

**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 Cheliotas, 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

**Motion to Go into  
Executive  
Session**

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

**Adjournment**

## 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 Cheliotas, 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. Cheliotas for her leadership on this Committee.

### II. President Gallagher called for the Presentation by the Middle School Committee.

Mrs. Cheliotas and the Middle School Committee members provided a presentation as attached.

<p><b>Middle School Committee Presentation</b></p>
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**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. Cheliotos 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 Anisansel – Director for English Language Arts  
    Responded to Board Member Alvarado's question
- Inquired about how we measure success  
    Ms. Cheliotos 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**

<b>Motion to adjourn</b>
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Minutes submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Eileen Lilly, District Clerk  
February 4, 2009