

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Called by Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3, of the Rules of the School Committee for 6:00 p.m., Hotel at MIT, 20 Sidney Street, for the purpose of a retreat with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss goals and objectives, and any other business that may properly come before the Committee.

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Schuster, Ms. Walser,
Mayor Reeves

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair convened the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Also Present: Thomas Fowler-Finn, Superintendent
Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Elizabeth Vizza, Facilitator

Ms. Vizza presented a proposed Agenda for the evening, including:

- Start Up
- Interview Findings
- Expectations and Working Relationships
- Major Issues & Data to Address Them
- Next Steps

At 6:45, Ms. Kathleen McCartney, Acting Dean, Harvard Graduate School of Education, was introduced and spoke during dinner on the importance of education. Dean McCartney responded to questions and comments. Members thanked Dean McCartney and returned to the agenda.

Ms. Vizza facilitated discussions among the retreat participants on the following (newsprint transcription attached):

- Desired Outcomes
- Ground rules
- Motivations for Being Here
- Barriers to Working well Together

- I. Ground Rules/Process of Working Relationships
Communication with Superintendent
Key Issue
- II. Next Steps
- III. Final Thoughts

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m.

The participants shared their thoughts on the evening.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, the meeting adjourned (10:10 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee