

## **Citizens' Advisory Group**

### School Cost Structure Committee

7-21-08 Update

Our committee has subdivided into five study groups:

1. Staff Compensation—(Neil and Laura)
2. Teacher Load, Enrichments, and Class Size—(John, Neil, and Dan)
3. Administration (size and cost) and Innovation in Admin and Financial Practices—(Ruthanne and John).
4. Revenues (Fees, Grants, Food Services, et al)—(Selina and Ruthanne)
5. Sped—(Laura and Selina)

We have agreed that our work tasks are:

1. Mine the data we currently are in possession of:
  - a. Annual Class Size Reports
  - b. Fiscal 2009 School Budget
  - c. Gibson Report on Management Structure in the NPS
  - d. HRS Compensation and Classification Study
  - e. Contract with Newton Teachers Association
  - f. SPED Enrollment Data
  - g. Department of Education '07 per pupil expenditures in Newton
2. Interview both the Chair of the School Committee and the Superintendent in order to gain their help in developing a list of pertinent school officials and school committee members who could inform our study groups
3. Engage those school officials, school committee members, parents, and others who work closely with education in the city in conversations about their observations of school operations
4. Seek out and utilize benchmarks utilizing two sets of comparisons:
  - a. a) Similar demographic communities
  - b. b) Communities with an equivalent commitment to
    - i. excellence in education
5. Interview citizens /seek public input/meet with organizations active in the city
  - a. Meeting with League of Women Voters, July 31

Our first target date for the sharing written progress reports is Monday evening on July 28, 7PM (room 222, City Hall)

Respectfully submitted by:

John D'Auria-co-chair

Ruthanne Fuller-co-chair

Selina Pandolfi

Dan Richards

Neil Silverston

Laura M. Thompson