Date: November 13, 2009

To: Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

From: James P. Maloney
Chief Operating Officer

Subject: Middle School Study
Enrollment and Demographic Data Presentation

Attached please find a report prepared for the School Committee to assist with the ongoing analysis of the District's middle grades. The report which deals with enrollment and demographic data covering the existing K-8 program is divided into the following eight sections:

1. Enrollment
2. Enrollment Projections
3. Intensive Studies Program
4. Transfers Within and Out of District
5. Student Geographic Distribution by School
6. Student Geographic Distribution Grades K-6
7. Student Geographic Distribution by Grade
8. Building and Grounds Inventory
9. After School Data

Enrollment Data

As one looks at the enrollment data several factors emerge. First as can be seen on page 3 while the social economic status (SES) of enrollment in grades K-8 has remained fairly consistent with 55% non free/reduced lunch status students and 45% free and reduced lunch status students over the last 3 school years, overall enrollment has grown by 5.4% during that period. Interestingly, as can be seen on page 5, the current SES balance in grades K-5 is 57% non free/reduced and 43% free/reduced

lunch students compared with a 50% even break between the two lunch categories at the grade 6-8 level. (Page 7) The graph on page 8 highlights the grade 6-8 differences in enrollment by school, while page 10 lists the average number of students per classroom by grades K-8 and summarizes the number of students per classroom in grades K- 5 at an average of 20 and at grades 6-8 at an average of 18. The average students per classroom information is net of Sheltered English Immersion, the OLA Program and substantially separate special education classrooms.

Enrollment Projections

Preliminary K-12 enrollment projections indicate an increase from 6,146 in the current year to 6,420 by school year 2014-15, an increase of just over 5%. During the same period grade 6-8 enrollment is projected to increase by slightly over 6%. For these enrollment projections we have used a five year survival rate. This means the projections may be conservative as they include the end of the sharp enrollment declines that occurred through the school year 2006-07.

Intensive Studies Program

The data from the review of the Intensive Studies Program in Section III shows that in the current sixth grade the program has considerably fewer free and reduced lunch students (21%) than the overall district-wide 6th grade free and reduced population (51%). Interestingly 45% of the current year six grade ISP class at the Peabody came from last year's fifth grade class at the Peabody while 44% of the current year sixth grade ISP class at the Kennedy-Longfellow were 5th grade students at the Kennedy-Longfellow last year. The combined grade 6-8 ISP Program at the two schools has a socio economic ratio of 27% free and reduced lunch and 73 % non free and reduced lunch compared with the district-wide ratio of a 50% even break.

Transfers Within And Out Of District

Over the last three full school years, there were a total of 621 transfers between the twelve CPS elementary schools. Of the total transfers, free and reduced lunch status represented 54% of the total while non free and reduced students represented 46%. The Kennedy-Longfellow School had the most transfers out (97) and the most transfers in (93) while the Graham and Parks School had the fewest transfers out (18) and the Amigos School had the fewest transfers in (10).

During the same period, 1,957 students withdrew from the district at grades K-8. Of that total 540 (28%) were confirmed to have transferred to another public school in Massachusetts while 424 (22%) were confirmed to transfer to a school out of the country. A total of 273 students (14%) transferred to a private school. We were unable to confirm the new school of 400 students (20%).

The balance of the confirmed transfers were to public schools out of state 234 (12%), and charter schools 70 (4%). I am continuing to review the withdrawn students by individual grade and hope to have that data for Tuesday night's presentation.

Student Geographic Distribution By School

Section V presents a scatter map for each elementary school that shows K-8 student geographic distribution across the City. By looking at these maps it is very easy to see which schools draw a citywide enrollment and which are more neighborhood or regional schools. The data is from March of 2009 and the maps were previously provided to the School Committee.

Student Geographic Distribution By District Grades K-6

In this scatter map we show that in the current school year 56% of K-6 grade students lived east and south of Harvard Square while 44% of students have live north and west of the Harvard Square.

Student Geographic Distribution By Grade

Section VII presents a series of scatter maps that show student geographic distribution by individual grade (K-6). These maps show a fairly consistent spread by grade, although grade 1 (60%) and grade 3 (59%) show slightly higher representation in the south and east of Harvard Square. Grade 2 shows a lower representation (51%) from the south and east of Harvard Square.

Buildings And Grounds Inventory

This table presents enrollment data and the current numbers of rooms in each elementary building categorized by those that are greater than 700 square feet and those that are between 300 and 699 square feet. It is important to note that the number of rooms in a school building can vary from year to year as principals reconfigure the buildings to meet program needs. This table also presents the exterior square footage land area of each school with data provided by the City of Cambridge's Department of Public Works Engineering Division.

After School Data

The final section presents data on middle grade students' involvement in After School Programs. The data in this section is taken directly from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Middle School Education. I hope to have this information updated by the end of the current calendar year.