

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## (Official Report)

**Special Informal Meeting**

**Friday, March 14, 2008**

Called by Her Honor Mayor E. Denise Simmons, in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3, of the Rules of the School Committee, for the purpose of a retreat to discuss team building, goals and objectives, and any other business that may properly come before the Committee.

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

Also Present: John Wofford, Facilitator

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and turned it over to the Facilitator who guided Members through the following Agenda:

- Arrivals and food available
- Introduction of Facilitator
- Review of Agenda by Facilitator
- Ground Rules for the Retreat
- Individual Introductions – Why I am on the School Committee and What are My Expectations for the Retreat
- Review of Past Retreats – What Worked, What Did Not – and Why  
Emphasis on Practical Next Steps from Present Retreat  
Desired Outcomes: Proposed Statement: “Clear ground rules for conduct as a group and a foundation for working as a group in the service of providing focused leadership for the district”  
(Proposed statement from Chair)
- Review of Themes from Interviews (Facilitator)
- Understanding Conflict, Debate and Decision-Making in a Political Context (Facilitator)
- Break
- Application of Lessons to Actual Committee Deliberation: Interests and Problem Definition in Developing Principles for Committee Interaction
- Review of Ground Rules and Roberts Rules for Committee Meetings (Led by the Chair)
- Review of Roles and Responsibilities (Initiated by the Chair)
  - School Committee (“Budget, Policy, Superintendent”)
  - Chair
  - Superintendent
  - Executive Secretary
  - Chair’s Liaisons
  - City Council
- Plan for Friday, April 11 Retreat with Superintendent, Dr. Turk and Mr. Maloney
- April 11 Retreat to include two sets of issues:
  - Issues of Committee/Superintendent Interaction
  - Discussion of Vision and Goals for District

Proposed Homework before April 11: Draft a paragraph describing your vision for CPS and review CPS Goals. Suggest revision to Goals. Email Executive Secretary by April 1.

The time for the meeting having expired, the meeting adjourned (10:00 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee