

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Meeting

Thursday, August 24, 2006

Called by Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3 of the Rules of the School Committee, for the purpose of discussing strategy preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

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

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

The Chair announced that this is a special meeting called for the purpose of discussing strategy preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (the Superintendent), as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and/or litigation negotiating position of the School Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Schuster, it was voted to recess the meeting pending arrival of technical assistance. The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting. The Chair referenced a newspaper headline, "Super dumped in secret", and said it is unhelpful, inaccurate, and does not reflect the position of the Committee. The Chair announced that the next date for a meeting is August 30, 2006. Mr. Moschos, Special Counsel, spoke to the process for negotiations with the Superintendent and confirmed that the Committee will meet in executive session at 6:00 on the 30th and will be joined at 6:30 by the Superintendent and his attorney.

The Chair entertained a motion to convene in executive session. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purpose stated: Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA. On advice of Counsel, the Chair announced that the Committee will have to vote to give the negotiating sub-committee (Mayor Reeves, Mr. Fantini and Attorney Moschos) instructions to convey to the Superintendent and his attorney, and that the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session.

Executive Session

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

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

Also Present: Demitrios M. Moschos, Esq., Mirick, O'Connell, Special Counsel

Members agreed to write a letter to the press, signed by all Members, explaining what the actual process was and how the dates that were reported are not reflective of any timeline that the Committee is on. Members continued discussions with Attorney Moschos on contract negotiations with the Superintendent.

On the following roll call, a motion to terminate for good cause be by a 2/3 vote **failed of adoption**: Mr. Harding NAY, Ms. Nolan NAY, Mr. Schuster NAY, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Reeves NAY.

On the following roll call, it was voted that a vote of termination for good cause be subject to a two-consecutive meetings majority vote: Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, it was voted to reconsider the vote taken on August 17, 2006, to adjust the amount of the Superintendent's salary consistent with what non-union management receives each year for FY06-07 and FY07-08: Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser NAY, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to have the Superintendent's salary start at \$185,500 on August 21, 2006, and to be silent as to any further increases: Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan ~~YEA~~ NAY, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser NAY, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Reeves PRESENT. Ms. Nolan requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded as voting NAY on the previous roll call vote.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adjourn (8:20 p.m.)

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee