

TO: School Committee Members

FROM: Emily Parks

DATE: September 7, 2018

RE: District Enrollment

I am attaching for your information the district enrollment chart as of the end of the first week of school. The enrollment remained stable throughout the summer and the opening of school:

	Projected Enrollment (as June, 2018)	Actual Enrollment (as September 7, 2018)
Preschool	42	42
Elementary	1288	1286
Middle	755	745
High	1028	1012
TOTAL	3113	3085

You may recall that in 2017-2018 we experienced a net increase of 14 students enrolling during the month of August and 3 elementary students enrolling during the first week of the school year. This year was quite different with a net increase of only 1 student in August and 4 new elementary students during the first week of school..

The newly established “buffer zone” was an effective tool for managing elementary class sizes. As you will see, all of the elementary class sizes are within the School Committee’s class size guidelines, with the exception of grade 3 at Downey where the classes are 1 over the guideline. After consulting with Mrs. Gallagher in the summer, she has decided to provide some additional support for these classrooms by utilizing a general education instructional assistant.

The middle school enrollment, as anticipated, is smaller than last year. The current enrollment is 745 students, as compared to 793 students on last year’s Oct. 1 report to DESE. The declining enrollment with stable staffing has resulted in decreases in average class sizes. As you know, the high school enrollment has been climbing and this fall has reached a 10-year high at 1012 students. In the areas where we added staff (math and science), we were able to reduce many class sizes. However, other areas, particularly English and social studies have class sizes that will need to be addressed through this year’s budget process. In addition, some “singleton” class sizes (for example, AP Biology and Marine Biology) remain high.