

To: Westport Board of Education Members  
From: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools  
Re: Redistricting Guiding Criteria Recommendations  
Date April 22, 2024

On February 13, 2024, I provided the Board with a timeline of tasks for a two phase redistricting plan, along with my recommendations of guiding criteria for the redistricting process. Along with the November 2023 enrollment projections, and the facility capacity study in March 2023, the guiding criteria is a necessary component of the decision making parameters for redistricting.

The Board received the guiding criteria recommendations two months ago, and this information was on the agenda for the March 21 meeting as part of a presentation by our lead consultant and demographer, Mike Zuba.

In order to proceed on the next steps of the redistricting process, I am requesting that the Board formally adopt the guiding criteria recommendations as presented. Of course, the Board can accept or reject any recommendations, and create additional criteria for consideration and adoption. Board action on April 25 is requested.

Below are the recommendations made to the Board:

### **Guiding Criteria Recommendations for Board Consideration**

#### Recommendations:

- **Balanced Utilization**
  - ensure no schools are over-utilized or under-utilized,
  - ensure parity in available spaces across schools based on the recommendations from the Capacity Study
- **Implement Capacity Study “Standard Deployment Model” of program room usage**
- **Align Long Lots enrollment with design capacity of the new school**
- **Long Term Sustainability**
  - ensure each school has sufficient headroom and flex rooms to accommodate enrollment bubbles and foreseeable projected growth.
- **Maintain Current Middle School Feeder Pattern**
  - maintaining current teaming models
- **Adhere to Natural Boundaries**
  - keep neighborhoods together to the greatest extent possible.
- **Prioritize Proximity**
  - maintaining walking communities, minimizing travel distances, where possible.
- **Minimize student disruption to the greatest extent possible**
- **Intensive Resource (IR) rooms, if relocated, will remain in place for at least 5-years**
- **No student will be redistricted more than once (unless student relocates)**
- **Consider grandfathering impacted 5th grade students**
  - If capacity exists
  - WPS will assess operational considerations