

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Called by order of Her Honor, Mayor E. Denise Simmons, acting in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3.2, of the Rules of the School Committee, for the purpose of a roundtable discussion on the International Baccalaureate Programs as well as any other possible programs to enhance and support learning opportunities in the Cambridge Public Schools.

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and gave a brief background on International Baccalaureate (IB) programs. The Chair introduced Eric Heiser, Head of Sturgis Charter School in Hyannis; Tracey Wood and Nicolas Brindel, Head of Upper School, International School of Boston; and Evangeline Harris Stefanakis, Boston University. Prof. Stefanakis gave a slide presentation "21 Things You Should Know About the IB". Ms. Nolan gave a summary of other districts with IB Programs. Mr. Heiser gave a slide presentation on what the IB program looks like at the Sturgis School. Mr. Brindel and Ms. Wood gave a presentation on "Why Does a Successful School Decide to Add IB".

Prof. Stefanakis facilitated responses to some of the following questions, comments and concerns:

- What is the future of the next generation of IB going to be - what skills will be needed
- What is the assessment process
- If CPS starts an IB program, what would the affect be among schools
- Could IB be brought just into middle schools
- What would an IB K-12 track look like in Cambridge
- Is there any research on how students transition from middle school to high school
- Would like to hear more about the special education component
- Does the IB exam allow for accommodations for special ed students
- How does IB and AP coexist
- Why would one need to do IB if approaches are similar
- How long does it take to send assignments out of the country
- Is there a schedule for assignments
- Is IB a six-hour day
- Is Boston focusing primarily on high school
- Are the Boston schools exam or charter schools
- Are the majority of IB programs high schools
- Can an IB program be a subset of a high school
- Can an IB high school program run alongside a regular high school program
- What is the affect on other schools within the system
- Are 9th and 10th grades at German School part of the IB program
- Is IB selective
- Are there any IB schools that are neighborhood schools

The Chair thanked all of the presenters and everyone for coming.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, the meeting adjourned (8:05 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee