

Subject: Suggested corrections to School Committee Regular Session minutes of 6/19/07.
By: Neil Bernstein
Date: 2007-07-17
Mod date: 2007-07-17

[split second paragraph and enter the following, starting a new paragraph, between them]

["The committee members and the superintendent engaged in a lengthy discussion over goals they would like set for 2007-2008."]

In a brainstorming session, the following topics were suggested:

- Quarterly "dashboard" financial reports
- Financial forecasting, budgeting, tracking
- Capital planning: long term
- Big Blue foundation
- Formative Assessments / transitional goals
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- SPS Newsletter / communications
- Improving relations with teachers
- Town/SPS relations interaction
- Town strategy team
- Marketing of new facility
- Teamwork between Superintendent and School Committee
- Mandatory community service for SPS students
- Community celebrations of SHS
- Student achievement:
- SPED financial audit
- Sports council / student behavior
- Increased student achievement
- Budget process
- Student Intervention Pyramid
- Curriculum mapping
- Standards-based report card
- Grants / development

Deliberation on the topics

Big Blue foundation

Dave Whelan presented the relevant issues:

- Separate, parallel structure
- Normally SUCCESS does not touch sports
- Umbrella group

Further discussion (attribution not noted):

- Study?, w/ MIAA and other booster clubs
- Illegal athletic account lead to look into this
- Athletic/sports Council does not do anything
 - Drugs, other topics
 - Lacrosse incident handling was significant improvement
 - Graduation
- Title 9 issues
 - Progress on coach salaries equalization;
- Requires further study
- Summary:
 - Accountability
 - Booster Club oversight
 - Policy that defines relationship between School Committee and Booster Clubs⇒ project for new Athletic Director

Formative Assessment / transitional goals

Neil Bernstein:

- This could fall under PLCs

Dan Yaeger:

- Internal task forces
- Teachers plans

Dr. Malone:

- I recommend a good book:
Dan Lordy
"School Teacher"
Describes how isolating the profession is.

Summary:

- Common formative assessment
- Covered under PLC's

Improve relations with teachers

- Should be embedded within adopted goals

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

- General support
- Site-based PLC study teams
 - Present results to School Committee

Town/SPS relations interaction

[Speaker?]:

- More philosophy than goal
- Just keep things on better relations
- Super / Town Administrator should be primary point of interaction

Town strategy team

[Speaker?]:

- No one could figure out what this would be or do.

Marketing of new facility

Dr. Malone

- Will happen, anyway
- Which facilities, costs,
- Budget Director should support this, from the business perspective

Joe Crimmins:

- Increase usage

Dan Yaeger:

- Create a buzz
- Longer term usage and revenue
- We need policies, immediately

Dr. Malone:

- As a team we should be doing this in the normal course of our work
- mm + town + sc + sr center + gino, danielle, maylor, shs ad, coach, shs Princ.

Mandatory community service

Neil Bernstein:

- NOT talking about PTF activity
- Talking about high school graduation requirements, etc.
- Looking for mutuality between town and SPS
- Looking to also acknowledge volunteering

Dr. Malone

- Comment: Almost all students engage in community service
- Might be appropriate to involve School Council

Community celebrations of SHS

Dr. Malone:

- Part of standard business and activities of SPS

Student achievement:

[Speaker?]:

- Flash reports
- Summative reports
- Shared data in Super's assessment

Dave Whelan:

- Alternative HS progress

Dan Yaeger:

- Matt gave numbers on dropout and college rates
- Metrics "dashboard"

Dr. Malone:

- Similar to Dresden, NH report

Dan Yaeger:

- Includes academic achievement & relevant data - poverty, sped

SPED financial audit

Dave Whelan:

- For a lot of money, compare your data with other communities
- Make suggestions relative to other communities
- Since we have promised FinComm, we must do this
- But, is it a goal?

Consensus:

- Yes

Sports council / student behavior

Dr. Malone

- This will fall under the purview of the new Athletic Director's responsibilities

Increased student achievement

[Speaker?]:

- AP/MCAS

- Capstone projects (5th, 8th, 12th grades)
- We are going to do it anyway

Budget process

[Speaker?]:

Annual Report

- Timeline
- Development of Budget

Neil Bernstein:

- Includes Financial Forecasting, budgeting and tracking

Student Intervention Pyramid

Neil Bernstein

- DuFour model
- Fits within PLCs

Curriculum mapping

Dr. Malone:

- Essential
- 1-page curriculum maps - summary, grade-level
- Structure:
 - SHS - Christine DiOilato + CDs [yes]
 - SMS – Ralph Watson + 5 CDs [yes]
 - SES's assign a principal + grade level teams - not this year
 - SMS - units of study

Standards-based report card

Dr. Malone:

- Pilot
- Wait for the results

Grants / development

Dr. Malone:

- Summer biology program in Nahant
- More SUCCESS grants
- We don't qualify for fed stuff

[Speaker?]:

- Isn't there money out there?

Dr. Malone

- People like Susan Lewis knows this sort of thing
- We continue to search for grants

Capital planning: long term

[Speaker?]:

- Constituents?
- For Master Plan Update Committee, together with Capital Improvements

[“The members agreed that the following goals were the most important:” ...]

[after the six bullets]

Other follow-on discussion

Marketing new SHS

Dr. Malone:

- Marketing plan - 1 page report
 - Tours, etc.
- Actually, more of a School Committee goal, not Superintendent goal

Capital / Master Plan

- School Committee goal

Sports Council reports

[Speaker?]

- Can we get minutes from Sports Council meetings?

[continue with “After more discussion ...”]