

DISTRICTWIDE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION TASK FORCE MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2008

A Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 152 of the Crosby Administration Building, 43 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA. A list of members present is attached to this report. Co-Chair Daley called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Superintendent Nembirkow distributed a flier entitled “**The Future of Education in the Commonwealth and High School Plus.**” He stated that he is co-chair of the Governor’s Council on Higher Education. One of the Governor’s long-term goals, under his Commonwealth Readiness Project/Education Strategic Planning Initiative, is to offer two years of community education free to all students who would not be able to attend college due to financial constraints; this eligibility would be based on income level. He invited everyone present to attend a meeting on **Thursday, January 17, 2008, at 6 p.m. in the Green Cafeteria at Brockton High School.** Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, Special Advisor for Education to the Governor, will be present to answer questions.

Co-Chair Buckley distributed copies of the **January 2 Task Force Minutes** to those who did not receive them electronically. She also distributed a revised listing of the members present at that meeting as well as a revised listing of the members present at the December 11 Task Force Meeting. Ms. Milligan moved to accept the minutes and the revisions as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Co-Chair Buckley distributed a copy of the **BPS Draft Proposal #2.** She stated that Mr. Jerome, Ms. Meek, Mr. Suziedelis and herself put it together with the suggestions submitted by task force members. She proceeded to go over the School Committee Goals which were voted on December 14, 2004, the Goals of the Reconfiguration Task Force, current school enrollment, etc., and the following Committee recommendations:

1. City should be re-divided into four (4) zones – Northeast, Northwest and South, in addition to the existing Central Zone.
2. Two-Way Spanish Language Program will be K-8
3. TAG Grades 4 & 5 should be centralized
4. Cape Verdean SEI must have a Grades 1-5 strand in both the North and South Zones, and the strands should each be housed in one school building

Mr. Jerome highlighted a powerpoint presentation on **Phase I – January, 2009.** He gave kudos to subcommittee members for making the following suggestions, the key to which is going to the four zones:

1. **Quincy Street School** will house K-6 students from the Franklin (13 classes), and K-6 students from the Ashfield (17 classes), Haitian SEI (3 classes), SPED (3 classes) for a total of 36 classes.
2. **Colonel Bell Drive School** will house students from the Whitman (10 classes). It will open as a K-6 school in January 2009. In September it will transition to a K-5 with all other elementary schools. It will grow to its full compliment of 40 classes through school choice in subsequent school years.

Mr. Jerome highlighted **Phase II – September 2009** and discussed how it affects other schools. He mentioned the following:

1. All elementary schools will open as K-5 with full-day Kindergarten as an entry point.
2. All junior high schools will open as middle schools with Grades 6-8.
3. Arnone will open as a middle school serving TAG, Spanish Two-Way, Spanish SEI and regular education students
4. Plouffe School welcomes all Grades 4-5 TAG in one location

Mr. Jerome then highlighted **Phase III – 2010-2011**. He mentioned the following:

1. East Middle School establishes Career & Technical Education Program to provide a continuum of learning from middle school to BHS
2. Alternative program locations reviewed
3. Other building usage and closures considered

As far as three-tiered busing and time changes, Mr. Sullivan, BEA President, stated that it will have to be negotiated. Any modification to working hours, under collective bargaining laws, have to be negotiated.

Co-Chair Buckley stated that the task force will forward their recommendations to the Superintendent for his review and then the Superintendent will make a recommendation to the School Committee. The School Committee will then hold Public Hearings.

Discussion also took place about K-8 schools, busing, etc. If the Ashfield and Arnone Schools were to be converted to middle schools, Mrs. Joyce asked that the playgrounds remain for use by the community. Councillor Balzotti was in the audience and stated when the Gilmore School was converted to the Gilmore Academy, the community lost the use of the playground because it was removed.

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that a lot of time and effort has gone into developing this proposal that takes into consideration the neighborhood concept with the four zones. Co-Chair Buckley thanked all members for their suggestions and e-mails in putting this proposal together.

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, January 29, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 152** in the Crosby Administration Building.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force Members - January 15,2008

Present

Prudence G. Buckley	Co-Chair
James M. Daley	Co-Chair
David Brewster	(Middle School Teacher)
Filomena Cardoso	(Ward 6)
Christine Crossman	(Elementary School Teacher)
Barbara Janelli	(Elementary School Principal)
John Jerome	(Executive Director)
Patricia Joyce	(SC)
Janet Landerholm	(Ward 4)
Barbara Lora	(SPED)
Mary Milligan	(Ward 5)
Patricia O'Connor	(SPED)
Maribel Soto	(Ward 2)
BEA Timothy Sullivan	(BEA)
Eligijus Suziedelis	(Executive Director)

Also Present

Basan Nembirkow, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Susan Dukess, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
James Hayden, Executive Director
Jocelyn Meek, Communications Director
Linda Balzotti, At-Large City Councillor

Absent

Michaëlle Dimanche-Silva	(Ward 7)
Andrea Donaruma	(Ward 1)
Doreen Francio	(Ward 3)
Jean Holmes-Kireilis	(TAG)
Terry Starr-Klein	(Middle School Principal)