

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Meeting – Executive Session

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Called by order of her Honor, Mayor E. Denise Simmons, acting in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3 of the Rules of the School Committee, for 12:00 noon, for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Schuster, Ms. Tauber, Mayor Simmons

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

The Chair entertained a motion to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with non-union personnel. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purpose stated: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA. The Chair announced that the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session.

Executive Session

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Schuster, Ms. Tauber, Mayor Simmons

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

Also Present: Attorney Demitrios Moschos, Special Counsel; Lenora Jennings, Education Advisor

Members discussed with Counsel the Superintendent's contract proposal and the School Committee's counter-proposal. Attorney Moschos suggested that he, the Chair and Vice Chair conduct negotiations with the Superintendent and his Attorney. Discussion took place around salary, terms and length of any offer. On a motion by Ms. Tauber, on the following roll call, it was voted that the School Committee authorize the Chair and Vice Chair with Special Counsel to make an initial offer of one year with a salary of \$190,000 effective August 1, 2008, carrying forward the existing contract terms except no new car, no renewal notice, and further discussions on special goals: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA. The Chair declared a recess to allow the negotiators to present the offer to the Superintendent.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

The negotiators and Members discussed the Superintendent's counter-offer. On the following roll call, it was voted to offer one year with an option for a second year, based on objective measures being accomplished; salary to be \$190,000 for first year, second year if renewed \$195,000; no suspension of the evaluation process; all of the terms as previously voted in offer #1: Mr. Schuster NAY, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan NAY, Mayor Simmons YEA.

The Chair declared a recess to allow the negotiators to present the offer to the Superintendent. Mr. Fantini left the meeting at this time.

The Superintendent returned a counter-proposal. On the following roll call, it was voted to offer a one-year contract; salary of \$190,000 for 2008-2009; an increase in annuity payment for the new year to \$15,000, \$5,000 to be made available and applied either to the base, annuity or as a bonus for service; no personal evaluation but review of accomplishment of district goals and objectives: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber NAY, Mr. Fantini ABSENT, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

The Chair declared a recess to allow the negotiators to present the offer to the Superintendent.

Attorney Long will check with the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Board re tax consequences and report back to Attorney Moschos regarding the offer.

Attorney Moschos reported that there was no discussion about compromise regarding the website letter involving access by the Administration to the School Committee's group e-mail on its website.

On the following roll call, it was voted to adjourn (5:10 p.m.): Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini ABSENT, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee