

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Called in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3.2, of the Rules of the School Committee for the purpose of a roundtable discussion on Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.

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

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and turned it over to the Superintendent. The Superintendent made a brief statement and asked Dr. Knight to introduce her staff. Dr. Knight introduced Candace Dunlap, Dean of Curriculum, Learning Community "L"; Kathy Wamness, Dean of Curriculum, Learning Community "S"; Kathy Smith, Coordinator, CRLS Data Center; Lynn Williams, Coordinator of Guidance; Jamalh Prince, Administrative Intern; Robert Tynes, Dean of Students, Learning Community "C"; Damon Smith, Dean of Curriculum, Learning Community "R"; Chris Saheed, Dean of Curriculum, Learning Community "C"; and Gail Stein, MCAS Coordinator. Dr. Knight and Kathy Smith presented data on the "Status of the Class of 2006".

The Superintendent and staff responded to some of the questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- What happened to students between March and June
- Are 21 students all eligible to do portfolios
- Do these numbers include RSTA
- Is there concern regarding HSEP numbers
- What is seen as the most successful strategy that turned the numbers around
- It is troubling that the number of students who need course credits is so high
- When are students identified who are not in good standing
- How realistic is it to have 100% graduation rate
- Not sure that Schott can be right and we can be right about 100% graduation rate
- Is there any team teaching
- Would like to see MCAS breakdown by category
- Is the relationship between elementary and high school where it should be
- Are students more uniformly prepared than they were five years ago
- What should the relationship be between elementary schools and high school
- Do students in certain programs feel stigmatized
- Is there a need for a pre-9th grade summer school
- What is being done to insure each child is known by an adult
- Tie professional development to evaluations
- Most successful high schools have an advising program
- Can we produce a school that everyone thinks is excellent
- Can we be a participant in a cognitive study
- Is it a good thing that teachers are evaluated by someone outside of their discipline
- A lot of challenges exist in this K-12 system
- How can some of the stress be relieved at the high school
- How can programs be synthesized at the elementary level to make things easier at the high school
- Are we getting the benefit of small learning communities at the high school

The Members thanked the Superintendent, Dr. Knight and staff for the presentation.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to adjourn (9:20 p.m.)

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee