

Name of Committee: **OSC Demographics Subcommittee**

Meeting Date: April 16, 2014 Time: 4:30 pm

Meeting Location: Town Hall – Room 111

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

Others Present: Linda Pehlke; Peter Rowe

Topic: MIT Operations Lab Update

Karl Kulling informed us of missing live birth data. Sergio suggested contacting Dr. Bruce B. Cohen Director at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in Boston. Karl Kulling discussed how the MIT Team has reviewed the trend of the age of parents of Kindergarteners by looking at various subsets from the Town Census (e.g., 25-34, 25-40, Female-Male Spread, etc.) and determined no correlation between age group and children.

The MIT Team met with a Statistics professor to discuss their model. From a statistics point of view, the basic model is good. The conclusion from their discussion was that statistics cannot explain every variation and the Team may need to focus on events that may explain prediction errors. Right now, the model has the largest errors in 2003 and 2006.

Karl Kulling mentioned that in looking at student churn data, the Brookline data is about the same as the state average (except in certain cases such as Asian and ELL much higher churn). He also mentioned that some schools have strong correlated growth rates (within K classes, consistent pattern). Also, Karl Kulling notes Boston area private school enrollment has gone up as has the enrollment in the private schools in Brookline.

As far as additional data gathering, The MIT Team requests to speak to Peter Rowe and various principals. Peter Rowe recommends speaking to principals of Lawrence Elementary (where the Japanese and medical community is high), Devotion, and Pierce.

Heath and Runkle may have students from wealthier families who are pulled out of “middle school” years (i.e., 6th thru 8th grade) to private or religious schools. Families from Baker may live in rentals units.

Linda Pehlke asked how does the school department know about children in private schools. Peter Rowe replied that private schools report to superintendent when they have Brookline kids enrolled in the school Peter Rowe mentioned he looked at 2012 data and in Brookline about 1,000 kids in private school is consistent (950 to 1m020) in 10 year period.

In looking at the data, in FY11, Runkle may have low enrollment due to renovations.

Peter Rowe explained there is a lot of policy making (moving buffer) to try to keep K class in class size of 20s.

Peter suggested that the best time to meet principals is during their 3-5pm leadership team (2:30 pm Monday) meetings. Unfortunately, the following week is spring break week.

Topic: Adoption Data

Ann Connolly Tolloff mentioned that adoptions are folded into Live Birth data. Peter Rowe will send out the missing live birth data from 2010 to 2013.

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