

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members
Boston School Committee

FROM: John P. McDonough
Interim Superintendent

DATE: April 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify Middle School Pathways: Perkins and Tynan to
McCormack Middle School and Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School to
Dearborn STEM Academy

Currently, under the Home-Based student assignment plan all students in a K-5 program have a guaranteed seat at a designated middle school or K-8 school, referred to as a Middle School Pathway. Students are not required to attend their Middle School Pathway, however, and have the option to choose a different school that offers 6th grade as long as the school is on their Home-Based list. There are five schools that are also citywide and available to everyone, Boston Green Academy, TechBoston, Timilty, UP Academy, and UP Dorchester.

On behalf of the Boston Public Schools, please accept our proposal to modify middle school pathways for the Perkins Elementary and the Tynan Elementary prior to the completion of the Facilities Master Plan. BPS recommends that the Perkins and Tynan feed into the McCormack Middle School in lieu of their current pathway to the Dearborn STEM Academy. This proposal, if approved, would take effect in School Year 2016-2017.

The Condon was previously one of the pathway schools for the McCormack but as a result of adding the 6th grade next year to eventually become a K-8 school the projections for the McCormack have dropped at grade 6 from 189 to 158. The Perkins and Tynan feeding into the

McCormack would increase the school's projections and enrollment starting in School Year 2016-2017.

As part of this proposal, BPS is also recommending the creation of a middle school pathway for the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School to the Dearborn STEM Academy for School Year 2015-2016 to increase the likelihood that students living in the Roxbury community have a pathway to the Dearborn. Currently, the Mason, Winthrop, Ellis, Perkins, and Tynan feed into the Dearborn. We heard this desire very clearly during the Dearborn planning this summer and fall. While technically students would not be aging up from Dudley Street to attend the Dearborn until School Year 2017-2018, establishing a pathway now provides a level of predictability for families in the Roxbury community and demonstrates the district's commitment to ensuring that the Dearborn maintains its position in the Roxbury community as its premiere STEM school.

BPS is requesting that the School Committee vote on this proposal at the next meeting on May 13, 2015.

Kimberly Rice, our Chief Operating Officer, will be available for questions at the April 29th meeting regarding this proposal. Thank you.