

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

January 16, 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. There will be a Budget Update for the purpose of discussing Budget Projections at the beginning of this Regular Meeting.

Members Present: Ms. Bowman, Ms. 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.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to suspend the rules to allow Public Comment to be presented before the Budget presentation, on a voice vote, the rules were suspended for the reason stated.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Estefenia Rodriguez, Craigie Circle, K-8 History Coach and Matt Dunkel, Willow Street, Math Coach at Vassal Lane Upper School, re: support of the Nellie Mae Equity Grant, Ms. Rodriguez began reading a statement (on file in the School Committee office) that this grant is seen as a much needed vehicle to improve issues about race and equity. Cambridge has a historical commitment to social justice, this is an added opportunity to keep the standard. Mr. Dunkel read a statement (on file in the School Committee office) which included the fact that he came to this City because of its devotion to social justice. The Nellie Mae grant looks like a large opportunity to 1. Document and elevate voices of students, families and educators. 2. Actively cultivate trust, 3. Share power 4. Proactively engage students, families and educators from marginalized groups.
- Khari Milner, Ferrar Street, co-director of the Agenda for Children, is here to represent many of the partners that need to be included in the work of the Nellie Mae grant. The district cannot do it alone; they need the community to push the Nellie Mae Equity Grant forward. In order to have the leverage and support they need to have a focused effort.
- Dan Monahan, CEA President, re: Nellie Mae Equity Grant, read a statement (on file in the School Committee office) that included some points on the systemic inequities that happen on many levels, and because the CEA is outside of the CPS administrative structure, they can provide safe spaces for teachers to take risks and express their feelings. Teachers carry many burdens and the systemic inequities are beyond their control.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, the rules were suspended to allow public comment for an item not on the agenda, on a voice vote, the item was allowed.

- Lila Berinsky, Almond Street, and Noah Weinberg, Concord Avenue, nine year old students at the Peabody school, re: The Disney Youth Service Award Grant. Ms. Berinsky informed all in attendance that this grant can pay for a competition they would like to have at their school. Each child will be given a tracking form with assignments. Completed assignments are demonstrated with a check mark, each mark equals one point. The student with the most points gets a prize. Mr. Weinberg stated that the assignments are to support their Go Green initiative. He imagines global warming as a disease that spreads around the world and we all need to pay much more attention to this very dangerous issue.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, the rules were suspended to vote on the following Disney Youth Service Award Grant.

The Grant is a Disney Youth Service Award entitled “Be Inspired” to support their “Go-Green” initiative in the amount of \$500.00. These funds will be used to sponsor a contest at the Peabody School to challenge kids to make energy efficient changes in their homes and habits. The contest will take place by the end of January, 2018.

On a voice vote, the Disney Youth Service Award Grant was accepted.

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

Mayor McGovern moved to the Budget Update on Budget Projections and turned the meeting over to Dr. Salim. The Superintendent explained that they are going to take this opportunity to have our CFO, Ms. Spinner, show us how far they have come in their projections. They have mapped out some public hearings related to the budget and want to share some of those projections on student enrollment and estimates on revenue for SY 2019.

1a. Budget Update for the purpose of Discussing Budget Projections
Power point presentation by Ms. Claire Spinner, CFO.

FY2019 Enrollment Projections & Preliminary Budget Estimates January 16, 2018

- Student Enrollment Projections
- Preliminary FY2019 Revenue Estimates
- Preliminary FY 2019 Expenditure Estimates
- Next Steps in FY 2019 Budget Development

Enrollment Growth

Enrollment by Grade Span

Projected Enrollment

CPS Students Select Demographic Information

- Free/Reduced
- Students with Disabilities
- English Language Learners

Average Class Size

Ms. Spinner stopped the presentation for the following questions and comments:

Mr. Kimbrough is curious how we come up with the numbers with respect to the different classrooms. Ms. Spinner stated that these numbers are general.

Ms. Bowman asked about the term Children's House, which Ms. Spinner answered as the youngest grouping of students (ages 3, 4 and 5) at the Montessori.

Mr. Fantini asked about the high school enrollment increase. Ms. Spinner stated that enrollment goes up according to the rising 8th grade classes and children from other schools.

Ms. Nolan stated that the demographic information regarding kindergarten and 1st grade shows classes moving lower in the free and reduced lunch enrollment.

Ms. Dexter spoke about what the average class size looks like, stating they are between 19 and 18 for 1st and 2nd grades and 3rd through 5th respectively. Adding that when the actual budget comes in she will be more concerned about class size.

Ms. Nolan spoke on the information provided in the weekly, asking for the Budget and Enrollment Projections for FY 2019 to be posted on the web.

The Mayor asked if we are still seeing retention and rising enrollment in the upper schools. Ms. Spinner answered that the largest numbers are in JK-K, the 6th grade and the high school; adding that Mr. Maloney always makes sure we don't exceed our seats in the upper schools, and right now we are pretty full.

The Mayor wants us to think about using the federal guidelines, being mindful of the fact that they do not really apply to Cambridge. Our families, on paper, are doing very well, however, in reality; they are struggling especially in the area of food.

Ms. Kelly stated that we use free and reduced lunch; the state uses different definitions and the equivalent is different. We should pay more attention to the differences that may occur when they put those numbers together.

Ms. Bowman, asked if it would be possible to also show race and ethnicity as it relates to free and reduced lunch. She added that we are not serving our communities very well as it relates to families of color.

The Powerpoint presentation resumed.

General Fund Revenue

- 87% comes from the Property Tax
- 8% comes from Chapter 70 State Education Aid
- 4% comes from Other State & Federal Aid
- 1% comes from Miscellaneous

The Miscellaneous revenue is slowly going down (1.8 million in 2018 to 1.3 million in 2019)

FY 2019 Preliminary Revenue Projections

• Property Taxes	\$158.6 M
• Chapter 70 Education Aid	\$14.5 M
• Other State & Federal Aid	\$8.1 M
• Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>\$1.8 M</u>
Total	\$183.0 M

FY 2019 Preliminary Expenditure Projections

- Costs related to existing staff, programs, services
- Costs related to enrollment or planned program expansion
- Costs related to implementation of district plan

FY 2019 Expenditures By Category

- Salaries & Benefits
- Out of District tuition
- Student Transportation
- Facilities & Energy
- Instructional Materials
- Technology
- Other Supplies and Services
- Professional Development

Projections for Existing Staff & Services

- Salary & Benefits \$6.1 M
- Student Transportation \$0.9 M
- Facilities Maintenance \$0.1 M
- Debt Service \$0.5 M
- Estimated Increase \$6.6 M

Transportation Costs

Special Education Out of District Tuition

- is a very large cost driver we expect about \$17M, currently at \$15.8M. We are not spending \$1M in grant circuit breaker funds, and we intend to not increase the budget in this area.

Enrollment Based Increases

- 1st grade classrooms
- Upper School ASD classroom
- Elementary Sp.Ed. support staff
- Special Start classroom
- CRLS staff

On-Going Program Rollout

- CRLS 1:1 Technology

Projections: Enrollment & Program Rollout

Potentials Costs	
Elementary Schools	0.2 M
Special Education	0.5 M
High School	0.2 M
CRLS 1:1	0.3 M
Reserve Teachers & Aides	<u>0.3 M</u>
Estimated Total	1.5 M

CPS District Plan

- District Plan Framework adopted in 2017
- Strategic Objectives & Initiatives to Support Vision & Outcomes
- Focus on planning, Implementation & Progress Monitoring
- Alignment of Resources to Plan, Including Budget

District Plan Implementation Emerging Priorities

Level Up	0.3 M
Upper School Math	0.5 M
Social Emotional Learning	0.2 M
Targeted Support	<u>0.1 M</u>
Total	1.1 M

FY 2019 Preliminary Revenue and Expenditure Projections

FY 2018 Adopted Budget	\$183.0 M
+ Projected Increases – Existing Staff & Programs	\$6.6 M
+ Projected Enrollment Based Increases	\$1.3 M
+ Emerging Priorities	\$0.8 M
FY 2019 Preliminary Projected Expenditures	\$191.7 M
FY 2019 Preliminary Projected Revenues	\$189.5 M
Difference	(\$2.2)

Developing a Budget Plan to Support Student Achievement

Projections for Enrollment, Expenditures and Revenues
FY2019 Budget Priorities



School Committee Roundtables and Retreats
District Plan Implementation
Community Input
Principals, Administrators & Teachers

Budget Development Timeline

Jan-Feb	Public Hearings Roundtables & Budget Retreats Revenues and Expenditures Balanced
March	Superintendent Presents FY2019 Proposed Budget Public Hearing School Committee Review of Budget
April/May	Final Revisions School Committee Vote of Adoption City Council Hearing and Appropriation

End of Power Point presentation.

There was discussion on the presentation, including the following questions and concerns:

Ms. Kelly wondered if Ms. Spinner or the Superintendent could talk about the process involving the principals and the administrators within the budget.

Dr Salim stated that Ms. Spinner meets with all department heads for several meetings. The larger departments have more planning and more discussions.

Ms. Bowman asked if there will be a specific meeting geared toward the District Plan Framework? Ms. Bowman also wants to know what strategies are in place that identify the goals, objectives and benchmarks.

Mr. Fantini believes that we will be talking about the District Plan at the next Regular Meeting on February 6th. Dr. Salim added that we will look at specific budget initiatives that have budget implications. They are shown on the budget schedule.

Ms. Bowman stated that she is concerned about the initial outcomes of the strategies that are being put in place and is interested in knowing what the budgetary implications are.

Ms. Nolan stated we are already looking at a shortfall and an increase. She wonders about the funding of additional costs for social workers and technology at the high school. Somewhat related to the elementary program review, will work be done on evaluating a range of programs from a budget prospective? Some resources may need to be reallocated to something else. She referenced coaches as an example.

Dr. Salim stated that the meeting next Tuesday will not be around that scope, but it has come up in interviews with elementary schools. Ms. Nolan is concerned about this because if we don't know whether or not they are working, why are we continuing them without an analysis. She wants an evaluation; adding that we have talked about it for years. It needs to tie into how we reach our goals of equity and outcomes.

Dr. Salim reiterated that we are not looking at programs, but at how the resources are connected to the outcomes we have set.

Ms. Kelly wants to know how much of the overall school improvement planning process is tied into the strategic district alignment. The Superintendent stated that family engagement is part of it.

Mr. Fantini stated that although he appreciates the way the budget has been framed, he noted that transportation and special education are costing the district an abundance, perhaps we should go to a breakfast meeting with our State legislators to make sure they know how much this is costing the municipalities. Transportation is driving us instead of us driving them.

Ms. Dexter thanked Ms. Spinner for a very clear presentation. She asked whether or not our money coming from the federal administration has decreased. Ms. Spinner agreed that it has declined. Ms. Dexter also asked whether or not we are still receiving full charter school reimbursement. Ms. Spinner confirmed that we are not receiving full reimbursement.

Ms. Spinner explained that we are all still working through our numbers, as always at this time of the year. We had a big revenue increase last year in order to help make up a huge deficit in transportation and special education tuitions. Those funds are now in our base and they are not going to be taken away from us. The city understood what was happening and they are tried to provide a cushion.

Mr. Sullivan asked if we are getting more money for guidance counselors or is it just for teaching staff. Dr. Turk answered that a guidance counselor, Katy Gray, came to speak during October and November about guidance services, she is still preparing her report and we should get it soon.

Ms. Bowman stated that money does not solve all of our problems and that the tax base is good because of good management over the years. The most vulnerable kids in our district are still not being served.

Mr. Kimbrough wants to know if we have much data on students outside our district placement, and whether these students are getting what they need from the schools they are going to out of placement and if the schools are giving us what we really want from those other districts. Dr. Salim stated that we cannot really see how to answer that. The Mayor stated that Cambridge does a better job of keeping an eye on students placed out of district than other districts do.

Mr. Kimbrough feels that we spend enough money to know about the out of district schools we send students to. He has heard that they are not that good. We need to make sure the money we are spending is really giving us the results we want. The Mayor stated that ultimately the parent has the last say on the decision of out of school placement.

Ms. Kelly added we need to keep in mind the range of disabilities and categorize them. There are some possibilities available that can be and are worth looking into.

Mayor McGovern stated that on the strategic plan which is supposed to be the foundation and the guiding plan that we are being governed by, and looking at the projected increases, we need to be careful about promising money to everyone that asks for money. We need to remember that we have a very expensive district. Most states and cities make parents pay for transportation, we don't, and it is expensive. There is a lot of money in multiple departments that are facing the same issues. There is a lot of other money from other partners that does not show up in our budget.

Ms. Spinner noted that some of it does show up in the state report. We are looking only at our operating budget tonight. As an example, the school nurses are part of the health dept. budget. She stated that Mayor McGovern's point is well taken. DHSP after school programs are not included in the school operating budget either. Ms. Spinner agreed that the city on the whole, supports the children of Cambridge in a very full way.

Ms. Dexter stated this budget needs to be driven by the strategic plan. How do we explain that we are making a significant investment. She does not see anything about 3rd grade reading and she believes it was one of the emerging priorities and targets for FY 2019.

Dr. Salim responded generally, stating that there are existing resources in the budget, he is thinking about it holistically and looking at tiered school support and how to address needs over the course of the year.

Ms. Bowman reminded the School Committee that we have an executive session ahead of us this evening and that the student representatives have not given their reports yet.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Low-Fleury reported on the following:

- CRLS students are gearing up for finals and noted that students are either very stressed or very relaxed during this time.

Mr. Sullivan stated it has been a wonderful return to school and he had nothing further to report.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval: None

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, the Unfinished Business was brought forward for discussion and adoption.

#18-05, Motion by the Budget Sub-Committee, that the FY 2019 Budget Calendar be shared with Budget Sub-Committee Members, the Committee of the Whole.

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Schedule of FY 2019 Budget Development Meetings and Hearings
District Plan Update Roundtables

Dates	Description
February 6, 2018	A. Regular Business Meeting B. District Plan Update Roundtable: <i>Review Progress-Implementation of Initiatives</i>
February 13, 2018	Budget Retreat (<i>If Necessary</i>)
March 13, 2018	Special Meeting: <i>Superintendent's presentation of the FY 2019 Proposed Budget to the School Committee</i>
March 15, 2018 <i>(Thursday)</i>	Budget Workshop: <i>Review of the FY 2019 Proposed Budget</i>
March 20, 2018	Public Hearing on the FY 2018 Proposed Budget
March 22, 2018 <i>(Thursday)</i>	Budget Workshop: <i>Review of the FY 2019 Proposed Budget</i>
March 27, 2018	Budget Workshop: <i>Review of the FY 2019 Proposed Budget</i>
April 3, 2018	School Committee Vote to Adopt: <i>FY 2019 Budget</i>
Late April 2018	Transmittal of Cambridge Public Schools FY 2019 Adopted Budget to City.
May 2018 (TBD)	City Council Hearing: <i>Cambridge Public Schools FY 2019 Adopted Budget</i>
May 2018	City Council vote of adoption of the FY 2019 City of Cambridge Budget.

Mr. Fantini made a motion, seconded by Ms. Nolan to accept the Revised Schedule of the FY 2019 Budget Development Meetings that was passed out to all in attendance. On a unanimous voice vote of the amendment and the Revised Budget Schedule, **item #18-05, Revised Schedule of the FY 2019 Budget Development Meetings**, was adopted.

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REVISED Schedule of FY 2019 Budget Development Meetings and Hearings
District Plan Update Roundtables

Dates	Description
January 2, 2018	Regular Business Meeting: Adoption of Budget Calendar
January 16, 2018	A. Regular Business Meeting B. Budget Update: Budget Projections
January 20, 2018 (Saturday) 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Public Hearing on the FY 2019 Budget Priorities
January 23, 2018 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Hearing) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Roundtable)	A. Public Hearing on FY 2019 Budget Priorities: For Educators & Members of the Community B. District Plan Update Roundtable: Elementary Program Review
January 30, 2018	A. Budget Retreat: Update on Budget Development B. District Plan Update Roundtable: Level Up Initiative
February 6, 2018	A. Regular Business Meeting B. District Plan Update Roundtable: Review Progress-Implementation of Initiatives
February 13, 2018	Budget Retreat (If Necessary)
TBD-Tentative	School Committee/City Council Joint Meeting: Preliminary Budget Meeting
March 13, 2018	Special Meeting: Superintendent's presentation of the FY 2019 Proposed Budget to the School Committee
March 15, 2018 (Thursday)	Budget Workshop: Review of the FY 2019 Proposed Budget
March 20, 2018	Public Hearing on the FY 2018 Proposed Budget
March 22, 2018 (Thursday)	Budget Workshop: Review of the FY 2019 Proposed Budget
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April 3, 2018	School Committee Vote to Adopt: FY 2019 Budget
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May 2018 (TBD)	City Council Hearing: Cambridge Public Schools FY 2019 Adopted Budget
May 2018	City Council vote of adoption of the FY 2019 City of Cambridge Budget.

As of January 16, 2018

C17-403, Late Order by Mayor Simmons, WHEREAS, The Cambridge Public Schools has acknowledged the urgency of addressing the Achievement Gap as outlined in the adopted 2017-2020 Cambridge Public Schools District Plan;

WHEREAS, The current passage rates on statewide assessments show gross disparities as it pertains to race; and

WHEREAS, Research has shown that greater communal involvement in children's lives, which consist of parents, members of the school community, non-profit partners, former CPSD staff members, and alumni can aptly serve as thought partners to uncover strategies to eradicate the Achievement Gap in CPSD; and

WHEREAS, The US Department of Education defines the achievement gap as "the difference in academic performance between different ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the attainment rate must be done by both increasing the rate at which minority students enter, matriculate, and successfully graduate from college; and

WHEREAS, College graduates earn over \$1 million more than high school graduates over the course of a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, The disparity between attainment rates results in disparities in the economic welfare and career options at meaningful careers throughout the city of Cambridge and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, The emerging shift in public education to standards-based curriculum and data driven metrics and decision making should provide the afore mentioned stakeholders to aid in garnering substantive strategies to eliminate the achievement gap; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The administration of the Cambridge Public Schools partner with stakeholders to collaborate in creating a commission that solely and explicitly addresses the Achievement Gap with ambitious goals and benchmarks along with a time frame to cut in half and/or eliminate by 2026;

RESOLVED, That CPSD Administration in conjunction with the task force publish a yearly report to be available to the public on strategies and prospective policies to improve the academic achievement gap: and be it further

RESOLVED, The Commission commence an annual conference for the larger Cambridge community to share their findings and to discuss the pervasive issues that contribute to the existence of the achievement gap in a resource rich district ; such as, CPSD.

(Simmons 12-19-17) On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, the second reading was waived.

Ms. Nolan supports this late Order and stated that if the district does not concentrate on closing the achievement gap we cannot shift the burden to any other group, we all need to take ownership of lowering this gap.

Ms. Kelly wanted to make clear that this is related to the strategic plan and the Nellie Mae Grant. Ms. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a unanimous voice vote, Late Order **item #C17-403** was referred to the Superintendent.

#17-300, Motion by Mr. Fantini, In order to provide a well rounded educational experience for all of our students;

And whereas some student's have financial hardships in order for them to participate in field trips;

That the Superintendent provide financial support to all schools that do not have sufficient funds to pay for school busses

Mr. Fantini placed **item #17-300** on file.

6. Awaiting Reports:

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

Ms Kelly moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed **item #18-14** and **item #18-15**.

Mr. Fantini removed **item #18-17**. On the following roll call vote, **item #18-16** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Mayor YEA.

#18-16, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Student Tuition, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Compass, 290-294 Bowdoin Street, Dorchester, for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$32,879.00.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#18-14, Authorization for the Superintendent to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the replacement of the Graham & Parks School building roof. That in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts School Building Authority the School Committee enter an order containing the following resolution:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on January 16, 2018, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated no later than February 16, 2018 for the Graham and Parks School building located at 44 Linnaean Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

The funds are sought to be used for the replacement of the building's roof. The Linnaean Street building's roof is more than 30 years old and has multiple failures. Excessive shrinkage is tearing the roof membrane, membrane is brittle and seams are failing, resulting in ongoing leaks. These problems are both a nuisance and a cost to the district. This project falls under priority category number 5, which is for the replacement, renovation, or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility, as determined in the judgment of the Authority.

The Cambridge School Committee hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City /School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Ms. Nolan stated that since we recognize we have a school that meets the required immediate and critical needs, this should be a priority. Motioned by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on the following roll call vote, **item #18-14** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Mayor YEA.

#18-15, Special Needs Contracts for Day and 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 Budget and/or Grant Fund Budget.

#	Amount
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Day Program Tuition Contracts	2	\$79,850.56
Residential Program Tuition Contracts	0	
45 Day Program Contracts	<u>0</u>	
Total	2	<u>\$79,850.56</u>

Ms. Nolan stated that she knows it is a delicate issue when we have to pull children out of our district. She emphasized that we keep our students in district as often as we can. She wants everyone to understand that we do try to keep our students in district. Ms. Kelly added that sometimes there is no other way to accommodate the needs of our students unless they are placed out of district. Mayor McGovern affirmed this issue. On the following roll call vote, **item #18-15** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Mayor YEA.

#18-17, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Nellie Mae Education Foundation-Root Causes of Inequities, for the period January 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019, in the amount of \$295,000.00. Project/Grant SC18144.

Description: This grant will support a district-community process that will engage a wide field of community stakeholders in dialogue in order to identify the root causes of the persistent gaps in college and career readiness affecting the future prospects of our high school graduates. In collaboration with technical assistance providers, will 1) analyze historical barriers and other patterns that prevent us from equitably preparing all students for post graduation success and 2) identify student-centered practices and other appropriate interventions that will address the identified equity barriers.

Mr. Fantini thanked those that took the initiative to write this grant and stated that it could not have come at a better time and he wanted to show his appreciation for their efforts. This is just what the district needs. Persistent gaps in college is something that we all have been working on and he is looking forward to the progress that will be made as a result of this Grant. He would like to know how it will actually happen in terms of staff personnel on hand etc.

Dr. Salim responded that there are some part time personnel, a .6 position including a project coordinator and a stipend position for an equity and engagement coordinator. The technical assistance providers have not yet been identified. We are moving on a pretty fast timeline on this grant.

Ms. Bowman is excited and hopeful that this opportunity will give us the insight that we need to meet the challenges of this system. We need to face our failures of granting the needs of children of color head on. She is thankful to Dr. Salim and all of the others that worked so hard and wrote this grant.

Ms. Dexter followed up that she is extremely proud to be part of a district that does this kind of amazing work and this is a large amount of money.

Ms. Nolan wants to understand more of how this is part of our district plan and that it really does tie into our root causes. She wants to know what levels of the district will be involved. She is willing to be able to read the Grant Proposal so she can be clear. She is hoping to get regular reporting and updates on this so that we will be kept apprised of the upcoming work.

Ms. Kelly stated she is not surprised at all at the amount of work that has been accomplished by the teamwork of Dan and Matt and all of workers and the frank conversations that she has been able to have with them all. Dr. Salim stated that this grant will focus on the entire district K-12. On the following roll call, **item #18-17** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Mayor YEA.

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

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, the School Committee Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Ms. Dexter pulled all of the items.

#18-18, Joint Motion by Ms. Dexter and Mr. Fantini, that whereas the School Committee values being in accord with our partner elected body, the Cambridge City Council; and

Whereas the Cambridge City Council has changed its rules to allow the videotaping, livestreaming, and cable broadcasting of Roundtable meetings;

And whereas such a rule change would give the School Committee the flexibility, when appropriate, to make School Committee Roundtable meetings more equitably accessible to students, educators, staff, administrators, family members, members of partner organizations, and other community members who are unable to attend Roundtable meetings in person;

The Cambridge School Committee will change its rules for Roundtable meetings, Section 3.2, to omit the phrase, "The meeting shall not be broadcast on cable television," and to insert the phrase, "Roundtable meetings may be livestreamed and broadcast on cable television, with the video recordings posted on the School Committee website and archived on the video archive of School Committee meetings." This rule change will be effective immediately upon passage by the School Committee.

This motion explicitly supports the CPS Strategic Goals **#1** (Provide **Equity and Access** to Increase Opportunity and Achievement), **#2**(Provide **Engaging Learning for Students and Staff** [Real world learning]), **#4** (Expand and Strengthen **Family and Community Partnerships** [Engaging families, differentiated opportunities for family voice and engagement]), and **#5** (Improve Implementation and **Progress Monitoring** [Monitoring, evaluating, and sharing progress.]). Ms Nolan motioned, Ms. Dexter seconded to waive the reading.

Ms. Dexter explained that we will be in accord with the city if we would explore the option of which ones we will broadcast and which ones we will not.

Mr. Sullivan asked why we will not have all Roundtables broadcast.

Mr. Fantini stated that we should start slow and eventually get to the point of broadcasting all Roundtables. There may be some opportunities that we need to have delicate and sensitive conversations that are not televised.

Ms. Bowman stated that Mr. Harding also made everyone aware that it is not always easy to speak on camera. She also added that it is not because the Committee is trying to hide anything just being a bit more pragmatic.

Ms. Nolan is supportive of the motion. She understands some concerns and is ready to try it and in another six months evaluate.

Ms. Kelly motioned, Ms. Bowman seconded, on a voice vote, **item #18-18** was adopted. Ms. Dexter motioned, seconded by Ms. Nolan to waive the 2nd reading of this Policy change.

On a motion from Ms. Dexter, seconded by Mr. Fantini, 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, a motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption.

#18-19, Joint Motion by Ms. Dexter and Mr. Kimbrough, that whereas CPS values equity of opportunity to learn in our schools, and equity of opportunity to pursue positive post-secondary options;

And whereas CPS data show that the current CRLS main campus Attendance Violation policy has differential impact on students by disability status, income, and race/ethnicity;

And whereas CRLS and CPS communities are currently investigating root causes of these differentials;

And whereas punitive approaches, such as grade reductions, can reduce student motivation and engagement, thus further harming students who are already at risk for lower academic achievement or reduced engagement with school;

And whereas the School Committee, district administration, CRLS administration, and students, faculty, and parents are currently researching and discussing effective approaches to getting students to school and class every day on time;

And whereas the CRLS High School Extension Program does not use grade reduction as a consequence for unexcused absences or tardies;

The School Committee requests that there be a temporary suspension, including for Fall, 2017 courses, of any grade reductions related to absences or tardies at the CRLS main campus program until the CRLS and CPS administration and School Committee develop and communicate to all students a policy that is grounded in restorative justice approaches and that meets the CPS goals of: 1) Equity and access to opportunities to learn; 2) Providing engaging, culturally-appropriate and meaningful learning opportunities for all students; 3) Supporting all students holistically as individuals; 4) Strengthening and expanding partnerships and collaboration with families and the community and increasing family engagement; and 5) Using data to monitor progress and improve implementation of all school policies.

Ms. Dexter spoke first, handing out data about how the policy affects different students in different ways. The students that are really losing points are students of color and students with disabilities. It affects scholarships and college applications.

Mr. Kimbrough added that this policy is affecting education equity and both social and restorative justice.

Ms. Nolan stated that the current policy has not been fully exposed to all of the student body. Can we support this as a temporary suspension of this policy? If the high school extension program does not do this, she is not comfortable with the disconnection between the two schools. There should be some kind of consequence, but this current policy may be too harsh.

Ms. Bowman feels that students are being overly punished while also recognizing that teachers need strategies for structure in the classroom and there is a need for restorative justice. She offered that this motion be amended.

Ms. Kelly is support of Ms. Bowman's suggestion. She is in support of operationalizing what we are trying to achieve.

Ms. Low-Fleury wants all students to have the same amount of time to make up the same work that they are missing. No matter what policy is used, it needs to start at a place where all students know about it.

Mr. Sullivan stated this policy has always been anti low income. He feel that there is a need to suspend the AV policy and we need to stop the culture of policing at the main high school. All students are not aware of the buyback policy.

The Mayor stated that all don't read the handbook.

Ms. Low-Fleury stated that everyone has to sign the handbook. You don't have to turn it in unless you want a locker. There is no proof that you read it.

Dr. Salim stated that he understands the history and concerns around policy. There is a challenge of making a change mid stream that can cause unintended consequences. He worries about making changes at this level without including the administration.

Dr. Turk cautioned to not automatically compare what happens at the main campus and what happens at the HSEP. They are two different schools serving different needs. Some of them are there because of a need of credit recovery. Also, as it relates to unintended consequences, we try to make sure all students are aware of policies. We have seen a spike in the number of students that come to school late know they can make it up and then do not try as hard to be punctual. Students need to understand policies in

general and the responsibility that comes with students' rights. Although the Sub-Committee has not had the opportunity to meet as much as they intended, the talk about this topic continues.

Mr. Sullivan agrees that there unintended consequences to suspending the AV policy and they can be reconciled for some students, but not for the seniors. They will suffer lifelong impacts.

Ms. Low Fleury asked for a point of information on how long is the suspension, is it until further edits in the language have been made?

Dr. Salim asked for a point of information, in order to be clear that suspending the Attendance Violation Policy will mean that there will be no consequence for tardies or absences at the high school. Going from a policy of failing a class associated with a certain number of absences to a grade reduction, to a grade reduction with an opportunity for a grade buyback. He is concerned that the Committee may have mixed the issue of failure to communicate the policy with the issue of the policy itself. They are two separate issues. The absence of any consequence around the issue of tardy or absent at this high school of 2000 students; giving students the power to make decisions that may not be in their best interest, is a major concern. We may be going in the wrong direction.

Ms. Kelly reminded us that this ad hoc sub-committee is still in force in order for these issues to be resolved. They need to have at least one or two more meetings. She does understand what the Superintendent is saying and the principal may or may not be aware that this conversation is happening. They need to meet more and have more discussions.

Ms. Dexter, as Chair of the AV sub-committee, wants to make it very clear that this current policy, before the buyback, was not working or serving as a successful deterrent. More options need still to be explored. This is not a restorative justice framework it is grade restoration framework. Students get in a downward cycle and feel no need to come to school anymore.

Mr. Sullivan stated it is the fault of the administration that students don't know about this buy back section of the policy, it should not fall on the backs of the students.

The Mayor stated that if you don't communicate the policy, you cannot expect it to be followed.

Ms. Low-Fleury noted that for this semester, the policy is moot, she recommends for the next semester there still is a policy that has already been written and is in effect; make sure all students know about it. Adding lastly for the next FY 2018-19 school year, hopefully there will be a new policy.

Mr. Kimbrough supports the amendment. He commented on the points that Dr. Salim brought up regarding unintended consequences and stressed that we need additional information on why students are not going to class. It is possible that it can have something to do with micrco aggressions or other concerns that are not being addressed. We obviously need something that we do not currently have.

On Ms. Bowman's prior proposed amendment and after collective input the Committee, on a voice vote, the motion was adopted as amended: *The School Committee requests that there be a temporary suspension for the Fall 2017 courses of any grade reductions related to absences or tardies at the CRLS main campus program. The current policy will remain in effect for the Spring 2018 semester.*

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on a voice vote, the second reading of this policy change was waived.

#18-20, Joint Motion by Mayor McGovern and Ms. Kelly,

WHEREAS: Children who attend Cambridge Public Schools reside in Cambridge and are often a part of City programs outside of school; and

WHEREAS: Policy, budget and other decisions made by the City Council impact students and families in Cambridge Public Schools and decisions made by the School Committee and School Department impact city programs; and

WHEREAS: Each year the City Council and School Committee discuss a desire to improve communication between the two elected bodies; as well as between city and school administrations; and

WHEREAS: On May 15, 2017 the City Council adopted a similar order in support of this effort;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

That the Mayor establish a standing committee made up of three School Committee members and three City Councilors and invite the Superintendent, the City Manager, as well as other members to be determined, to meet every 8 weeks to discuss issues pertinent to the School Department and the City as a way to improve communication between the two elected bodies.

Ms. Dexter asked if these meetings are to be open to the public like the Sub-Committee meetings. Mayor McGovern stated that they will be announced and open to the public, however, there will not be public comment.

Ms. Bowman stated that she is worried about bringing two sides together and the school mission gets lost or the city side gets lost. The Mayor stated that he is trying to improve communication and will ensure that no side gets lost.

Ms. Nolan stated that she wants to make sure we improve communication. She acknowledges that housing and poverty are linked with the schools. She asks that we be clear about why we are having these meetings that will include the administration.

The Mayor asked the Superintendent how he felt about having the administration participate also.

Dr. Salim stated it is hard to comment without knowing the scope of how many times there will be meetings.

Ms. Kelly stated that she feels it is a good idea to have the two elected officials meet together to help build one solid relationship with the two bodies and to have the locations hold meetings at both places.

Mr. Fantini motioned, seconded by Ms. Dexter, to amend the motion to say *at the call of the Mayor* instead of every 8 weeks. On a voice vote, the **item #18-20** was adopted as amended.

#18-21, Motion by Mr. Fantini, That the Superintendent explore and review the School Improvement Council's practices and explore opportunities for refinement with the District's Plan Frameworks and Outcomes.

Mr. Fantini want to focus on closing the achievement gap and he wants it to happen on every level.

Ms. Nolan was confused about who this references. There was a discussion about whether Mr. Fantini's motion is directed to the SIC or the School Council. Each School Council sets their agenda.

Dr. Salim wants to think about School Councils and the School Improvement Plans. He would like to develop an understanding on a system wide level.

Ms. Bowman moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, **item #18-21** was adopted.

#18-22, Motion by Ms. Bowman, whereas the Cambridge Public School District recently standardized the process for CPSD rental payments, and;

Whereas the previous billing system didn't consistently bill in a way that aligned with CPSD policy and;

Whereas this change in the system has created challenges for youth organizations seeking to access CPSD rental space,

Therefore be it resolved that CPSD place a moratorium on fee collection for youth organizations for the remainder of the 2017/2018 academic school year;

Be it further resolved, that the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee will review and update an equitable fee model that accommodates the needs of youth organizations of various scales for the 2018/2019 academic school year and beyond.

Ms. Dexter pulled this because she wants youth organization defined. Ms. Nolan stated that the fee program is toward a very specific and limited group of organizations and new billing practices.

Ms. Bowman moved, seconded by Ms. Dexter, on a voice vote, **item #18-22** was adopted.

#18-23, Motion by Ms. Bowman, whereas various CPDS schools have identified challenges with elevated temperatures in classrooms during the academic year, as a result of an increased number of hot days because of climate change; and

Whereas parents and School Committee Members met to discuss this challenge during the 2017/2018 School Committee session, and;

Whereas at the July 27, 2017, Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Meeting, parents and School Committee Members agreed to address this by proposing a project that would place air conditioning units in 49 remaining CPSD classrooms that do not have adequate air conditioning through the City of Cambridge Participatory Budget process;

And whereas it was agreed upon that if we were not successful in our Participatory attends, the Committee would recommend incorporating this air conditioning unit expense in the 2018/2019 Budget;

Therefore be it resolved that district include air conditioning units into the 2018/2019 Budget for the remaining classrooms that currently do not have adequate access to AC units.

Ms. Bowman spoke about her last term as Chair of the Buildings and Grounds to place units where the 49 classrooms do not have units.

Ms. Nolan appreciates the work, and wants it referred to the Budget Sub-Committee.

Ms. Kelly wants it to be passed

Ms. Dexter wants it to be passed

Mayor McGovern asked Mr. Maloney to speak on this before a decision is made. He stated that he can comply with the the motion. They have made great headway and will continue to move on it. They have been adding AC's during May and early June. There are some service issues, but they can move forward.

Mayor McGovern moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, **item #18-23** was referred to the Budget Sub-Committee

Mr. Fantini motioned to suspend the rules in order to move **items #18-24, #18-25 and #18-26** forward for adoption. On the following roll call, the motion to suspend the rules failed of adoption: Ms. Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly NAY; Mr. Kimbrough NAY; Ms. Nolan NAY; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Mayor NAY.

#18-24, Motion by Mayor McGovern,

WHEREAS: The School Committee rules (Section 3.3) call for two joint meetings per year with the City Council; and

WHEREAS: The City Council rules (Rule 24B) call for three joint meetings per year with the School Committee; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee and City Council mutually endeavor to support our students and community as a whole; therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge School Committee will change its rules Section 3.3 for Joint Meeting with the City Council to increase the number of meetings from two meetings annually, to three meetings annually, with the additional meeting occurring in winter as a preliminary budget meeting. The other two meetings shall remain as listed in rules Section 3.3, as is "a budget meeting held in the spring and a more general meeting on goals and progress in the fall." This rule change will be effective immediately upon passage by the School Committee.

Mayor McGovern explained that the City Council Rules call for three meetings, and this motion is to bring the School Committee rules in alignment with the City Council Rules.

Ms. Dexter offered an amendment to change occurring in winter to *occurring between October and January*.

Ms. Nolan is in favor of this motion.

Moved by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Dexter, on a voice vote of the motion as amended, **item #18-24** was adopted as amended.

#18-25, Motion by Mayor McGovern,

WHEREAS The City Council agenda contains a section titled "Communications and Reports from City Officers" to allow Councillors and other City Officers to communicate amongst each other without violating Open Meeting Laws; and

WHEREAS: It may also be of benefit to Members of the School Committee to include a similar section in their agenda to facilitate communication; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the School Committee will change its rules to create a section in its Regular Meeting agenda titled "Communications and Reports from City Officers."

Mayor McGovern explained that there is a section on the City Council Agenda that allows Council Members to write letters or provide information to other Council Members; providing public communication between Council Members without violating the open meeting law, which prohibits private communication between Council Members. He would also like to have his Educational Liaison, Elizabeth Liss, write up a summary of the major issues discussed at Regular School Committee meetings to be submitted to the City Council Agenda so that City Council Members will be updated on what happens at School Committee meetings. He would also like to submit a summary of the major issues discussed at City Council meetings to the School Committee Agenda; however, presently there is no section for that submission. This motion would allow that. On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Dexter, on a voice vote, **item #18-25** was adopted. On a motion by Ms. Dexter, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, the second reading of this motion was waived.

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Dexter, on a voice vote, **item #18-26**, the Report of the December 13, 2017 Civic Unity Sub-Committee was accepted as presented.

**Civic Unity Sub-Committee
Minority Parents Advisory Council
School Committee Conference Room
6:00 – 7:30 PM**

Called for the purpose of discussing SC Order C17-201 regarding creation of a Minority Parents Advisory Council for Minority Students and possible next steps.

Members Present: Ms. Kelly, Chair: Ms. Bowman. Mr. Harding, ABSENT

Also Present: Ms. Dexter, Mr. Clark, Educational Liaison, Dr. Likis, Chief Planning Officer, Ms. Brazo, Welcoming Schools Coordinator

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Ms. Kelly who read the call of the meeting.

Ms. Kelly asked if Minority Parents Advisory Council for Minority Students is the appropriate name for the group or should it be more concrete

Dr. Likis has an issue with the use of the word Minority. She is unclear about who we are trying to reach and why. She worries about the messaging of it for the District and who would determine who would be eligible to be a member of the group.

Ms. Bowman agreed that even within sub-groups there are different needs and concerns; she is not sure how to operationalize this.

Ms. Kelly added there is a group of parents of color at K/Open with students of color and former Mayor Simmons had a likeminded parent group that was broader. That evolved from a group of parents that started conversations about a certain school. How do we encourage parents to start a group?

Dr. Likis: When a group springs out of parents own recognition of needs and defining the Charter of the group and insuring that between the district and the group. She would want to support that scenario. We are trying to create a reason why people would want to be part of a group. To operationalize it-try to make decisions of who is eligible, who is not and who is a person of color.

Ms. Dexter asked is there a group of teacher's that self identify?

Ms. Bowman stated that CEA President, Dan Monahan was having meetings with sub-groups and Anda Adams was meeting around curriculum. There is a group of teachers of color.

Ms. Dexter added that it would be easier for all people to be at the table and advise on day to day issues. It would be good if the teachers had an affinity group.

Mr. Clark stated that he agrees with the minority language. We can parcel it out as a task force around certain issues and have someone from SPED, a pedagogue, and a parent at the table to make recommendations that are practical, get different teachers from all walks of life. Based on what the district wants to do, how do we move a student from middle school to high school? Educate people on what Level Up is. Have parents talk to parents of disconnected families. Coach them, invite them to meetings, and create zip code captains

Ms Kelly added in terms of SPED there is definitely a diverse group so parents are likely to find people they feel comfortable with to talk to about difficult topics. SPED holds classes that help parents learn how to advocate for their child, a family engagement piece.

Ms. Brazo: Are there parents in the back ground that were asking for this? The CPAC takes a lot of work and has a liaison. The community people are going to have a lot of work too.

Ms. Bowman added to be honest and transparent you do not see families of color at School Committee meetings. Those are the families that are most impacted by it. They are who we are trying to reach. We are having a whole conversation without the people in the room. Let's invite the groups to the table with the Superintendent and see if there is a need.

Dr. Likis said there is work happening around this at the school level. This seems hard to do, duplicative, unclear who to support coming from the community instead of the School Committee.

Mr. Clark said 5 years ago NAACP and Mr. Ogletree worked with Concerned Black Staff to figure out what are some of those groups already doing, they are not coming here. It may be beneficial to partner to talk about the plan, the data and coach folks about what is coming down the pike. A lot of the churches are having those conversations.

Dr. Likis stated we have education and advocacy in place at the school level led by school families. Schools are meeting in their triad or quad groups (example: CSUS, FMA, K/O and Cport). Everyone is charged with doing some work as related to community advocacy. We gave them our definition of what advocacy is and examples, they are working on what their focus is going to be for their Triad and Quad.

Ms. Kelly said we need to ask the schools to record who they are hearing from and how often to get a sense of whether those relationships are being built.

Ms. Dexter said people of color reach out to the NAACP to convene people and if they have questions we can answer them. People want to communicate and gather in the church. The sense between the White Teachers and the African American community has anger toward the teachers... Why can't they fix this? There needs to be communication about this.

Dr. Likis stated we could do outreach with the NAACP and ABBOT American Board of Black Outreach Team. That outreach person is from the community.

Ms. Dexter added that the Mayor could convene it.

Ms. Bowman asked if this Civic Community Committee could do it? The district wide planning committee has done some of this.

Ms. Brazo said we have an administrators meeting on Friday regarding outreach and will find out how do they view education? What have schools done to engage families? Is there anything we should stop doing?

Dr. Likis added that they shared all the data with the admin council where they compared the vision presented by parents and the admin council.

Mr. Clark: We need outsiders to push the School Committee and the District. There is lack of uniformity in consistency and vision, is the curriculum aligned?

Ms. Bowman stated depending on what community you talk to, some people of color view schools differently. As an example, most African American people don't have an issue with testing. As it relates to policy we don't take into account the people that are impacted. That voice needs to be communicated.

Dr. Likis added it is beyond outside pressure groups. It's understanding diverse perspectives and culture in our community. The alignment is part of why we are focusing on family engagement creating shared focus and practices across schools and getting Principals to work together. The experience of four kids moving up from elementary to upper schools isn't consistent.

Ms. Kelly is willing to meet at other spaces with groups possibly Margaret Fuller House, Cambridge Community Center, East End House or the Black Minister Alliance.

Dr. Likis asked so you'd be asking the director of the East End House to come or for him to recommend people to come?

Mr. Clark responded someone that works with a group of kids and families. He said Montclair State did a report on the achievement gap which is on line. It included a very diverse group of people working with parents across schools on how to bring in external partners, support students of color from all walks of life and they had a clear plan to support the work.

Dr. Likas said if the purpose is to focus on families of color with the intention of hearing from them in a more structured way, we need to figure out whom to invite. Is there a need for this given everything already being done at the school level and the focus on advocacy? We don't want to duplicate work. We're trying to take actions that are thoughtful, intentional and aligned.

Mr. Clark said in this City we do something new before knowing what else is going on in the community.

Ms. Dexter would like a paper for each school to say this school has diversity dialogue, this school works with EDCO, etc., People are doing things but we don't know about it.

Ms. Bowman stated as a person of color, I want my child to be educated if what you're telling me is connected to bias as to how my child can learn algebra. I am confident there are other people of color that feel the same.

Mr. Clark added how we make young people accountable, empower them to take action for themselves and not look for someone to save them: The beauty and the danger of Cambridge is it is very maternal. How do we coach people on how young people can work in the city so they have the education? When we have these groups in the room, ask how have you worked in your space to encourage your consistency.

Ms. Bowman recommends looking at what work has been done in relation to the District Framework. Engage people not at the table and incorporate it into the work already being done. Reach out to who has a vested interest in African Americans and being a part of advanced classes? If we can interact with them and let them know what work we are doing, they could serve as a partner/task force to reach out to families; an outside voice to give feedback, accountability.

Dr. Likis again stated we have a district plan and are moving forward. She would prefer to think of a question to ask them so they are making good use of their time. I don't think the intention was to create an advisory group around closing the achievement gap. They may be people of color but may not be parents. What do we want to ask them? We need to tell them what the purpose of the meeting is.

Mr. Clark will speak to Mayor Simmons and get a better understanding of what her vision of this group is and report back by the close of business tomorrow.

Ms. Bowman said we can leverage a group that already exists. We pass motions and we try them out to see if they work or not. We are flexible.

Ms Dexter asked what would a question be?

Ms. Bowman added going back to the district wide frame work outcomes and share the information. People will have questions on the implementation of the goals we set, particularly with the sub-groups that will come here. What does it mean to percentage? People care about academic attainment and the strategies we are putting in place particularly that black kids are getting what they need from our district and thrive.

Dr. Likis stated we can invite them and give a presentation of the district plan and outcomes for student achievement, particularly African American students. The Black Alliance question could be, in your work with black families how do you suggest we improve? Here's where we are and a series of questions about families they can connect to. We could link it around families as partners. We get information from them with suggestions for strategies for us to hear from the communities.

Ms. Dexter added that is very focused. The anger is the district is not doing anything about the disparities.

Dr. Likis suggested that the School Committee could send invitations out in collaboration with the District. Could we work with the family engagement planning team? They have a meeting coming up in January.

Ms. Dexter suggested meeting again in February and including Nicole the outreach worker.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Bowman seconded by Ms. Kelly at 7:07 PM

Terry Gist
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee Office

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolence): None

11. Announcements:

Ms. Dexter announced that for all watching at home, we are having our first Public Hearing on the Budget this Saturday, January, 20, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mr. Fantini and Ms. Dexter are the Budget co-chairs this term and child care will be provided. She invites the community and all staff to attend.

12. Late Orders:

On a voice vote, the following motion was adopted:

Motioned by Mr. Fantini, that the School Committee send a letter of condolence to the Harrison family for the passing of David Harrison.

On a voice vote, the following motion was adopted:

Motioned by Ms. Nolan, that the School Committee send a letter of appreciation and thanks to Many Helping Hands for their Hands on Day of Service.

Distributed Back-up Documents/Handouts:

- FY 2019 Enrollment Projections & Preliminary Budget Estimates powerpoint presentation
- FY 2019 Budget and Enrollment Projections
- CRLS Attendance Violation Data, 2016-2017 School Year

E-mail Communications Received:

- ✓ Karen Engels re district-funded bus trips for the purposes of field trips
- ✓ Anna Henschman re district-funded bus trips for the purposes of field trips
- ✓ Lauren K. Gibbs re FY 2019 Budget

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

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for collective bargaining with respect to each of the following units – Cambridge Education Association Units C, D, and E; Cambridge Liaisons Invested in Families & Education; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 93 Local 1611; Cambridge Safety Specialists, and Cambridge Food Service Employee Association – as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee.

The Chair announced that no votes will be taken and we will not reconvene in open session.

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to enter into Executive Session for the purpose stated: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mr. Kimbrough YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Mayor YEA.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to adjourn (9:30 PM)

Dosha Beard
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

