

## SOUTH PORTLAND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

### REDISTRICTING COMMUNITY FORUM

January 30, 2008

#### Priorities

- Equity across class size is important
- Socio-economic balance important – avoid targeting neighborhoods
- Don't divide neighborhoods
- Equity from all perspectives (including academic)
- Proximity to school is important – overrides "hazard" zone
- Socio-economic Guiding Principle is important for whole city
- Maintain neighborhood kids to same school
- Diversity important
- Socio-economic is critical – fundraising/enrichment - important, but have it make geographic sense
- "Stick" to it for five (5) years
- Strong support for 4-7 situations
- Strong support for waiver process
- Same elementary – same middle, give a lot of thought

#### Questions

- Why ELL homeschool?
- Is the Outer Highland population ↑ ?
- What are the success/failures of prior redistricting?
- Is there info from sister cities available?
- What about a student who has been "redistricted" being redistricted again?
- What is the timeline and notice of decisions to public?
- Is there more than one plan with best options?
- Can a sketch of transitions be placed on the web site?
- What are the costs of busing new vs. current practice?
- Why was ELL moved in 2005?
- What is the goal of balance with socio-economic?
- Have other options been considered?
- What about homeschooling of ELL students?
- Planning Decisions – data/date?
- What transitions as follow-up to redistricting?
- Are there budget implications?
- Which way is best for all ELL students?
- Will we be busing to day care?
- If all the elementary schools get to capacity soon, what happens next?
- Better communication to ELL students/families – Do they know the redistricting process is happening now?

#### Ideas

- ELL representation from community important
- Concern walkers shouldn't be bused
- Explore 5<sup>th</sup> grade to middle school – 5-6 school; 7-8 school
- Look at using modular classroom units
- What about fifth graders at middle level?

- Keep Thornton Heights at current home school (both sides of Rte. 1)
- Middle school 5-8, 5-6, 7-8
- Get updated figures from Brick Hill area.
- Map posted on web site

#### Comment

- Be careful with “forced busing”
- Schools are all updated – new K-5 facilities/opportunities
- Concern with real estate – proximity/or not to school? Proximity may affect real estate
- Safety (walking vs. busing)?
- Clustered areas need to be considered
- Shift in staffing? (Keep the staff together.)
- Concern about future development off Outer Highland
- PTA monies vs. socio-economic issues
- Home ownership to a certain district
- Number of teachers/school personnel with whom students come into contact
- Knowing a safe adult
- There may be daycare issues if students is redistricted
- Try not to split neighborhoods – specifically Thornton Heights, i.e., splitting Main St.
- Don’t bus a student past the home school.
- Make sure the decisions do not create more issues relating to class size.