

January 2009

City Council & School Committee Leadership Changes

Ross elected Council President and Groover School Chairman

City Council

Councilor Michael Ross was elected President of the City Council unanimously on January 5, 2009, succeeding Councilor Maureen Feeney. Councilor Stephen Murphy was elected Vice President. Councilor Ross has been a Council member since 1999 and has served as Chair of several committees including the Committees of Ways and Means, Government Operations, Youth Affairs and the Special Committee on the Boston Common.

Council President Ross announced the Council's new committee structure and chairs for 2009. Altogether, eight committees were eliminated and the Committee on Human Rights and Services and the Special Committee on a Livable Boston were created. The chairs of selected committees for 2009 are shown below.

Committee	Chair
Ways & Means	Ciommo
Economic Development & Planning	Linehan
Education	Connolly
Government Operations	Feeney
Housing	Consalvo
Public Safety	Murphy

Councilor Feeney, will return as chair of the Government Operations Committee which she had previously led for 11 years.

School Committee

Reverend Gregory G. Groover, Sr. was elected Chairman of the Boston School Committee on January 5, 2009, succeeding Elizabeth Reilinger. Elected Vice-Chair was Marchelle Raynor, who is serving her tenth year on the School Committee. She had previously served as Vice Chair from 2003 to 2006. Committee Member Michael D. O'Neill, who was appointed by the Mayor to the School Committee in July of 2008 to fill the unexpired term of Michele Brooks, was appointed to a full four-year term.

Rev. Groover has been on the School Committee since 2007 and is the Pastor of the historic Charles Street AME Church in Dorchester. He and his wife are parents of a Boston Public School student. He serves as Vice President of the Black Ministerial Alliance and chairs its Education Committee which has kept him actively engaged in school improvement efforts in Boston. He served as Vice Chair of the School Committee in 2007.

Elizabeth Reilinger steps down as Chairperson having served in this position for the past 11 years since January 1998. Her leadership and contributions to improving the Boston Public Schools were recognized by the Council of Great City Schools which honored her with the prestigious Green Award in 2007 for outstanding urban board leadership.