President Summers becomes principal for a day

There were two principals walking the halls of Jackson/Mann Elementary School on Oct. 28 — one who has helped to shape the school and its children over the past 12 years, and the other, a newcomer, who runs a school across the Charles River that those children may one day attend.

“Hi, my name is LARRY, and I’m the principal of a very big school that starts with the letter H. Does anyone know what school I’m from?” President Lawrence H. Summers said to a group of 5- and 6-year-olds, his voice booming above the chatter of a nearby class. “Harvard,” blurted a young girl, a step ahead of her classmates still contemplating the question.

It was Summers’ first visit to the Jackson/Mann Elementary School in Allston and his first-ever turn filling the shoes of an elementary school principal. Summers was one of 57 Boston CEOs, heads of nonprofits, hospitals, and government, who left their board rooms and conference rooms to take the reins of Boston public schools for half a day. Organized by the Boston Plan for Excellence, in coordination with the office of the mayor and the superintendent of public schools, “Principal for a Day” afforded Hub leaders a chance to learn firsthand about changes in instruction and challenges Boston’s urban schools face, and to share ideas and insights with the teachers who are helping shape the next generation.

From 8 a.m. to noon, Summers accompanied Principal Joanne Russell on her morning tour of classes, ducking through doorways into bright rooms with walls covered in art, numbers, vocabulary words, and hand-drawn portraits of the children — including partnering with a 5- and 6-year-old named Larry to build “towers of 10” with Lego blocks — Summers was questioning the teachers who observed the day’s lessons.

What was the thinking behind certain teaching methods? What were they hoping to achieve in this exercise? What did they think about the MCAS?

He commended the teachers on the job they were doing and the strategies they used to maintain order while cultivating a nurturing environment. When he asked the teachers what they thought people should know about the public schools there was a unanimous response: Boston school teachers are committed, but learning is not just about what goes on in the school. Success in learning very much depends on what happens at home.

“A lot of people say that public schools can’t work, to just forget about them,” said Ellen Guiney, executive director of Boston Plan for Excellence, the organization that coordinated the day’s visits. “We think if we can get opinion leaders like Dr. Summers into the schools to see what’s going on, we can widen the group knowledgeable about urban public schools and willing to support them. There is great teaching and great learning going on in Boston’s schools and we want people to see firsthand how they operate and the challenges faced and overcome in an urban education setting.”

“This has been a great day,” said Summers. “I’m impressed with the eagerness of the children in every classroom, from the autistic child pointing excitedly to a pumpkin in a book, to kids calling out numbers that add up to 10. They are so eager and well behaved … it really increases the sense that our society should give them every chance they can get.”

Within an hour of his arrival at the school, Summers was on the floor with a circle of first-graders in Elizabeth Keenan’s math class challenging the children to think of all the ways they could make 10, using their fingers and hands as guides. Hands raised, the children volunteered their ideas — “one and nine!” said one; “seven and three,” said another. “Let’s check,” said Summers. “Everybody put up seven fingers. How many do you have left?” “THREE,” said the class. “Very good!”

When not interacting with the children — including partnering with a much smaller Larry to build “towers of 10” with Lego blocks — Summers was questioning the teachers who observed the day’s lessons.

An evening at Harvard honors Joe Tehan

“An Evening to Honor Joe Tehan,” in support of the Vocational Advancement Center of Brighton, was held on Sept. 30 at the Harvard Business School’s Spangler Center. Since 1998, the Vocational Advancement Center (VAC) has been providing evaluation, training and employment services to people with disabilities and others in need of employment services to achieve career goals and to improve their quality of life. Joe Tehan was honored for his 20 years of service to VAC as a board member and former board president. Over the years he has worked on a number of projects, including helping VAC secure the financing needed to purchase its headquarters building. ABOVE LEFT, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Wil Luzier, VAC board member and Chief Counsel to Senator Steven Tolman, VAC honoree Joe Tehan, Diane Lantheaume, Executive Director of VAC, Ray Mellone, VAC Board Chair, and his wife, Barbara. ABOVE RIGHT, LEFT TO RIGHT: State Rep. Kevin Honan, Joe Tehan, State Rep. Brian Golden and Boston City Councilor Jerry McDermott.
Summers outlines ideas on Allston planning

In a letter to the community, Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers on Oct. 21 outlined a number of programmatic assumptions intended to guide the next phase of Harvard’s planning for the eventual long-term use of its properties in Allston.

“While it will be many years before much of the Allston land becomes available for University use, Summers wrote, Harvard expects to be in a position to begin some limited building within the next several years, and to pursue some additional development within the ensuing decade. It is useful now to outline a set of working hypotheses about the future use of the land, he wrote, both to sharpen discussion and analysis, and to ensure that the ultimate result is a coherent whole.

Summers outlined five programmatic elements that he described as considered hypotheses about the eventual use of the Allston properties:

- **Science and technology:** To maintain Harvard’s excellence in the basic sciences, and to advance its strengthened commitment to the applied sciences and engineering, it will need substantially more space for science in the decades ahead. Given the developments driving much of modern science, this will include space flexibly designed to make collaboration easier, and space that can well accommodate the more sophisticated technology on which so much of science now depends. In light of the nature of the facilities needed, and a realistic appraisal of the long-term constraints on physical growth, Central Cambridge and Longwood, Harvard should begin planning with a view toward establishing in the long run a critical mass of scientific activity in Allston.

- **Professional schools:** Both the School of Public Health and the Graduate School of Education could benefit in the long run, in terms of both academic and cultural activities, from additional development of the Allston portion of the extended campus; space for student activities; strengthening of existing programs; and more opportunities for student engagement with the Allston neighborhood and its cultural and community activities.

- **Housing and urban life:** Especially in light of the difficult housing market, Harvard needs to increase opportunities for Harvard’s graduate and professional school students to live in University housing. More such housing will improve students’ lives and enhance the overall educational environment. In addition, the Allston properties should incorporate elements essential to a vibrant urban community, such as restaurants, shops, open spaces, gathering places for special events, and reliable transportation.

- **Culture and community:** Artistic and cultural activities contribute greatly to the character of the University, and also provide important links to the more urban Allston community.

- **Undergraduate life:** While this programmatic element is at this point more conceptual, Harvard should begin to look for ways in which the Allston space could serve as a locus for facilities and activities aimed at enhancing undergraduate life, including the possibility of new undergraduate houses close to the Charles River. Such a development could help relieve crowding in the current undergraduate housing. While this process evolves, the University continues to explore partnerships and other strategies that would both serve academic purposes and add to the vitality of community life.

To view the full text of the letter online, go to www.president.harvard.edu/speeches/2003/lhs_allston.html

Photo by Steven Johnson

Staff photos by Kris Snibbe/Harvard News Office

Allston-Brighton Football Day

Nearly 400 Allston-Brighton residents and their families joined the Harvard Crimson for an annual Allston-Brighton Family Football Day on Oct. 4. Sponsored by the Office of Community Affairs and the Department of Athletics, the event offers Allston-Brighton football fans, young and old, complimentary tickets and refreshments to watch the game and cheer on the home team each season.

“This event has been a great way for Harvard to welcome our Allston-Brighton neighbors onto our campus for a day of fun, good food, and good running football,” said Kevin McCluskey, Harvard’s director of community relations for Boston. In addition to many residents like the young fan above, enjoying the day were (at left, from left to right) Boston City Councilor Maura Healey; Michael Flaherty, City Councilor Jerry McDermott, Continuum campaign manager Patricia White, State Rep. Brian Golden, and Kevin McCluskey.

Jan. 20: Save the date for the Allston-Brighton Skating Party

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Allston and Harvard: Longtime neighbors

Harvard Business School, where Harvard hosts many important community events.

- In the games played by the Allston Little League, Allston-Brighton Youth Hockey and A-B Pop Warner, where Harvard supports the young student-athletes of the community.

- At annual special events where Harvard works to strengthen the Allston-Brighton Day at Harvard Stadium, the Family Skating Party, and the Allston-Brighton Youth Football games, the University is represented by the Harvard Varsity Hockey Team.

- In the local business community, the Harvard campus is actively engaged with the Allston and Brighton Boards of Trade and the Allston and Brighton Main Streets Association.

- In a wide range of community organizations whose valuable work is supported by Harvard, including the Allston Community Health Center, the Veronica Smith Social Center, the Friends of the Library St. Ann’s Community Center, the Allston-Brighton CDC, the Allston-Brighton Chamber of Commerce and St. Joseph Academy, the Vocational Development Center, the Allston-Brighton Healthy Boston Coalition, and many more.

Harvard is pleased to be a partner in these vital community-building efforts, and looks forward to continuing its work as a good neighbor to the Allston-Brighton community.

Allston-Brighton Skating Party at Harvard’s Bright Hockey Center, a night of fun, family fun sponsored by the Harvard University Athletics Department and the Office of Community Affairs. Refreshments will be provided, but bring your own skates, since no rentals will be available. For more information, call 617-495-4955.

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It takes a village to build affordable housing: Menino, Summers break ground for Allston units

In a show of community partnership, Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers stood shoulder-to-shoulder and shovel-to-shovel with Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and community, city, and state leaders on Dec. 4 to break ground for 50 future units of affordable housing in Allston.

The Brian J. Honan Apartments, named to honor the late city councilor from Brighton—where he died in 2002, will comprise nine buildings on a site once occupied by Legal Seafood's fish processing plant.

Harvard helped enable this project with a $2.8 million grant, one of the largest grants ever made by a single private institution to an affordable housing project in Boston. But the array of politicians and community activists who delivered remarks, including U.S. Congressman Michael E. Capuano, repeatedly demonstrated that the housing success was a collaborative effort.

“It takes a whole community to get this housing done, and that’s what we have here today,” said Menino, recognizing the Allston Brighton Community Development Corp., which developed the project, as well as the support of Harvard and state and city organizations. Allston-Brighton, with a significant student population living alongside long-time family residents and newer immigrants, has long felt the squeeze of the high housing costs that burden the region.

Summers reiterated the University’s commitment to the neighborhood.

“It is very important for Harvard, which is going to be a larger part of Allston-Brighton’s future than it has been of Allston-Brighton’s past, to do our part as partners in making this a wonderful place for all to live and to work,” he said. Summers praised the work of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corp. as well as Menino’s efforts.

“There is no mayor in this country who cares more about his city, who does more every day, bit by bit, place by place, to make it a better place,” he said.

Harvard’s contribution, a gap financing grant in support of Menino’s “Leading the Way” affordable housing program, made it possible for the Allston Brighton Community Development Corp. to purchase the 70,747-square-foot industrial property. Among the apartments, several will be three-bedroom units suited to families, four will be for people with disabilities, and five will be designated for homeless people.

Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers; and State Rep. Kevin Honan unveil the site drawings.

One Western Avenue, advances community housing goals

This fall, Harvard University opened One Western Avenue, a new graduate student residence located on the corner of Western Avenue and Soldiers Field Road on Harvard’s Allston campus.

A signature building designed by Machado and Silvetti Associates, architects of the acclaimed Honan-Allston branch of the Boston Public Library, One Western Avenue is a contemporary design that incorporates elements of the neighborhood’s architectural heritage, with distinctive brickwork, attractive open courtyards and expansive lawns embracing the river.

The project represents an alignment of mutual goals among the City of Boston, the Allston community and the University.

Accommodating 365 residents, One Western Avenue helps advance the University’s goal to house 50 percent of its graduate, professional and medical school students in campus housing, reinforcing the University’s commitment to maintaining a strong residential campus.

This goal is in keeping with Mayor Thomas M. Menino’s call for Boston-area colleges and universities to house more of their students, thereby relieving pressure on the local housing market where residential vacancy is approximately 4 percent.

Planned in close collaboration with local residents and city officials including the Harvard Allston Institutional Master Plan Task Force and the Boston Redevelopment Authority, One Western Avenue demonstrates Harvard’s commitment to working with its neighbors in the planning and development of its campus.

“Harvard has been a responsive partner in the development of our community, engaging local residents in a collaborative dialogue and constructive exchange of ideas as it plans for its campus,” commented Ray Melione, chair of the Task Force composed of community residents, officials from the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and representatives from the Mayor’s office. “The key to the success of the One Western Avenue planning process was our ability to work with the university to address the concerns of the community and help guide a positive transformation of the design.”
New directory lists community service programs

More than 260 Harvard community services programs are chronicled in the newly published "Harvard in the Community: A Directory of Harvard University Community Service Programs." For your free copy, contact the Office of Community Affairs at 617-495-4955 or go online to http://www.news.harvard.edu/community/harvard_in_the_community.pdf.

Allston-Brighton Community Scholarships, 2004 Spring Term

Harvard Extension School
Awarded by the Allston Civic Association Scholarship Committee

Deadline for Application: Friday, Jan. 2, at noon

Please read instructions carefully

The Allston-Brighton Community Scholarships Program will award five Allston-Brighton residents full tuition remission on any one course at the Harvard Extension School for the Spring 2004 term. Scholarship recipients will be responsible for payment of the $50 registration fee, books, course supplies and parking.

In order to be considered for selection, please write a short statement (no longer than one page) describing your life and involvement in the Allston-Brighton community. Applicants should write the last four digits of their Social Security number at the top of the personal statement – do not include your name on the personal statement, only on the registration form. Additionally, please complete a Harvard Extension School registration form, available in the back of the registration booklet, or available for download at www.dce.harvard.edu/exten-
sion/. Please be sure to include first choice and alternate course selections.

Applicants should submit their personal statements and Harvard Extension School registration forms in a sealed envelope to the Harvard Extension Library at 300 North Harvard Street in Allston, no later than noon on Friday, Jan. 2. Applicants must submit both the personal statement and the registration form in order to be considered.

Upon review of the submitted applications, five Community Scholarships will be notified by e-mail no later than Friday, Jan. 16 (if the recipient doesn’t have an e-mail address, the scholarship committee will phone). For a list of scholarship recipients, please e-mail ogcea_feedback@harvard.edu.

Please note: Previous Allston-Brighton Community Scholars may reapply for successive terms, but will only be eligible to repeat if there is a lack of applicants for that term.

Questions? Please e-mail ogcea_feedback@harvard.edu.

Programs join After School Initiative

Nine after-school programs in Boston joined the Harvard After School Initiative (HASI) this fall, receiving more than a quarter million dollars in grants and the opportunity to work with Harvard Graduate School of Education (GSE) faculty and coordinators with other after-school organizations supported by HASI. Marked by its web of collaborations among after-school practitioners, University faculty, and other Harvard resources, HASI was conceived in response to Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino’s leadership, Harvard and the city have joined forces in a partnership designed to improve learning after school gets out.

Called the Harvard After School Initiative (HASI), the collaboration supports the Boston After School for All Partnership, directing $5 million in University funds and leveraging human resources to deliver technical assistance from University researchers and experts in the field, to strengthen after-school programming in several city neighborhoods.

Middle schoolers explore Harvard Med School

Associate Professor of Medicine Robert Sackstein spoke to eighth-grader Elliot Rojas and other Boston students about the benefits of a life in medicine on Oct. 28. More than 100 middle school students from eight Boston Public Schools participated in Harvard Medical School’s Explorations program. Explorations is the youngest entry point into what organizers call a pipeline aimed to spark the interest of students — particularly those of underrepresented minorities — in careers in science and medicine.