

Pierce Project Update - Relocation Planning

1/5/2023

Recap of Community Forums

12/7/2022 - We hosted our most recent Community Forum to solicit feedback about the Newbury/OLS relocation plan. A follow up survey was sent the day after the Community Forum.

Prior Pierce Community Forums: 7/14/2022, 6/13/2022, 3/7/2022, 10/25/2021, 8/4/2021, 3/2/2021, 4/28/2020

Current OLS/Newbury Thinking

OLS for grades K-5

Advantages:

- Preserves existing PSED programming
- Shorter travel distance for younger students
- Building has been used for grades K-8 in the past
- Provides library, gym, cafeteria and auditorium spaces.

More to think about:

- Outdoor space access if Boylston Street Playground is renovated.
- Safe crossing to and from school at arrival and dismissal, and to and from recess at the playground.
- Preparation and delivery of lunches

Newbury for grades 6-8

Advantages:

- Older students are better able to handle busing/longer walks
- Building has wide hallways, preinstalled lockers, and appropriately sized bathrooms.
- There is space for a cozy middle school library.
- Opportunities to build a “Middle School centric” schedule.

More to think about:

- Supporting teachers who will be “on a cart”.
- Lunches in classrooms (unless we can gain access to additional classrooms in the building on level 1 and/or in the basement)
- Navigating PE with no gymnasium space (options for flex health/PE blocks and for a fitness center if we can secure additional space in the building)
- Transportation of students

Themes from December Survey



- Clark Rd walkability was preferable, but consensus was “if you provide transportation we can make this work”.
 - Transportation option to explore: centralized bus pick up (library circle and/or Emerson park) for any student who wants it, with return transportation at the end of the day. This allows middle school students to continue to access programs in Brookline Village, including the Brookline Teen Center.
 - Explore having one bus drop off at OLS so older students can walk younger siblings home.
- Concern about Davis Footbridge remaining closed (for those who will walk to OLS)
- Concern about splitting the community (this is a concern regardless of which option is selected - there is no single space in Brookline large enough to hold us as a complete community.)

Next Steps



Once relocation facilities are finalized:

Instructional

- Build a 2023-2024 school schedule that can “peel apart” mid year to allow minimal disruptions for students and staff and that serves the educational needs of our community.
- Determine which classrooms will be best suited in which room (on each campus).
- Collaborate with curriculum coordinators to discuss programmatic impacts of relocation (PE, science, music, art)
- Review staffing assignments to minimize travel time between locations, thereby preserving instructional minutes.

Non-Instructional

- Assign non-instructional spaces.
- Prepare materials and systems for packing, labeling and moving.
- Plan collaboratively for packing and unpacking time.
- Work with stakeholders to establish transportation plans and systems.
- Work with stakeholders to plan for meal services at both locations.