



November 2015

Dear Waltham Community,

Last week I wrote to communicate that the district would be presenting several proposals to address two key issues—one current and one more long-term: (1) current variability in elementary enrollment that has some schools overenrolled and crowded and others underutilized and (2) enrollment projections suggest Waltham will see a significant spike in enrollment over the next 10 years.

At the November 4, 2015 meeting we presented four proposals to the School Committee. Let me begin by providing a very brief overview of each proposal below:

- **Proposal A (Reorganize Elementary Grade Structure):** This proposes an East-West assignment model that has 1 boundary line and assigns students to schools by grade spans (PreK-1, 2-3 and 4-5).
- **Proposal B (Reorganize Boundary Assignments):** This proposes new boundary lines that have been created using natural and/or clearly defined borders throughout the city.
- **Proposal C (Reorganize Elementary and Middle Grade Structure):** This proposes a new structure to elementary school (PreK/K-4) and for middle school (5-8). This is an idea that emerged from the PTO/teacher rep concept design session and one we previously passed on exploring due to constraints found in our analysis.
- **Proposal D (Add Additional elementary or K-8 school):** An analysis of proposals suggests that we will again experience additional capacity issues in years to come (especially with proposal B) and thus we recommend an additional elementary school be added to the portfolio.

The School Committee voted to move all four proposals forward for community dialogue at our upcoming forums.

You can learn more about these proposals by clicking on this link to a Google folder: <https://goo.gl/OCcXCl>. You will find a folder that provides historical context and lays out rationale for interventions as well as presentation materials and supplementary documents for Proposals A, B, C and D. In the coming days, we will develop a 1-2 page overview document that might be a little more accessible. As more information becomes available through this process, we will continue to upload documents and materials in this public space for all to access.

The community forums are scheduled as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	PARTICIPANTS
Monday 11/9	Kennedy Auditorium	6:30p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Parents & Community Members
Tuesday 11/17	McDevitt Auditorium	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Parents & Community Members
Wednesday 11/18	Kennedy Auditorium	3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Any Elementary, Middle or High School Staff
Monday 11/23	McDevitt Auditorium	3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Any Elementary, Middle or High School Staff
Tuesday 12/1	Kennedy Auditorium	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Parents & Community Members

I look forward to engaging in two-way dialogue with the community on these issues over the next month. Your feedback and ideas are important to us and will be instructive in further refining proposals before the scheduled December 2nd vote on this topic.

If you have specific questions on these proposals, feel free to reach out to your building principal. They are well versed on these topics and know how to find answers should they need support. I hope to see many of you at the community forums.

#One Waltham,

Drew Echelson
Superintendent

DME/mkp