

**These minutes have not been reviewed or approved by the Melrose School Committee**

Minutes of the Workshop  
of the  
Melrose School Committee  
January 16, 2010

A workshop for the Melrose School Committee was held this date in the Superintendent's Conference Room with the following members present: Ms. Casatelli, Mr. Constantine, Mayor Dolan, Ms. Driscoll, Ms. Kourkoumelis, Mr. LaRock, and Ms. Thorp.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Joseph Casey and Business Manager Greg Zammuto.

Ms. Driscoll called the workshop to order at 8:05am and reiterated its intentions as stated on the posted agenda:

- \* To offer a professional development opportunity for School Committee members that helps us execute our roles and responsibilities efficiently and effectively
- \* To get to know and understand each other better in order to work as collaboratively and effectively as possible
- \* To learn more about how School Committee meetings are held in other districts
- \* To discuss if and how we change the frequency, structure and context of meetings in support of improved student achievement

Public Participation

Ms. Kourkoumelis moved, Mayor Dolan seconded with seven (7) votes in the affirmative and none (0) in the negative, it was

VOTED: To open Public Participation

Mr. Gerry Mroz of Mt. Vernon Street encouraged the Committee to implement a meeting structure that supports longer and more in-depth conversation around educational issues.

Mayor Dolan moved, Ms. Thorp seconded with seven (7) votes in the affirmative and none (0) in the negative, it was

VOTED: To close Public Participation

Teambuilding Presentation and Facilitation by Mike Gilbert, Field Director – Information and Technology, Massachusetts Association of School Committees

Mr. Gilbert presented a teambuilding Powerpoint based on Patrick Lencioni's *5 Dysfunctions of a Team* (Jossey-Bass, 2002). In addition, he facilitated a teambuilding exercise that supported Committee members' understanding of each other in order to better work together to achieve common goals on behalf of students.

Effective Meetings Presentation by Mike Gilbert

Mr. Gilbert presented a review of effective school committee meetings, citing a variety of approaches used in different districts to conduct business efficiently and effectively. His presentation can be found at [www.masc.org](http://www.masc.org) under "Effective Meetings."

Discussion of Melrose School Committee meetings

Dialogue centered around how the Committee might amend its agendas to maximize time on better supporting education and improving student achievement. No votes were taken.

*(Mayor Dolan and Mr. LaRock left the meeting at 10:50am)*

*(Ms. Casatelli left the meeting at 11:30)*

Public Participation

Ms. Kourkoumelis moved and Mr. Constantine seconded with four (4) votes in the affirmative (Mr. Constantine, Ms. Driscoll, Ms. Kourkoumelis, and Ms. Thorp) and three (3) absent (Ms. Casatelli, Mayor Dolan and Mr. LaRock)

VOTED: To open Public Participation

Mr. Gerry Mroz of Mt. Vernon Street addressed the need for an improved meeting structure, issues surrounding the Strategic Plan, and creating more open dialogue regarding education.

Ms. Kourkoumelis moved and Ms. Thorp seconded with four (4) votes in the affirmative (Mr. Constantine, Ms. Driscoll, Ms. Kourkoumelis, and Ms. Thorp) and three (3) absent (Ms. Casatelli, Mayor Dolan and Mr. LaRock)

VOTED: To close Public Participation

Ms. Driscoll indicated that the workshop would be reported on in the regularly scheduled January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Constantine seconded with four (4) votes in the affirmative (Mr. Constantine, Ms. Driscoll, Ms. Kourkoumelis, and Ms. Thorp) and three (3) absent (Ms. Casatelli, Mayor Dolan, and Mr. LaRock)

VOTED: To adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:42am.