

DISTRICTWIDE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION TASK FORCE MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2007

A Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 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. Co-Chair Daley called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Superintendent Nembirkow stated that there will be an article in The Enterprise tomorrow night about the **proposed Sabis International Charter School in Brockton**. A **Public Hearing** will be held on **Monday, December 17, 2007, between the hours of 4-6 p.m. at the main branch of the Brockton Public Library**. He discussed the negative impact the school would have on the continued positive growth of the Brockton Public Schools as well as on the Reconfiguration. Superintendent Nembirkow indicated that the Brockton Public Schools, over the last few years, has been on an upward climb. Performance has been improving; U.S. News & World Report recognized BHS last week as being in the top 10% of high schools across the country with a Bronze medal; an International Baccalaureate Program; a host of other programs for underserved groups; and an excellent SPED Program. Last Friday, the Bilingual Program gave a presentation at an Urban Superintendents' meeting; it was featured as one of three outstanding Bilingual Programs in the state. He stated that School Department personnel are testifying next Monday and invited all present to come and speak. If anyone wishes to speak, they should contact Jocelyn Meek at (508) 894-4476. He indicated that he will send a copy of the proposal to all members.

Co-Chair Buckley distributed the following:

1. Agenda
2. Meeting Schedule
3. Information requested on the actual number of classrooms in the schools
4. Acronyms
5. December 3, 2007, Task Force Minutes
6. Transportation Presentation
7. Enrollment Presentation: Enrollment Sheet dated December 1, 2007, and NESDEC Enrollment Projections
8. Attendance Sheet to sign

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the December 3, 2007, Districtwide Reconfiguration Task Force Meeting Minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Landerholm mentioned the December 27 meeting date. Mrs. Joyce moved to eliminate the December 27, 2007, Task Force Meeting date during Christmas week. The vote was unanimous

Mr. Peter Judge, Supervisor of Transportation, highlighted a powerpoint presentation on transportation as well as the following points:

1. The teachers' contract determines when students arrive and when they leave.
2. BHS transportation drives the entire system
2. Buses are 71 passenger vehicles and vans are 16 passenger vehicles. He described the three-tier busing levels
3. It may be necessary to return to a "true" walk zone in an effort to reduce ridership and contain costs.

4. This year's budget is approximately \$1.5M short. Last year and again this year we are using Circuit Breaker money for SPED transportation. After this year, that fund will be depleted.
5. Significant increases in transportation costs can be expected.
6. Under Ed Reform, transportation is not part of net school spending.
7. The state requires that we provide transportation to SPED youngsters (\$4.3M cost). Over and above that, youngsters in grades 1-6 who reside more than 2 miles from school must be transported over the 2 miles.
8. If you reconfigure the zones from 2 to 4, there would be a school within a walk zone of 2 miles basically of every youngster in that age group that we are bound by state law to transport.
9. The city is also required to pay for SPED transportation, and the state, by law, is to reimburse us, subject to funding.
10. We are obliged to transport private schools as well as Norfolk County Agricultural. We do get reimbursement for half of the transportation for Norfolk County. At Southeastern Regional, they have their own buses
11. The per pupil cost of a regular education bus student is \$370 per year, and SPED is approximately \$3500.
12. For SPED outside placements (half million dollars) we work with neighboring towns to cost share the rides.

Mr. Suziedelis, Executive Director of Accountability, Planning & Technology, was present to highlight the NESDEC (New England School Development Council) projections that were distributed to all members as well as the Enrollment Sheet dated December 1, 2007. Mr. Suziedelis stated that the K-5 enrollment is relatively stable for the next 4 years; the 6-8 population will experience a 10% decline. Grades 9-12 will most likely show a 15% to 20% decrease. Mr. Suziedelis stated that we can plan on using the information that we have.

Ms. Buckley stated that next week they will spend the entire time in subgroups; the focus will be on Draft Proposal #1 that was distributed to each member.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Jh

The following members of the Task Force were present at the **Tuesday, December 11, 2007, meeting:**

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)
Michaelle Dimanche-Silva	(Ward 7)	David Brewster	(Middle Teacher)
Andrea Donaruma	(Ward 1)	Christine Crossman	(Elementary Teacher)
Jean Holmes-Kireilis	(TAG)	Terry Starr-Klein	(Middle Principal)
Janet Landerholm	(Ward 4)	Catherine Brine	(Executive Director)
Barbara Lora	(SPED)	John Jerome	(Executive Director)
BEA Timothy Sullivan	(BEA)	Eligijus Suziedelis	(Executive Director)
Patty Joyce	(SC)	Barbara Janelli	(Elementary Principal)

Also Present:

Basan Nembirkow, Superintendent
 Dr. Susan Dukess, Deputy Superintendent
 Matthew Belcher, School Committee

Brian Foley, School Committee
Peter Judge, Supervisor of Transportation
James Hayden, Executive Director
Jocelyn Meek, Communications Officer

Absent: Doreen Francio, Ward 3 Rep