

## DISTRICTWIDE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION TASK FORCE MINUTES

**November 19, 2007**

A meeting of the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force took place on Monday, November 19, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 152 of the Crosby Administration Building, 43 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA.

Mr. Daley, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Ms. Buckley, Co-Chair, distributed a packet of information to the members containing the evening's agenda, an updated membership list including emails, the minutes of the November 8, 2007 Task Force meeting, and charts of grades one through seven which give a breakdown of students in each of the school districts.

In addition, a *draft* Task Force work plan was distributed for this evening and the meetings ahead that addresses goals, criteria, timelines, decision-making, schedule of meetings, plan evaluation and how to present to the public, and the need for common understanding of key issues in making informed decisions.

The Task Force members reviewed the membership page, and corrections were noted by Ms. Buckley.

Mrs. O'Connor moved to accept the minutes of November 8, 2007, and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Buckley then discussed the grades one through seven graphs. A number of questions were asked, i.e., the Gilmore Academy numbers, the number of students who are transported or who walk and a breakdown of students into minority groups. Ms. Buckley responded to each request.

Ms. Buckley asked the Task Force members to discuss subcommittees, using the draft work plan prepared for this evening's meeting. Members emphasized the need for an ultimate goal by which teachers and parents, alike, could plan and one that would minimize disruption. *It was agreed by all members that making a goal is the starting point and first priority.*

The next section of the plan regarding the method the group will use to make decisions was discussed with the focus on voting and the use of small groups.

Ms. Buckley segued into a discussion on a meeting schedule, and it was agreed that alternating Monday and Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. is most acceptable to all members. Mrs. Joyce stated that subcommittees can meet above and beyond the set meeting schedule. Ms. Buckley will provide a meeting schedule at the next meeting of the Task Force on November 27, 2007.

Under the heading of how the plan will be evaluated and presented to the public, Mrs. Joyce stressed the goals of the School Committee: *Full-day Kindergartens, converting the junior high schools to grades 6 through 8 and equity of programs*. Mr. Daley said that the Task Force needs to keep current with Pre-Kindergarten and Expanded Learning Time, areas that are overseen by the government. Other members agreed that choice must be made available as much as possible.

The Task Force stressed the importance of their plan being a positive change for and advantageous to students, touching *all* phases of student achievement. Children must feel comfortable emotionally so that they can succeed.

When asked about obtaining feedback from parents, Ms. Buckley agreed that doing so would be appropriate. Dr. Dukess said that parents need to understand that this Task Force is still in the discussion stage, and that future public hearings will be held.

Mrs. Joyce mentioned possible financial constraints which could determine the Task Force's direction.

When asked about whether or not data existed on why parents made certain choices, Ms. Buckley said that research, transportation and old philosophies, i.e., "West is best," are considered.

At this time, Mr. Daley, Co-Chair, informed the members that Baptiste Fleury would not be attending future meetings due to a misunderstanding of the Task Force's purpose. He has been replaced by Barbara Lora, parent and Arnone teacher, who had previously expressed her interest in participating. Mr. Daley then introduced Ms. Lora and asked that all members introduce themselves.

Mr. Jerome was then introduced to give his presentation regarding the future configuration of schools in Brockton, saying that we have models out there, and there are many ways of doing things.

Following a brief question and answer session, **Ms. Buckley announced that the next meeting will be held on November 27, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Crosby Building Lounge**. She said that the next agenda may include transportation, special education and bilingual issues.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force Meeting  
November 19, 2007  
6:30 p.m.

The following members of the Task Force were in attendance:

**Co-Chairs** Prudence Buckley and James Daley; **School Committee Representative** Patricia Joyce; and **BEA President** Timothy Sullivan

**Parent Members**, Filomena Cardoso, Michaelle Dimanche-Silva, Andrea Donaruma, Janet Landerholm, Barbara Lora, Mary Milligan, Patricia O'Connor and Maribel Soto

**Administrative/Teaching Staff:** Dr. Susan Dukess, John Jerome, Jocelyn Meek, Terry Starr-Klein, Christine Crossman and David Brewster