

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

October 27, 2011

A **Special Meeting** of the **Lowell School Committee** was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Offices on 43 Highland Street, Lowell, MA, (Room 221) to discuss matters pertaining to an apparent violation of an October 12, 2011 executive session, as well as to possibly hear complaints and charges against the committee member allegedly responsible for violating the confidentiality of the executive session.

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 6:33 pm, all members were present, namely: Mr. Leary, Ms. Martin, Mayor/Chairman Milinazzo, Mr. Conway, Ms. Doherty, Ms. Laraba and Mr. Leahy

Mayor/Chairman Milinazzo stated that this Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee was to discuss matters pertaining to an apparent violation of an October 12, 2011 executive session, as well as to possibly hear complaints and charges against the committee member allegedly responsible for violating the confidentiality of the executive session.

Mayor/Chairman Milinazzo then read the following letter from Ms. Doherty requesting that this meeting be an open meeting. The letter reads:

October 21, 2011

To: Members of the School Committee
From: Jackie Doherty
RE: Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee

Dear Colleagues:

I respectfully request that the Special Meeting on October 27, 2011 pertaining to apparent violation of the October 12th executive session be held in an open forum.

Thank You,
Signed by Jackie
Jackie Doherty
Lowell School Committee

Mayor/Chairman Milinazzo then recognized Ms. Doherty who read the following communication to her colleagues:

TO MY COLLEAGUES RE THE BREACH

I regret speaking on background to a reporter about negotiations, and I apologize for the pain or discomfort I caused you. I think you share my frustration with a system that does not allow us an equal playing field. When a union leader can beat us up with impunity, frame a false media message, and release confidential information, how then do we protect the interests of the community and act as responsible stewards of our school system?

The fact that Paul Georges breached the contract first does not excuse my actions. Two wrongs do not make a right. In my frustrated attempt to fight for programs and services for kids, and save jobs for our staff, I crossed a line. I see now that I could have pursued other avenues such as filing a complaint or alerting the media.

My point is, speaking out in frustration was not the best course of action. Clearly, we need to re-examine how we approach negotiations going forward, so that we can protect the best interests of our citizens with accurate information.

In closing, I am not perfect, certainly, but I have demonstrated time and again, my commitment to this city, my willingness to speak out on issues impacting our schools, and my dedication to do what's best for our students. Please keep that in mind going forward.

Ms. Laraba made a motion to accept this communication and to place it on file; seconded by Mr. Leary ACCEPTED

Ms. Laraba made a motion to reaffirm a previous motion regarding a breach of executive session and that if in the event that a breach of executive session occurs again the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office; seconded by Mr. Conway. 7 yeas APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Leary moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Leahy. This Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee adjourned at 6:43 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor James L. Milinazzo
Chairman of the
Lowell School Committee

JLM/mes