

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 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 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: Superintendent Fowler-Finn, Deputy Superintendent Turk, Chief Operating Officer Maloney, Education Liaisons Lenora Jennings and Bridget Rodriguez, John Wofford, Facilitator

The Chair called the meeting to order and turned it over to Mr. Wofford who reviewed the Agenda and the Ground Rules. Discussion took place on the following:

GOALS & OBJECTIVES – THE NEXT 14 MONTHS

- Is there a timeline for voting goals
- Should the public be involved in establishing goals
- On-going initiatives: Special Ed Strategic Plan (4-6 month process); high school renovation; Middle School Blue Ribbon Report; Controlled Choice Program; Achievement Gap; District Professional Development Plan; School Improvement Plans; Benchmarks; Evaluation of all Administration and Central Office staff; Superintendent search; Budget
- What kinds of goals are being considered
- What is our focus while TFF is here
- Identify which of the current goals we will maintain as primary
- Separate goals from operations
- Fine tune old goals rather than setting new ones
- Has there been a measure of the current goals
- Would like to see goals specific to elementary, middle and high school
- One-page goals documents reflected different views and should be compiled
- Need to have goals sooner rather than later
- School Committee goals are marching orders for the schools
- Is there a way to maintain the current goals and include newer ideas
- Set up ad hoc committee to work on goals
- Look at adopting two-year goals
- Use caution in making drastic changes to goals
- Align prior work with goals
- More goals do not mean more success – choose 2, 3 or 4 that are most important
- Would like to have a retreat with middle managers
- Artistic and school climate could be an additional goal
- Start writing grants jointly with the City

NEXT STEPS

- Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Tauber will work on synthesizing goals

- Dr. Fowler-Finn and Cabinet will work on existing goals
- Governance Subcommittee will look at the Operating Principles with Central Administration designee
- Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Tauber will work with Dr. Fowler-Finn, Mr. Maloney and Ms. Rodriguez to come up with goals by the end of June

DATA

- June 10 data meeting will focus on protocol, relationship and needs
- There should be more than one meeting on data

Mr. Wofford thanked the Members for the opportunity to work with them. The Chair thanked Mr. Wofford and the Co-Chairs for their work on the Retreats.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn (9:48 p.m.)

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee