

Boston School Committee Testimony, Oct 21. 2020

By Lisa Jeanne Graf

My name is Lisa Jeanne Graf and my daughter Beatrice is in the 6th grade. We live in the Fenway neighborhood. My main goals for my daughter in her school experience is for her to be happy, and to have good friends. I also want her to have the opportunity to build skills around her many interests so that she has many options for future careers. Within BPS there are a number of schools that Beatrice is interested in for grade 9, but Snowden is her dream school and her top pick.

I want all schools in BPS to be well resourced and welcoming so that all students would be able to have equal access to them, and thrive in them. Increasing arts offerings, libraries and librarians, as well as offering multiple languages to learn, and advanced courses at all schools would be a good start. I also want all middle schools, and high schools to be inclusion schools. No student should be separated out, and excluded because of race, class, language access or disability.

The exam school admissions proposal includes significant steps forward. Please vote yes, and do not delay the implementation of this year policy. Thank you.