

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Tuesday, March 29, 2005

Called by Mayor Michael A. Sullivan in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3, of the Rules of the School Committee for the purpose of a retreat with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss communication, goals and objectives, and any other business that may properly come before the Committee.

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

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

Also Present: Thomas Fowler-Finn, Superintendent
James Conry, Chief Financial Officer
Maryann MacDonald, Director, Student Achievement & Accountability
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Edward McCormack, Executive Director, Special Education
Ruby Pierce, Education Liaison to the Mayor
Paul McGowan, Facilitator

Mayor Sullivan called the meeting to order and turned it over to Mr. McGowan. Mr. McGowan shared the following goals for the evening:

- **Enhance the participants' understanding and appreciation of the dynamics, which are impacting the working relationship within the School Committee and with the Superintendent/Central Office**
- **Generate commitments to strategies that appear promising to further enhance these working relationships**

The Facilitator presented the following for discussion with the Members, Superintendent and staff:

- Fear and courage
- Review Goals and discuss indicators of progress and what has been learned
- Building our leadership and governance culture
- Review and discuss the input from the telephone interviews
 - differentiating between INTENTION/IMPACT
- Identify 2-3 areas where the School Committee can add value to advancing the education agenda laid out in the budget.

The Facilitator asked the participants to reflect on and respond to the following questions:

- Looking forward to the work of the overall governance and leadership of the CPS over the next 12-18 months what are your **fears** related to what might impede your success and diminish your performance as a group?
- What **courageous behaviors** on the part of the people in this room would ensure that you will be successful in this important work?

It was agreed that a series of dates for Roundtable discussions will be selected and voted on. The Executive Secretary will schedule Roundtable meetings with general topics being submitted to the Chair.

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

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