

DISTRICTWIDE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION TASK FORCE MINUTES
January 29, 2008

A meeting of the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force was held on Tuesday, January 29, 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.

Mr. Daley, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Janet Landerholm moved to accept the minutes of the Task Force meeting on January 15, 2008. The motion was seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

In acknowledgment of communications that were sent regarding the second reconfiguration draft proposal, Ms. Buckley, Co-Chair, went over the ground rules of the Task Force meeting, explaining that questions and comments would not be taken from the floor. She explained that the purpose of the Task Force is to send a recommendation to the Superintendent who will take it to the School Committee and an open meeting would be held.

Ms. Buckley then asked members to discuss the Draft Proposal #2 that was distributed on January 15th.

At this time, the Superintendent clarified that principals heard from Ms. Buckley, Mr. Jerome and him last week regarding the proposal and the purpose of the Task Force. Mr. Nembirkow will receive recommendations from the Task Force and, in turn, he will make recommendations to the School Committee at a hearing at which the public would have input. Suggestions and recommendations must be made to Ms. Buckley and Mr. Daley, Co-Chairs.

The Superintendent said that he had recently received emails saying that the reconfiguration is a *done-deal*. He said that this is not true. Constituents are represented by all of the Task Force members. Mr. Nembirkow said that, what will come from the Task Force are proposals, and he is glad to see that community members are attending this evening. He said that nothing is pre-determined. The Task Force had done a tremendous amount of work, and there is more work to be done. Suggestions are to be sent to the Co-Chairs, *not* to the Superintendent.

The Superintendent also discussed the Article 87 meeting with Governor Patrick that he attended today with staff and Brockton High student Patrick Jolicoeur at the State House. Brockton was the only school system invited to the State House to speak.

Ms. Landerholm said that she has received calls at her home regarding the reconfiguration because the Task Force is no longer represented by a Ward 3 member. At this, Mr. Daley explained that a letter will be sent to that member, removing her from the Task Force.

Ms. Landerholm then expressed the concerns that were conveyed to her in the aforementioned telephone calls. These concerns consisted of questions about cost of renovations, Keith School utilization and how many of the Task Force members are parents and city residents. Ms. Buckley and Mr. Nembirkow responded, respectively.

A Task Force member commended the School Committee and Superintendent for creating an extremely conclusive and fair process for dealing with upcoming changes.

Another member inquired about equalizing K-8. Mr. Jerome explained that the actual number of classes that can be placed in a grade needs to be determined. Enrollment has to be looked at and who is going to what school. Potential changes to the Raymond School were also discussed.

It was noted by Mr. Brewster that bringing K-8 to the junior high schools is successful. The Superintendent said that it is not the structure, but the *people* who create the success. Changing the structure causes people to think differently. Principal Darlene Campbell of the Davis School is a proponent of how the K-8 works.

Many other suggestions were discussed, i.e., Ashfield or Arnone as middle schools and the Quincy School made a K-8 school.

The Task Force agreed that it is fair to say that Colonel Bell could be a K-8 school. It was built to house 850 students, and there are 750 students. Colonel Bell has the capacity in the north zone; this would be an 18-month transition.

Potential changes to the Hancock School and plans for West Junior High were also discussed. And, although there is concern regarding transportation, it was noted that none of the proposals will affect transportation in 2008-09.

One Task Force member said that the group needs to establish short-term goals so that they can begin meeting deadlines. Task Force members discussed a timeline for submitting their recommendation(s) to the Superintendent. Mr. Nembirkow said that he needed the Task Force's final proposals by the first of March.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force Membership

**January 29, 2008 Meeting
6:30 p.m.**

Attendance

Prudence G. Buckley	Co-Chair
James M. Daley	Co-Chair
Filomena Cardoso	(Ward 6)
Michaëlle Dimanche-Silva	(Ward 7)
Andrea Donaruma	(Ward 1)
Janet Landerholm	(Ward 4)
Barbara Lora	(SEI (Bilingual) Program)
Mary Milligan	(Ward 5)
Patricia O'Connor	SPED Program
Maribel Soto	(Ward 2)
David Brewster	(Middle Teacher)
Christine Crossman	(Elementary Teacher)
Barbara Janelli	(Elementary Principal)
Terry Starr-Klein	(Middle Principal)
Timothy Sullivan	(BEA)
John Jerome	(Executive Director)
Patricia Joyce	(SC)
Eligijus Suziedelis	(Executive Director)

Absent:

Doreen Francio	(Ward 3C)
Jean Holmes-Kireilis	TAG Program

Also present:

Basan Nembirkow	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Susan Dukess	Deputy Superintendent
James Hayden	Executive Director
Jocelyn Meek	Communications Officer

