

REDISTRICTING OPEN FORUM
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
OCTOBER 28, 2008

QUESTION: Is re-opening the Bradstreet School an option?

ANSWER: The cost of renovations to make the Bradstreet School a functioning facility is in the range of \$7 Million Dollars. The Redistricting Committee is not considering Bradstreet School as an option.

QUESTION: Will the School Committee guidelines relative to class size be considered?

ANSWER: The Redistricting Committee recognizes the School Committee's guidelines on class sizes which advocates for K-2 to be 18-22 students while Grades 3, 4 & 5 to be 22-25 students with a cap of 29 students per class in the upper grade levels.

QUESTION: Is the Redistricting Committee considering limiting the number of full day kindergarten students?

ANSWER: Yes, the Redistricting Committee is considering limiting the number of full day kindergarten students.

QUESTION: How does the building of the preschool facility affect redistricting?

ANSWER: The building of the preschool facility affects redistricting in a couple of ways. First, it will provide space in the elementary schools for the K-5 students. There is also the potential of using two of the classrooms in the preschool for kindergarten.

QUESTION: How will future enrollments impact the elementary schools especially with new projections of growth for The Greenery and Osgood Landing?

ANSWER: The Redistricting Committee is aware of the numbers for enrollment. The Greenery is estimated to be 11 students and Osgood Landing 75-80 students.

QUESTION: Is the Committee considering an alternative to the K-5 elementary school model?

ANSWER: The Committee believes the K-5 elementary school model is preferred because it promotes a sense of community where staff and families have an opportunity to form relationships.

QUESTION: Are those neighborhoods that have been the subject of prior redistricting being taken into consideration?

The Committee has taken this into consideration and they are aware of those neighborhoods that have been subject to redistricting. They are cognizant of the fact that redistricting is disruptive to families.

QUESTION: Is Title I a consideration in redistricting?

ANSWER: The Committee does not consider Title I a driving force in the redistricting decisions.

QUESTION: How does Thomson choice affect redistricting?

ANSWER: Parents of students at the Thomson School will have a choice to elect to move their child to another school for the 2009-2010 school year. That child will have the right to stay at the chosen school through the 5th grade.

QUESTION: Is the Committee considering the impact redistricting may have on academics and performance?

A goal of the Committee is to make a North Andover education the same for each child regardless of which elementary school the child attends.

QUESTION: If subject to redistricting, will 5th graders have the right to elect to stay at their school?

ANSWER: It would be our plan to allow 5th graders to stay at their current school. The Committee is concerned about continuity.

QUESTION: How do potential growth and enrollment projections affect redistricting?

ANSWER: The redistricting plan is a 3-5 year plan. During those 3-5 years the school department will need to continue develop a long term plan that will address potential growth and include the renovation /rebuilding of current schools. This not a long term solution. There is a recognition among the Committee members that there will need to be another school building plan to be put into place during this time to address potential growth and enrollment projections.

QUESTION: Is the goal of the Committee to re-open the libraries in elementary schools?

ANSWER: While it would be ideal to have libraries open in each of the elementary schools, the Committee recognizes that the reality of librarians returning to the system at this point is not likely. At this juncture, the Committee is providing the space for art and music as a higher priority.

QUESTION: What role will SPED have in the redistricting process?

ANSWER: Students will continue to received sped services if redistricted and district wide programs will need to be housed in one building.

(NOTE: SPED preconditions will have to be met in each elementary school where such services are provided.)

QUESTION: What is the Committee considering relative to diversity?

ANSWER: The Committee is looking at the best way to meet the needs of all children. This includes equity of programs with an emphasis on strong learning.