

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Saturday, March 13, 2004

Called by Mayor Michael A. Sullivan in accordance with the Rules of the School Committee for 12 Noon, Sidney's Board Room, Hotel at MIT, 20 Sidney Street, Cambridge, for the purpose of a retreat with the Superintendent of Schools.

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Mr. Lummis, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Walser,
Mayor Sullivan

Also Present: Thomas Fowler-Finn, Superintendent
James Conry, Chief Financial Officer
Maryann MacDonald, Executive Director, Student Achievement & Accountability
Maureen MacFarlane, In-House Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Paul McGowan, Facilitator

Mayor Sullivan called the meeting to order and turned it over to Mr. McGowan.

Participants discussed the following items from last night's agenda:

6. What do you feel is important to focus on in this retreat
7. What would you like to be different by the end of the retreat
8. Any other comments; and

"What is the long-term vision for the school system?"

At this time, the Members took up School Committee business including:

- City Council University Relations Sub-Committee - Mr. Fantini, Mr. McGovern, and Mr. Harding volunteered to be members of this sub-committee with Mr. Maloney representing the Superintendent's office.
- Ad Hoc Committee on the School Committee Office (Committee of the Whole) - It was agreed that Mr. Harding and Mayor Sullivan will Co-Chair this committee to draft an evaluation tool for the Secretary and look at the relocation of the office that is scheduled to move to space in RSTA the week of March 29. The Secretary agreed that the clerical vacancy in the office would remain in the budget and she will have the discretion to fill it if needed.
- Members discussed having roundtable discussions every month or so and meeting for informal dinner after the meetings.

The Facilitator returned to the Agenda and Members discussed roles, responsibilities, working together, and Next Steps (transcription of worksheets attached):

- Mayor Sullivan, Superintendent and Mr. Lummis bring back a proposal to the entire committee on a series of Roundtables by March 23.
- Superintendent and Central Office staff include an Executive Summary in each presentation.

- Mayor Sullivan and Mr. Harding, Co-Chairs of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the School Committee Office (Committee of the Whole) report back to the entire Committee with a recommendation and an evaluation instrument by March 23.
- City Council University Relations Committee - Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Mr. McGovern and Mr. Maloney.
- Mayor Sullivan and Mr. Fantini will schedule a follow-up in two months on this retreat with Mr. McGowan as the Facilitator.

Members and staff thanked Mr. McGowan for a productive retreat.

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Grassi, for adjournment.

No votes were taken. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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