

First Draft

Equity Guidelines for Building Projects in the Boston Public Schools created by Lisa Jeanne Graf, and Neema Avashia

School Buildings

(1) A Boston School Committee vote to close a school building shall not constitute a vote to close the school. A separate vote shall be required for each.

(2) The Boston Public School (hereafter referred to as BPS) district shall notify the Boston School Committee and City Council in writing, at a minimum of twelve months prior to the sale, lease or removal from service as a public school building of any school facility, or portion thereof, in said district. The school district also shall submit:

(a) a plan for accommodating the entire school community intact including any displaced school programs and services;

(b) a plan for accommodating district students within the remaining school buildings, as a result of the sale, lease or removal from service of said school facility;

(c) a long-range plan for accommodating district students based on the District's Enrollment Projections;

(d) any future plans for the sale or lease of property under control of the school district; and

(e) any future plans for the construction, renovation, addition or lease of school facilities in the school district.

(f) a plan for schools to return to their schools after construction or to a new building if they prefer. A closed building is guaranteed for that group of students and staff unless they prefer another building.

(g) a financial summary of the cost of the renovation or rebuild

(h) any opportunities to work with MSBA to cover part of the rebuild or renovation costs.

(i) an equity analysis to include the impact on:

(i) students of color,

(ii) English Language Learners (hereafter referred to as ELL's)

(iii) students on IEPs

(iv) low-income students.

(3) A final Audit of the building must be completed to determine the final cost of the project.

(4) A building owned by BPS cannot be used for a charter school, or private school.

(5) If the building is sold or leased the money will go into a fund that will only be used for costs for BPS buildings (buying, construction, repairs or maintenance).

(6) All BPS buildings that are unsafe must be repaired, to be in a condition that can be used by a school community. If a building has not been maintained properly there must be a plan publicly presented and voted on, for how that building will be repaired or rebuilt, 12 months before students are required to vacate the building. If a school is not being used by students currently and is in disrepair, it must have a plan within 12 months for it to be repaired or rebuilt. A school building cannot be out of service for a year or longer, without repairs or rebuilding beginning.

(7) The sale, lease or removal from service of a facility, or portion of that facility, shall be for no less than fair market value as determined by the average of three independent appraisals.

(i) One appraiser shall be determined by the Boston School Committee.

(ii) One appraiser shall be determined by the CityWide Parent Council

(iii) One appraiser shall be determined by the City Council

(8) Upon completion of renovations or rebuilding, the original school community shall have first refusal to return to the original address. Should they choose not to return:

b. The building will be open to other school communities and priorities shall include (but are not limited to):

(i) Schools that have buildings in severe disrepair

(ii) Schools with higher populations of

(1) students of color,

(2) English Language Learners (hereafter referred to as ELL's)

(3) students on IEPs

(4) low-income students.

(iii) Schools with limited school resources

School Communities (Teachers and students, not buildings)

(1) Renovations of school buildings should be for existing school communities who shall be given first refusal once the space is fully and newly constructed. A vote to renovate or close a building is not a vote to close a school community.

(2) A Boston School Committee vote to close a school building shall not constitute a vote to close the school. A separate vote shall be required for each.

(3) Proposal for school community closures shall include the following items for the Boston School Committee and the Boston City Council:

(a) A financial impact statement including a detailed statement of the financial impact to the district, including the cost to obtain and operate viable swing space.

(b) a equity analysis to include the impact of the closure on:

- (i) students of color,
- (ii) ELLs
- (iii) students on IEPs
- (IV) low-income students.

(c) an impact mitigation plan for the students impacted.

(4) If it is determined that a school (building and students) needs to close then the following options would be possible for those school communities

a. The school community could choose to merge with another school where they are active participants in the step by step process of the merge and relocation.

b. The school community could choose to stay together as an intact school community but not add new students in the lower grades so that over time the school would be phased out. Staff would stay part of this school community until the students graduate.

Reference:

http://www.massschoolbuildings.org/sites/default/files/edit-contentfiles/Documents/Stats_Regs/MSBA_Regs_Program_April-10.pdf

