

# Greenwich Board of Education

## Public Forum on Facility Utilization and Racial Balance: Current Status and Options

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October 8, 2013

# Start of Project: FURB Issues/Challenges identified in 2012

- Racial Balance
  - New Lebanon and Hamilton Ave Schools cited by State, with request for new plan to solve imbalance
- Facility Utilization
  - Overcrowded elementary schools
  - Underutilized elementary schools
  - Middle school enrollment variance
- Achievement
  - Achievement improvement to be the focus as plans are made to address facility utilization and racial balance

## Racial Balance: Identified Options

- New Lebanon and Hamilton Avenue Schools cited in June 2012. New plan requested by State.
- Options identified:
  - Challenge constitutionality of Statute
  - Use Unique Schools section of Regulations
  - Develop racial balance plan based on choice  
(all alternatives using redistricting rejected by Board)

# Racial Balance: Status of Each Option

## Current Status of Each Option:

- Challenge constitutionality of Statute:
  - Board consulted attorney. Issues of Standing as well as time, cost and uncertainty identified.
- Use Unique Schools section of Regulations
  - Letter to Commissioner asserting Unique Schools status. Response not yet received.
- Develop Racial Balance Plan based on choice
  - Need to resolve Unique Schools status first

## Facility Utilization: October 2012 Data

Data provided in October 2012 Enrollment Report:

4 schools projected to be significantly overcapacity  
by 2017-2018

	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Cos Cob	434	539
Glenville	409	502
New Lebanon	261	301
North Mianus	465	496

# Facility Utilization: October 2013 Data

Revised projections in October 2013 Enrollment Report developed using more detailed enrollment analysis

2 schools projected to be at or overcapacity.

	<u>2012-13</u>	Oct 2012E for <u>2017-18</u>	Oct 2013E for <u>2017-18</u>
Cos Cob	434	539	490
<del>Glenville</del>	<del>409</del>	<del>502</del>	<del>426</del>
New Lebanon	261	301	287
<del>North Mianus</del>	<del>465</del>	<del>496</del>	<del>459</del>

# Facility Utilization: Analysis of Classrooms

## October 2013

**Available Rooms Relative to Projected Enrollment**

<b>School</b>	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Cos Cob	1	0	0	-1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Glenville	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
*Hamilton Ave ISD	2	2	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Julian Curtiss	-1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
New Lebanon	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0
North Mianus	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	0	0	1
*North Street	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
*Old Greenwich	6	6	5	4	4	5	4	3	3	3
*Parkway	4	5	6	6	5	5	5	5	4	4
Riverside	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4
Contingency	0	1	4	2	3	3	2	2	2	2
Available Rooms	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11	-11
	9	10	12	7	8	11	11	10	7	8

\* PreK sections placed at HA (4), NS (2), OG (2) and PK (3)

# Facility Utilization: Residency Verification

BOE voted to verify residency of all students in K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

As of October 8, 2013:

25 (or 0.6%) of 4,102 K-5 students not verified

Hamilton Ave:	12	New Lebanon:	2
Julian Curtiss:	4	Cos Cob:	1
Parkway:	3	Old Greenwich:	1
Glenville:	2		

[ISD, North Mianus, North Street, Riverside are fully verified]

Results do not change racial balance compliance or overcapacity calculations.



# Facility Utilization: Market Research

Goal: Parent views on Elementary School Choice

Methodology: Survey of all elementary school families

7 focus groups, participants randomly selected

Findings:

- Strong support for neighborhood schools (83% of respondents)
- Prefer choice to redistricting, but skeptical that choice would be successful
- For the 17% of families that stated they would prefer or consider choice, the important factors are innovative teaching model, transportation, sibling preference, middle school feeder pattern, after-school programs.

# Facility Utilization: Potential Options

- New Lebanon School expansion and renovation
- Existing magnet schools -- review and strengthen themes and programs, where appropriate
  - (e.g., stronger academic focus, achievement gap strategies, community and family programming, lottery rules, middle school assignment)
- Additional school or schools of choice
  - 1 or 2 new choice schools, either with or without theme; or
  - Allow choice to any underutilized school
- Middle School
  - Western Middle School as magnet school
  - Review Middle School catchment zones (Parkway, magnets)

## Achievement as Part of FURB Plan

- Focus on achievement opportunities as evaluate FURB options
- Narrowing but persistent achievement gap between FRL\* and non-FRL\* students
- Is concentration of high need students at New Lebanon and Hamilton Avenue Schools the best way to meet the needs of these children?

\* FRL = free or reduced price lunch eligibility

## Achievement as Part of FURB Plan: Options

- FURB Options that relate to Achievement
  - New Lebanon School expansion and renovation
  - Existing magnet schools -- review and strengthen themes and programs where appropriate
    - (e.g., stronger academic focus, achievement gap strategies, community and family programming)
  - Additional school or schools of choice
    - 1 or 2 new choice schools, either with or without theme; or
    - Allow choice to any underutilized school

# Next Steps: October 10th BOE Meeting

Goal: Vote on elements of the plan to address all FURB issues  
IF necessary information available.

## Racial balance:

No response yet from Commissioner on Unique Schools.  
Response is necessary to determine approach.

## Facility utilization:

Revised information on enrollment projections and residency verification.

Discuss relative merits of options and possibly vote on plan to address facility issues

## Achievement:

Discuss elements that address achievement in context of FURB options and consider as part of any vote on plan

## Process Going Forward

- Vote on program elements to address FURB.
- Vote on BOE's guidelines for these elements – goals, scope of work, resource limitations
- Detailed plans for elements to be developed by Administration, using workgroups comprised of staff and parents, guided by the BOE's expectations.
- Incorporate into BOE 2014-2015 operating and capital budgets.
- Detailed plans to be approved by BOE.

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