MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 27, 2009

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Middle School Library

Members Present: President Patrick E. Gallagher
Vice President Roy Lester
Board Member Franklin Alvarado
Board Member Lynn Gergen
Board Member Dennis Ryan

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Robert Greenberg, Superintendent
Dr. Randie Berger, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Helen Cheliotes, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Jane Ryan, CPA, PC Accounting and Consulting Services
Ms. Eileen Lilly, District Clerk

President Gallagher called for a motion to go into executive session at 6:45 PM to discuss pending and proposed legal matters.

Motion by: Board Member Ryan
Seconded by: Vice President Lester
Approved: 5-0

President Gallagher called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:55 PM.

Motion by: Board Member Alvarado
Seconded by: Board Member Gergen
Approved: 5-0
MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 27, 2009

Type of Meeting: Worksession

Place of Meeting: Middle School Cafeteria

Members Present: President Patrick E. Gallagher
Vice President Roy Lester
Board Member Franklin Alvarado
Board Member Lynn Gergen
Board Member Dennis Ryan

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Robert Greenberg, Superintendent
Dr. Randie Berger, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Helen Cheliotes, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Eileen Lilly, District Clerk
Members of the Middle School Committee
Members of the community

I. Call to Order
President Gallagher called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

Superintendent’s Comments
Dr. Greenberg:
- Thanked the Middle School Committee for their hard work and patience.
- Thanked Ms. Cheliotes for her leadership on this Committee.

II. President Gallagher called for the Presentation by the Middle School Committee.
Mrs. Cheliotes and the Middle School Committee members provided a presentation as attached.
III. President Gallagher called for Questions and Comments on the Middle School Report.

Comments were made by:
Ms. Johanna Sofield, 535 Grand Boulevard
Ms. Melissa Gibson, 414 West Walnut Street
Ms. Natasha Nurse, West School Teacher
Ms. Carole Butler, 117 West Beech Street
Mr. Robert Esformes, 305 Lafayette Boulevard
Mr. Daniel Huppert, Point Lookout
Ms. Melanie Scott, Middle School Teacher
Ms. Linda Morgenstern, 91 Sands Court
Dr. Greenberg informed he received two letters from parents advocating homogenous grouping and he will be sharing those letters with the Board of Education.

IV. Board of Education Comments

President Gallagher called for more challenges in the seventh grade and for further challenging almost all students to high school level courses in the eighth grade. A discussion was held on this issue.

Board Member Ryan
- Thanked the Committee for their work and agreed that it’s important to challenge all our students.
- Expressed concerns in these areas:
  i. The deception in the words homogenous and heterogeneous because in any homogenous classroom, there is a range of about four grade levels of ability.
  ii. Ability of sixth grade students to adapt to the new system after five or six years in a self-contained unit in elementary school and
  iii. Staff development
- Thanked those who spoke this evening.

Board Member Gergen
- Expressed concerns in these areas:
  i. Challenging each child to receive a rigorous education
  ii. Type of support system
  iii. Teacher support
  iv. Type of program

Board Member Alvarado
Inquired about phased approach allowing us to train educators to secure more parent involvement
  Ms. Cheliotes responded as well as Ms. Goropeuschek.
Indicated this is not just about minority students but those non-minority students not taking honors level courses
Expressed concern about teacher readiness
Inquired about a timeline for seventh and eighth grades
  Mr. Josh Anisangel – Director for English Language Arts
  Responded to Board Member Alvarado’s question
Inquired about how we measure success
  Ms. Cheliotes responded

Comments were also made by:
  Director Carolyn Cuttler
  Director Ken Graham
  Chairperson Wendi Klein

Board Member Lester
  Defined success with the District’s Mission Statement
  Cited the Wheelock Study 1992

Board Member Gergen
  Commented on benefits of this discussion and called for more

V. President Gallagher called for a motion to adjourn at 10:15 PM.

Motion by: Board Member Gergen
Seconded by: Board Member Ryan
Approved: 5-0

Minutes submitted by: Eileen Lilly, District Clerk
February 4, 2009