has gone into this over the past four years. JW asked Superintendent to prepare at least a “where to look” guide sheet for folks to follow and find information on the website.
6. CD reviewed the order in which we reviewed all aspects of redistricting for Option 2b as 85% of the GPS staff surveyed chose this option:
 1. Intradistrict Choice
 2. Transportation
 3. Elementary Specialist Schedules
 4. MS schedule and increasing science and social studies to full year courses
 5. HS schedule (not losing any AP courses, adding some electives and potentially will need a 0.5 FTE history teacher)
7. Union and Supt. have met at least 3x; GEA President who represents Units A & C will have follow up conversations on how the process will begin to shake out.
8. SC needs to make a decision so the hypothetical can turn into concrete decision making and the redistricting can take effect in September 2024.
9. JW and ED agreed that a vote on 10/11 full committee meeting must happen so CD can move forward with union conversations.
10. There is potential that an additional SPED or ELL teacher might be needed depending on the shift in #s.
11. Before care will remain at the schools.
12. JW indicated she is also the Chair of the planning and Construction Committee and they are actively engaged with pushing for a new elementary school that would hold all students grades K-5 districtwide. Right now, Greenfield would receive 90% of state reimbursement on funding. This, however, could be a 10 year process based on the process for the new library.

13. Some concern over the empty rooms at GHS with 8th grade moving to the MS. Supt. explained there is potential to expand sped programs, GCC workforce development options, and potentially house new elective courses.

14. Green River: District and City are looking to divest of this building. There have been conversations with the Mayor about what to do with it but nothing concrete as of yet. Supt. still needs to complete the paperwork to close the building with the MSBA. Supt. is looking to determine exactly what might need to be repaid at this point.

DRAFT