



TO: School Committee

FROM: Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
Julie Kirrane, Director of Business and Planning

DATE: June 11, 2018

RE: Student Assignment Working Group: Recommendation

The Student Assignment Working Group is presenting a recommended solution: Scenario H.4. This proposal combines the most favorable aspects of the preliminary scenarios and results in new enrollment projections that are balanced and equitable. New capacity projections are improved for six schools including Cabot, Burr Peirce, Franklin, Horace Mann and Lincoln-Eliot. The balanced capacity projections resulting from Scenario H.4 will serve the district well over the next five years, when enrollment trends may be shifting. Scenario H.4 represents a balanced and conservative approach to student reassignment.

Maintaining balanced enrollment, especially between Horace Mann and Lincoln-Eliot, is also important to minimize the impact on middle school enrollment. Bigelow and Day Middle School are projected to have fairly stable enrollment over the next five years and are operating at close to capacity. The working group chose to minimize changes that would shift students between Bigelow and Day.

Specific student assignment changes include the following and are illustrated on the attached map:

- North expansion of Cabot district across the Mass Turnpike to Turner and Central (between Crafts and Lowell)
- Cabot and Horace Mann buffer zone added at Central and Prescott
- Western Horace Mann district is assigned to Peirce (Cross/Eddy)
- Horace Mann district expanded from Nevada to Adams Street
- Conversion of Franklin buffer zone areas to Burr and Horace Mann district
- Conversion of small area of Franklin district north of #5 to Horace Mann
- Buffer zone added between Cabot and Underwood
- Horace Mann-Lincoln-Eliot buffer zone eliminated with students north of Watertown Street assigned to Horace Mann and students south of Watertown Street assigned to Lincoln-Eliot

Assumptions

Scenario H.4 assumes that Washington Place is occupied and builds future students into the projections from that new development. Students from other new developments have been included in the five-year enrollment projections since 2014 (Court Street) and 2015 (Austin Street) when those developments were permitted.

Scenario H.4 assumes an impact on the bus fleet and the addition of bus stops. With school boundaries crossing the Massachusetts turnpike, which earlier presentations demonstrated was necessary, this became inevitable.

Other Main Considerations

Walking distances to school are carefully considered in Scenario H.4. Distance to school is the main factor that leads the working group to recommend two buffer zones. There are only a few areas of the new Horace Mann district that are between 0.75 to 1.0 miles to school; all other areas are less than .75 miles from the Carr

building. Horace Mann has a history of being a walking school, and it is hoped that deployment of crossing guards will help promote walking from those limited furthest areas from school.

The section of the proposed Cabot district that is on the north side of the turnpike is between 0.5 and 0.8 miles walking distance to Cabot. It is hoped that the recently improved Harvard Street bridge crossing will be helpful in promoting walking to Cabot.

The district has considered the West Newton Square area for assignment to Peirce in the past due to crowding at Franklin. Previously, no changes have been enacted in this area due to potential bus impact and associated costs. Now that the new location of Horace Mann will be over one mile away, bussing likely would be required in this area regardless of school district. Reassigning students from the most western area of the Horace Mann district to Peirce will offset projected enrollment decline at Peirce. This change can be done with a good size cohort of students assigned to the new school each year. The Cross and Eddy Street area is dense and 9 students per year are projected to be assigned to Peirce.

Alternates Considered

An alternate solution was considered by the working group in which the West Newton area is reassigned to Cabot. This allowed the Central / Prescott area north of Court Street to remain as Horace Mann district with its desirable walking distances to the new Horace Mann. This alternate has several downsides, though, that include new projected capacities at Horace Mann of 99% and Cabot of 98%, and generally has less balanced enrollments among north-side schools.

The working group also looked carefully at the Adams to Bridge Street area which is 0.25 to 0.5 miles to the new Horace Mann location. There is no recommendation for change in this area in order to maintain balanced enrollments at Horace Mann and Lincoln-Eliot, and to avoid a significant impact on Bigelow and Day enrollment.

Future Considerations

The working group is aware that additional consideration of some student assignment areas likely will continue to be necessary in the near future, with annual review of buffer zones expected to continue. For example, Franklin is currently a heavily buffered school. Buffer zones were expanded for the 2016-17 school year in order to manage critical crowding. Also, Underwood and Ward are schools that are not adjusted in the current proposal, and Ward is enrolled close to capacity. In the short-term, the district will continue to manage enrollment at Ward using two existing buffer zones with Underwood and Mason-Rice.

As always, enrollment projections are subject to change, especially when external trends shift including broad demographic trends, economic trends, housing turnover, and residential development. Enrollment from the areas of change recommended in Scenario H.4 will need to be carefully monitored going forward.

Final Phase of Outreach through September 2018

There will be a final phase of active community engagement following the SAWG recommended solution of Scenario H.4. Information about the recommendation was distributed in advance of the June 11, 2018 School Committee meeting. There will be additional opportunities for public comment next fall when School Committee is asked to vote on this recommendation. The district will continue to work with Newton GIS to send notices with listings of changes to all homeowners in areas where student reassignment is recommended. This outreach is planned for June through September 2018.

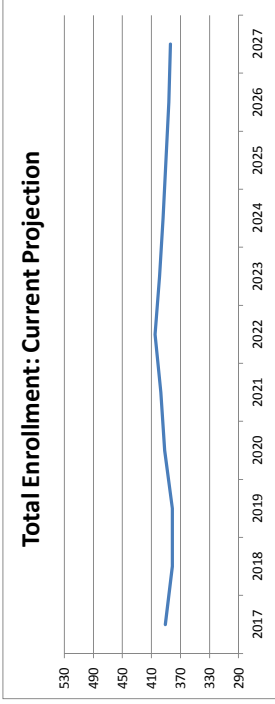
Attachments

- 1) Summary Table of all elementary school current and new enrollment projections and capacities as projected under Scenario H.4
- 2) Individual school data tables and graphs for Cabot School and Horace Mann Elementary School
- 3) H.4 Scenario Elementary District Map and map section
- 4) Presentation for advance review

School: Cabot

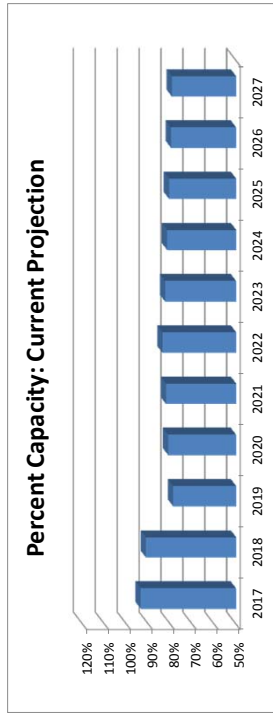
Current Projection

Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
K	57	55	58	58	58	58	56	55	56	56	56
1	57	63	62	66	66	65	62	61	61	61	62
2	64	62	66	69	69	70	68	66	65	65	65
3	68	66	63	69	70	70	71	70	67	66	66
4	65	68	66	62	70	70	70	70	69	67	66
5	80	67	69	68	64	72	72	72	72	71	69
Total	391	381	381	392	397	405	399	394	390	386	384
Diff	0	0	7	16	25	34	43	52	54	54	54



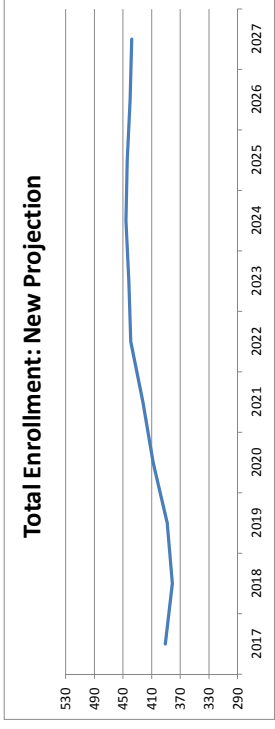
Capacity Projection

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	418	418	484	484	484	484	484	484	484	484	484
% Used	94%	91%	79%	81%	82%	84%	82%	81%	81%	80%	79%
New Capacity	0	0	484	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



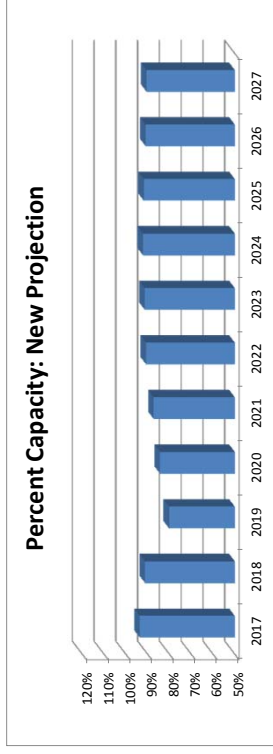
New Projection

Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
K	57	55	62	67	67	67	65	64	65	65	65
1	57	63	62	73	75	74	71	70	70	70	71
2	64	62	66	69	76	79	77	75	74	74	74
3	68	66	63	69	70	77	80	79	76	75	75
4	65	68	66	62	70	70	77	79	78	76	75
5	80	67	69	68	64	72	72	79	81	80	78
Total	391	381	388	408	422	439	442	446	444	440	438
Diff	0	0	7	16	25	34	43	52	54	54	54



Capacity Projection

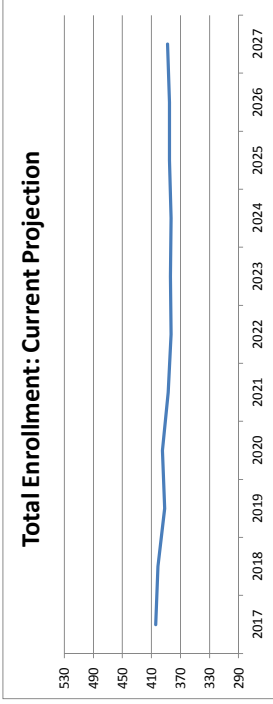
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	418	418	484	484	484	484	484	484	484	484	484
% Used	94%	91%	80%	84%	87%	91%	91%	92%	92%	91%	90%
New Capacity	0	0	484	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



School: Horace Mann

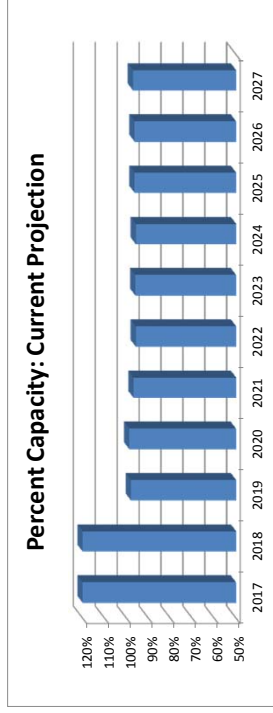
Current Projection

Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
K	60	58	59	58	59	59	59	59	60	60	59
1	67	64	64	63	63	63	64	63	64	65	66
2	68	66	63	63	62	62	63	63	62	63	64
3	64	70	67	65	64	64	64	63	65	63	64
4	74	68	73	71	68	68	68	68	67	68	67
5	71	73	67	73	67	67	67	67	67	66	68
Total	404	401	392	395	387	383	384	383	385	385	388



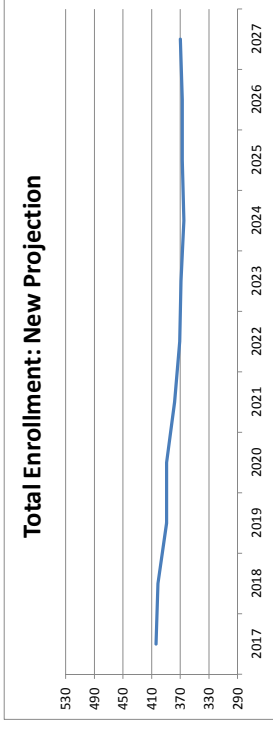
Capacity Projection

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	330	330	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
% Used	122%	122%	98%	99%	97%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	97%
New Capacity	0	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



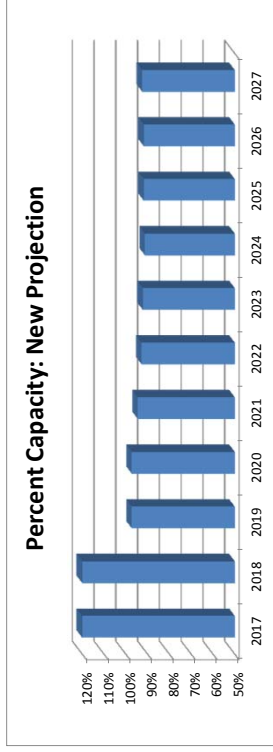
New Projection

Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
K	60	60	55	56	55	56	56	56	57	57	56
1	67	64	64	61	60	60	61	60	61	62	63
2	68	66	63	63	60	59	59	60	59	60	61
3	64	70	67	65	64	61	61	60	62	60	61
4	74	68	73	71	68	68	65	65	64	65	64
5	71	73	67	73	71	67	67	64	64	63	65
Total	404	401	389	389	378	371	369	365	367	367	370
Diff	0	0	-3	-6	-9	-12	-15	-18	-18	-18	-18



Capacity Projection

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	330	330	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
% Used	122%	122%	97%	97%	95%	93%	92%	91%	92%	92%	93%
New Capacity	0	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



City of Newton Student Reassignment - Recommended Solution: Scenario H4

