

DISTRICTWIDE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION TASK FORCE MINUTES

November 8, 2007

The first meeting of the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force took place on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at 6 p.m. in Room 152 of the Crosby Administration Building, 43 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA. A list of members present is attached to this memo.

Co-Chair Daley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. He welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated that they will be going over the binder of information that Co-Chair Buckley distributed to them this evening, and stressed that it is important for everyone to attend the meetings. If someone needs to drop out, he/she will not be replaced.

Co-Chair Buckley welcomed everyone and stated that they have a lot of hard work ahead of them. She is hopeful that they will resolve the issues before them and is looking forward to working with the group. She distributed a list of members and asked everyone to write down their e-mail address. She will give everyone a copy at the next meeting.

Superintendent Nembirkow also welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves. After the introductions, Superintendent Nembirkow read the charge before them which states:

The completion of two new school buildings at the Colonel Bell Drive and North Quincy Street locations, with a combined capacity of more than 1,500 students, has a major impact on the use of all other school buildings in the system. Therefore, the School Committee asked for the creation of a task force to review the school system's existing organizational structures, configurations, facilities and programs to optimize the use of instructional space and reduce transportation costs.

Ms. Buckley proceeded to highlight the binder that she distributed. A copy of the 1995 Desegregation Plan was included; the blue pages in it have been updated as of 2002 and were not part of the original plan. She stated that there is a wealth of information, resources, etc., in it. At the back of the binder is the current zone map.

Ms. Buckley stated that the Parent Information Center has gotten away from race based assignments over the last 3-4 years. The current configuration is 67% minority. School Committee Guidelines state that placements are to be based on sibling preference, proximity to school and timely registration.

Mr. Suziedelis stated in the thirteen years that school choice has been available, between 45-55% of elementary school parents have not chosen their neighborhood schools. Ms. Buckley stated that 60-80% of the junior high school level parents choose their own district schools. When they went to school choice, they kept a record of what the original districts were. The notion of neighborhood schools always prevailed; it was just that people chose to leave them.

Ms. Buckley stated that transportation will be a huge issue at this time. Mrs. Joyce stated by law we do not have to provide transportation to any student who lives within the 2 mile limit.

Mrs. Joyce asked for a breakdown of the number of students in each school by grade to see where they came from in order to know where the bulk of the population is located.

Mr. Daley stated that they need to:

1. redistrict the current two zones into however many the task force determines
2. reconfigure grades, e.g., K-5; K-8, 1-6; 4-8, 6-8, etc.
3. look at different programs in different schools

Mrs. Joyce stated that the two new schools combined will house 1500 students, and they will be opening at different times. The Quincy Street School could open any time between September/November 2008, and the Colonel Bell Drive School is six weeks behind, possibly January 2009.

The meeting resulted in the following:

1. to meet weekly so that parents could be notified in February
2. to keep meetings to 1.5 hours
3. to meet as a whole the next meeting and then break out into subgroups
4. Ms. Buckley will put together some topics and subgroups for people to react to at the next meeting
5. to draft up a sample work plan for people to see the tasks that need to be accomplished; Dr. Dukess asked Mr. Daley and Ms. Buckley to do this.
6. **the next meeting will be held on Monday, November 19, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 152 of the Crosby Administration Building**

Ms. O'Connor asked to have an agenda e-mailed to her before the next meeting so that she would have time to look it over.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

jh

The following members of the Task Force were present:

James M. Daley	Co-Chair	Mary Milligan	(Ward 5)
Prudence G. Buckley	Co-Chair	Patricia O'Connor	(SPED)
Filomena Cardoso	(Ward 6)	Maribel Soto	(Ward 2)
Michaëlle Dimanche-Silva	(Ward 7)	David Brewster	(Middle Teacher)
Andrea Donaruma	(Ward 1)	Christine Crossman	(Elementary Teacher)
Doreen Francio	(Ward 3)	Barbara Janelli	(Elementary Principal)
Jean Holmes-Kireilis	(TAG)	Terry Starr-Klein	(Middle Principal)
Janet Landerholm	(Ward 4)	Catherine Brine	(Executive Director)
SC Rep Patricia A. Joyce		John Jerome	(Executive Director)
BEA President Timothy Sullivan		Eligijus Suziedelis	(Executive Director)

Also present were the following:

Superintendent Basan Nembirkow
Deputy Superintendent Susan Dukess
Communications Officer Jocelyn Meek
School Committeeman Brian Foley

No Show: Jean Baptiste Fleury