

Peirce Redistricting Open Forum #1

Wednesday January 11, 2012

There was a low turnout for the first Open Forum held at Peirce.

Information from the Arlington Public Schools was displayed on two posters- these were hung in the lobby at the Blossom Street entrance for all to review at their leisure- to keep abreast of the latest data please continue to refer to the Arlington Public Schools website (<https://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/administration/redistricting/>)

A letter submitted by Arlington residents and addressed to Dr. Bodie was reviewed. The letter spells out the desire for the Town to share more data and information with the community, provide a format to discuss the data with the Committee as well as the community, consider all options in addition to redrawing district boundaries, be proactive with parents through school-specific meetings. Parents from the Bishop, Brackett, Dallin, and Hardy districts signed the letter. Anyone wishing to be included in this working group should contact us for more information

Information furnished to the Redistricting Committee at both the November and December meetings was shared

Principal Hartley answered questions about;

- The current number of students attending Peirce, including both inclusion and METCO students (close to 300 students, the exact number will be provided by Pat Costa and shared with the Redistricting Committee at the next meeting on 1/17/12)
- The ability of Peirce to grow by 3-4 classrooms over a period of 3-4 years and still maintain single purpose rooms (art, music, etc.). The result would be smaller class sizes.

Other issues discussed at the meeting and to be brought up at the Redistricting Committee meeting 1/17/12;

- It's important that student numbers are portrayed accurately in the redistricting discussion, updated Peirce numbers will be presented 1/17/12
- How will Stratton's renovation or rebuilding factor into their noted capacity figures?
- How will the anticipated population growth be factored into the redistricting discussion?
- How will the fact that Peirce is home to the Inclusion Program affect class sizes?
- Peirce continues to solicit input from the community. A survey was developed and is one way Peirce is gathering feedback to be included in the redistricting discussion. Preliminary survey results suggest a strong desire to maintain neighborhood schools and to share information regarding redistricting on the Peirce website