

DISTRICTWIDE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION TASK FORCE MINUTES
December 3, 2007

A meeting of the Districtwide School Reconfiguration Task Force was held on Monday, December 3, 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.

Prudence Buckley, Co-Chair, announced that Messrs. Judge and Suziedelis will discuss transportation and enrollment projection information at future meetings. **Ms. Buckley then distributed the December 3rd agenda consisting of:**

1. Minutes from the November 27th meeting
2. Materials for binders
3. The BPS Draft Proposal I for a Three-Year Reconfiguration Plan which will be discussed by Superintendent Nembirkow; Prudence Buckley, Director Parent Information Center; John Jerome, Executive Director; Teaching and Learning, 6-8; and Catherine Brine, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning, K-5
4. A listing of subcommittee groups

Mr. Daley called for a motion, and Mr. Brewster moved to accept the **minutes of the November 27 meeting**, as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Buckley then opened the **discussion on the BPS Draft Proposal I plan**. The first section of the Proposal deals with the **goals of the School Committee** that were voted on in December 2004. They are: Full-Day K, Middle School, Eliminate Leases, School Clusters and Adequate Yearly Progress. Ms. Buckley highlighted the accomplishments of each goal.

Following the mention of Adequate Yearly Progress, **Superintendent Nembirkow** announced that **Brockton High School has been rated in the Bronze category by the U. S. News and World Report in their recognition of high schools across the country**. Brockton High received this distinction for its raising of scores spanning the student population. The Superintendent said that he is very proud of the school's achievements and this rating.

The next phase of the Proposal defines **the Reconfiguration Task Force goals** that were agreed upon two weeks ago. Ms. Buckley read and briefly discussed each one:

1. The plan adopts School Committee goals
2. The plan is educationally sound
3. The plan is efficient – maximizes use of facilities, utilizes transportation to best advantage
4. The plan is perceived as fair and equitable by diverse populations
5. The plan stands up to legal scrutiny
6. The plan is fiscally responsible

7. The plan moves as few students and programs as possible, provides choices when displacement is inevitable

The Proposal then addresses the need to **Establish Universal BPS Grade Spans: K-5; K-8; 6-8**, on which the Superintendent then elaborated. He said that performance is affected by structure and grade configurations. He said that there is a big push for K-8 schools and emphasized that this grade span creates community, continuity and consistency.

The Brockton Public Schools needs to have consistency in its reconfiguration, and the Superintendent suggested the **use of standardization**, saying, that, when the Task Force organizes, it needs to have the reconfiguration fit into the K-5, K-8 and 6-8 grade spans.

A brief discussion took place following the Superintendent's presentation, and Ms. Buckley then introduced Mr. Jerome to review the **remaining portion of the Proposal** consisting of **reconfiguration Phases I (2008 – 2009), II (2009-2010) and III (2010-2011)**.

Phase I – 2008-2009 discusses the opening of the two new schools, Quincy Street and Colonel Bell Drive (total 80 classrooms), the projected openings of the buildings in either September 2008 or January 2009. Mr. Jerome said that students will not be moved until both buildings are ready. This phase shows the affected schools as the Arnone, East JHS, Gilmore and Raymond, as well as the impacted schools: Ashfield, Franklin and Whitman. All other schools are not impacted.

Phase II addresses reconfigurations that will occur in **2009 – 2010**, with changes occurring in the Quincy Street, Ashfield, Raymond, Arnone, and the current junior high schools, as well as various classes, programs and K – 6 schools.

Phase III, occurring in **2010 – 2011**, will bring about a reconfiguration that will affect East Middle School, and discusses a review of alternative program locations and consideration of other building usage.

Following the presentation, a brief discussion took place regarding concerns, i.e., the SEI program for Cape Verdeans, grade six at the Gilmore Academy, the closing and reopening of the Raymond School, the possible number of busses to be eliminated and transportation costs. Responses were given by Mr. Jerome, Ms. Buckley, Mrs. Starr-Klein and the Superintendent.

Ms. Buckley passed out a **listing of suggested subcommittees**, a breakdown of four groups, and asked that group members meet at this time to discuss their impressions of the Draft Proposal.

Dr. Dukess asked the Task Force members to think about the focus of the next meeting.

In response to Mrs. Joyce's inquiry about **the transportation piece**, Ms. Buckley said that transportation would be discussed at the **next meeting on December 11th**, to be followed by subcommittee meetings.

The general meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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