

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 15, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING**

NOTE: This meeting is being held remotely due to the Coronavirus concern. Members of the public may view or listen to the meeting by following the below steps:

- 1) Using Google Chrome browser, go to www.grotonschools.org
- 2) Hover your mouse over “About Us” and click on Board of Education
- 3) The link to the meeting will be posted prominently on the Board of Education page

Mission Statement: Our mission is teaching and learning.

Board Goals: (1) Provide Dynamic Rigorous Curriculum, (2) Ensure Effective and Engaging Instruction, (3) Embrace Excellent Learning Environment

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. BoE Regular Business
 - a. Approval of the C.O.W. meeting minutes of June 8, 2020 (Attachment #1)
3. Presentation re: Solar Panel Installation by the CT Green Bank
4. Draft of Proposed 2021-22 Neighborhood Area for the Elementary Schools for Cutler & West Side Sites (Attachments #2 & #3)
5. Update re: Return to School Road Map Committee
 - a. Report from Facilities
 - b. Report from Operations
 - c. Report from Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
6. Update re: Tree House Enrollment & Associated Expenses
7. Review of Referral List (Attachment #4)
8. Suggested Future Topics
9. Adjournment

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 8, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Jane Giuliani, Gretchen Newsome, Liz Porter, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rosemary Robertson,

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, Dennis Colclough, Denise Doolittle, Addie Clark

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kim Watson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Porter, White: To approve the COW meeting minutes of May 18, 2020.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. UPDATE RE: RETURN TO SCHOOL ROAD MAP COMMITTEE

- Dr. Graner noted that there are seven committees.
- Report from Governance – Dr. Graner stated that the Governance Committee organizes the whole process and has set up a regular schedule of meetings.
- Report from Instruction/Technology Committee – Susan Austin stated that she and Dennis Colclough are directing this committee. There are 35 teachers, parents, administrators; the committee will focus on software, Learning Management Systems, and online texts. The committee will discuss the different platforms at their next meeting on Tuesday. They will also discuss equity and how we support our staff. Susan Austin stated that the committee has been using the Center for School Change Roadmap for re-entry as a guideline.
- Report from Wellness Committee – Denise Doolittle stated that the committee met and separated into small groups to conduct a wellness audit. They have asked themselves what do we have in place and what do we need in place. Denise Doolittle gave an outline of the process the committee is utilizing.
- Report from Post-Secondary Committee – Dr. Graner noted that Ted Keleher, Erin McGuire, and Liz Porter are heading this committee. They met last Friday focusing on rescheduling the opportunities for juniors who missed college fairs and other planning events this spring.

Dr. Graner stated that there will reports from the Operations Committee, Facilities Committee, and Diversity/Equity and Inclusion Committee.

IV. UPDATE RE: NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Magnet Theme Survey Results – Susan Austin gave an overview of the Google Doc Survey results. Susan Austin stated that 395 responses were received. Susan stated that the next step is to put the results on a spreadsheet and do the math.
- Recommendation from Naming Committee – Susan Austin noted that high interest was noted on the naming committee to name the new elementary schools Mystic River or Thames River with the selected theme for the schools. Also noted was the naming of different sections of the building for noted people from the Towns history and/or former employees of the district.

The Naming Committee was asked to reconvene and come up with other names for consideration by the Board.

V. UPDATE RE: GROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Team Assignment – Susan Austin stated that teachers know their assignments.
- Class Schedule Development – Susan Austin stated that students and parents will be informed of their team assignment and class schedule very soon.
- Magnet Theme Instruction – Susan Austin noted that STEAM was the selected theme for the Groton Middle School; as a result, both the STEM theme from West Side and the Arts/Humanities theme from Cutler will continue at the new middle school.

VI. UPDATE RE: SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Extended School Year - Denise Doolittle stated that parents will be offered in-person services for the extended school year program for special education students. Denise noted that there are 60 students who would qualify for the in-person services program. Parents will be asked two questions – do they want to participate in the in-person services program and are they willing to transport the students to the program. This survey will be sent out on Tuesday to parents. Denise stated that the next step is to look at paraprofessional support need for the students to determine the size of the classes. Masks and shields have been ordered. However, when they will be delivered is in question.
- Middle School/High School Summer Classes – Susan Austin stated that the Curriculum Committee and Policy Committee met this past week. Adam Diskin has determined the cost with the need for additional teachers for the summer classes. The Summer Classes will start with core academic areas. There are 50 students from Cutler Middle School and 50 students from West Side Middle School and 50 students from Fitch High School. The students will be meeting 2 days a week in school and 2 days per week via distance learning.

VII. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

VIII. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

Rita Volkmann asked for discussion regarding Report Cards and the fields.

Jay Weitlauf noted referral R2018-17 Investigation of racial bias and the e-mail received by Board members from Jemal Davis regarding the first meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Porter asked for an assessment of our distance learning program from this spring.

Andrea Ackerman noted that an Ad Hoc Committee to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation has been appointed by the Chairman and will meet this summer to review the evaluation process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Ackerman, White:

To adjourn at 7:44 p.m.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY



Groton Public Schools

Groton 2020 Elementary Neighborhood Plan

DRAFT

June 2020

Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Guiding Criteria

1. Create attendance zones for Fall of 2021 implementation.
2. Create attendance zones that support implementation of the Groton 2020 Master Plan and to meet the District's Racial Balance objectives, in accordance with State law.
3. To the greatest extent possible, diversity at all schools should reflect that of the district. Achieve racial balance at Cutler in accordance with state designation as a "Diversity School" construction project
4. Create attendance zones that are "right sized" for each facility, support Groton 2020 Master Plan, and provide flexibility for future magnet programs.
5. Minimize disruption to students and families.
6. Strive for geographic proximity and preservation of walking communities.



Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Create attendance zones that align with District's Elementary School Reconfiguration in the Fall of 2021.

Today

Catherine Kolnaski

Claude Chester

Northeast Academy

Charles Barnum

Mary Morrisson

S.B. Butler

Closed: Pleasant Valley (2017)



Fall 2021

Catherine Kolnaski

Northeast Academy

New Elementary at Cutler Site

Charles Barnum

New Elementary at West Side Site

Closed: Pleasant Valley (2017), Claude Chester, Mary Morrisson, and S.B. Butler

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Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Create attendance zones that support implementation of the Groton 2020 Master Plan and meet the District's Racial Balance objectives, in accordance with State law.

- Outlined in Connecticut General Statutes § 10-226
- Schools whose minority composition varies by 15% or more from the district's minority composition for the same grades are **impending racial imbalance**
 - District is noticed by the state but no corrective action is necessary
- Schools whose minority composition varies by 25% or more from the district's minority composition for the same grades are considered **racially imbalanced**
 - Districts with racial imbalances need to submit a plan to the CSDE addressing how imbalance will be corrected
- As of October 1, 2019, **47.4% of Groton's PK-5 students** identified as a minority race or ethnicity*

** Unofficial racial balance numbers based on PSIS.*

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Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Create attendance zones that support implementation of the Groton 2020 Master Plan and meet the District's Racial Balance objectives, in accordance with State law.

- Neighborhoods with high and low concentrations of minority students contribute to the District's racial imbalance

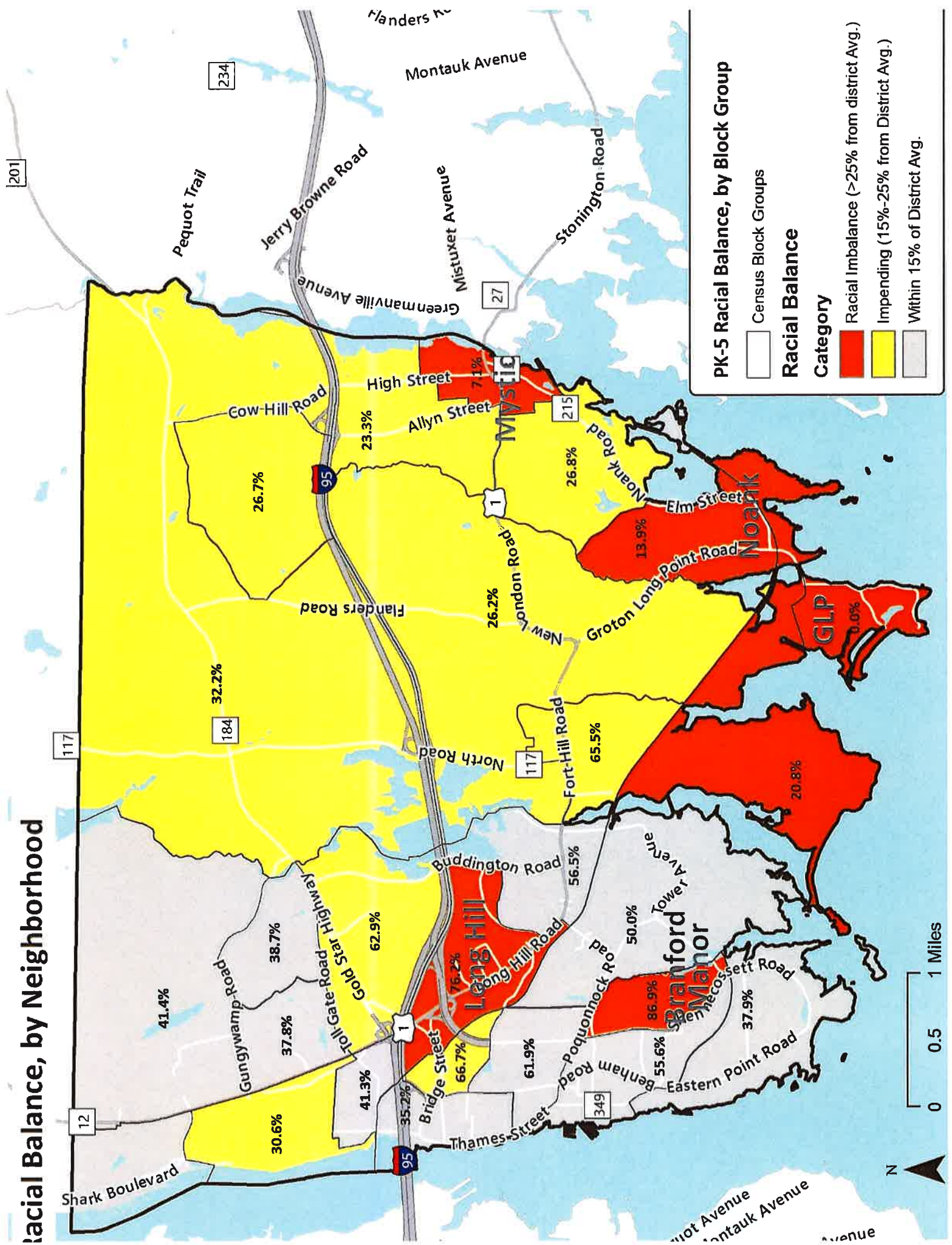
Neighborhoods 25% Higher than District Average

- Long Hill Area (76.2%)
- Branford Manor Area (86.2%)

Neighborhoods 25% Lower than District Average

- Noank (13.9%)
- Mystic (7.1%)
- Groton Long Point (0%)

Racial Balance, by Neighborhood



Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

To the greatest extent possible, diversity at all schools should reflect that of the district. Achieve racial balance at Cutler in accordance with state designation as a “Diversity School” construction project

- Cutler’s designation as a “Diversity School” construction project allows for higher reimbursement rate (80%) from the State
- Diversity School designation is granted by the State when the District’s other good faith efforts at correcting racial disparities have not been successful and a construction project is the only way to achieve parity
 - Cutler building project must correct racial disparities, per the District’s agreement with the State
- Strive for as close to the districtwide minority composition as possible at all schools



Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Create attendance zones that are “right sized” for each facility, support Groton 2020 Master Plan, and provide flexibility for future magnet programs.

PK-5 Enrollment Targets

School	Enrollment Target
Catherine Kolnaski	400
Charles Barnum	375
Cutler	604
Northeast Academy	400
West Side	604
Total	2,383

Provided by Groton Public Schools

- Enrollment Targets reflect the number of sections/grade, class size guidelines, PreK and both districtwide and special programs



Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Where possible, strive for geographic proximity and preservation of walking communities.

West Side ½ Mile Radius



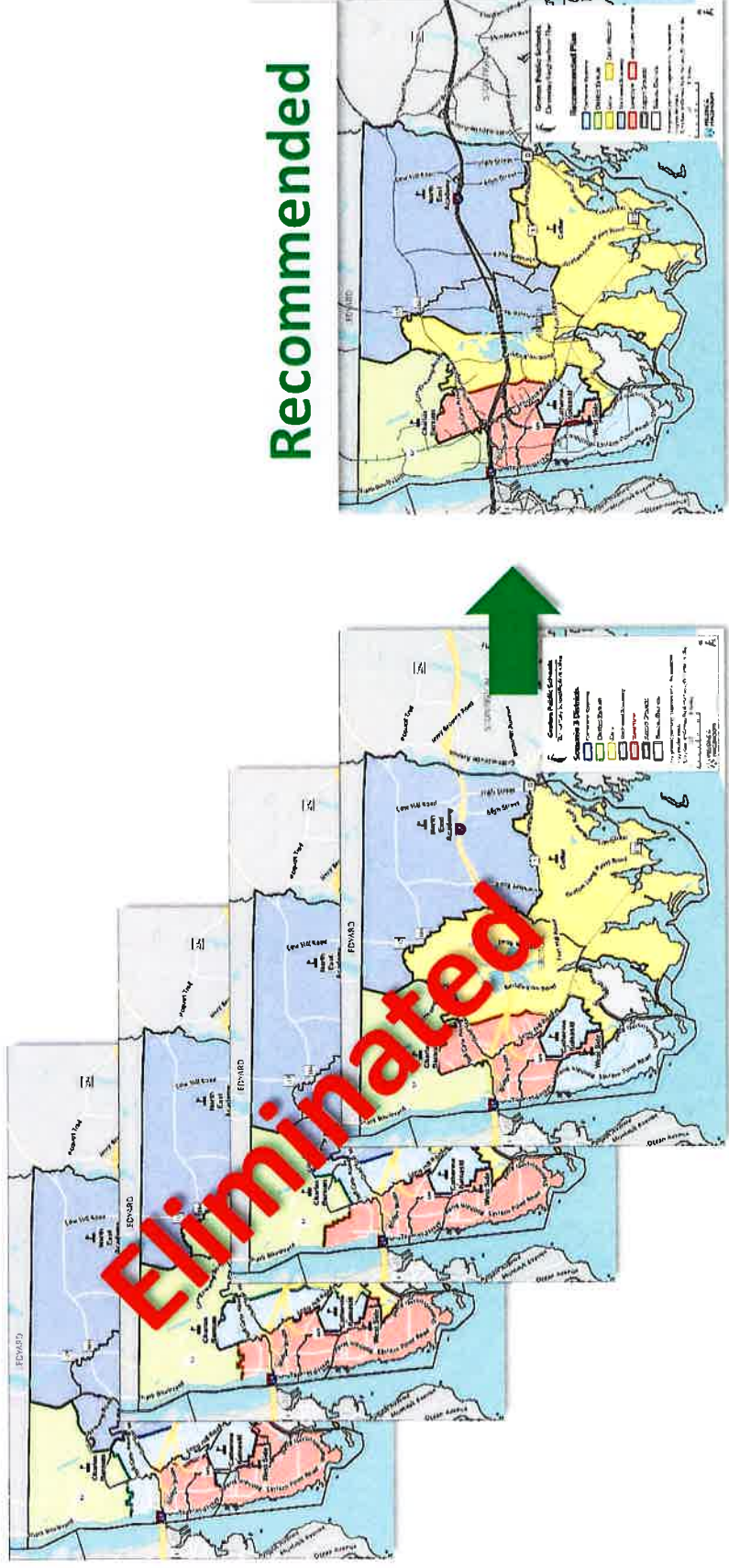
Cutler ½ Mile Radius



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Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

- Iterative process
- Several Scenarios developed, evaluated against the Guiding Criteria and further refined





Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Assumptions

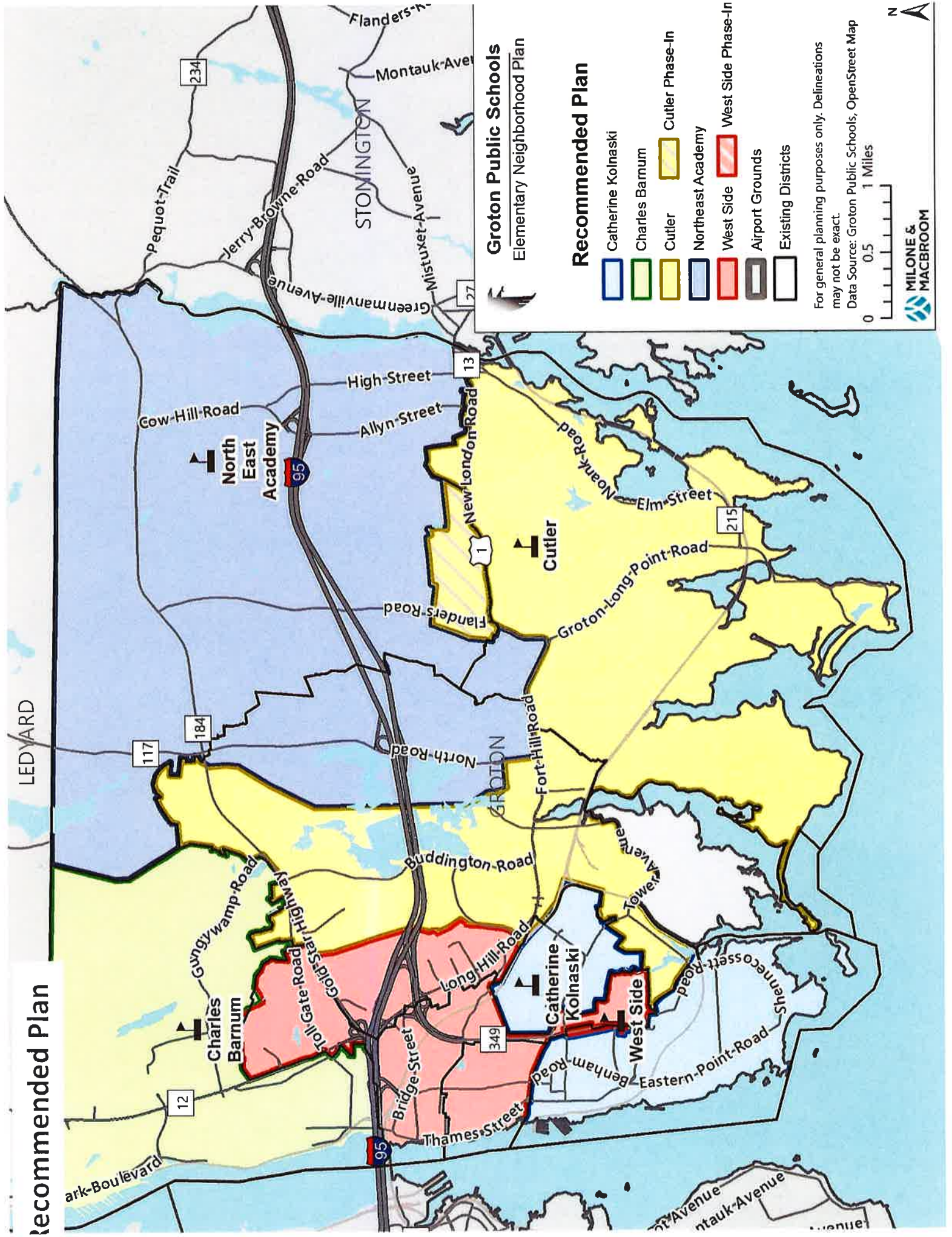
- Scenarios tested using historic data from 2017-18 through 2019-20 enrollment data provided by GPS
- S.B. Butler, Claude Chester and Mary Morrisson are closed
- New Elementary Schools at the former West Side and Cutler MS sites are open
- Reserves space for 270 Pre-K seats. 120 each at Cutler and West Side Elem., and 30 at Catherine Kolnaski
- All out of area placements remain in current buildings, including magnet, administrative placements, and special education
 - S.B. Butler out of area placements moved to Cutler
 - Mary Morrisson and Claude Chester out of area placements moved to West Side
- Left Buffer space at West Side and Cutler to provide space for future magnet students who live outside of attendance zones

Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Phase-In Areas

- Recommended Plan has “phase-in areas”, where students will phase into a new attendance zone over time
- Occur in neighborhoods within walking distance of, or near, Cutler or West Side
- Existing students have choice to remain in current building or move to new facility
- Incoming kindergarteners and new students would be assigned to new facility
 - Based on classroom availability and class size, District could offer to grandfather siblings, including those not yet enrolled, to ensure that siblings attend the same building at the same time

Recommended Plan



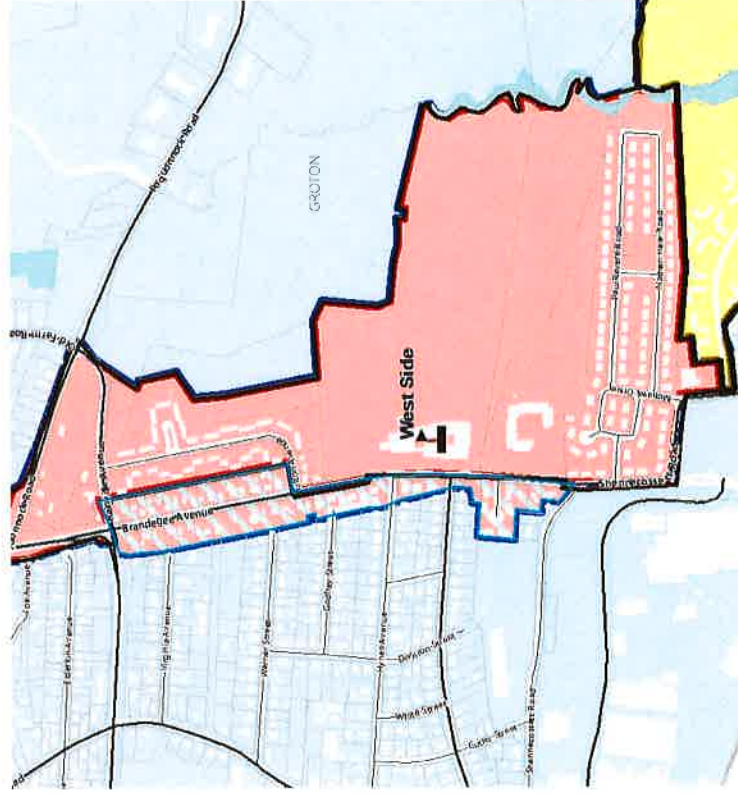


Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

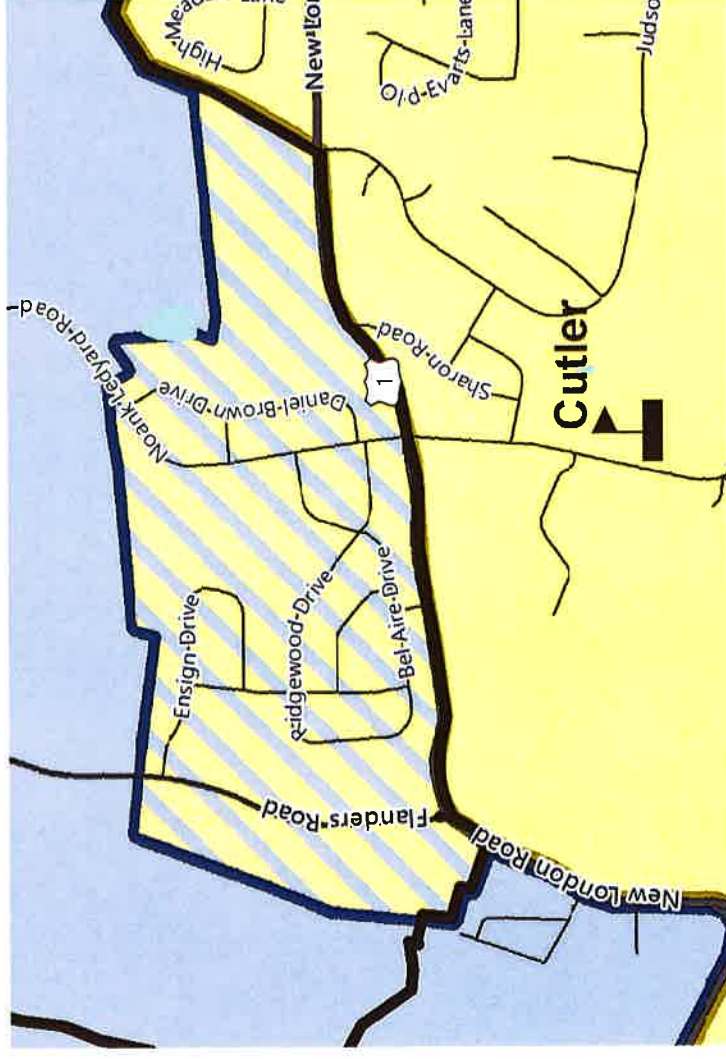
Phase-In Areas

- Brandegee Avenue students phased into West Side (~10-15 students)
- Bel-Aire neighborhood phased into Cutler, including portion of Flanders Road (~50 students)

West Side Phase-In Area



Cutler Phase-In Area



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Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Enrollment Snapshot

School	Enrollment Target	PK-5 Enrollment			Utilization	
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2017-18	2018-19
Catherine Kolnaski	400	422	414	422	105.5%	103.5%
Charles Barnum	375	363	370	369	96.8%	98.7%
Cutler	604	585	603	577	96.9%	95.5%
Northeast Academy	400	402	386	401	100.5%	96.5%
West Side	604	621	546	537	102.8%	88.9%
PK-5 Total	2,383	2,393	2,319	2,306	100.4%	96.8%

K-5 enrollment as of 10/1/2019. Excludes 8 students classified as "Central Office" or "Registration School."

Pre-K enrollment held at 270 students based on District Programming

- All schools at or near their enrollment targets
- Excess seats at Cutler (~30) and West Side (~65) to be used for future magnet programs
 - Supports larger magnet program at West Side
- Combination of Neighborhood + Magnet Programs will help achieve utilization goals

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Groton 2020 Elementary Plan

Racial Balance

School	PK/K-5 Percent Minority			Percent Deviation		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Catherine Kolnaski	61.6%	61.4%	61.6%	15.8%	14.4%	14.3%
Charles Barnum	40.5%	43.2%	41.5%	5.0%	4.1%	6.2%
Cutler	49.7%	47.3%	48.9%	3.9%	0.3%	1.6%
Northeast Academy	24.9%	27.7%	29.2%	20.6%	19.6%	18.5%
West Side	47.8%	52.2%	51.8%	2.0%	5.2%	4.5%
PK-5 Total	45.8%	47.0%	47.3%	-	-	-

Deviation calculated based on like grades. PK-5 schools are compared to the PK-5 district average, while K-5 schools are compared to the K-5 district average. Minority Pre-K enrollment calculated based on District Planning capacity of 270



Impending Imbalance

- NEA would have been impending imbalance each of the last three years. Percent deviation has dropped over the last three years, but remains above 15%
- Expanded magnet program could further improve racial balance at NEA
- CK would have been impending in 2017-18 but below 15% over the last two years
- Cutler, West Side, and CB very close to districtwide minority composition

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Takeaways

- Recommended Scenario largely minimizes restricting impacts to closed facilities
- “Phase-in” areas minimize disruption and expands walking opportunities for neighborhoods close to new elementary schools
- Provides space at each facility to support magnet programming
- Combination of Neighborhood Boundaries & Magnet Programs will help attain long term utilization targets and diversity balance

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Recommended Plan



Enrollment Snapshot				
School	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Catherine Kolhaski	408	427	411	402
Charles Barnum	315	303	305	300
Cutler	654	581	651	577
Northeast Academy	400	402	396	421
West Side	604	621	546	537
Grand Total	2,381	2,339	2,309	2,238

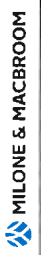
Racial Balance				
School	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Catherine Kolhaski	40.5%	41.2%	41.5%	41.5%
Charles Barnum	40.5%	41.2%	41.5%	41.5%
Cutler	40.5%	41.2%	41.5%	41.5%
Northeast Academy	40.5%	41.2%	41.5%	41.5%
West Side	40.5%	41.2%	41.5%	41.5%
Grand Total	40.5%	41.2%	41.5%	41.5%

- 1. The Groton Public Schools Board of Education has approved this plan for discussion purposes only.
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Groton Public Schools Elementary Neighborhood Plan

- Recommended Plan
- Catherine Kolhaski
- Charles Barnum
- Cutler
- Cutler Phase-In
- Northeast Academy
- West Side
- West Side Phase-In
- Airport Grounds
- Existing Districts

Map of Groton Public Schools
RPA, October 1, 2019
For planning purposes only
Boundaries may not be exact



DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

As of June 15, 2020

FCM = Future Committee Meeting

Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Referred to	Action	Status Report
		Curriculum/Instruction			
R2015-37	12/10/18	Review the assessment of grammar (AA)	Curriculum	FCM	
R2018-13	12/10/18	More robust Summer School (funding/structure) (AA)	Curriculum	FCM	
R2018-14	12/10/18	Review of spelling and cursive writing	Curriculum	FCM	
		Policy Development			
R2017-6	3/6/17	Review policy P 3520.11 Electronic Information Security	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2017-7	3/6/17	Review policy P 3543.31 Electronic Communication Use and Retention	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2018-10	6/4/18	Review policy P 5111.3 Protection of Undocumented Students	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2018-25	1/7/19	Review policy P 6146.1 Examination Grading	Policy	FCM	ongoing
R2019-16	9/9/19	Determine where the limits are for having advertising done	Policy	FCM	
R2020-3	3/2/20	Review policy P 4118.7 Good Samaritan	Policy	FCM	2 nd reading 6/22/20
R2020-4	3/2/20	Review policy P 3230.1 Federal Funds	Policy	FCM	2 nd reading 6/22/20
R2020-5	3/2/20	Review of regulations R 3230.1 Federal Funds	Policy	FCM	2 nd reading 6/22/20
R2020-6	3/2/20	Review policy P 3323 Bidding	Policy	FCM	2 nd reading 6/22/20
R2020-7	3/2/20	Review regulations R 3323 Bidding	Policy	FCM	2 nd reading 6/22/20
R2020-9	5/20/20	Review policy P 1230 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs	Policy	FCM	1 st reading 6/22/20
		COW			
R2018-17	12/10/18	Investigation of racial bias (Retreat) (KF)	COW	FCM	Retreat
R2018-18	12/10/18	Discussion of student achievement by sub groups (KF)	COW	FCM	ongoing
R2020-8	5/18/20	Discussion of a regional approach to Transition Academy and the need for an alternative high school and how to support each	COW	FCM	ongoing
		Facilities			
		Finance			
		Miscellaneous			