

Committee Approved Minutes on February 7, 2012

Arlington Public Schools
Redistricting Committee
Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2012
School Committee Room – AHS - 6th Floor
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Present: Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent
Tsachi Avrahami, Bishop Representative
Roly Chaput, Brackett Representative
Lauren Boyle, Dallin Representative
Deborah D'Amico, Hardy Principal
Ned Hall, Hardy Representative
Charlie Radoslovich, Peirce Representative
Jackie Daley, Stratton Liaison
Greg Watt, Thompson Representative
Leba Heigham, School Committee Representative
Chuck Hannon, Stratton Representative
Attendees: Adam Kurowski – GIS Coordinator

Superintendent Bodie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The committee was introduced to a new member Tsachi Avrahami, a Bishop Representative.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie reviewed the agenda and explained that in order to comply with the provisions of FERPA, the Committee would need to have an Executive Session. Upon completion of the executive session the committee would reconvene to open session and continue with the remaining agenda items.

Executive Session

On a motion by Greg Watt second by Leba Heigham the meeting was voted into executive session in order to comply with the provisions of FERPA, and to return to open session to continue with the agenda upon completion.

Return to Open Session at 7:45 p.m.

Once the meeting reconvened in open session, Kathleen Bodie reviewed the goals for redistricting that had communicated to all elementary parents by email.

The two goals were:

- (1.) Rebalance enrollments of the elementary schools based on capacity and School Committee policies.
- (2.) Ensure an enrollment of 380 students using all 18 classrooms for regular education at the Thompson Elementary School when it reopens in September 2013.

Committee Approved Minutes on February 7, 2012

A major consideration in determining target numbers at each elementary school was ensuring that all schools would have a dedicated classroom for art, music, computer lab, and science (if in the design of the building). Bishop in past years did not have, for example dedicated classroom space for art.

Map Discussion

Draft Map 3 was handed out to Redistricting Committee Members for review. Dr. Bodie explained the new draft map reflects the concerns expressed by the Committee and parents regarding neighborhood cohesion, safe routes and minimal disruption while maintaining target numbers in each school. The Committee Members voiced concerns over a number of issues including having the actual student enrollment numbers per class and per school, buffer zones, safe walking routes, and grandfathering of students

Minutes

The committee approved Minutes from November 15, 2011 and December 13, 2011, meetings.

Public Participation

Participants shared thoughts about safe routes for students, maintaining neighborhoods, and minimal disruptions for each school. Some parents wanted to see actual enrollment numbers, birth rate data for children in the town.

Dr. Bodie assured the community their input is being heard. Parents thanked her for the opportunities for involvement and communication between concerned parents and the Committee. Parents reassured the Committee that they want to be helpful in the process of redistricting.

New Business

Request for documents and discussion topics at next meeting.

- Class size
- School enrollment
- Buffer zones
- Grandfathering of children,

Future Redistricting Committee Meeting Date

February 7, 2012

Meetings scheduled at AHS, School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30p.m.

Submitted by
Sandra Krasco
Recording Secretary