



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE
333 WASHINGTON STREET
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445

TEL: 617-730-2401
FAX: 617-730-2601

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
William H. Lupini, Ed.D.

March 4, 2014

Dear Brookline Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to bring you up to date about our planning for enrollment growth in the elementary schools, in particular the plans to accommodate enrollments over the next several years while we are expanding capacity at the elementary level. I will be repeating this information on Thursday evening at the planned public hearing of the School Committee's Capital Subcommittee, but I wanted to share it with you ahead of time because I have modified the recommendations previously circulated that will be discussed at that meeting.

As you may know, the School Committee adopted a "Proposal for School Expansion to Meet Enrollment Growth," in September, 2013, working off of the recommendations of the B-SPACE Committee, and setting out the long-range plan to deal with our enrollment growth at the elementary (K-8) and high school levels. (The School Committee's proposal is attached to this letter.) Because of the large and multi-year scope of those expansion plans, I was charged with creating a set of short-term elementary space recommendations, designed to create capacity within the system and ensure that students are provided with a quality education and school experience while the needed renovations and additions take place. On January 23, 2014, I presented those recommendations to the School Committee's Capital Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee scheduled a public hearing to receive feedback from you and the community on those recommendations. A significant part of those recommendations centered on temporarily moving some middle grade students to a new "transition school" at the Old Lincoln School (OLS).

You may also be aware that plans to renovate and expand the Devotion School have proceeded in parallel with these other planning efforts, with a renovation of that school anticipated beginning in summer 2016. Given that, it seemed evident that Devotion middle grade students would certainly be a core population at the transition school mentioned above, and that was part of my recommendation for the OLS transition school. However, the outstanding work done to date by the Devotion project architects and the Devotion Building Committee (DBC) include consideration of options for Devotion that may not require as many students as originally projected to move off site during renovation.

Specifically, when the Devotion Building Committee submits its choices of three (3) preferred options to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) later this month, one of those options may be to build a new Devotion School on the land behind the present building. I believe that this alternative will receive a thorough vetting as the Devotion Building Committee pursues its work, and so it is possible that it will ultimately be chosen. We will not know the DBC's final recommendation until September 2014. Were this "build new" option to be selected, it would mean that the majority of Devotion students could stay in place during the building of a new school, and a more limited number of Devotion students and grade level(s) would need to relocate to OLS.

Therefore, in order not to constrain the Devotion Building Committee's deliberations or choices as they review different design options, I will recommend this Thursday that the School Committee consider our overall plan to utilize Old Lincoln School as a transition elementary school for grades 6, 7 and/or 8 during 2015-2018 (as well as to direct the administration to formulate specific proposals for the use of OLS by Brookline High School), but that any determination of which students may comprise the population of the transition school be postponed until more information regarding the preferred option(s) for the Devotion building project is available.

Following are some additional important considerations regarding this change and the other transition planning:

- I am confident that we will have sufficient information before the September submission of a Devotion plan to the MSBA so that we can finalize recommendations for which students will go to OLS.

- Planning for the educational plan at the OLS Transition School will continue as scheduled. Monica Crowley, in her role as future OLS Principal (effective July 1, 2014), is already working with our Building Department, the OLS architects, and Curriculum Coordinators to define the appropriate spaces and learning environments for middle level programs at the school. This summer, she will begin to run scheduling and staffing scenarios for the various configurations that may end up being selected for the school. After a final decision regarding the students and grades that will attend OLS is made, Ms. Crowley will begin to meet with students and parents, hire teachers, coordinate support services (transportation, after-school programs, etc.), and prepare for the opening of this school in 2015-2016.
- This extra time to consider the potential population at the transition school allows us to look at and balance various elements of the additional options (e.g., relocation of Lawrence, Driscoll, or Pierce students) delineated in my initial set of recommendations and considerations.

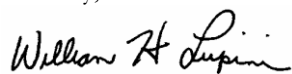
Capital Subcommittee Public Hearing, Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Walsh School Committee Room (5th Floor, Town Hall).

I look forward to seeing many of you at the March 6th Capital Subcommittee Public Hearing to discuss these plans. While members of the public will still have an opportunity to offer feedback and ask questions about the overall plan and use of Old Lincoln School, the change in my recommendation regarding the Devotion School transition plan described above will mean that the public hearing will be structured a little differently. In particular, School Committee Members, who have not yet had a chance to review or ask questions about this change, should have the opportunity to do so before public comment. Therefore, Subcommittee Chair Helen Charlupski and I have discussed the following format for this meeting:

- Presentation. The administration will present the reasoning for this recommendation change, along with a timeline for when decisions will be made and, therefore, when we may bring the specifics before the Capital Subcommittee for a vote;
- Q & A with School Committee Members. This presentation will be followed by questions from and discussion with the Capital Subcommittee and other School Committee members; and
- Comments and Questions from the Community. Parents and other community members in attendance will then have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on these issues.

I hope this letter has been helpful in clarifying some of the next steps in this lengthy process of addressing our enrollment challenges; I appreciate your patience and involvement. With your support, and our outstanding faculty and staff, I'm confident we will be able to meet these challenges and forge a bright future for the Public Schools of Brookline.

Sincerely,



William H. Lupini, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

For additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Meaghan Maher, Director of Community Engagement, at meaghan_maher@brookline.k12.ma.us.

Proposal for School Expansion to Meet Enrollment Growth
Adopted by the Brookline School Committee – September, 2013

- Accept the B-SPACE recommendation to maintain the present K-8 and 9-12 educational program configuration.
- Accept the B-SPACE recommendations for “Expand in Place” as follows:
 - Devotion School renovated and expanded to accommodate 5 sections per grade with class sizes conforming to BSC policy, with target occupancy in September 2017.
 - Driscoll School renovated and expanded to accommodate 4 sections per grade, with class sizes conforming to BSC policy, with target occupancy in September 2018.
 - Lawrence School continues a modular addition of 4 classrooms (already planned and funded), to be ready for occupancy Sept. 2014.
- Engage in further study regarding the B-SPACE recommendation to maximize the use, whether by efficiency and/or expansion, of Brookline High School. Begin a process immediately of analyzing the pedagogical and administrative implications of optimally serving up to 2,500 high school students in Brookline. This may include new or revamped programs, staffing and administrative structures, and facilities use. The plan and educational program for an expansion of high school capacity should follow a process of engagement and deliberation of options with current BHS faculty and students, the Brookline community, the School Committee, PSB leadership, as well as input from the research on current best practices in curriculum, instruction, and pedagogy for secondary schools. That process, to be completed during the 2013-2014 school year, will be led by the Superintendent and Headmaster, and will benefit from a consultant to help guide the research and constituent engagement. This process will take into account, but not be limited to, the options presented in the HMFH High School Concept Study.
- Accept the B-SPACE recommendation to renovate/replace and expand the Pierce School after completion of other expansions.

The Public Schools of Brookline
Short-Term Elementary Space Plan: Old Lincoln School
Superintendent Recommendations

Recommendation #1 through #3 (To be considered by the Capital Subcommittee)

1. Designate the Old Lincoln School (OLS) as a Transition Elementary School for 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018;
2. Designation of the building in some configuration to include grades 6, 7 and/or 8 school during this time period; and
3. Direct the administration to formulate specific proposals for the use of Old Lincoln School by Brookline High School on or before January, 2015.

Recommendation #4 (Adopted by the School Committee on January 30, 2014)

4. Permit the administration to hire a Principal for this school on or before April, 2014

Recommendation #5 (Request to postpone until additional information becomes available)

5. Include Devotion students as part of the transition school. Specifically, use the Old Lincoln School (OLS) for Devotion 7th and 8th grade students in 2015-2016; and 6th, 7th and 8th grade students during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

Additional Options (Request to postpone consideration of any of these options until additional information becomes available)

1. Driscoll School: Relocate grades seven and eight from Driscoll School to OLS (with Devotion School) for the 2015-2016 school year; relocates grades six, seven and eight from Driscoll School to OLS (with Devotion School) for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.
2. Lawrence School: Relocate grades seven and eight from Lawrence School to OLS (with Devotion School) for the 2015-2016 school year; relocates grades six, seven and eight from Lawrence School to OLS (with Devotion School) for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.
3. Pierce School: Relocate grades seven and eight from Pierce School to OLS (with Devotion School) for the 2015-2016 school year; relocates grades six, seven and eight from Pierce School to OLS (with Devotion School) for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.
4. Multi-School Plan: Relocates grade levels (6th, 7th and/or 8th) from multiple elementary schools according to the needs of the particular school(s) in any given year.