

that DHS staff and school staff are very pleased with this distribution and see it as an additional and more informal way to integrate the two school communities.

Councillor Simmons noted that as the community and student profile change, it is important to keep in mind that the justification for extra funding entailed in an extended day program is the demonstrated economic and social needs of the students.

At the former Graham and Parks building there was an afterschool childcare program made up of two classes. One class will be moved to the new Peabody School in the former Fitzgerald building. The other will go to the Morse School. Both the new Peabody and the Morse locations will have two OST classes, and at both locations these programs will probably share space with the Special Start afterschool programs. In response to a question from Councillor Simmons, Ms Neel added that the Morse OST will have a K-3rd grade and a 3-6th grade class. The OST program at the new Peabody in the former Fitzgerald building will probably go through the fifth grade, because the Gately Shelter Youth Center, which is attached to the building, has an enrolled program for sixth grade kids.

The Peabody Afterschool Program at the Linnaean Street building will stay in that building. The acting principal of the Graham and Parks School, which is moving to the Linnaean Street building, has already reached out to the director of the afterschool program, Angela Cacciola, and she has agreed to save all open slots for incoming Graham and Parks families.

Councillor Simmons then asked about the Community Schools programs. Ms. Keegan reported on these programs. There will be no change in location for the Harrington Community School program. The Peabody Community School Council has voted to name itself the Linnaean Neighborhood Council and will stay at the Linnaean Street location. The council is having discussions with the Graham and Parks Community. The former director of the Graham and Parks Community School is moving to the King School. Most of the kids who attended the Graham and Parks Community School Program were students at the Graham and Parks School (while the kids at the childcare afterschool program were a mixture of mostly neighborhood residents from 10 different elementary schools). It is quite possible that several Graham and Park families will choose to send their kids to the King Community School Program.

Ms. Keegan noted that the King Community Schools program served 138 kids last year. Ninety of them were King Open Students. If most of last year's students stay and a large number of Graham and Parks students join them, the program will be quite large. She said that DHS staff members do not believe that they will have a complete picture of family needs and preferences until next year. They are engaging in many activities to find out what programs parents want, including a new survey.

Councillor Simmons stated that during this year or so of transition, the Human Services Committee should continue to monitor the process of the adaptation of the Community

Schools programs to the changes in the needs and preferences of families as a result of the school consolidations.

Councillor Simmons then turned to the issue of summer camps and gaps in childcare coverage. She noted a special concern for low and moderate-income families with parents who cannot take vacation to provide childcare during the times that camps are not open.

Ms. Keegan reported that two Community School camps opened early this year to cover the gap between the end of school and the traditional startup dates of camps. Ms. Herold reported that enrollment in the summer camps as a whole is down this year. Councillor Simmons said that this is not surprising – she would expect many parents to make alternative plans on account of the uncertainty created by school consolidation.

Councillor Simmons suggested that in the fall, DHS staff ask parents in their programs what choices they made for childcare over the summer. Ms Herold said that this question can be asked of parents in the DHS childcare programs, the Community Schools programs and the Youth Center programs. Ms. Keegan said that Community Schools will be using the summer survey they developed last year again this summer.

Councillor Simmons said that she is particularly interested in obtaining the following information about summer programs:

- What did families do to fill the gap between the end of school and the start of camp and between the end of camp and start of school?
- What programs are available for families that need childcare during this gap?
- Is the City doing enough by starting two city camp programs early?

Councillor Simmons said that she believes that the Cambridge Family YMCA offers programs during those gap periods and asked about other programs. Ms. Semonoff said that Afterworks, the afterschool program at St. Peter's School, has a program for the first week after the end of school and the last two weeks before school begins in the fall. Children do not need to be enrolled in the school year program to attend the summer program. Councillor Simmons requested that representatives from the St. Peter's program and the Family YMCA program be invited to the first committee meeting in the fall. She also requested that DHS staff call CEOC to ask them to repeat the survey of families in their summer programs that they did last year.

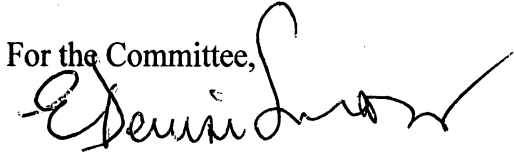
Councillor Simmons thanked all those present for their attendance. It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on October 15 at 8:30 A.M. The following issues and items were noted for discussion at the next meeting:

- How did parents cover the gap in childcare between school and camp during summer.

- Where did the children who were not enrolled in city programs go during the summer?
- Inventory of all of the OST programs in school buildings
- Can the schools continue to house all OST programs, both city-based and private programs?
- Are there sufficient OST programs to meet the needs of Cambridge families, and, if so, how can we inform them?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Denise Simmons", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Councillor E. Denise Simmons, Chair

City of Cambridge

HUMAN SERVICES

In City Council August 4, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Councillor E. Denise Simmons, Chair
Councillor Marjorie C. Decker
Councillor Anthony D. Galluccio*

The Human Services Committee held a public hearing on June 24, 2003, beginning at 8:45 a.m. in the Ackermann Room for the purpose of discussing what will happen to the afterschool programs in the schools that are closing due to the consolidation of eliminating schools.

Present at the hearing were Councillor E. Denise Simmons, Chair of the Committee, and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, Ellen Semonoff, Deputy Director of the Human Services Department (DHS), Eileen Keegan, DHS, Jackie Neel, DHS, and Mary Wong, Kids' Council,

Councillor Simmons convened the hearing and explained the purpose. She thanked the Department of Human Service for the letters that were sent to the parents of children who had been enrolled in programs in schools affected by consolidation and said that the letters did a great deal to alleviate parents' fears. Councillor Simmons then requested an update on the plans for out of school time (OST) programs for the schools and programs affected by elementary school.

Ms. Herold reported on this issue. The Longfellow preschool program is going to the King Open School in the building that formerly housed the Harrington School. The preschool program will have its own entrance from the outside and its own bathroom. The principal had a preschool in his former building and really wants a preschool at this location.

The Harrington Extended Day program will become the King Open Extended Day program and the principal has set aside dedicated space for the program. Although nothing has been finalized, the extended day teachers are talking about having one OST teacher per day on a 7 a.m. to 4 or 6 p.m. schedule, to enhance integration between school day and after school programming and to be responsible for the early morning program. Ms. Semonoff explained that the staff did re-enrollment for returning extended day students first, and a significant number of them are returning, which means that the majority of the children in the program will be those returning children. Ms. Neel added

Committee Report #1

A communication was received from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor E. Denise Simmons, Chair of the Human Services Committee, for a meeting held on June 24, 2003 for the purpose of discussing what will happen to the afterschool programs in the schools that are closing due to the consolidation of eliminating schools.

In City Council August 4, 2003

**REPORT ACCEPTED
PLACED ON FILE**