

DISTRICTWIDE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION TASK FORCE MINUTES
January 2, 2008

A meeting of the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force was held on Wednesday, January 2, 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 6:40 p.m.

Ms. Buckley, Co-Chair, along with Mr. Daley, then asked the members of the Task Force subcommittee groups to discuss this evening what they found positive about the School District Reconfiguration Draft Proposal I. Following the reports, the groups will meet for the purpose of further discussing the Proposal.

The following options/suggestions were brought to the table by the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force Subcommittee Group members:

- The new schools should have extended day programs before and after school.
- A path and/or bridge should be constructed, joining the Raymond Elementary and North Middle School creating a “campus concept.” By the time students reached 6th grade, they would benefit better from the middle school model.
- The Raymond will close and, upon its reopening, should contain: Grades K-5, SEI Cape Verdean and Grades 4 and 5 TAG with a possible expansion to the lower grades.
- Angelo students moved to North, 6-8; Raymond students to North; TAG and SEI, to the middle school, K-8
- It was suggested by the administrative members that the subcommittee groups look at student numbers, giving attention to how the population can shift into the schools.
- Concern was expressed for integration of students as exists at the Gilmore Academy; students need the opportunity to mix with one another. TAG should be mixed with the general student population; this would give all students a great advantage.
- Close the Franklin and Whitman Schools and use the buildings to house Adult Education classes.
- Limit transitioning of students so not to create hardships for parents.
- House the bilingual and general population of students together. Children need consistency.
- Equalizing zones as much as possible; the opportunities that are available should be the same in all zones
- Colonel Bell can be considered as a Grades K-6 school.
- K-5 and 6-8 should be separated, making the junior high school a K-8 school. (K-8 limits grade spans.)

- Flip grades for new schools around: Colonel Bell, K-5; Quincy K-8
- Central support for central programs is the toughest part. West is key. All community schools must have full-day Kindergarten. A decision needs to be made about whether or not to keep the special programs together.
- Consider over-populated schools: West Junior and Hancock
- Changing the Quincy from K-5 to K-8; closing the Franklin School and moving its students to the Quincy; leave the Ashfield School as a K-5; move the Ashfield and Brookfield 6th graders to the K-8 Quincy

Co-Chairs Buckley and Daley informed the Task Force that the above suggestions would be taken under advisement, and the School Department will prepare an additional proposal for future discussions.

Ms. Buckley said that 7th grade registrations will be assigned with the potential of other options being made available with the opening of the new schools and reconfiguration. Parents must be given time to adjust.

The Superintendent said that, as of this date, the new schools will not be open until January 2009. He suggested that the Task Force's timeline for determining grades and zoning be March 2008.

A question was asked of the Superintendent regarding changing the status of the Arnone School. The Superintendent explained that the School Department is obligated to open the new schools as elementary schools. Changing the status of existing schools is possible and would require the Superintendent petitioning the Department of Education.

The next meeting, scheduled on January 7, 2008, will discuss zoning. The Superintendent has requested that a zoning map be prepared for this purpose.

The general meeting of the Task Force closed at 8 p.m.