

Comparing Classroom Capacity Options
Summary Chart w/B-SPACE Memo 2-22-13

OPTION	EXPLANATION	PROS	CONS	YIELD
Phase out METCO program	The METCO program enrolls 300 students of color from Boston in the Brookline Public Schools K-12. We receive \$4,200/student enrolled or approximately \$1.26 million. A phase out would entail not taking new students into Kindergarten next year (and thereafter), approximately 16-20 children each year, scattered across the district. Individual classes would lose 0-2 students, potentially lowering the student/ teacher ratio in the classroom (depending on other enrollments).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marginally eases class size. • Gradual decline in operating revenues easier to handle • May eventually (after several years) allow consolidation of a few classrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not yield more elementary classrooms • PSB loses per capita METCO funds, possibly forcing staff reductions affecting all students. • METCO highly valued • Losing METCO students drops PSB African American to 5% (12.5% nationally), Latino students to 8% (16.5 % nationally) 	0 classrooms. Would not reduce class sizes sufficiently to allow merging classrooms (consolidation).
Eliminate the entire K-8 METCO program now	Brookline would declare its participation in METCO over, not take any more students for next year's Kindergarten, and expel the remaining 217 students in grades 1-8. BHS would phase out 20 students per year for 4 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If done in tandem with increasing class size, possible consolidation of a few classrooms district-wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating budget disaster: \$1.5 million lost from revenues (6 teaching positions) with no reduction in # of teachers • Runs counter to every core value of the PSB • Disrupt every grade and some 200 families • See above "cons" under phasing out 	1-3 classrooms

Comparing Classroom Capacity Options
Summary Chart w/B-SPACE Memo 2-22-13

Phase out the Materials Fee Program	Allows children of non-resident Town and School employees to attend the PSB for a fee set by the School Committee, currently approximately \$2,500/child. In FY2013, there are 23 Kindergarteners placed at 5 schools (168 students K-12).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marginally eases some class sizes (see discussion of METCO). • Fee is out of step with cost of students • Number of students expected to rise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not solve problem. • The program gives advantage in hiring and retaining teachers and staff 	0 classrooms
Eliminate the entire K-8 Materials Fee program now	Expel 136 students in K-8. The 32 high school materials fee students would graduate over the next four years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If done in tandem with elimination of METCO, possible consolidation of a few classrooms district-wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would not allow any consolidations. • Would disrupt every grade and approximately 130 families • Undermines staff morale, potentially compromising teacher hiring, retention, and efficacy and/or complicating collective bargaining 	0-3 classrooms
Increase Class Size Cap to 30	Raise allowable class size to 30 for 4-8 th grades and 25 for K-3. Curenly 25 in the upper elementary grades, 20 in K-3. The Superintendent already has flexibility to go above these targets, and has done so in the lower grades because of enrollment pressures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would allow for consolidations of between 8 and 10 classrooms in grades 4-8 • Consolidations would help limit the operating budget increase for new classroom teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not yield sufficient numbers of classrooms • Damages educational quality. • Class size is limited by the physical size of our classrooms • Larger class sizes would be more likely at some schools than others • Disrupts the community. Strongly opposed by teachers and parents 	8-10 classrooms

Comment [1]:
 Abby 2/22/13 6:04 PM
 Think it's powerful to mention equity here.

Comparing Classroom Capacity Options
Summary Chart w/B-SPACE Memo 2-22-13

Modular Classrooms	<p>“Temporary” pre-fab structures purchased/leased and appended to school buildings. If feasible, they are a quick way of adding space at a given school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quickest way to add classroom space • Avoids “off-site” location of classrooms • No need to move students to install. • Can be removed if enrollments fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited possibilities in Brookline • Unpopular with neighborhood • Do not improve quality of the facility. • Expensive (approx. \$500K per classroom to purchase and install) 	<p>4 modular classrooms at the Lawrence School in FY 2014.</p>
Discretionary Student Assignment	<p>AKA “buffering the whole town,” or “eliminating neighborhood school boundaries,” suspends school assignment boundaries and allows the Superintendent to assign any student in Brookline to any elementary school, based on available space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would ease the current space problem by matching enrollments with available space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ends neighborhood schools. • School Committee unlikely to approve such a change • The PSB would have to pay for the transportation of any student in K-6 who lives farther than 2 miles from their assigned school. 	<p>Unclear whether smoothing enrollments across the schools would eliminate need for additional classrooms</p>

Comparing Classroom Capacity Options
Summary Chart w/B-SPACE Memo 2-22-13

<p>New School @ Old Lincoln</p>	<p>With classroom space for up to 500 students (22 classrooms), Old Lincoln represents a single solution to the space crisis. In order to maximize the impact on the 8 elementary schools, a new school would have to draw sufficiently from each to allow projected enrollments to be accommodated within their built capacities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exciting opportunity for PSB to expand educational options • Yields the required elementary classroom spaces • Might help alleviate future space crunch at BHS (depending on grade span and concept) • May reduce the need for expanded buffer zones by lowering space pressures in the K-8 buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very expensive, (\$3-4 million renovation; \$6-8 million per year operating costs) • Takes Old Lincoln out of commission as swing space, making future projects more difficult and costly • Difficult to reach community consensus on the educational mission/design of a new school • Does not solve pre-K space problems (would not free up enough space in elementary buildings) 	<p>22 classrooms</p>
--	--	--	--	----------------------