



Charles C. Yancey

Boston City Councillor

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: **Kenneth Yarbrough - Chief Information Officer**
(617) 635-3131 Fax (617) 635-3067 Page (617) 461-5548

For Release

Thursday, December 30, 2010

YANCEY URGES ADMINISTRATION TO UNDO SCHOOL-CLOSING PLAN

Boston City Hall (December 30, 2010) – Boston City Councillor Charles C. Yancey today appealed to Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and the Boston School Committee to repeal the Mayor’s decision to close nine schools and to merge eight others into four.

Councillor Yancey, in a letter to Mayor Menino and the Boston School Committee, called the mayor’s reorganization plan a mistake that will lead to a decline in the quality of education in the City of Boston. “We are balancing the City of Boston’s FY2011 budget on the backs of Boston public school students. It’s much too heavy a burden to be placed on our students,” he said.



Boston City Councillor Charles C. Yancey implores Boston Public School Superintendent Carol R. Johnson and members of the Boston School Committee to vote against Boston Mayor Thomas Menino’s plans to shut down nine public schools and to merge eight other public schools into four, during a recent school committee meeting.

Councillor Yancey participated in several Boston School Committee meetings over the past six months, urging the committee to vote against Mayor Menino’s plans to shut down schools. But the appointed school committee, on December 15, 2010, voted unanimously to support the Menino Administration plans.

Speaking during a meeting at the Hyde Park Complex earlier this year, Councillor Yancey expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the Boston School Committee is appointed by the city’s mayor. “Boston is the only city in the commonwealth of Massachusetts where the people can no longer elect their school committee,” he said, noting that the school closings would not occur without Mayor Menino’s approval.

The seven members of the Boston School Committee, who are appointed by Mayor Menino to serve four-year staggered terms, include John F. Barros, Michael D. O’Neill, Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Sr., Claudio Martinez, Marchelle Raynor, Alfreda J. Harris, and Mary Tamer.

All members voted in favor of the Mayor’s plans to close the Fifield Elementary School in Dorchester, Middle School Academy in Dorchester, East Zone Early Learning Center in Dorchester, Emerson Elementary School in Roxbury, Agassiz Elementary School in Jamaica Plain, David Farragut

Elementary School in Mission Hill, and the Engineering School and the Social Justice Academy in the Hyde Park Complex.

The Mayor's controversial plans also includes conversion of Gavin Middle School in South Boston into a charter school, and the mergers of Alighieri Elementary School with Umana Middle School in East Boston, the Lee Academy Pilot School with Joseph Lee Elementary School in Dorchester, the Urban Science Academy with Parkway Academy of Technology and Health in West Roxbury, and the Brook Farm & Service Career Academy with Media Communications Technology High School in West Roxbury.

Yancey, who has been publicizing the fact that 3,000 Boston public high school students attend classes in non-high school buildings, has been struggling to convince Mayor Menino and the City Council to build a new high school in Mattapan. He said that many Boston high school students attend classes in buildings without science laboratories, cafeterias, or gymnasiums.

Councillor Yancey urged parents to make contact with elected officials, particularly Mayor Menino, and voice their opposition to the mayor's reorganization plan. "It's our responsibility as adults to protect our children. Let's not allow our children to be shut down psychologically and further traumatized," he said.

###

One City Hall Square • Boston • Massachusetts • 02201 (617) 635-3131