

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

April 3, 2018

Called for 6:00 PM in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee. The School Committee will vote on adoption of the FY 2019 Proposed School Department Budget.

Members Present: Ms. Bowman, Emily Dexter, Mr. Fantini, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Kimbrough, Ms. Nolan, Mayor McGovern

Mayor McGovern in the Chair.

Also Present: Student School Committee Members Juliette Low Fleury and Paul Sullivan.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, CEA President, Lexington Ave., read a statement (on file in the School Committee office) he urges the School Committee to support the Gretchen Brion-Meisels contract award on professional services. He also updated the assembly on the Nellie Mae Grant, Ms. Lassette Castillo has been hired from the Fenway high school in Boston, and she is committed to fighting for equity education. There will be three more facilitators and three more educators of color in order to facilitate the Nellie Mae Grant on equity and race in our schools.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to close public comment.

Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Low-Fleury reported on the following: There was a fundraising event at Mainely Burgers for student government, the talent show auditions recently closed; so we can look forward to a talent show soon.

Mr. Sullivan reported on the following: This is the last week of the Student Government fundraiser for March; they have decided to donate their funds to the Y2Y shelter. On Thursday, Student Government will be visiting homerooms to see how much students know about the homework policy and if they would like to see any changes on the homework policy.

2. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on a voice vote, it was voted to accept the following Minutes as presented:

- Special Meeting, Superintendent's Proposed 2019 Budget, March 15, 2018
- Special Meeting, Budget Workshop, March 15, 2018
- Regular Meeting, March 20, 2018

3. Reconsiderations: None

4. Unfinished Business/Calendar

Emily Dexter brought this motion forward for discussion and adoption.

#18-65, Motion by Ms. Dexter, that whereas CPS works in partnership with many community partners who provide high quality out-of-school-time programs, including afterschool programs; and Whereas community-based programs need participants in order to thrive;

Therefore be it resolved that any organization not based primarily in Cambridge that wishes to provide out-of-school-time programming to CPS students in CPS buildings, including afterschool programming, will require prior approval of the School Committee. (McGovern 3-20-18)

Emily stated there are some very well intended partners in Boston, with this motion, it would help her know who is in our buildings at all times.

Ms. Nolan appreciates hearing the rationale and motioned to refer **item #18-65** to the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee.

Mayor McGovern does not want to support this motion because he does not think the School Committee should have the authority to manage this. Even if we could, he would rather have the decisions be wholly educational and not political.

Ms. Nolan stated that we have a new online system that will make generating these reports relatively easy. There is a distinction in our facilities policy to govern these issues and she believes the information is already public.

The Superintendent offered clarification. There are many different ways in which our partners engage with us, including the facilities rental fees. Dr. Salim made it known that under the strategic objective; CPS has a very coordinated plan in alignment with the district plan.

Emily amended the motion from **approval of the School Committee to it is required that the School Committee will be informed**, on a voice vote, the amendment was adopted.

On a voice vote, **item #18-65** was adopted as amended.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Dexter, on a voice vote, **item #18-65** as amended was referred to the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee for input from the administration as to how time consuming this request will be.

5. Awaiting Reports: None:

Although there are no Awaiting Reports, Emily has questions on the timetable of when the Committee will receive a report from Dr. Salim on the MCAS and the MCAS scores of 5th and 6th grade students in charter schools. It was agreed that the Superintendent's Secretary and the Executive Secretary will work together on this.

6. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

7b. CPS District Plan:

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Vice Chair Kelly removed item **#18-67**. Mayor McGovern removed item **#18-69**. Ms. Nolan removed item **#18-72**. On the following roll call, items **#18-68, #18-70, #18-71, #18-73, #18-74** and **#18-75** were adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Mayor McGovern YEA.

#18-68, Response to Cambridge Education Association Units A & B Level III Grievance, that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the Level III grievance response to the Cambridge Education Association, Units A & B Grievance in accordance with WR 18-647 (A).

#18-70, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for professional services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Gretchen Brion-Meisels, 99 Wallace Street, Somerville, for the period April 9 2018 to December 31, 2018, in the amount of \$29,463.00.

18-71, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for curriculum materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Heinemann Publishing, 361 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, NH, for the period April 5, 2018 to August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$35,000.00

#18-73, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for curriculum resources and professional development, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Open-Up Resources, PO Box 398697, San Francisco, CA, for the period April 5, 2018 to August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$37,241.00.

#18-74, Approval of Gifts to Cambridge Public Schools, that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. A gift of \$2,000.00 to the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) made from the Friends of CRLS, for the school's Unsung Heroes program recognizing student's accomplishments in scholastic achievement, attendance, citizenship, athletic and or leadership efforts, or school stewardship.
2. A gift of \$652.84 to the Kennedy-Longfellow School made from O'Connor Portraiture, Inc. as commission for students portraits. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
3. A gift of \$20.00 to the Cambridge Rindge and Latin school made from an individual donor to support the school's food pantry.

#18-75 Grant Awards, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY18 Title I Distribution, for the period September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$1,059,765.00 (increase of \$975.00). Project/Grant SC18604.

Description: Eight elementary schools are eligible for Title I services in FY18. These funds will provide, academic, instructional, and support services for all low-achieving students in either reading or math, professional development activities for staff, support for parent involvement activities, as well as supplies and materials.

This increase in grant funds will be used to purchase instructional materials.

Vice Chair Kelly moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini, to bring forward **item #18-67** for discussion and adoption.

Vice Chair Kelly moved, seconded by Ms. Dexter, to replace the original **item #18-67** with the **amended item #18-67**, on a unanimous voice vote, the amendment was adopted.

Dr. Salim spoke on the memo of Monday, April 2, 2018 regarding the amendments to the FY 2019 Proposed Budget, (on file in the School Committee office), which keeps the budget in balance. Dr. Salim reflected briefly to the process of developing the budget through workshops, retreats and public hearings using an equity approach to review and discuss the budget and the district plan. The Superintendent highlighted the following changes:

Aide Allocation to Baldwin – \$28,200.00 (to provide additional support to the 4th grade cohort, one additional aide will be added to the school).

Upper School Math Educators - \$35,150.00 (to provide additional Math Educator positions at the Putnam Ave Upper School and the Cambridge Street Upper School, increased from .8 to 1.0 FTE and the .4 FTE position at the Amigos School will be increased from .4 to .5 FTE).

CRLS Computer Science Teacher - \$70,300.00 (1.0 FTE in computer science will allow for additional courses to be offered, including Honors Computer Principles).

CRLS Guidance Counselor - \$70,300.00 (Guidance Coordinator has reviewed the findings and recommendations of the Guidance Review by outside consultant Katie Gray and has begun implementing the changes recommended).

Targeted School Support - \$25,000.00 (The 2019 Proposed Budget allocates \$100K to Targeted School Support. This adjustment increases the total to \$125K).

Budget Co-Chair Fantini framed the budget saying that it is an increase of more than 10% which is very exciting, and indicated other school systems are looking at reductions and trying to figure out how to keep functioning well, so we are in a better place. He thanked his Co-Chair Emily Dexter for the outreach and pushing for more meetings. All budgets should be better than the ones previous and that is where we are. He thanked the City Manager for the significant amount of resources we have to work with. Ms. Claire Spinner was thanked for putting together award winning documents which always include historical insight. This is the first time that we have a budget that is in alignment with the district plan. He thanked the Superintendent for listening hard. He will continue to advocate for Kodaly, you don't always get everything you ask for the first time. He feels it is time for a celebration.

Budget Co-Chair Emily Dexter appreciates Co-Chair Fantini's comments. She thanked the team and stated she and Mr. Fantini had a great time working together. Mr. Fantini has a background in budgeting and she has a background in education and child development. Emily informed the assembly that they went all over the city asking questions and getting answers. They will talk about improving the process by going to the school councils next year. She mentioned math achievement by 8th grade and reading in the early years as two things she feels very strongly about.

Vice Chair Kelly mentioned she got a lot more information from the workshops and they were easier to understand. The reviews that were done, gave her a better picture of how it related to the strategic plan. She looks forward to continuing this as a tradition in the budget process.

Ms. Nolan stated that she appreciates all of the workshops; there can never be enough of them. There are a lot of good things in the budget (expansion of level up and liaisons). However the transportation for field trips needs to be evenly distributed or at least based on enrollment.

The Superintendent said yes, there will be a transportation line in the school based part of the budget. Ms. Nolan reminded him about the timing, we got the budget on the 15th and then the public hearing was on the 20th. It may be a good way to do this with more time for feedback as opposed to last minute feedback. The situation in computer science was news to her. She is glad that the administration recognized it as a problem to be fixed and fixed it. She has a very similar reaction to the guidance

counselors issue and is glad we added another guidance counselor. She does not know how to react about Level Up since we have no data, we have 50 more 9th graders coming into our system and we have no information on how its' going, and this makes her uncomfortable. It is hard for her to vote for something she cannot see, partly because it is still being developed. An increase in the district growth percentile makes no sense to her since they are not connected to smart goals. She wants those goals to be tied to something. She wants to know how the partners were selected for increase. Breakthrough did not get any increase at all, and they do so much.

Dr. Salim spoke about the process, rather than the merits of any partner. He looked at FY 18 and FY 19 and then decided how to address the needs of the partners. They had questions for the partners and there is a part of the district plan that looks at partners in the budget and partners out of the budget. This is really the first opportunity to engage in dialogue with partners. They combine the supports that they have heard are necessary from teachers and administration, and then they want to make sure no students are falling through the cracks.

Ms. Nolan says it was disappointing that Breakthrough did not get an increase. They have been level funded for years. They provide a lot of data of relevance. She has not seen any evaluation on RTI and coaching.

Ms. Bowman thanked her colleagues on the School Committee, CPSD, and all who shared their thoughts through calls and emails etc., stating she is supporting this budget. She knows there was a lot of intentionality put into the framework. She is concerned about the process. There is no rubric or metric that shapes that process, in order for us to grow as a body; that needs to be put into the district wide framework. She has concerns about how we were engaged in some of the emails. She is concerned that Members may be using parents to lobby their situation. We need to educate the staff on what is appropriate, what is not appropriate, and what their rights are. She has articulated her concern to the Superintendent.

Mayor McGovern followed up on the process issue; he supports public input in the budget. Positions that were added were added because he heard the public and agreed. There cannot be any positions added based on how many emails we get. The budget is educational not political. There is a process that we follow: the principals meet with their staff, listen and then take what they heard to the Superintendent. The Superintendent puts a budget together. It does not mean you get everything you want. He wonders where the process breaks down. If the principal does not want another teacher but the parents are asking for another teacher, who is really driving the budget? He wants to make sure that this is not driven by emails from voters. We are now adding 42 new positions instead of 39. Not many districts can do that. He thanked everyone who helped put this budget together. He is very excited about this budget and agrees with Mr. Fantini regarding a celebration.

Ms. Kelly spoke about being in favor of the budget this year and stated that she sees the district wide framework as a big part of why this budget works. She can see how to get to the outcomes. She would like to see us working together more with the leadership and growing more respect on each side. She expressed to Dr. Salim that although it may not be apparent, he has changed the culture in this district, he listens and goes into the communities around the city, she complimented his day to day work and the budget.

Budget Co-Chair Emily Dexter wants us all to work more on this body's relationship with the administration. It is the biggest policy that we pass. Emily stated that each page represents about 1 million dollars. She is frustrated about the elementary program. It is where everything starts and she does not see that we are re-thinking this as it relates to class size. She does not see us reducing the ratios. She wants first and second grades to have a very solid relationship with small class sized students. She is happy about the guidance and computer science increase, what about the lower grades? She hears the frustration of educators and parents that are coming forward with their concerns.

Ms. Nolan supports the budget. There are areas that we do not perform well and there are many areas that we perform very well. There are some charter schools that do better. She believes in democracy.

She also stated the emails give insight to things we may not know because we are not in the schools. She does not want people to think they cannot send emails. She sees an email, does research and then puts her best foot forward in how to be responsible about the spending. She believes we all have the best intentions. We just don't always get everything we think is the best. Some of this budget is a leap of faith, but she will take the leap. She wants all people to come forward and she does not want anyone to believe they should not feel empowered to express their feelings.

Ms. Bowman emphasized very strongly that she disagrees with Ms. Nolan's statement, explaining that she does not want anyone to think it is okay to use private information to organize. She is only trying to support a balanced advocacy and not let some voices be heard over others. She wants the assembly to always remember that some members of the public have an advantage that others do not have. She encourages all citizens of Cambridge to do all they can to elevate their voices.

Mayor McGovern stated his comments did not intend to stifle anyone in the public from coming forward with their desires; his caution was directed only to the elected body. The Members take the information very seriously and at the end of the day the Superintendent's decision is based on what is educationally sound not from political pressure. To Ms. Bowman's point, he acknowledged that there are many who are not included in the process.

Vice Chair Kelly reminded the assembly that the educational leader at the table is Superintendent Salim.

Mr. Fantini reiterated, now that all Members have all spoken honestly, he still wants to celebrate.

#18-67 Fiscal Year 2019 Amended Recommended Budget, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee receive and approve the FY2019 General Fund Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools in the following Statutory Categories:

Salaries, Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$ 157,157,000.00
Other Ordinary Maintenance	\$ 32,782,217.00
Travel & Training	\$ 880,983.00
Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>\$ 249,300.00</u>
Total	\$ 191,069,500.00

On a motion by Budget Co-Chair Fantini, seconded by Vice Chair Kelly, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt:

Salaries, Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$157,157,000.00
-----------------------------------	------------------

Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Mayor McGovern YEA.

Other Ordinary Maintenance	\$ 32,782,217.00
----------------------------	------------------

Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Mayor McGovern YEA.

Travel & Training	\$ 880,983.00
-------------------	---------------

Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Mayor McGovern YEA.

Extraordinary Expenditures	\$ 249,300.00
----------------------------	---------------

Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Mayor McGovern YEA.

Total Budget	\$ 191,069,500.00
--------------	-------------------

Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Mayor McGovern YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of reconsideration of the foregoing vote. The Rules having been suspended for the purpose stated, on the following roll call vote, the motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption: Ms. Nolan NAY; Ms. Bowman NAY; Ms. Dexter PRESENT; Mr. Fantini NAY; Ms. Kelly NAY; Mr. Kimbrough NAY; Mayor McGovern NAY.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#18-69, Day & Residential Program Services Not Available From the Cambridge School Department, that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget.

	<u># Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	1	\$26,445.48
Residential	0	0
45 Day Program	0	0
	<u>1</u>	<u>\$26,445.48</u>

Mayor McGovern is required to recuse himself from this vote due to his relationship with Farr Academy. On the following roll call vote, item **#18-69** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Mayor McGovern ABSTAIN.

#18-72, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for professional development, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Research for Better Teaching, One Acton Place, Acton, for the period July, 01, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$50,000.00

Ms. Nolan asked if this contract is for this school year and if so, she wants to know if this is the last year for this type of contract. She is surprised to see that we are still using outside teachers. She had the understanding that CPSD faculty have been trained and would be teaching going forward.

Dr. Turk offered clarification stating that RBT staff has paired with CPS staff on this. The work has shifted; we are now at a point that we have three teachers that have trained under RBT and approaching dual training with RBT going toward gradual release. They are also working with Analyzing Teaching for Student Results (ATSR).

Ms. Nolan wants to know how we are evaluating this. Will it be moot?

Dr. Turk stated that Denise Bell is working to evaluate this and has been putting information together for us.

Dr. Salim added that as we bring on new administrators, we will be evaluating regularly.

Ms. Dexter wants to know if we have any quantitative data.

Dr. Turk answered that there are feedback tools that are used at the end of each session and it is something that is done in house. The biggest indicator of teacher interest or satisfaction is the teachers that are asking for the course to be continued.

Emily wants to see the quantitative surveys so she can show them to the public. On the following roll call vote, item **#18-72** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Mayor McGovern YEA.

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information):

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, the School Committee Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption.

#18-76 Motion by Ms. Dexter, whereas CPS strives to support the healthy development of the whole child; and

Whereas the 5-2-1 Subcommittee of Cambridge's Healthy Children's Task Force recommends no more than 2 hours of screen time per day for school-age children and adolescents; and

Whereas excessive screen time has been associated with obesity; violence and aggression; sleep problems; fear, anxiety, and depression; social, behavior, and attention problems; reduced empathy; less time for play and learning; reduced time spent in conversation and face-to-face interactions; poor school performance; screen addiction; and compromised privacy and confidentiality;

The School Committee requests that the administration provide the School Committee with the following information:

- An estimate, from CPS principals and heads of school, of the average number of hours per week that CPS students spend on Chromebooks or other individual screen devices (not including whole class media such as smart boards) while at school, estimated separately for grades preK-K, 1st-3rd, 4th-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th;
- CPS school policies related to students having or using cell phones at school, for elementary, middle, and high school students;
- Other guidance provided to educators, staff, and administrators about the appropriate use of digital devices during the school day or as part of the curriculum; and

That this information be provided to the Committee by June 1, 2018.

http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org/events/Screen-Time-Finding-a-Healthy-Balance-Fact-Sheet_2016.pdf

<http://educationnext.org/putting-dialogue-over-devices-shapes-mind-and-character-forum-scoggin-vander-ark/>

Ms. Dexter explained that she wants to know since kids are learning to type now, how much more time is being spent on screen time. She wants to know because when she toured a middle school, kids seemed to be online more than is recommended by our Healthy Children's Task Force.

Dr. Salim understands the inquiry. As technology is a large part of our lives, the question is one that is complicated to gather this data across the district. Each classroom is different. He wonders about the amount of time it would take to try to reflect what is happening across the district. He is not sure whether or not embarking on a data gathering activity would produce a product that tells us anything useful.

Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone expressed concern over this issue.

Dr. Salim said generally speaking the question from the leaders and teachers that is usually asked is how are we using technology in an instructional way.

Mr. Kimbrough wants to insure that we are not going away from our district goals and our frameworks are in alignment with our use of technology. Lets' make sure it is adding to the knowledge base and not taking away from it, given the research on brain development.

Ms. Nolan stated she appreciates the comments that have been made and that it does raise questions. She motioned to refer it to the School Climate Sub-Committee.

Vice Chair Kelly motioned to refer it to the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee. After a short discussion, on a voice vote, the amendment to item **#18-76** was adopted. On a voice vote, the main motion of item **#18-76** was adopted as amended and referred to the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee.

#18-76 Motion by Ms. Dexter, as amended whereas CPS strives to support the healthy development of the whole child; and

Whereas the 5-2-1 Subcommittee of Cambridge's Healthy Children's Task Force recommends no more than 2 hours of screen time per day for school-age children and adolescents; and

Whereas excessive screen time has been associated with obesity; violence and aggression; sleep problems; fear, anxiety, and depression; social, behavior, and attention problems; reduced empathy; less time for play and learning; reduced time spent in conversation and face-to-face interactions; poor school performance; screen addiction; and compromised privacy and confidentiality;

The School Committee requests that the administration provide the School Committee with the following information:

- An estimate, from CPS principals and heads of school, of the average number of hours per week that CPS students spend on Chromebooks or other individual screen devices (not including whole class media such as smart boards) while at school, estimated separately for grades preK-K, 1st-3rd, 4th-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th;
- CPS school policies related to students having or using cell phones at school, for elementary, middle, and high school students;
- Other guidance provided to educators, staff, and administrators about the appropriate use of digital devices during the school day or as part of the curriculum; and

The **amendment** is to remove ***That this information be provided to the Committee by June 1, 2018.***

#18-77 Motion by Mr. Kimbrough, whereas the District Plan for CPS has a strategic outcome of increasing valuable relationships between students and staff members;

Be it resolved that the FY '19 budget will include an additional guidance counselor at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. On a unanimous voice vote, item **#18-77** was placed on file.

#18-78 Motion by Vice-Chair Kelly, whereas our community is aware that ensuring safety and security in public school buildings remains a challenge nationally, that a Special Meeting, which will be a meeting of the Committee of the Whole, will be held to address building safety and security in the Cambridge Public School District elementary, upper and high schools. Teachers, parents, and other community members will be encouraged to learn more about the district's programs, policies and protocols. Childcare will be provided.

Ms. Kelly explained that this came about with conversations between herself and Mr. Maloney. It is about creating security in buildings and the pro active steps that the city is taking. On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on a unanimous voice vote, item **#18-78** was adopted.

#18-79 Motion by Ms. Nolan, whereas CRLS enrollment in computer related classes has grown faster than any other area over the last four years, and;
Whereas teachers have given up prep time to teach and

Whereas the district seeks to prepare students for STEM fields, that the budget for next year include at least one additional Computer Science teacher.
Further that the administration is provided flexibility in finding offsetting reductions, provided that all direct in school staffing is not adversely affected. On a unanimous voice vote, item **#18-79** was placed on file.

#18-80 Motion by Ms. Nolan, whereas Amigos is the only school with 10 grades and 10 different schedules and

Whereas the school, according to the elementary program review is one of the least resourced schools after accounting for student demographics and;

Whereas the allocation of special education teachers shows that Amigos is the least resourced school based on number of SPED students and actual number of teachers, and;

Whereas the school has repeatedly asked for an additional teacher to ensure equity around the scheduling and providing appropriate level services to students in need, that the budget for the next school year include an additional special education teacher for the school with a preference for bilingual candidates.

Further that the administration is provided flexibility in finding off setting reductions, provided that all direct in school staffing is not adversely affected. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on a voice vote, item **#18-80** was placed on file.

Ms. Nolan stated that even though this was not addressed in the budget, there have been some staffing adjustments. She is prepared to place motion on file; she just wants to know if the person to be hired will be bi-lingual.

Dr. Salim answered that she is not a bilingual teacher, but we will look into that in the future.

#18-81 Motion by Ms. Nolan, whereas CRLS enrollment has grown and

Whereas counselors provide a critical role in student education and preparation for post-secondary life, and

Whereas the district seeks to provide adequate support, that the budget for next year include one additional guidance counselor at CRLS, so that each SLC has 2.5 guidance counselors.

Further that the administration is provided flexibility in finding offsetting reductions, provided that all direct in school staffing is not adversely affected. On a voice vote, item **#18-81** was placed on file.

#18-82 Motion by Ms. Nolan, whereas students will be taking the state standardized test, MCAS 2.0, and

Whereas the School Committee and district encourage all students to participate in the testing, and respect the rights of families to do what they believe is in the best interest of their own children, The School Committee acknowledges and supports parents and students who take the test and those who do not.

Further, that the districts communicate to principals not to pressure students who choose to opt-out, and ensure that families are informed that the choice to opt-out may create accountability consequences for their child's school and the district.

Ms. Nolan stated that this motion is in line with a motion passed last year. The intent is to make sure families know that they can opt out and there will be no punishment for doing so.

Ms. Dexter stated she was surprised that Dr. Salim sent out an email that all students were required to take the MCAS. She found it odd, we don't do that. Classes were cancelled for MCAS test prep session. How much class time can be interrupted for MCAS preparations?

Dr. Salim stated that the state does not use the words "opt out" so we don't either, however, the general public is pretty familiar with this; all of the systems and procedures are the same.

Ms. Low Fleury asked for a point of information on whether or not you have to take the MCAS in order to graduate or get a portfolio.

The Chair answered her question in the affirmative and the portfolio was explained as proof that you would have passed the MCAS if you had taken it.

Ms. Bowman stated that she will not support this motion. It undermines students that don't have the resources or other options to opt out of taking this test and stated this is a graduation requirement.

Ms. Kelly stated that when you don't participate, there are serious consequences.

The Chair will support it because the last lines states there are consequences for their child's school and the district. He feels we need to prepare kids to take the MCAS. If you don't take the test, you get a zero. It may not affect you, but your school will drop a tier. Teachers are evaluated on whether their class can pass the MCAS. He will agree with Ms. Nolan that kids will not be punished.

Ms. Kelly stated that learning how to take a standardized test is a skill, next comes the SAT; Grad school requires a Standardized test. We may not like them, but they exist for a reason. You keep learning as you take them. It is a way of life. We can lower anxiety if we prepare students to take the test.

Nolan reiterated that the motion does not take a stand on whether or not to take the test. The motion encourages taking the test and simply says if a family does not decide to take the test, the child will not be punished and there are other consequences.

Ms Low Fleury would have been more eager to take the test if she knew what the reason was for taking the test. If all facts were known it would be better.

Mr. Fantini stated that the principals know what they are doing in a very balanced professional way. On a voice vote, six affirmative, Ms. Bowman is recorded in the negative, item **#18-82** was adopted.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolence):

#18-83 Motion by Mayor McGovern that the School Committee hereby goes on record in expressing its congratulations to the newly appointed Morse School Principal Dr. Chad Leith,

Mayor McGovern is happy about this appointment. He is a Cambridge guy and he lives near the Morse School.

WHEREAS: On March 29, 2018, Dr. Chad Leith was appointed as Principal of Morse Elementary School; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Leith holds a Doctorate degree in Culture, Communities, and Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, a Master's degree in "Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages" from Boston University School of Education, and a Bachelor's Degree in Government from Harvard College; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Leith has a longstanding, demonstrated record of service in dedication to excellence in education; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Leith is a resident of Cambridge, having graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and now returns to serving in the community; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record congratulating Dr. Chad Leith on his

appointment as Principal of the Morse Elementary School; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be sent to Dr. Chad Leith in recognition of his ongoing commitment to education in our Cambridge community.

11. Announcements:

Dr. Salim spoke about our doctoral residents over the last 10 months, Jay Jordan and Stephanie Downey-Toledo. They have supported the Level Up initiative and have pushed everyone on the cabinet to be better leaders; and have contributed to us in favorable ways.

Mr. Fantini stated that our culinary students made a wonderful cake for Jay and Stephanie. He finds them to have a lot of skill, polish and professionalism. We are grateful for their efforts.

Ms. Dexter stated that the high school festival play made it to the finals. She brought handouts on standardized tests from an event that she went to (on file in the school committee office).

Mr. Fantini announced that Ms. Muriel Turk, Dr. Carolyn Turk's mother celebrated her 100th birthday. He attended the party at Santa Maria; the function room was not big enough. She has her humor; she is happy, bright and enjoys life everyday.

The Mayor announced that on a Council Order with himself, Councilor Simmons and Councilor Toomey, they proclaim April 2nd is Muriel Turk Day.

Dr. Turk made a short statement and was very thankful.

12. Late Orders:

It was voted to adopt the following:

Motion by Mr. Fantini that the School Committee sends a letter to Ms. Muriel Turk celebrating her 100th birthday

Motion by Emily Dexter that the School Committee sends a letter of congratulations to Ms. Karen Engalls for her Social Studies teacher award.

Motion by Mr. Fantini that the School Committee sends a letter of condolences to Mr. Jim Monagle, City Auditor, on the passing of his mother, a retired clerk in the CPS.

13. Communications from City Officers

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to adjourn (8:25 PM)

Dosha Beard
Executive Secretary

Distributed Back-up Documents/Handouts: (copies on file in the School Committee office)

- ✓ Handout from Emily Dexter on Standardized Tests

Statements and letters left at public comment by the following individuals:

- ✓ Dan Monahan

Email communications received:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Eden Steinberg | Hae Kyung Chung |
| ✓ Steve Nadis | Keith McNeil |
| ✓ Phil Costa | Michelle Hicks |
| ✓ Mary Sullivan Walsh | Leah De Forest |
| ✓ Jennifer Costa | Jette Steen Knudsen |
| ✓ Bill Donaldson | Paul Fiore |
| ✓ John Athanasopoulos | Beverly Neugeboren |
| ✓ Dawn Baxter | Nancy Adams |
| ✓ Valerie Blanc | Ally Hines |
| ✓ Diane C. Norris | Leslie Shelman |
| ✓ Nell Beram | Joe Klompus |
| ✓ Pamela Blau | Abby Fechtman |
| ✓ Elena Rivas | Leo Muellner |
| ✓ Odette Binder | Betsey Chace |

The communications are on file in the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and can be viewed.