

Spring 2023  
NSD Outreach re Redistricting

This month Dr. Andrade has held a meeting with the Mount Pleasant Elementary School community and held community forums regarding redistricting. He held them to hear community member comments, leading up to an anticipated decision with the Nashua Board of Education approving a plan in June to reset school attendance boundary lines in the Nashua School District.

In addition, Adriana Castrillon Reyes, NSD ELL Communications Coordinator, hosted and organized a meeting with the NSD family engagement coordinators, with the support of Chas Miller, Principal at Ledge Street and the ELL teachers at Ledge Street, on April 20 at Ledge Street Elementary School for Ledge Street families. Dr. Andrade served as guest speaker. More than 75 family members attended with the focus of the agenda devoted to school district topics as well as bringing news of redistricting school attendance boundary lines. Dr. Andrade answered their questions, which focused primarily on the timeline and which middle school their children would be attending. Adriana is also working with Daniel Boutin, NSD ELL teacher, to organize a future meeting between Dr. Andrade and NSD family members who speak Swahili to bring them up to date with redistricting plans.

Noted below is a summary of feedback from the recent meetings and forums held in May 2023:

- 6-7:30 pm, Tuesday, May 9 at Mount Pleasant Elementary School gymnasium, specifically for Mount Pleasant staff and families, hosted by Amanda Cirrone, Mount Pleasant principal
- 4-5:30 pm, Monday, May 15 at Nashua HS North media center, for NSD community
- 6-7:30 pm, Wednesday, May 17 at Fairgrounds Middle School cafeteria, for NSD community
- 4-5:30 pm, Thursday, May 19 at Nashua HS South media center, for NSD community

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Meeting held at Mount Pleasant Elementary School, attended by about 75 Mount Pleasant school staff, family, and community members.

Comments that night focused primarily on several topics:

- Advocating for keeping open Mount Pleasant Elementary School as a great place for teaching and learning and as an asset to the immediate community of families and the school district as a whole;
- Asking for more details about the redistricting process, the selection of the consultant and the redistricting committee members, and the need to make the decision this month;
- Asking for reasons why maintenance was seemingly deferred over the years and for an explanation of the costs of closing Mount Pleasant in terms of impact on school enrollment, class size, and transportation demands and of the costs to keeping Mount Pleasant open, knowing that the school needs renovations, which NSD has been estimated to be about \$20 million based on previous estimates from several years ago.

### Monday, May 15, 2023

Community Forum held at Nashua HS North, attended by about 30 school staff, family, and community members from across the school district.

Comments that afternoon focused primarily on several topics:

- Asking about financial impact of redistricting
  - Transportation costs, increased or decreased, and its impact on possibly limiting walkers
  - School operations and resources
- Asking about social impact of redistricting
  - Extra supports in school for transition
  - Variance eligibility and process
  - Grandfathering siblings
- Asking for timeline and details of the process of redistricting
  - Confirmed effective fall 2024
  - Redistricting committee membership and timeline
  - Consultant input in process and presentation of results of research

### Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Community Forum held at Fairgrounds Middle School, attended by about 40 school staff, family, and community members from across the school district.

Comments that evening focused primarily on several topics:

- Asking about academic impact of redistricting
  - Middle school teaching philosophy
  - STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) (Strategies That Energize Minds)
  - SPED, particularly district-wide SPED programs
- Asking about enrollment impact of redistricting
  - Resetting boundary lines across all three levels
  - Balancing enrollment across middle schools, criteria: free/reduced lunch and travel distance criteria
  - Resetting enrollment across elementary schools, criteria: uneven class sizes, travel distance, deferred maintenance across elementary schools
  - No change to high school attendance boundary lines
- Identifying hotspots to consider among suggested elementary school redistricting scenarios
  - Birch Hill and Broad Street boundary lines: Kessler Farm and Majestic Avenue
  - Birch Hill and Broad Street boundary lines: high traffic on Broad Street

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Community Forum held at Nashua HS South, attended by about 25 school staff, family, and community members from across the school district.

Comments that afternoon focused primarily on several topics:

- Asking for clarification of reasons for redistricting
  - Rationale for FRL as criteria
  - Consider grandfathering families
- Asking about timeline for redistricting, and effective date
- Asking about attendance variances
  - Process and criteria for acquiring a variance to attend different school from neighborhood school
  - Available for families looking to grandfather siblings
- Identifying hotspots to consider among suggested elementary and middle school redistricting scenarios
  - Birch Hill and Broad Street: Majestic Avenue and streets bordering Broad Street
  - Bicentennial: East Dunstable Road
  - Fairgrounds Middle: Request for added upgrades to bring parity across all three middle schools as part of the middle school renovation and construction project
  - Mount Pleasant Elementary: reexamine class sizes among adjacent schools that students would be redesignated to if Mount Pleasant Elementary closed

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