

Some families finding reconfiguration t

Despite sunny dispatches from the Superintendent's office and a very high percentage of children who got their first choice of schools, there are still those parents who feel that their children have been shortchanged in the new school reconfiguration process.

"I was shocked when I got the booklet last January or February. There was a map in there and I looked at it over and over again, thinking 'this can't be right,'" said parent Cynthia Coon. Her son is a kindergartner who attends Jefferson. They live a block and a half outside of the new zone, and only six blocks from the school. As a result, her son cannot be

"grandfathered" into his same school.

"The borders changed, so we have no option," she said. "Automatically, by default, we have no option."

She said that if she had heard about the border change earlier, she wouldn't have enrolled her son in that school. Now that he's there she doesn't want to move him.

"I feel that it's very important he stay. He's made a good adjustment and is doing very well left where he is."

She said that this wasn't always the case; and that a therapist has recommended he not be moved. This failed to sway the system.

"I think there's reverse discrimination with school board," she said. "Our family is in crisis, but I was told that I couldn't have as bad of a problem, and they were implying that it was because I am white and educated. One of our neighbors was told that our children were lucky because they had parents as advocates," she said.

Coon is thinking about moving out of the district. "I sent my daughter to private school for six years but I can't afford it (for him). I'm thinking about leaving if he doesn't get his first, second or third choice."

Another mother, Mary Barrett, who has a son at Longfellow, told the school board that she was 15th