

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## (Official Report)

### Special Meeting

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Called by order of his Honor, Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, acting in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3 of the Rules of the School Committee, for 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of a review of the school year.

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

Also Present: Superintendent Fowler-Finn; James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Carolyn Turk,  
Deputy Superintendent

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

Following a dinner buffet, the Chair convened the meeting to provide an opportunity to review the school year and the fruition of the work done. A question was raised whether this meeting is being held in place of a public evaluation of the Superintendent. The Chair responded in the negative saying that Attorney Moschos said there is no statutory requirement that the Superintendent's evaluation be conducted publicly. Some Members noted that they disagree with Attorney Moschos' interpretation.

The Chair asked the Superintendent to give an analysis of information he received regarding school results. The Superintendent was heard and reported that there was a significant amount of progress but there are individual schools he is worried about.

Members raised the following questions, comments and concerns:

- How would the Elmore-like instruction focus on the students who are not "getting it"
- Is there a way to flag a class that is not achieving
- Is there someone in the system who can determine why a child is not meeting AYP
- Feeling a sense of urgency around middle schools
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduations are very telling in terms of a divide
- When will the middle school task force survey be done
- Are teachers and staff excited about the Tobin transition
- How many Montessori teachers are new
- It should be incumbent on the School Committee to do something about all Black 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes
- Insure that we keep pressure on for improvement
- Concerned re some personnel placements
- People are bleeding at the Tobin
- We need a staff person to be a contact for outside initiatives especially in science
- Concerned about where we are going in the future under the current leadership – we need to change speeds
- Need to look at "choice" and what it means to us now as opposed to 20 years ago
- Dynamics between the Superintendent and School Committee are better as a result of the last contract
- Budget process was better – try to use resources where needed
- Happy to see that diversity is important
- Look at building a better relationship in terms of information and communication
- There needs to be a science initiative that will go forward for the next decade
- Science initiative does exist - maybe not the way some people want it to
- An opportunity was lost by not participating in the bio conference

- We need to take advantage of doors the Mayor has opened – make connections, develop a plan and move forward
- Would like to hear more about math literacy – need to take math to the next level
- How will the issue of behavior being in the top three responses on the survey be handled
- Who chose “responsive design” and how does it work
- What steps are being taken with teachers and principals to deal with behavior
- Behavior issues over-shadow academic progress
- Teaching to the test and behavior are related
- Behavior model that we use has to protect our staff
- Camp Sergeant was a positive experience
- What mechanism is used to make schools healthy
- Some of the unhealthiness is in schools where the Superintendent has replaced principals
- This has been a very positive year for the School Committee and the Superintendent
- We have made huge progress with the goals
- There is a lot of enthusiasm and confidence around the high school
- Would like the Superintendent to continue to take the initiative
- Would like to see Elmore initiative continue
- NAVIANCE is a boon to the high school
- Getting students to take classes at Harvard and Lesley is a great idea
- Hope that the special education strategic plan can be put on the fast track
- Superintendent has increased his visibility that will pay off for the district
- There was good collaboration with the Committee during the budget process
- Middle school issues will sort themselves out next year
- Move forward comprehensively with middle school issues
- Hire teachers with problem-solving experience
- Educate people on what we have before there is any more polling – we are over-polling
- Schools in corrective action is very troubling – does not feel there is urgency that there needs to be change
- There are still a number of teachers who are not certified – we should not interview people who are not certified

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m.

- What will the future in music and art look like
- What is the process for hiring a Visual Arts Coordinator

The Superintendent, Dr. Turk and Mr. Maloney responded to some of the above questions, comments and concerns.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Schuster, it was voted to adjourn (10:05 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

