



## **School Committee**

### **MINUTES OF THE CHELSEA SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**April 16 2009**

**Approved May 28, 2009**

The Chelsea School Committee met on Thursday, April 16, 2009, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea.

**Members Present:** Chairman Rosemarie Carlisle, Vice-Chairman James E Dwyer, Lucia Colon, Michael Caulfield, Ed Ells, Ramona Foster, Lisa Lineweaver, Morrie Seigal, Melinda Alvarado-Vega and City Council Delegate to the School Committee Deborah Washington

**Also Present:** School Superintendent Dr. Thomas S. Kingston, School Business Manager and Clerk to the School Committee Barbara Martin.

**1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m.**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** A motion to suspend the rules was approved on a voice vote to allow Dr. Kingston and Chairman Carlisle to present Certificates of Appreciation to the 2009 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award Winners.

**3. School Committee Minutes:** The minutes of the March 19, 2009 Public Hearing and the March 26, 2009, School Committee Meeting were unanimously approved.

**4. Public Comment:**

- James Malvosa, 88 Watts St, Chelsea, MA- President of the Interact Club at Chelsea High School wished to thank the members of the Chelsea School Committee who took part in Student Government Day.
- Grace Agosta, 1 Mill St, Chelsea, MA- Vice President of the Interact Club at Chelsea High School shadowed the Superintendent on Student Government Day and thanked him and members of the Chelsea School Committee. She commented on the drop-out rate and asked School Committee members to continue to collaborate on ways to decrease drop-out rates in Chelsea.
- Damaris Gonzalez, 87 Orange St, Chelsea, MA – Chelsea Collaborative member spoke in reference to the Drop-out Forum that was planned for May 2, 2009 but is now postponed until a later date.

**5. Report of the Superintendent of Schools:** Dr. Kingston noted that Dr. Bourque was in San Diego attending the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association where she was speaking on her thesis *The Impact of Student Mobility on Urban School Districts in Massachusetts*.

Dr. Kingston reported that Chapter 70 money still remains level funded for FY10, but the House Ways and Means adjusted the Governors stimulus package by removing \$124,000.00 from Circuit Breaker.

Dr. Kingston discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). He explained that the money will be received over two years and can not just be used to close budget gaps but must also be used for long range planning purposes. Questions and discussion ensued.

**Personnel Report:** No personnel changes to report.

**Enrollment Report:** Dr. Kingston commended the Enrollment Report to the record. As of April 14, 2009, the district-wide enrollment was 5,670 students, including 126 students in out-of-district placements. In addition, there are three (3) Chapter 768 students for whom the district has financial responsibility.

**Miscellaneous:** Dr. Kingston reported that the Mass 21st Century Grant was submitted for the Wright School.

Next week the schools will be closed for spring break. Administrative and School Office's will be open.

Dr. Kingston announced that the Williams Middle School Library is one of the 4000 public and school libraries receiving a free collection of classic books from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Kingston also noted that the Chelsea Public Schools would be joining with Shore Educational Collaborative on a project to hire a full-time data analyst at Shore. The new analyst will be using the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education data system. The system will provide quick reports, analysis and increased mapping of SPED resources.

Questions and discussion ensued.

## **6. New Business:**

- Mr. Ells moved to nominate Gerry Lewis to continue as the Chelsea School Committee representative to the Shore Educational Collaborative.

Chairman Carlisle called for a roll call vote:

1	Rosemarie Carlisle	Y
2	James Dwyer	Y
3	Morrie Seigal	Y
4	Edward Ells	Y
5	Ramona Foster	Y
6	Lisa Lineweaver	Y
7	Michael Caulfield	Y
8	Lucia Colon	Y
9	Melinda Alvarado-Vega	Y

With nine votes in the affirmative, the motion to nominate Gerry Lewis as the Chelsea School Committee representative to the Shore Educational Collaborative was unanimously approved.

**7. Communications:** None

**8. Committee Reports:**

- **Human Resources:** Mr. Ells reported that the subcommittee last met on April 14, 2009. A copy of the report is attached and forms a part of these minutes.
- **Curriculum and Instruction:** Ms. Alvarado-Vega reported that the subcommittee last met on March 26, 2009. A copy of the report is attached and forms a part of these minutes.
- **Student Representative:** Mr. Chung reported on the successful production of *Into the Woods*.

Mr. Chung noted that several college acceptance letters have been received and students are making decisions on what schools they want to attend.

Mr. Chung also reported that school lunches have changes and students are unhappy with the changes. They feel they are getting smaller portions and items that were under the snack menu are now only served as a full lunch at a higher price. Mr. Dwyer asked that Mr. McCue discuss these changes with the Food Service Company and report back to the School Committee at the next meeting.

**9. Announcements:** Mr. Ells announced that since April was National Poetry Month, he was donating a book of poems. The book titled *Be Glad your Nose is on your Face and other Poems* by Jack Prelutsky was donated to the John Silber Early Learning Center.

Ms. Lineweaver volunteered to donate a book next month.

**10. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8.00 p.m.

**Recorded by**

*Barbara Martin*

**Barbara A. Martin**

**Business Manager**

**Clerk to the Chelsea School Committee**

**Human Resource Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**April 14, 2009**

A meeting of the HR Sub-Committee was held on April 14, 2009. In attendance were James Dwyer, Edward Ells, Dr. Thomas Kingston and Tina Sullivan, HR Director.

Discussion occurred in reference to the following agenda items:

Gerry Lewis – discussion surrounding the re-appointment of Gerry Lewis to a seat on the Shore Collaborative Board, a position he has held for several years. It was noted that Gerry is a regular attendee at board meetings and has demonstrated much commitment to the organization. Dwyer and Ells recommended his nomination be forwarded to the full Committee.

Dr. Kingston then gave an update on the arbitration concerning homework assignments that did not occur, due a last minute request by the Union to negotiate an agreement with the City prior to the Hearing. That Agreement has been signed and the details were communicated to the Committee in a prior communication.

There is a pending Arbitration matter concerning the posting of objectives in the classroom. Arbitrators have been agreed to by both sides, but the Union has not confirmed a date. We will be kept informed of the status as the issue progresses.

Dr. Kingston updated the sub-committee on recent impact bargaining that occurred on four topics: Expanded Learning at the Browne School; Union response to the City's proposal to move into the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) at some future point; plans to develop a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade "Academy" at CHS with dedicated staff for Freshmen that will serve as a drop-out prevention and recovery program; and negotiations to redefine the lead teacher position with the CTU from 2/5 release time to 3/5 release time.

Dr. Kingston informed the sub-committee about the Department's participation in Teach for America which will pay for 5-10 Math, Science and Special Ed teachers and will involve training of the new teachers by Teach for America.

The sub-committee reviewed initial plans for the evaluation of Dr. Kingston during the months of May and June. At that time, Dr., Kingston also mentioned his intent with respect to Principal contracts and benchmarks for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

**Chelsea School Committee**  
**Subcommittee for Curriculum and Instruction**  
**Thursday, March 26, 2009**  
**5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting Notes**

**In attendance:** Ramona Foster, Subcommittee Chair; Melinda Vega; Mary Bourque, Deputy Superintendent.

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**New Business:**

- **Review and discussion of Vision, Strategic Goals, Benchmarks, Initiatives**  
Dr. Bourque provided the subcommittee with an update on the district-wide ongoing projects and new initiatives. Review of the student achievement data and information conducted by the Chelsea Public Schools (CPS) Leadership Team relative to the district's progress towards meeting the established goals (Dr. Kingston's *Bridges to Success*) was presented, reviewed and discussed. Dr. Bourque prepared a handout for the subcommittee to guide the discussion. The subcommittee was informed of the decision of the CPS Leadership Team to revise some of the goals, based on the data and progress-to-date. Subcommittee members were given the opportunity to examine the document and provide additional input and recommendations.

The subcommittee recommended the data, revised goals and handout be presented to the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee for further review, discussion and next steps. The subcommittee also agreed to identify two (2) district-wide initiatives for the C&I subcommittee to focus on in the coming months.

- **Discussion of the Ninth Grade Reorganization Plans**  
The subcommittee discussed the essential and supporting reasons of the district's plans to restructure the existing organization of Grade 9 at Chelsea High School (CHS). Given that the ninth grade year is the critical time to build a foundation for high school success, Dr. Bourque described the need, as well as district's efforts to obtain a federal grant and research local/national proven practices and solutions. Dr. Bourque will share a media presentation and additional information on one such model program, *Reinventing Grade 9*, at the upcoming subcommittee meeting in May. Additional information and next steps will be presented to the full School Committee in the coming weeks.
- **Discussion of the Dropout Prevention Panel**  
Ms. Vega provided the subcommittee with a brief overview of the upcoming Dropout Prevention Panel, presented by Centro Latino, currently scheduled for May 2, 2009. Ms. Vega highlighted that the intent of the workshop and panel is to provide an open forum to discuss current issues and challenges in reducing the district's high school dropout rates. Discussion and questions ensued.

### **Old Business:**

- **Homework Help**

Ms. Foster reiterated a previous recommendation of the subcommittee to invite staff from the Chelsea High School *Homework Help* class to seek approval of the full School Committee regarding the planned after-school *Homework Help* class the school is seeking to offer to students for credit. The subcommittee agreed to invite the *Homework Help* staff to present and seek approval of School Committee at a date to be determined.

- **CHS Functional Academics Report Card/Grading Rubric**

Dr. Bourque updated the subcommittee regarding an upcoming consultation meeting with the with the district's legal team in regards to the formal proposal of the Chelsea High School Special Education Department to revise the current report card/grading rubric system for students with significant cognitive impairments participating in the district's Functional Academics program. Dr. Bourque will update the subcommittee at the May subcommittee meeting. Pending the results of the consultation with the legal team, approval of the School Committee at a future date may be recommended by the subcommittee.

- **Status of Professional Learning Communities (PLC)**

Dr. Bourque updated the subcommittee regarding the status of the district's efforts to implement Professional Learning Communities (PLC) for September 2009. The full professional development plan will be presented to the School Committee potentially at the June meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, May 28, 2008 (5:30 p.m.)

*\*\*Please note that there is no subcommittee meeting in April.\*\**