Committee Approved Minutes on January 17, 2012

Arlington Public Schools
Redistricting Committee
Tuesday, December 13, 2011
School Committee Room - AHS – 6th Floor
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Present: Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent
Diane Johnson, CFO
Dorothy Commons, Bishop Rep
Roly Chaput, Brackett Rep
Lauren Boyle, Dallin Rep
Deb D'Amico, Hardy Principal
Ned Hall, Hardy Rep
Cate Oranchak, Peirce Rep
Jackie Daley, Stratton Liaison
Greg Watt, Thompson Rep
Leba Heigham, School Committee Rep
Chuck Hannon, Stratton Rep

Attendees: Adam Kurowski – GIS Coordinator
David Good, Chief Technology Officer

Supt. Bodie called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Superintendent reviewed the agenda with the Committee and members of the audience. Dr. Bodie emphasized that at this point the goal of the redistricting committee meeting is to conduct working meetings.

Enrollment Projections

CFO, Diane Johnson, gave a presentation on the population growth in the Town of Arlington and student growth in the Arlington Public Schools. New construction and a growing population are the major contributors to increased enrollment in the school system. Due to providing for the increased needs of in-house special education programs, ELL programs, as well as providing specialists' classrooms (art, music, etc.), schools have no room for growth and are at or over capacity. Redistricting must take place in order to maintain equity in all schools.

Map Discussion

Homework for committee members included making changes to the original map in order to achieve target numbers at each school. The committee separated into three groups to look at their maps and to recommend street changes. Each group marked the changes on the map for all to view. Once changes were identified by each group the GIS Coordinator will input the information into the GIS system showing the results.

Public Participation

The Committee heard from numerous audience members who voiced their concern over redistricting (safety, boundary lines, walking distance, etc.)

Parents voiced concern regarding students the crossing Massachusetts Avenue, the distance a student would be required to walk, no crossing lights at some locations, recognizing student needs and not the number of students, the possibility of students being grandfathered into their current school and the issue of streets being divided into two districts.

Superintendent Bodie reemphasized that community concerns will be heard and addressed. The Superintendent encouraged parents and community members to be in touch with their school representative to share their specific concerns.

Future Meeting

January 17, 2012

Committee Homework

Committee members are charged with bringing back input and concerns for discussion for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm