

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 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 the High School Extension Program (HSEP).

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

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also Present: Dr. Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Chris Saheed, CRLS Principal
Dr. Joseph Dolan, HSEP Principal

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Dr. Turk. Dr. Turk shared that six years ago the HSEP and CRLS were separate but they work more collaboratively now.

Dr. Dolan presented the following information:

- School Mission
- Demographic Data, 2006-2010
- CRLS – October 1, 2009 Data
- HSEP Enrollment 2009-2010
- Graduation Data, 2005-2010
- Education 2020/Compass On-Line Learning Data
- Faculty Demographics, 2009-2010
- Courses Offered at HSEP
- Extra-Curricular Activities, 2009-2010
- Students Returning to CRLS, 2004-2010
- Prospects for the Future:
 - Integrate Transition and HSEP
 - Create Pathways for Students
 - Redesign Schedule
 - Continue Curriculum Development and Differentiating Instruction.
- MCAS Scores, 2006-2009

Principals Dolan and Saheed responded to the following questions, comments and concerns:

- Is the course description at HSEP the same as CRLS
- Why aren't students part of CRLS graduation
- Will there be gym activity when the program returns to Longfellow building
- Does the longer walk to Upton Street make a difference to students
- Are there special education students in the program and what is the percentage
- What is the breakdown of free and reduced lunch students
- Is embedded honors something that might be included in the program
- Are there things offered at CRLS that HSEP students would like to access but can't
- Do any students enroll in drama, art, music, etc.
- With such a small enrollment, how do students get exposed to different learning experiences
- How are positives and challenges measured - are students surveyed

- How well prepared are students to enter and be successful in a two or four year college
- What are the plans to offer AP/Honors classes
- HSEP students say they are not highly regarded by CRLS students
- Very supportive of this program and the work being done
- Think about identity issue – with the addition of Transition is the “less than” image being perpetuated
- Need to get out the program’s true message – is it a school or is it a program
- Insure students know why they are in the program
- What is the vision for the program and how can it be made stronger
- What are students and families signing up for
- Comparison between HSEP and CRLS is a struggle
- Public relations strategy needs to be improved
- What happens if a student finishes credits mid-term
- What is the overall school climate
- Is expeditionary learning being looked at
- Virtual classes are necessary
- On my recent visit every student was respectful and engaged
- The school needs to be celebrated for what is going on there
- There may be a naming opportunity here
- What is being done to help students and families transition to life outside of HSEP

Mayor Maher invited public comment.

The following individuals were heard in support of HSEP:

- Sasha Bryant, HSEP student
- Elizabeth Chilinski, HSEP student
- Jessica Snarace, HSEP student
- Alicia, Biology teacher
- Patricia Flaveney, Parent
- Bill Winder, Grandparent of former HSEP student
- Kahti Kironde, Grandparent of “ “ “
- Pat Medeiros, Parent of “ “ “
- Peter Haycook, former CRLS/HSEP student and current teacher
- Christina Farese, English teacher
- Kate Holmes, HSEP/CRLS Spanish teacher
- Leroy Gibson, E2020 Coordinator
- HSEP Art teacher

The Chair thanked Drs. Turk, Dolan and Saheed for their participation and the students, parents, and grandparents for sharing their personal stories.

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

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee