

BOSTON & BEYOND. NOW.

METRODESK



< Back to front page

Text size - +

Dismay, worry at schools slated to close

October 7, 2010 02:15 PM

E-mail | Link | Comments (6)



(Wendy Maeda/Globe Staff)

Students this morning at Emerson Elementary, one of six Boston public schools that may close.

By John Guilfoil, Globe Staff, and Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Parents and students who attend some of the six Boston public schools that may close at the end of the academic year expressed shock and unease today.

Superintendent Carol Johnson unveiled [her proposal to shutter the schools](#) -- including

On The Beat

Columnist **Brian McGrory** writes about Ray Mason, who brightened kids' lives as Santa Claus during Christmas in the City celebrations. [Read more](#)



TALK TO US

breakingnews@globe.com | [Twitter](#) | 617-929-3100

COLUMBUS DAY SALE!

ENJOY AN ADDITIONAL 5% OFF* OCTOBER 7TH - OCTOBER 11TH



DISCOVER THE STICKLEY DIFFERENCE.

For a very limited time, take advantage of extra savings off already reduced sale prices on all handcrafted Stickley collections as well as John Widdicomb and Nichols & Stone.

*With your purchase of \$1,000 or more (excluding sales tax). Previous purchases excluded. Not to be used in conjunction with any other discount offers or promotions. Certain furniture brands are not eligible for this discount.

**STICKLEY
AUDI & CO.**
FINE FURNITURE
SINCE 1900

323 SPEEN STREET NATICK, MA 01760 508.647.0173
STICKLEYAUDI.COM

Recent stories from the MetroDesk

- [Witness says man shot with Lynn officer's gun 'was beating the policeman'](#)
- [Ten people arrested in drug ring bust](#)
- [Suspect in brutal Cambridge attack suspected of raping two women in 2008](#)

three high schools in one Hyde Park building complex -- to the School Committee Wednesday night, saying they had been plagued by low academic achievement. The committee will vote on her plan next month.

Treshawn Quashi, a sophomore at the Engineering School in Hyde Park, said outside the school before the first bell this morning that he thought the district's decision was too hasty, and he and others feared the disruption that changing school would bring. The school is one of three in Hyde Park that replaced the old Hyde Park High five years ago.

"I didn't think it was going to this extent," Quashi said. "It would be tough to switch schools since I've established myself here and know everybody. I would have to start all over."

Rashawn Clark, a sophomore at the academy, said the school district was sending a message to students that it was giving up on them.

"It's not like every student in here is doing a bad job," Clark said. "Kids in here actually try to do good. If you break apart the school, you're breaking apart the teams, too. I'm on the basketball team, and we're known as a family. We stick together; we go everywhere together, so if you break that up, then we have to go to a different school and start over."

Clark also said that teachers care about the students; one is taking time out of his schedule to teach him how to swim, he said.

Clarence Mines, a special education teacher in the Hyde Park complex, said the closure would also be a major adjustment for staff.

"We don't like it, but we have to do what we have to do," said Mines. "Explaining to the kids that you'll be leaving where you're comfortable is major to them because they're comfortable here. It's definitely a drastic move, but I just work here, and I have to do what I have to do. But I'm upset about it."

In Roxbury, parents of an elementary school on the chopping block expressed shock this morning.

"I didn't expect this. I'm upset because my daughter really wants to stay at this school," Elizangela Maia outside the Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary, on Shirley Street.

Emerson families learned of Johnson's plan Wednesday through a letter sent home with students.

Maia said her 8-year-old daughter, Heliandra Ferreira, was brought to tears over the possibility that she may have to complete fourth and fifth grades elsewhere with different classmates and teachers.

"I don't see why they can't help the school more financially," said Maia, who attended the K-5 school for fifth grade after her family moved to the neighborhood from Angola. "Don't close it down. Everybody [in this neighborhood] grew up going to school here. This is basically where we all started."

In addition to the Emerson and the Social Justice Academy, Johnson proposed closing the Community Academy of Science and Health and the Engineering School, both in Hyde Park; and the Roger Clap Elementary School and the East Zone Early Learning Center, both in Dorchester.

The plan also calls for converting the Patrick Gavin Middle School in South Boston into a district-run charter school and merging the struggling Lee Academy Pilot School with the better performing Joseph Lee Elementary School, both located in the same building on Talbot Avenue in Dorchester.

Tamara Johnson said she has not been impressed with the overall performance of the

- Baker, Cahill statements on the lawsuit
- ADL president defends opposition to mosque near Ground Zero

Connect with Boston.com »

Boston.com on Facebook

You like Boston.com. Unlike · / Page · **Error**

You like this. Unlike · Ac Page · **Error**

25,87925,878 people like Boston.com

Facebook social plugin

Follow us on @BostonUpdate, other Twitter accounts

Features

Inside Scoop
The story behind the story

Lives
Dispatches from the death beat

Teddy's Take
The photo of the day

The Quad
What's up at area colleges

Viewpoints
Quote them on it

Political Circuit

Emerson, where her daughter is a second-grader.

"I'm happy with her performance," Johnson said of 7-year-old Josette Desvarieux. "But when they give you the statistics overall," like MCAS scores, it's a different story.

Johnson, 33, said that while her daughter excels academically at Emerson, Josette's record is more of a reflection of her hard work and her mother being there to help.

Regardless of whether plans to shutter Emerson move forward or not, Johnson said she is considering enrolling her daughter at a private school next September where Josette can study in a more challenging environment and not have to worry about her school being closed.

"They'll close these schools now, but in two years, will they close other schools?" asked Johnson.

E-mail John Guilfoil at jguilfoil@globe.com, and Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.



You like this. Unlike · Admin



PREVIOUS STORY



Police release transcript of 911 calls in Brady crash



NEXT STORY



MBTA launches crackdown on fare evaders

Thought you might like ...

SPONSORED LINKS:

- [Top 10 Dog Breeds](#) (Martha Stewart Living)
- [Ten Things Not To Do In Las Vegas](#) (Concierge.com)



- [Five shot, three dead in Mattapan](#) (MetroDesk)
- [Are we raising a generation of nincompoops?](#) (National news)
- [What he left behind: A 1,905-page suicide note](#) (Local News)
- [Boston may close 6 schools](#) (Your Town)



READER COMMENTS »

[View reader comments \(6\) »](#) [Comment on this story »](#)

Ads by Google [what's this?](#)

[Volunteer in Costa Rica](#)

Work side-by-side with local people 1-12 weeks, start dates year-round. www.CrossCulturalSolutions.org

[Mexico Mission Trips](#)

For a group, family or individuals Safe & Affordable, starting at \$295 www.prayingpelicanmissions.org



Political news from Beacon Hill and beyond



Summer in the City

Urban tales of how locals escape

Editor's Choice



[Fitchburg aims to engage immigrants](#)

Fifty street "mayors" have been appointed in Fitchburg, in an effort to get immigrants involved in civic life.



[Death of innocents](#)

Outrage erupted after the recent slayings of four, including a toddler, on a Mattapan street. But Boston has heard the laments -- and calls for action -- before..

MORE

- [Cahill: A boy who wouldn't back down](#)
- [Baker: Happy days, high expectations](#)
- [In N. End, a drive against trash](#)
- [Grad students offer fix for Big Dig's deadly rails](#)

From Today's Globe

- [Cahill accuses ex-aides of plot to help Baker](#)
- [A defection chronicled via e-mail](#)
- [NEWS ANALYSIS In this political thriller, there aren't any good guys](#)
- [School closings may not ease woes](#)

[MORE METRO STORIES »](#)

MORE BLOGS »



White Coat Notes

[Overweight men with prostate cancer have a higher risk of dying](#) Men who are overweight when they have locally advanced prostate...

The Green Blog

[Cape Wind awarded federal lease](#) By Beth Daley GLOBE STAFF The proposed 130-turbine wind farm...

Get Updates

[My Yahoo](#)

[RSS Feed](#)

- [Learn about RSS](#)

Archives

Select a month

LOCAL RESOURCES

Priority Mail® Flat Rate® Shipping

Get it. Fill it. Ship it.

- [Boston crime blog](#)
- [Brookline crime blog](#)
- [Mass. DOT traffic cameras](#)
- [Mass. DOT road conditions](#)
- [MBTA service alerts](#)
- [National Weather Service at Taunton](#)
- [Massachusetts sex offenders](#)
- [Boston Public Schools blog](#)
- [Massachusetts abandoned property](#)
- [Search for MCAS results](#)



LOCAL BLOGS »

BOSTON AREA

[Universal Hub](#)

A collection of writing from hundreds of Boston-area bloggers.

[The Chinatown Blog](#)

Stories and events related to Boston's Chinatown and the Asian American community in Massachusetts

[CommonWealth Magazine](#)

Politics, ideas, and civic life in Massachusetts

[Red Mass Group](#)

News and commentary about Massachusetts and beyond

[Blue Mass Group](#)

Politics in Massachusetts and around the nation

[Boston 1775](#)

History, analysis, and unabashed gossip about the start of the American Revolution.

COLLEGE NEWSPAPER SITES

[The Berkeley Beacon](#)

The weekly student newspaper at Emerson College

[The Daily Collegian](#)

The student newspaper of UMass-Amherst.

[The Daily Free Press](#)

The independent student newspaper at Boston University

[The Harvard Crimson](#)

The nation's oldest continuously published daily college newspaper.

[The Heights](#)

The independent student newspaper of Boston College

[The Huntington News](#)

The independent student newspaper of Northeastern University

[The Suffolk Journal](#)

Suffolk University's student-run newspaper

[The Tech](#)

MIT's oldest and largest newspaper

[The Tufts Daily](#)

The independent student newspaper of Tufts University

10 IDEAS FOR 10/10/10



Celebrate Sunday's 10/10/10 calendar entry these 10 ways

THE BEST LAUGHS OF 2010



Dan Wasserman picks his favorite cartoons so far

UNPOPULAR MOVES



The Patriots are no strangers to bad breakups

HOLLYWOOD IN THE HUB



Brad Pitt stopped by Fenway

PLUS...

- Blogs
- Crossword
- Comics
- Horoscopes
- Games
- Lottery
- Caption contest
- Today in history

[Home](#) | [Today's Globe](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [A&E](#) | [Things to Do](#) | [Travel](#) | [Cars](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Local Search](#)

[CONTACT BOSTON.COM](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Work here](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS feeds](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Make Boston.com your homepage](#)

[CONTACT THE BOSTON GLOBE](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#) | [Advertise](#) | [The Boston Globe Extras](#) | [The Boston Globe Gallery](#) | © 2010 NY Times Co.