

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elementary Schools
Redistricting Project

Rationale

- The new Major Howard W. Beal School will open its doors for students in grades K-4 in the fall of 2021—less than two years from now.
- The size of the school was predicated upon:
 - Providing universal full-day kindergarten [tuition-free] to all students
 - Changing our elementary schools to a K-4 grade configuration
 - Reducing the enrollment at existing elementary schools so as to provide equitable and dedicated space allocations for Art, Music, Special Education, and English Language Learners

Major Milestones and Timeline-draft

	School Year 2019-2020			
	<i>Jul-Sep</i>	<i>Oct-Dec</i>	<i>Jan-Mar</i>	<i>Apr-Jun</i>
Decision-making Process Finalized	Sep			
Request for Proposals Developed for GIS & Demographic Consultants		Oct		
Conduct Procurement Process		Nov		
Award Consultant Contract[s]		Dec		
Gather Required Data for Consultants			Jan-Feb	
Consultant Develops Preliminary Options Based Upon Guiding Principles and Data				Apr-Jun
Meetings to review options				Apr-Jun

We are here.



Major Milestones and Timeline-draft

	School Year 2020-2021			
	<i>Jul-Sep</i>	<i>Oct-Dec</i>	<i>Jan-Mar</i>	<i>Apr-Jun</i>
Meetings to review options		Oct-Dec		
Committee Recommendation to School Committee		Dec		
Decision on the Plan/New Boundaries			Jan	
Communicate, Communicate, Communicate	ONGOING			
Open 2021-2022 Bus Registration				April 1st

Major Milestones and Timeline-draft

	School Year 2021-2022			
	<i>Jul-Sep</i>	<i>Oct-Dec</i>	<i>Jan-Mar</i>	<i>Apr-Jun</i>
Devise New Bus Routes	Jul-Aug			
Open New Beal School	Late Aug			

Guiding Principles

- Student educational needs will be met regardless of school assignment.
- Student population must be distributed so that each school has sufficient, appropriate, dedicated instructional spaces.
- School assignments will be determined by drawing attendance zone boundaries and should emphasize a “neighborhood school” approach by prioritizing geographic proximity of home to school for walkability and efficient transportation, while keeping geographic entities intact.

Guiding Principles

- Student demographics should be taken into account when redistricting school attendance zones.
- Future potential population growth should be considered when establishing attendance zones.
- Changes of school assignments for existing students should be minimized to the greatest extent possible within the context of other priorities.
- The redistricting process should work in concert with other district initiatives where possible.

On Homework:

Engaging with stakeholders
about our next steps



A presentation to School Councils
October 23, 2019

A plan is an opportunity.



- Make visible our efforts at continuous improvement
- Strengthen relationships with students, parents and staff
- Forge connections with the larger community

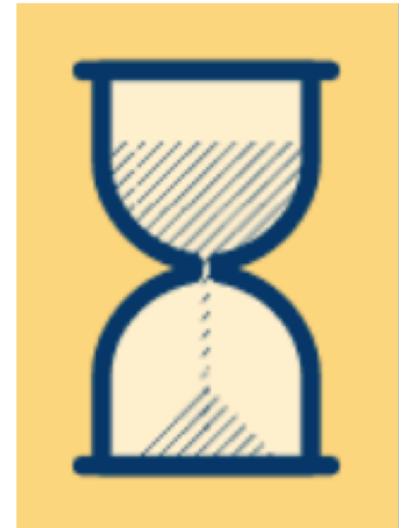
WHAT will we be doing as a district?

- Reviewing survey results
- Learning about current research on homework
- Revising our existing policy to include Grades 9-12



WHY now?

- Survey data from students and families suggests we need to
- Timely topic
- We want our policy to reflect “best practice”



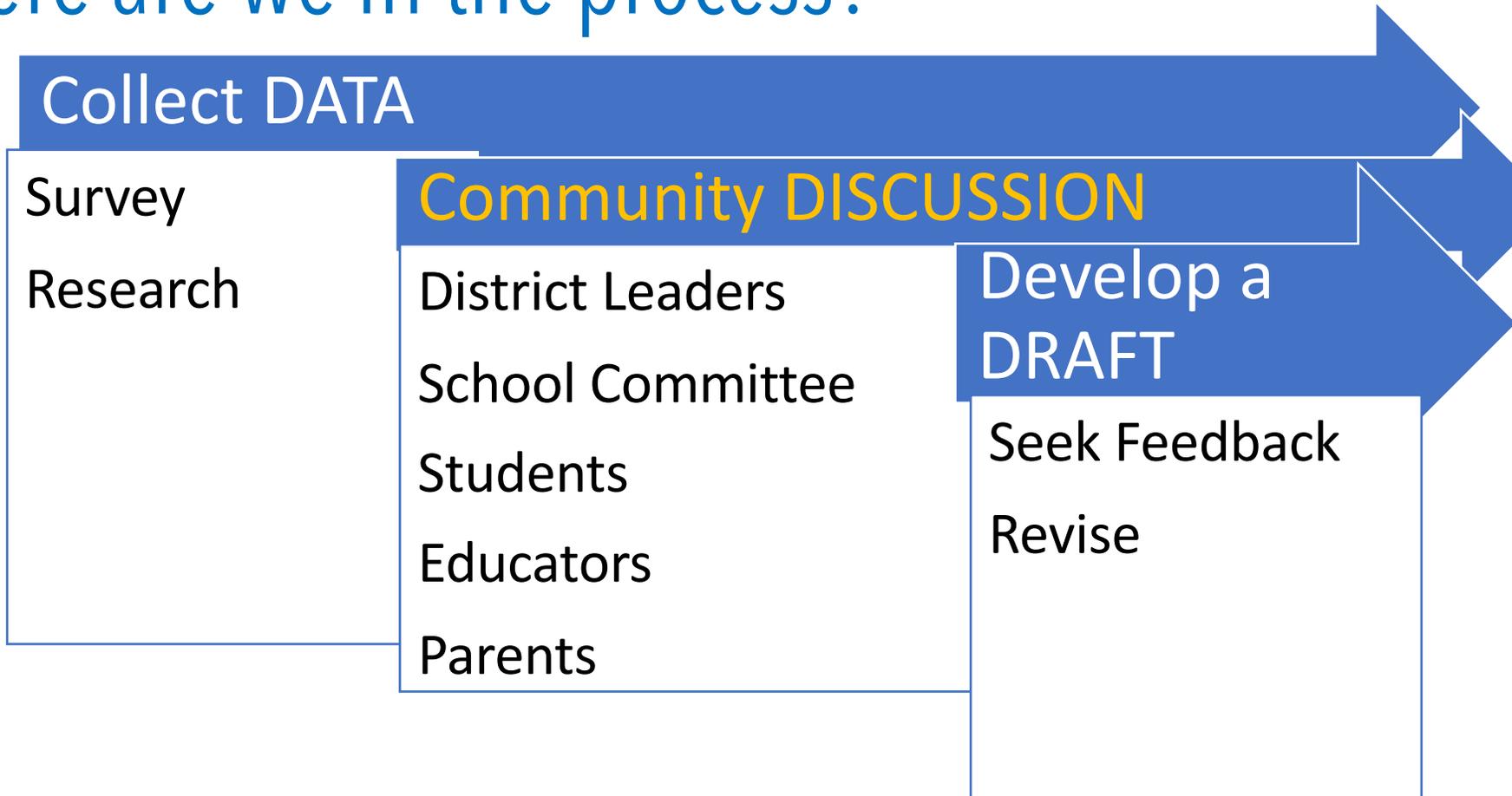
How does homework make you feel?

Connected Learning for A Complex World

Target dates were included as well:

- *By October 2018, create a district-wide Homework Committee that includes students, educators, and parents, whose purpose will be to review the district's practices in light of current research, communicate this information, and ultimately make recommendations for any changes to district policy at each grade span.*
- *By June, 2019, the Homework Committee will make recommendations to the School Committee regarding any potential changes to homework practices and policies.*

Where are we in the process?



What do we hope to learn?

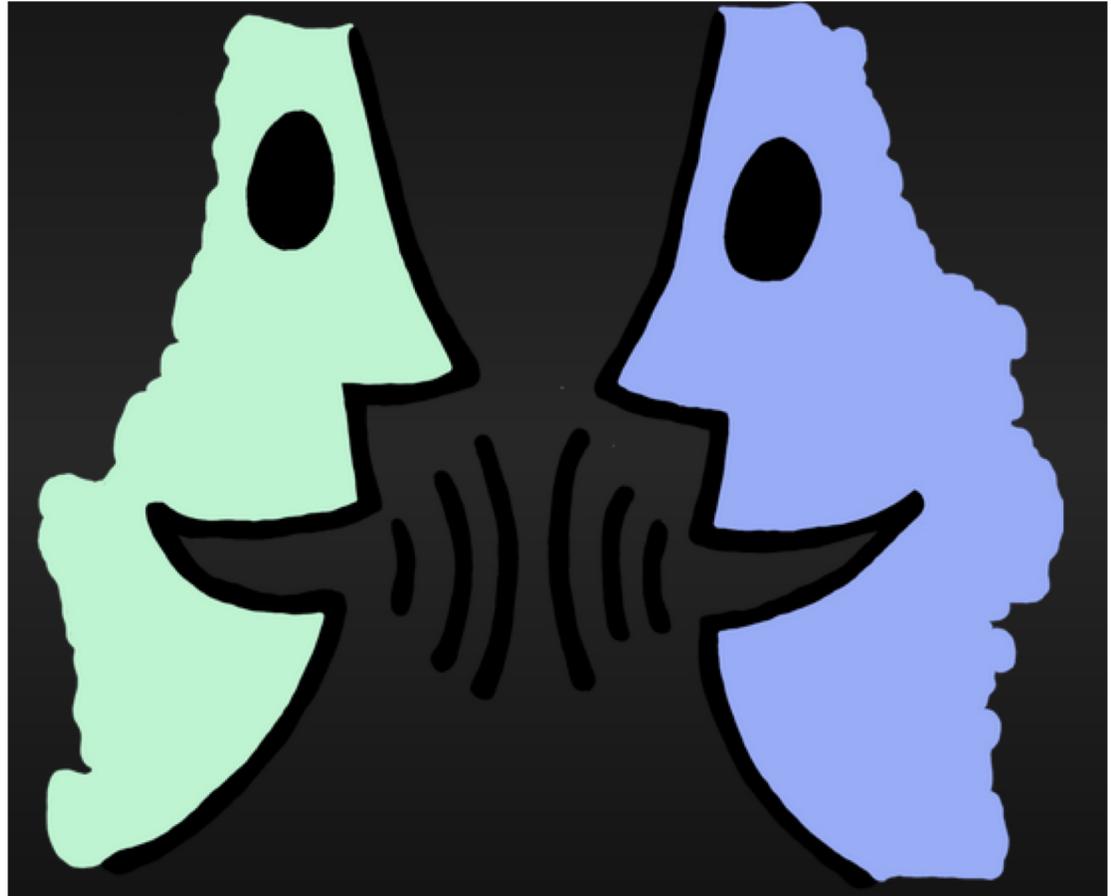
- What's working?
- What's not?
- What role should homework play in the lives of our students today?



One evening, Two Tasks

- Read the research and reflect in MIXED groups.
- Look at your school / group's data and reflect on priorities for your level

What role should homework play in the lives of students today?



Shared Understanding

Meet Thoughtexchange

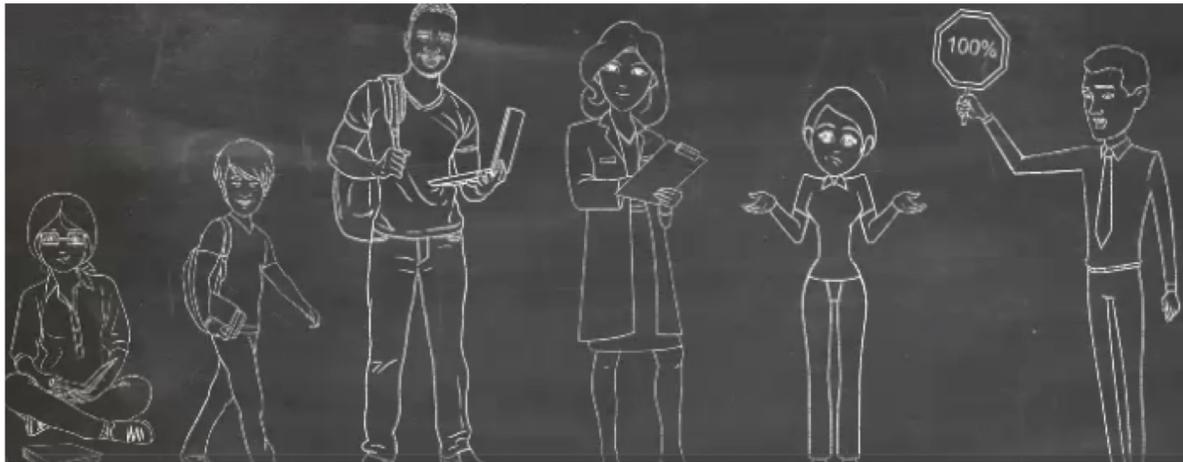
exchange noun

ex·change | \iks-'chānj, 'eks-,chānj

an act of giving one thing and receiving another

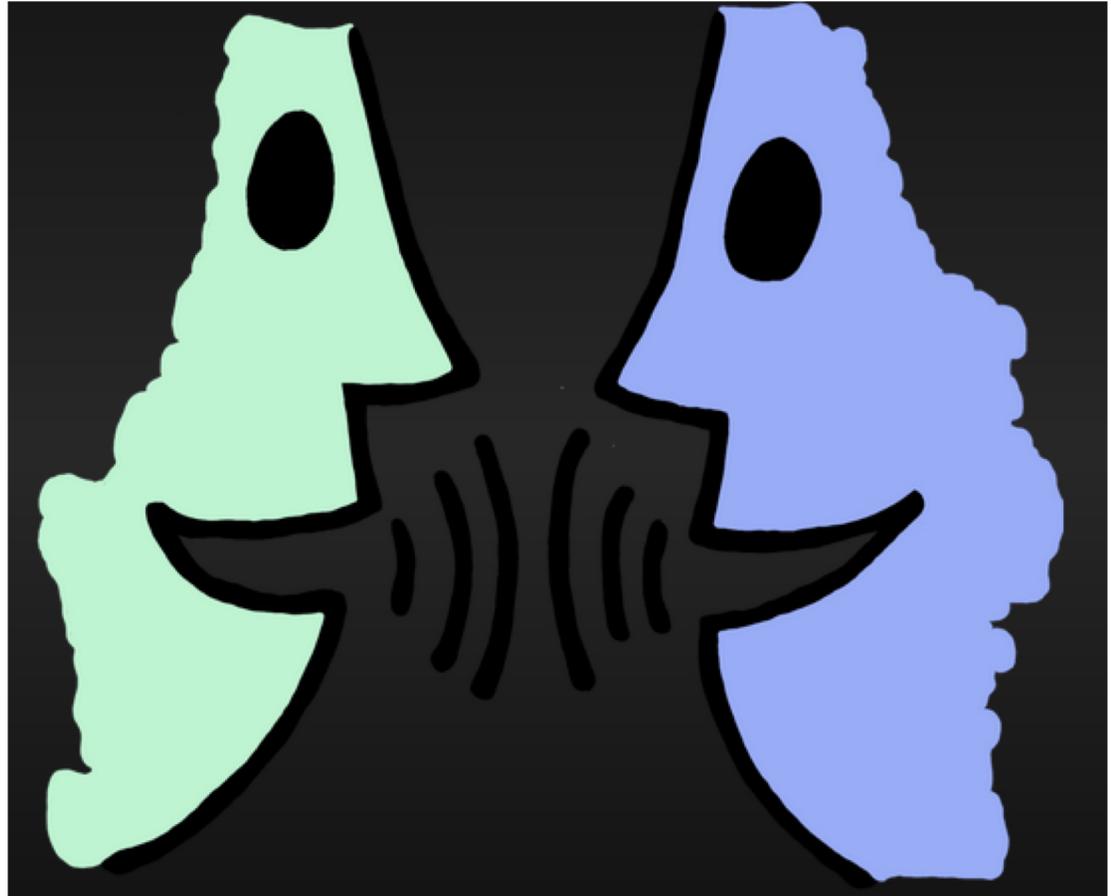


Top Thoughts



- Students
- Staff
- Parents & Guardians

*Which
components
matter most at
your level?*



Rationale or Guiding Principles

This component answers the question: What is the benefit of homework?

Definition

This component answers the question: What do we consider homework to be?

Statement of Purpose

This component identifies the different types / purposes of homework

Statement of Roles and Responsibilities

This component spells out the responsibilities for teachers, students and parents in the homework process.

Amount of homework / Time Allocation

This component depicts the amount of time students in each grade or grade span are expected to devote to homework. Policy statements can be specific or broad. Most include a ceiling and/or guidance to students on maximum times recommended.

Weighting of Homework

This component outlines whether homework will "count" as a grade, where parents can see this information and/or establishes limits on how much homework is weighed.

Weekends / Holidays

This component identifies times when homework may and may not be assigned.

Support

This component explains how the district will support students that do not have sufficient supplies and/or supervision to complete homework.

Coming 7 pm, November 14th

*With support from
the Colonial Fund,
SPS is proud to host*

**Dr. Cathy Vatterott
"the Homework Lady"**

