

## School Committee Retreat Minutes

August 16, 2013

Chocksett Inn, Sterling, MA

Present: John Owanisian, Jen Breen, Erin Palumbo, Jim Pedone, Rick Shaw  
Administration: Beth Schaper, Larry Murphy, Chris LaBreck, Rich Meagher, Melissa Wallace, Sherri Traina, Roger Pontbriand.

The meeting was called to order by John Owanisian at 8:30am.

Introductions were made for new members of the administration.

School Updates were given by Larry Murphy, Chris LaBreck, and Rich Meagher. Sherri Traina provided an update on Special Education and Pupil Personnel. Beth Schaper provided an overview of the coming year, highlighting major state initiatives in which the district will participate. Roger Pontbriand provided an update on building maintenance and repair projects.

The committee voted to reorganize. Mr. Owanisian was elected chair. Mrs. Breen will serve as co-chair. Subcommittee assignments were made. Mrs. Schaper will provide members with a schedule of subcommittee meetings.

The School Committee goals were reviewed. The committee deleted the goal on strategic planning given that the process was completed. The committee added a goal to provide direction to the superintendent in setting enrollment targets for each grade level based on high demand for school choice seats.

The committee discussed ways to honor Peter Desev who served on the committee for many years. This item was referred to an Ad Hoc subcommittee for planning.

The committee discussed ways it might work with the town on building maintenance and updates.

The committee heard a report from the Superintendent on the availability of grant funds to explore full day kindergarten for all students. The committee authorized the superintendent to submit the initial paperwork to begin developing a proposal. The proposal does not bind the district to any outcome regarding kindergarten. This is an exploratory phase.

The superintendent provided an update on school choice enrollment.

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:30 by Jen Breen, it was seconded by Jim Pedone. and Voted 5-0-0.