



## O'Malley agrees to school sale talks with parents

By Thomas Caywood

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The Archdiocese of Boston yesterday agreed to consider "in good faith" selling the shuttered Our Lady of Presentation School in Brighton to a community group that has fought to resurrect the building as an independent school.

Emerging from a 3 1/2-hour meeting with the Presentation School foundation, [Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley](#) sounded a conciliatory note after having refused to meet with the group for months and abruptly locking out students and teachers last week.

"We regret the unpleasant events of last week, the misunderstandings, but we've had a very good dialogue and conversation," O'Malley said. The two sides agreed to meet again in two weeks to discuss a possible sale.

"The conflict of months, and the intense conflict of recent days, that's ended," said Kevin Carragee, who has led the negotiations for the foundation.

Carragee said the protest outside the school would end immediately.

Archdiocesan officials stressed that while a sale is on the table, various church committees must weigh in and give approval before a deal can be struck.

"This conversation today did not end the issue," said the Rev. Bryan Hehir, head of Catholic Charities. "It's an agreement to continue the process."

The outcome was just what some parents had said they feared earlier yesterday as students entered the school to retrieve belongings.

"I hope it's not full of more Roman Catholic rhetoric," said a tearful Kim Dacy-Smith of Brighton, who had two boys in the school. "I think we're all sick of that."

But a large group of parents and other local residents assembled in Oak Square last night responded with cheers and tears of joy.

Carragee said price was not discussed in yesterday's marathon negotiations. The foundation previously had offered \$2.5 million for the school.

The archdiocese had maintained it needed the property for administrative space. Among the offices slated to move there was the metropolitan tribunal, a church court. Hehir said yesterday that if a deal is struck, church offices may have to share space in the building with the foundation.

Church officials had changed the locks on the building last week. They said they had caught wind of a plan by some parents to occupy it after graduation.



Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley.  
(File)

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