

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Called in accordance with Chapter I, section 3.2, of the Rules of the School Committee, for the purpose of a roundtable discussion on Mathematics.

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Ms. Nolan, Ms. Tauber, Ms. Turkel, Mayor Maher

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also Present: Superintendent Jeffrey Young, Facilitator
Deputy Superintendent Carolyn Turk
Maryann MacDonald, Executive Director of Student Achievement and Accountability
Barbara Van Sickle, Director of Student Achievement and Curriculum
Mark Healey, CPS K-12 Math Coordinator
Jeff Gaglione, CRLS Dean for Math Curriculum

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Ms. Nolan who gave some background on how the meeting evolved.

The Superintendent said that the Agenda is broken down in two parts – presenters and interactive conversation with School Committee Members. Ms. MacDonald introduced the speakers:

Mark Healy and Jeff Gaglione presented “CPS Mathematics Initiatives 2009-2010” (copy on file in the School Committee office):

Instruction

- Massachusetts State Framework taught through research-based curricula and supplemental resources
- MCAS practice and Computational Fluency integrated throughout
- Advancement within and between schools for advanced learners

Department Focus

- Instruction aligned to Massachusetts State Framework used to prepare all students for the 21st century
- Professional Development Workshops
- District and Building Coaching
- Middle School and High School Transition

Professional Development

- Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten – *Building Blocks*
- Middle School – *CMP2*, Middle School meetings
- Teacher Leaders
- Special Education Collaboration
- Focus on Mathematics
- MTEL Elementary Math Licensure
- CRLS Inquiry and Collaboration Modules

Instructional Coaching

- Plan Differentiated instruction for all learners
- Align curriculum with Massachusetts standards and MCAS questions
- Analyze classroom and district assessments
- Provide building professional development on content and pedagogy
- Incorporate data into instructional decisions
- Common planning time at CRLS

MS and HS Transition

- Committee formed with 10 teachers and 3 administrators
- Alignment of Morse School and Haggerty School resources
- CRLS course packets
- Grade 9 course descriptions
- Sharing of resources and policies between middle schools and CRLS

The following panelists shared their perspectives on best practices, trends in high level math instruction and how best to meet the needs of all students including those ready for advanced math:

- Dr. Robert Moses, The Algebra Project
- Mary Eich, Newton Public Schools' Math coordinator and member State DESE Math Advisory Board
- Professor Suzanne Chapin, Boston University professor focused on math teaching
- Professor Wilfried Schmid, Harvard University Math professor and member National Math Advisory Panel
- Professor Anne Collins, Director of Math at Lesley University, former Massachusetts Statewide Mathematics Coordinator
- Nat Stahl, The Math Circle

Panelists responded to the following questions, comments and concerns:

- Is there a place in Math education for creativity
- Is it wise to have algebra in 5th, 6th, or 7th grade
- How to deal with the issue of children who are taught differently and put into different groups
- How does one evaluate how effective Math is in a classroom
- How do Frameworks play in and how are they articulated
- What strategies can we use in Cambridge that were used by Dr. Moses in Jackson, Miss.
- What are thoughts on tracking

The Chair thanked the audience and the panel for a productive discussion.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Turkel, it was voted to adjourn (8:15 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee