

UPDATE ON BPS DISTRICT WIDE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION TASK FORCE

On February 12, 2008, School Committee Members James Daley and Patricia Joyce presented an update on the work being done by the Brockton Public Schools District-Wide School Reconfiguration Task Force. The Task Force is charged with making recommendations to the Superintendent, Mayor, School Committee and the public on how best to reconfigure the Brockton Public School district to better meet the needs of city students and their families.

The report was written by Daley, the Task Force Co-Chair, and Joyce, a Task Force member. Joyce read the report into the record. It is as follows:

"In anticipation of the opening of two new school buildings, last fall the school committee voted to form a task force with the purpose of including community stakeholders in the process of reconfiguring the school system. Parents, staff and members of the community were invited to submit a letter of interest to the school committee for selection to the task force. In November 2007 the selected members began meeting on a weekly basis.

The district Reconfiguration Task Force is comprised of the following members:

Andrea Donaruma - parent representative Ward 1

Maribel Soto - parent representative Ward 2

Doreen Francio - parent representative Ward 3

Janet Landerholm - parent representative Ward 4

Mary Milligan - parent representative Ward 5

Filomena Cardoso - parent representative Ward 6

Michaelle Dimanche-Silva - parent representative Ward 7

Barbara Lora - parent representative Sheltered English Immersion

Jeanne Holmes-Kireilis - parent representative Talented & Gifted

Patricia O'Connor - parent representative Special Education

Timothy Sullivan - Brockton Education Association representative

Christine Crossman - elementary teacher

David Brewster - middle school teacher

Barbara Janelli - elementary principal

Terry Starr-Klein - middle school principal

John Jerome - Executive Director of teaching and learning middle school

Eligijus Suziedelis - Executive Director of Accountability, Planning, and Technology

Prudence Buckley - Director of Parent Information and School Registration Center

James Daley - School Committee

Patty Joyce - School Committee

The Task Force is presently in their fourth month of weekly meetings examining the current school structure, availability of special programs, fiscal considerations, and educational priorities. During this process, the task force is abiding by the school committee goals of providing full day kindergartens in all elementary schools, reconfiguring from a 7-8 structure to a 6-8 middle school structure, redirection of funding to educationally relevant areas, the location of programs geographically closer to students' homes, and creating and implementing an effective structure to achieve AYP.

In addition, the task force goals include devising a plan that is educationally sound, a plan that maximizes use of facilities and transportation to the best advantage, a plan that is fair and equitable to the diverse populations, a plan that stands up to legal scrutiny, a plan that

is fiscally responsible, and a plan that moves as few students and programs as possible, providing choices when displacement is inevitable.

The task force expects to finalize draft proposals within the near future and return with recommendations to the full school committee. These recommendations will then be submitted to the superintendent for completion of a cost analysis and a feasibility study, after which the task force recommendations will be presented to the public, allowing for additional input from the community.

The final district configuration plan will be voted upon by the full school committee.

The latest task force proposal includes reconfiguring the district schools to offer choices of K-5, K-8, and 6-8 grade configurations. The plan also proposes the centralizing of city-wide programs, affording improved accessibility of programs, and providing for neighborhood school choices to address the projected future shortfall in transportation funding.

The next scheduled task force meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26th at 6:30 pm in the main conference room at the Crosby Administration building located on Crescent St. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Any questions or concerns can also be forwarded to any task force member or through Prudence Buckley at the parent information center, 144 main St. Brockton 02301 for ongoing consideration by the task force during the planning process."