

.Neighborhood Survey/Needs Assessment Committee Meeting

**Monday February 25, 2008
4-6pm**

**Honan-Allston Library
North Allston, MA**

Attendees:

Monika Bankowski, Mary-Helen Black, Martiza Ciliberto, Keith Collar, Ellin Flood-Murphy, Michael Hanlon, Linda Kowalcky, Kevin McCluskey, Rita Vaidya, Anand Vaishnav and Brent Whelan.

Agenda

1. Continued Discussion on North Allston/North Brighton 2000 Census Data and 2000 Allston/Brighton Census Data from the BRA

Continued discussion about U.S. Census Data for Allston/Brighton and for North Allston/North Brighton. Linda Kowalcky pointed out that historically, group quarters (such as HBS student housing) have not been fully counted because students are not responsive to surveys and the census is primarily conducted in the summer.

2. Review and Discussion of BPS and MA Department of Education 2006-07 School Year Data showing where kids in Allston/Brighton Attend School (public, private, parochial, charter and METCO).

Discussion about the BPS data led by Anand Vaishnav where children in Allston/Brighthon (generally K through 12) attend school. 91 BPS schools and 110 non-BPS schools 2006-2007. There are 3,284 school-aged children in Allston/Brighton area (based on zip code). Children go to 201 different schools. Anand said that 2,402 children who live in Allston/Birghton attend BPS schools and 882 go to other schools. Anand will provide breakdown by age groups at the next SNAC meeting. Discussion about possibility of helping Allston/Brighton neighborhood in changing the process of admitting children to public schools. Not possible, because other neighborhoods will ask for the same. Anand said that number of children needing ESL classes has grown. Discussion about how many high school children have passed the MCAS exam, what tutoring options within the schools are available for kids who didn't pass, samples/breakdown of all 3 tiers, dropout rate for high school students, from all high school students, how many went to Junior or a 4-year college. Committee members asked Anand to provide the following: breakdown of BPS data by grade for both BPS and non-BPS schools, percentage of enrollment for BPS schools, English language learners, how many ESL.

3. Discussion of education priorities and questions.

This discussion was folded into the review and discussion of the BPS and MA Department of Education data. Mary-Helen gave an update on the RFQ for the Market Research Firm. The

RFQ went out to 10 firms. All firms except for one are located in Boston or Metro Boston. The firms will be narrowed down to 3. Discussion about the selection process for the Market Research firm.