

Name of Committee: **OSC Demographics Subcommittee**

Meeting Date: April 2, 2014 Time: 4:38 pm

Meeting Location: Town Hall – Room 111

Members Present: Alberto Chang; Sergio Modigliani; Ann Connolly Tolkoff (chair); Harrison Scott Bromley, MIT Operations Lab Team (“MIT Team”); Karl Kulling (MIT Team); Cameron Hosmer (MIT Team)

Others Present: Linda Pelhke; Mark Gray; Donald Rosenfield (MIT Team’s advisor); Lisa Tarasyuk

Topic: Adoption Trends in Brookline

Ann Connolly Tolkoff discussed with Alan Balsam, Brookline’s Director of Public Health and Human Services, and Jennifer Eckert of Boston Post Adoption Resources re: adoption. There is no central repository for information on adoption statistics. Ms. Eckert can make anecdotal comments such as more occurrences of adoption from different cultures, more occurrences of adoption from LGBT parents and older women who had postponed having a family for work. Ann Connolly Tolkoff added that Brookline’s higher household income also allows for higher adoption rates. Sergio Modigliani mentioned we should consider the age of the adoption and how it would impact school enrollment. It was suggested to discuss with Pat Ward or Jed Fehrenbach re: additional statistics.

Topic: MIT Team Update

Don Rosenfield discussed drivers to growth (e.g., population giving birth, migration with children, demographic of child bearing mom). Mark Gray suggested that he knows of single women adopting children.

The MIT Team reviewed birth rates, METCO/Material Fee Student counts and is currently looking at Town Census data.

Cameron Hosmer also discussed analyzing the quality of the Brookline Schools as a factor. They determined that it is statistically insignificant in predicting Brookline enrollment. They looked at a global report and the **US News and World Report** rankings and concluded that enrollment remains steady with very little variation. They also looked at National GDP growth and MA GDP growth and determined that these factors were also statistically insignificant.

As far as a time variable, they ran 25 years of data (and subsets of the 2 years) and too found it statistically insignificant.

They also used different weightings and added Brookline population numbers model to birth rate numbers. The results are of interest because the 2003 and 2006 data points from the model inversely varied from actual enrollment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.