

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Informal Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Called for 6:00 p.m. by Her Honor E. Denise Simmons, in accordance with Chapter I, Section 3, of the Rules of the School Committee, for the purpose of a follow-up retreat with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss communication and goals.

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

Mr. McGovern in the Chair

Also Present: Superintendent Jeffrey Young, Deputy Superintendent Carolyn Turk, Chief Operating Officer James Maloney, Education Liaison Lenora Jennings

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

The Superintendent presented the following Agenda:

Mayor Simmons in the Chair

1. Review of Last School Committee Meeting
2. Three major School Committee goals from last retreat
3. Managing Constituent Issues and System Policies
4. Other Issues and Next Steps

Discussion took place around the following:

- The flow, format and discussion of the SPED presentation was well received by Members; new format helps to keep things moving
- Liked 2 questions per Member; suggest option of one follow-up question
- Concerned that the Sullivan Chamber cannot broadcast Power Point presentations
- Show web link to presentation at bottom of screen
- Ask the Executive Secretary to contact the City Clerk to discuss procedure used by City Council for presentations
- Include any follow-up to presentations in the *Weekly*
- Members should police each other during meetings
- Be cognizant of tone to avoid giving the "gotcha" impression
- Defer discussion on Middle Grades to a Regular Meeting
- Set calendar for Controlled Choice by January - need to push forward
- Achievement Gap and Controlled Choice should be priorities for the new School Committee
- Budget development is in progress; Superintendent would like budget guidelines by Thanksgiving
- What, if any, reports from the Administration are obsolete; submit the Discipline Detail Report annually
- Keep the same types of meetings: business, presentations, roundtables, parlor chats, retreats
- Define roundtables, workshops and parlor chats

Mr. Fantini exited the meeting.

- Policy issues should be presented to the whole Committee
- How do we discuss policies professionally, without conflict
- Don't make assumptions about reason for policy request by a Member
- Avoid appearance of favoritism from Members to constituents

Mr. McGovern in the Chair.

- It's helpful when Members work with the Superintendent regarding policies

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

- Important to respect each other's roles

There needs to be at least one more retreat to discuss the three goals of the School Committee and to look at the next four steps.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn (9:00 p.m.)

Adjourned
Patricia A. Berry
Confidential Secretary