

Memorandum from
The Education Committee of the RTM

Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 10, 2009

Education Committee Members in Attendance: Christopher Camuti, Joan Davis, Dennis Maroney, Dave Martens, Emily McDermott, Christa McNamara (arrived at 8:15pm), Susan Morrison, Karin Sharp, Mark Smosky, Barbara Thorne and Priscilla Wong.

Absent: Sandra Savage, Lois Schneider and Barbara Harrington

Dennis Maroney called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

Topics discussed:

1. Full-day kindergarten for the 2009-10 school year: A “Sense of the Meeting” vote resulted in 7 votes in favor of the concept and 4 opposed. Mr. Maroney to make a statement to the BOE this evening prior to formal BOE vote, summing up committee’s discussion and citing “Sense of the Meeting”; Those in favor cited educational benefits of extra play time within classroom, benefits to working mothers and district’s cost savings. Those opposed disagreed with timing and poor communication to the public, as well as questions regarding studies cited by administration. All committee members expressed concerns over 1:30 pick-up option.
2. Play-to-Participate: there was unanimous concern from the committee over this program, specifically that any type of fees imposed on students should be more equitable across various extra-curricular programs. The suggestion of a flat student activity fee/tax strictly for 1 year was suggested, as there was additional concern expressed that this program would never be removed from the budget in the future and would be used as a revenue-generating line item.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Sharp
RTM Education Committee Member