1. Call to Order & Welcome

A. Task Force Co-Chair Rep Soto announced that due to the resignation of State Sen. William Delgado from the Task Force, State Sen. Steans has been appointed by the Senate President as Co-Chair of the full task force. The Senate President has also appointed Sen. Iris Martinez to fill the vacancy created by Sen. Delgado’s departure. Rep. Soto and Sen. Steans appoint Sen. Martinez to serve as a member and Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Facility Needs, Spending & Funding.

B. Procedural matters: The roll was taken, and the following were in attendance, providing a quorum of members: State Rep. Soto; State Sen. Steans; State Sen. Martinez; State Rep. Golar (by phone conference); Caitlin Kearney, Grand Blvd Federation; Valencia Rias, Designs for Change; Cecile Carroll, Blocks Together; Rene Heybach, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Robert Runcie, Chicago Public Schools; Mr. Xian Barrett, Chicago Teachers Union.

Staff in attendance: Becky Locker and Jessica Handy, Office of the Senate President; John Keigher, Office of the Speaker; Bill Gerstein, CPS; Sarah Hartwick, House Republican staff; Jacqueline Leavy, pro bono advisor to the Task Force; Mary Filardo, pro bono advisor to the Task Force; and Joe Gartner, staff to Rep. Dunkin.

Approval of Minutes: The Task Force reviewed the Minutes of the March 18th, April 26th, and August 10th meetings. Sen. Steans moved, and Ms. Rias seconded, the motion to approve the March 18th Minutes; motion approved by voice vote. Sen. Steans moved, and Sen. Martinez seconded, the motion to approve the April 26th Minutes; motion approved by voice vote. Rep. Soto moved, and Sen. Steans seconded, the motion to approve the August 10th Minutes; motion approved by voice vote.

2. Invitation for Public Comment: No members of the public gave public comment.

3. Review, Update of Task Force Work Plan and Time Line

- Deadline for Subcommittee Reports and Recommendations:

Task Force Co-Chairs Rep. Soto and Sen. Steans asked that the four standing subcommittees finalize their work and draft their reports and recommendations by no later than November 1, 2010. Each subcommittee’s report will then be combined and edited into a draft working document by pro bono advisor Ms. Leavy, and sent to Task Force members for their review and feedback. Once the Task Force produces its collective report and preliminary reform recommendations, the statute requires that these be available for public review and comment. Mr. Runcie (Chicago Public Schools) suggested that CPS may be able to assist the Task Force with getting public feedback on the report and preliminary recommendations.
• Dates for remaining full Task Force meetings:
  o The next meeting of the full Task Force is set for Tuesday, October 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2010 at 9:30 AM at the Bilandic Bldg., 160 N. LaSalle, Rm. N-505.
  o Another full Task Force meeting will be Tuesday, November 9\textsuperscript{th}, 2010 at 9:30 AM at the Bilandic Bldg., 160 N. LaSalle, Rm. N-505.

4. Reports of the Standing Subcommittees

A. Public Input Subcommittee: Co-Chair Valencia Rias (of Designs for Change) reported on final preparations for the three public hearings to be held August 31\textsuperscript{st}, Sept. 25, and Sept. 28\textsuperscript{th}. She urged all Task Force members to attend as many of these as their schedules permit, and reach out to any media contacts they have. The Subcommittee recommends that the Task Force Co-Chairs issue a second Media Advisory prior to the first hearing. The Subcommittee will meet August 24\textsuperscript{th} to finalize the Public Comment form and agenda for the hearings. Additionally the Subcommittee recommends that Co-Chair Soto conduct a site visit to three schools which have been impacted by CPS school actions Thursday, August 26\textsuperscript{th}, to further publicize and promote the public hearing process. Task Force Co-Chair Soto indicated her agreement to the visits to three school sites, along with the proposal for media outreach.

Task Force Pro Bono advisor Mary Filardo then briefed the full task force on the Focus Groups to be held August 24\textsuperscript{th} with elected officials, principals and teachers, which she will conduct as facilitator. Ms. Filardo briefly reviewed the protocol and questions to be posed, and the emphasis on eliciting stakeholder groups’ proposals for reforms, and improvements in CPS policy. All participants will be assured of confidentiality. Ms. Filardo will prepare a summary of the input gained and report back to the Public Input Subcommittee and the full task force.

B. Facility Master Planning Subcommittee: Cecile Carroll (of Blocks Together) distributed a written summary of the Subcommittee’s review and analysis of the Washington, DC Public Schools Facility Master Plan; the best practices report issued by Building Educational Success Together, and the Baltimore American Civil Liberties Union recommendations for the State of Maryland and the Baltimore Public Schools. Common themes found in the subcommittee’s reviews of best practices included:
  • Establishing a school facility database statewide to ensure that all public schools meet adequate health, safety, and instructional standards, while being managed in efficient and environmentally sound ways
  • Establishing school building space standards to adequately address educational program and service needs of students, as well as teachers and the surrounding community
  • Establishing a plan for ongoing maintenance, with clear maintenance standards
  • Establishing a process and vehicle for oversight of school facilities decision making
  • Planning for the long term (10-20 years) with broad and updated public participation and inter-governmental coordination

The FMP subcommittee will provide more detailed analysis of best practices in its report and recommendations. In the meantime, the Subcommittee will review facility master plans from other Illinois school districts and other cities and states. The Subcommittee also plans to reach out to other major Chicago local government units to learn how they interact with and coordinate with CPS, and how their capital programs and other programs are impacting CPS school facilities. ILGA staff will assist the subcommittee in contacting other Illinois school districts for their facility plans.
The FMP Subcommittee recommended that the City Department of Community Development, which oversees neighborhood planning, housing development and Tax Increment Financing, be asked by the Co-Chairs to provide a briefing at the next full task force meeting. The briefing would explain how the City and DCD interact and coordinate with CPS, and the status of the City’s “Modern Schools Across Chicago” TIF-financed bond program, a major source of capital funding for CPS.

C. CPS Policy Review Subcommittee Co-Chair Xian Barrett reported on the Subcommittee’s progress in reviewing current CPS policies on school actions and facilities. Several subcommittee members have volunteered to review specific policies. The Subcommittee will meet on August 24th to discuss reviews of CPS policies on school closings, homeless students, and shared facilities. The Subcommittee requested at the previous task force meeting that CPS provide the “School Closing Impact Studies” from 2004 to the present, as required by CPS’ own policy. Mr. Runcie and Mr. Gerstein of CPS stated that they are still searching internally for any such reports. Mr. Runcie noted that the Consortium on Chicago School Research produced a School Closings Impact analysis in the Fall of 2009. Ms. Carroll and Ms. Heybach asked that CPS provide all task force members with any internal CPS reports, which were to have been issued annually, and with the CCSR analysis.

D. Facility Needs, Spending & Funding Subcommittee: As the Co-Chairs of this subcommittee recently changed, Sen. Martinez and Rep. Golar plan to schedule a meeting soon, while the Task Force Co-Chairs indicated that they will hold a meeting with Mr. Runcie to brief him in detail as to the data needs of the task force. An overview presentation and briefing of the full task force on CPS’ capital spending, needs assessment, and funding sources will be expected at the October 5th meeting of the full task force.

5. Meeting Wrap-Up

Task Force Co-Chair Rep Soto recapped the upcoming meeting dates for subcommittees, focus groups, public hearings, and full task force meetings. The 9:30 AM Public Input Subcommittee meeting on 8/24 and the 11 AM CPS Policy Review Subcommittee (also on 8/24) will be held in the Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph in Room 9-039 (9th Floor), while Ms. Filardo facilitates focus groups throughout the day at the Bilandic Building, Room N-505. The next full meeting of the Task Force will be Tuesday, October 5th, 9:30 AM, Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle, Rm N-505. Rep Soto called for a motion to adjourn; Ms. Rias so moved, Sen. Steans seconded the motion; motion approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.