MILONE & MACBROOM

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Dr. William S. McKersie, Ph.D.
	Superintendent, Weston Public Schools
FROM:	Pat Gallagher, AICP
RE:	Weston Enrollment Projections Update: Key Takeaways
DATE:	November 14, 2018
MMI #:	6115-02

In the fall of 2018, Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (MMI) completed its annual enrollment projections update for Weston Public Schools. The key takeaways from this year's update are summarized below.

- Comparison of Weston's actual October 2018 enrollment figures to MMI's recommended enrollment model shows a close overall correspondence between projected and realized enrollment, with K-12 enrollment running approximately 0.8% above the projections. In-migration at the elementary, intermediate, and middle grade levels exceeded projections by a small margin. Despite elevated in-migration across all grades, this year's incoming kindergarten class was ten students smaller than projected.

- As part of last year's enrollment projection report, MMI evaluated two methods for projecting kindergarten enrollment. The first method is a regression-based model based on births from 5-years prior, home sales lagged one-year, and median home sale price. This model produced an R-squared value of 0.92. The second method utilizes a variable Birth-to-Kindergarten (Birth-K) ratio. The Birth-K ratio compares a Kindergarten class with the number of births 5-years prior. Weston's Birth-K ratio fluctuates from year to year based on the size of the birth cohort. Larger birth cohorts typically produce a lower Birth-K ratio while smaller birth cohorts tend to produce a higher Birth-K ratio. The variable Birth-K method adjusts each year's Birth-K ratio (and thus kindergarten enrollments) based on a historic best-fit line. This method would have more accurately projected this year's kindergarten enrollment compared to the regression-based model. Therefore, this year's medium projections use a blend of the regression-based and variable Birth-K models for projecting future kindergarten enrollments. This year's medium projections model estimates slightly smaller kindergarten classes ranging from 120 to 128 students over the next ten years.

- Weston has a stable housing market, with home sales returning to pre-recession levels over the last six years. If current housing market trends continue, the town should continue to see elevated levels of in-migration, particularly in elementary, intermediate, and middle school grades.

- Greater in-migration of students entering grades 2 through 9 experienced in the 2018-19 school year will have lasting impacts on the size of the cohorts progressing through the middle and high school grade levels through the projection horizon.

- Updated projections through 2028-29 show a similar trajectory to the previously prepared medium scenario for Weston's overall K-12 enrollments. At the elementary grade levels, enrollments are projected to run slightly lower than previously projected as a result of

downwards adjustments in the size of future kindergarten classes. At the intermediate, middle, and high school grade levels, increased rates of student in-migration yield slightly higher enrollments beginning at the intermediate grade levels and then matriculating into the middle- and high-school grades later in the projections horizon. The net effect of these trends is positive, with net differences between the previous and current projection scenarios amounting to 19 additional students next school year, and 105 additional students for the 2027-28 school year.

- As with all enrollment projections, the updated projections presented in this memo are sensitive to changes in underlying conditions, including birth rates, housing sales, and student migration trends.

Projected Enrollments and Percent Change by Grade Groupings, 2018-19 to 2028-29

Medium Projections Model Enrollment by Grade Grouping

Year	PK-12	K-12	PK-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
2018-19	2,309	2,282	418	507	582	802
2019-20	2,290	2,263	413	510	581	786
2020-21	2,288	2,261	423	504	560	801
2021-22	2,264	2,237	437	481	558	788
2022-23	2,249	2,222	429	477	562	781
2023-24	2,241	2,214	431	488	555	767
2024-25	2,226	2,199	436	504	528	758
2025-26	2,220	2,193	440	494	525	761
2026-27	2,216	2,189	442	496	537	741
2027-28	2,225	2,198	443	503	554	725
2028-29	2,225	2,198	447	507	543	728

First 5-year Change	-2.9%	-3.0%	3.1%	-3.7%	-4.6%	-4.4%
Second 5-year Change	-0.7%	-0.7%	3.7%	3.9%	-2.2%	-5.1%

Projected Enrollments by Grade (Medium Model), 2018-19 to 2028-29

District Projections: Blended - Medium B-K and Medium Kindergarten Regression

School Year	Birth Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PK
2018-19	2013	55	109	128	154	163	164	180	188	200	194	203	207	185	207	27
2019-20	2014	71	128	123	135	166	175	169	187	192	202	198	199	205	184	27
2020-21	2015	62	121	145	130	146	178	180	176	191	193	206	194	197	204	27
2021-22	2016	60	120	137	153	141	156	184	187	179	192	197	202	193	196	27
2022-23	2017	60	121	136	145	165	151	161	191	191	180	196	193	200	192	27
2023-24	2018	61	123	137	144	156	177	155	168	195	192	184	192	192	199	27
2024-25	2019	63	125	139	145	155	167	182	161	171	196	196	180	191	191	27
2025-26	2020	61	124	142	147	156	166	172	189	164	172	200	192	179	190	27
2026-27	2021	61	125	140	150	158	167	171	179	193	165	176	196	191	178	27
2027-28	2022	61	126	142	148	162	169	172	178	182	194	169	172	194	190	27
2028-29	2023	61	127	143	150	160	173	174	179	181	183	198	166	171	193	27