



Minutes - Redistricting Subcommittee September 29, 2015 6:00 Roger Sherman Library

Present: John Convertito, Eileen Liu-McCormack, Marc Patten, Mike Cummings

Meeting Started at 6:25

Public Comment:

Ann Harvey spoke against redistricting, and urged the Committee to keep Pre-K, preserve neighborhood schools, and to stay with the Long range Facilities plan.

Karen Wackerman spoke in favor of neighborhood schools and avoiding any temporary solutions.

Bonnie Rotelli echoed the concerns of the first two speakers and stated that the BoF had reached a consensus to move forward with the 504 platform. Redistricting should not discriminate based on Special Education Students.

Lisa Havey spoke in favor of maintaining neighborhood schools and maintaining classroom sizes.

Matt Hultzmann spoke in favor of keep in walkers as walkers, a permanent fix to the issues and not short circuiting the Long Range Facilities Plan.

Nicole DeNatalie spoke in favor of keeping walkers as walkers, not splitting families between schools and neighborhoods.

Trudy Durell spoke in favor of grandfather 5th graders and siblings if the redistricting does take place, not splitting families and maintaining the current middle school and high school feeder plans.

Shannon Sheri urged the Committee to stop kicking the can down the road and to keep the promise of the Long Range Facilities Plan. And grandfathering 5th graders.

Mary Hogue stated that the 504 platform was studied for a long time as it was and is considered best practices, preserve neighborhoods as they are the fabric of Fairfield

Sara Newlin spoke in favor of keeping walkers in their current schools, questioned the economic impact of a potential redistricting and urged the Committee not to change the character of the town and maintain neighborhoods.

Pam Iacono urged the Committee to follow the Long Range Facilities Plan, to follow all eight guidelines that were passed by the BoE in 2010.

Sue Miska felt the redistricting process would be helpful in moving forward and appreciated the drivers of the redistricting criteria and how they will be used.

Committee Discussion:

Discussion centered on the Criteria/Guidelines that would be used for redistricting. The committee looked at and discussed guidelines and principles previously approved by the BoE.

The Committee outlined the following principles.

1. Consider the impact on Busing and Walkers
 - a. Students currently allowed to walk the school should be able to maintain that status
 - b. Long Bus rides are to be avoided
2. Established neighborhoods should be maintained
3. Siblings should attend same schools
 - a. Grandfather 5th graders
 - b. Avoid crossing feeder plans
4. Safety issues shall be considered
 - a. Traffic patterns
5. Natural and manmade (rivers, highways) shall be reviewed when determining attendance lines
6. Create the least amount of disruption
7. Headroom 90%/85% of capacities
 - a. Consider deficiencies of existing facilities
8. Phase out all temporary solutions (portable)
9. Create District guidelines for class size and maintain them.

The Committee thanked the public for the input and support. The next meeting was scheduled for October 15 at 9:30.

Meeting adjourned at