

**HHU Parent Advisory Committee to School Committee
Meeting 5
December 21, 2015
High School Library 1938 Room**

The fifth meeting of the HHU Parent Advisory Committee convened at approximately 7:01 pm. Matt Kelley called the SC meeting to order; Lisa Hicks called the PAC meeting to order.

In attendance: Facilitator Lisa Hicks; School Committee Chair Matt Kelley, Vice Chair Wendy Paul, Secretary Sharon Gray and members Patti Quigley and Tony Bent; Superintendent David Lussier; Assistant Superintendent Judy Belliveau; Tam Kennedy from Bates; Jessica Graham from Fiske; Maria Davis and Ingrid Houghton from Hardy; Michael Batka and Sarah Kulka from Hunnewell; Kristen Whitaker and Beth Willett from Upham; Meghan LeBlanc and Jenn Fallon from PAWS; Jackie Hogle and Julie Crafton from Schofield; Brook Rosenbaum and Michael Rodman from Sprague. Absent: Karen Briggs, Lou Madge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 8, 2015

HHU PAC - Mr. Rodman made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Fallon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SC - Ms. Gray made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Quigley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA REVIEW

Ms. Hicks noted the request for additional meetings and suggested waiting to see where tonight ends. She reviewed the agenda and the plan to break out into groups.

Citizen Speak

Jill Dietz — Hardy parent and former student

- Shared experience as both a former Hardy student and a parent of Hardy student
- Knew neighbors and teachers
- Felt a special community
- Traditions drew us to settle back in Wellesley

Steven Goldie – Hardy parent, strategy consultant and advisor

- Concerns:
 - Not much info available
 - It appears that a decision was made and the data was built around it
 - Enrollment is key but the forecast based on older data when housing/growth was at the worst
 - Traffic – less than 2% attributable to Hardy
 - Costs – derived from one source; a 3 school solution is \$8,000,000 more but over time that is nothing
 - Numbers not robust enough for the decision

Jolie Helmbrecht – Hardy parent and former Hardy student

- What's in best interest for Town and schools?
- It takes a community to raise a family
- Concerned that parents were not part of process and had no opportunity to be part of it
- Process doesn't meet the core values
- Where is supportive evidence for 3 school option?

Ansley Martin – Hardy parent –

- Grade Reconfiguration – how would that model play out in the future; this hasn't been discussed
- Would like to see vetted before decisions made

Scenario: Close Upham, Renovate Hardy

Ms. Hicks split the entire group into 2 subgroups (one representative from each school in each group),
The subgroups were given one hour and then would be asked to report out on key takeaways

8:20 Reconvene

Group 1 Report:

Jessica Graham

- If six schools instead of seven there will be more traffic no matter what
- One suggestion is open up a third access point to each school
- If Upham is enlarged, there would be more cars but no commuter choke point versus if Hardy was replaced or enlarged
- Would be great to leverage more busing regardless of scenario
- On Route 9 as a divider: There is not enough info to make any recommendation, other than to say that crossing it is easier via an underpass than it would be in the middle of town

Group 2 Report:

Jenn Fallon

- Costs were similar
- Hardy would be left with an extra building (historic portion) that would have to be dealt with
- Swing space would be different but Hardy could house all of Hunnewell
- Number of families – 80 more at Hardy than at Upham; would love to know which plan would affect more families
- A new school that is the same size at Upham would not be ideal
- If all 3 schools open and Upham is larger, would have to draw from all other schools “at their expense”
- If Upham is closed, Bates families would have the greatest impact
- Whether close Upham or Hardy, half of Bates would be redistricted- most Bates families
- Upham and Hardy – big culture change no matter what, but Bates kids would be going to similar size school wherever they might be redistricted to

Scenario: Three School Option

Jessica Graham – presented an analysis she did of space and capacity

Breakout Groups

Reconvene: 9:25

Group 2 Report:

Brook Rosenbaum

- How 7 schools might work – Jessica’s numbers helpful
- We were not sure you would have enough students to fill seven 3-section schools
- Is there willingness for less than 3-section schools? Some think 2-section is too small.
- Having that flexibility could help accommodate PAWS
- If 7 schools is a solution – need to debate having less than 3 sections
- How handle swing space with the 7 school plan? We don’t have nearly enough information
- Costs – high for 7 schools. Is there enough community support to get people to vote for it?
- Not enough data including costs
- Really important to understand what redistricting would look like
- Flexibility for PAWS could be part of decision
- Potential for buffer zones to create flexibility if keep 7 schools

Group 1 Report:

Megan LeBlanc

- Jessica's figure of \$81,000,000 for all three was too low
- Not enough kids to justify seven 3-section schools
- a 3-school solution has more disruption, redistricting, swing space, higher operating costs (more teachers, administration)

SC, Matt Kelley – redistricting was more straightforward with 2 schools; harder to figure out for 3 school option (total of 7 schools)

Review Next Steps

The committee will have its sixth meeting on January 6, 2016. The primary focus will be on the nature and format of recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

HHU PAC – Ms. Hicks asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. LeBlanc made a motion and Ms. Graham seconded the motion; the Committee **voted unanimously** to adjourn.

At 10:13 pm, upon a motion made by Ms. Paul and seconded by Dr. Bent, the School Committee **voted unanimously** to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Belliveau
Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations