

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### (Official Report)

#### Regular Meeting

November 21, 2017

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.

Members Present: Ms. Bowman, Ms. Dexter, Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, (ABSENT) Ms. Kelly, (ABSENT) Ms. Nolan and Mayor Simmons (ABSENT)

Also Present: Dr. Salim, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Adams, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Likis, Chief Planning Officer  
Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Konjic, Facilities Maintenance Director

Also Present: Student School Committee Member Paul Sullivan

Mr. Fantini in the Chair.

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

#### 1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Jason Homsey, Pleasant Street, parent, re: #17-271, Chinese Immersion, his son went through the lottery and got in through immersion. His daughter wants to enroll in this program also. He wants both of his children to be able to have the same advantage as his son. The lottery will force siblings to struggle for too few slots. He wants the loophole closed, and immersion through the lottery only.
- Helen Jenkins, Amory Street, parent, re: #17-271, Chinese Immersion, she is not in favor of what has happened to her 2<sup>nd</sup> child not being able to get the same treatment as the older sibling. Some students will be placed ahead of lottery assignments. She wants the internal loophole closed.
- Jennifer Dunn, Fairview Avenue, parent, re: #17-271 Chinese Immersion, her son feels confident and smart although he cannot read well in English, he reads at grade level in Chinese. She stated that her daughter will struggle just as her brother. She wants the same advantage for her daughter that her son has benefited from. Being born in July is a punishment and her daughter will think she is not as smart as her brother as a result of this change.
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, CEA President, re: #17-248, Family & Medical Leave Policy, he thanked the School Committee for considering changing the language in this policy and urges a positive vote.
- Alex Loud, Tremont Street, #17-269, Gym fees and space, is concerned to discover there will be a custodial fee to use the school gym. He wants to be sure the various leagues can afford to have the kids play sports. Programs will be cut. He requests the School Committee reverse this decision. Cambridge is a wealthy city. There are very wide income disparities between the teams.

- John Summers, Fairmont Street, parent, re: #17-267, re: Sugary Drinks, he does not give his children sugary drinks at home. He reminded everyone of the child obesity and diabetes issues we face, and read a document with data on the subject (on file in the School Committee office).
- Graham Jones, Mass Ave., parent, re: #17-271, parent of 2 MLK Open students that plan to enroll in the Immersion Program. He is surprised that there is a Motion to remove the internal transfer program. He wants his kids to benefit from the immersion program. He is very moved by the preceding speakers; support for sibling togetherness is emotional, but it has not been working in the context of controlled choice.

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

## **2. Student School Committee Report:**

- Mr. Sullivan reported on the X Block that took place a few weeks ago. He has been able to speak to other students about the designation of courses; there have been many conversations about what Honors and College Prep mean and the role school culture plays
- The Drama department just finished a production of West Side Story
- There was a fundraiser for the natural disasters worldwide there has been a real interest in environmental changes in the world
- Tomorrow is Falcon Pride day, many fun events will happen before leaving for the holiday break

## **3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:**

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Dexter, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following Meetings as presented:

- Regular Meeting – September 19, 2017
- Special Meeting - September 26, 2017
- Regular Meeting - October 3, 2017
- Special Meeting – October 17, 2017

On a Motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on a voice vote, the rules were suspended to bring forward **item #17-271**. Ms. Nolan explained that the internal transfers were interpreted incorrectly. She has spoken to the administration and a new Order will make two things exceedingly clear: First, that the rules of the internal transfer policy currently in place will no longer be in place for future classes: Second, that the administration makes sure the siblings affected by the internal transfer policy are assigned to their siblings school in order to get into the same program. She offered that Mr. Maloney can answer questions that may come up. The policy Order will only affect students that are entering the lottery and not already in the program.

Mr. Harding joined the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Dexter supports the motion and thanked all the parents for their input. She suggested we look at the JK system and all of the immersion programs capacity and their ability to balance Social Economic Status (SES) learners. There are still issues of older siblings and waitlistings.

Mr. Harding thanked the subcommittee for the work done and asked what the implications are for balance? Mr. Maloney stated that this upcoming year is going to be a one-time situation. There is no way to know the numbers. They are confident that it can be managed. The Superintendent also agrees that this is a fair Order.

Ms. Bowman thanked Ms. Nolan and the administration, stating that equity is not always equal and asked how can we reach a positive balance regarding controlled choice.

Ms. Nolan apologized for the fact that the School Committee was unable to contact schools and families in a timely manner and will do a better job of communication in the future.

Ms. Nolan moved seconded by Mr. Harding, Jr., the adoption of **item #17-271** on the following roll call, item **#17-271** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

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, a motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption.

**4. Reconsiderations:** None

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:**

Ms. Nolan moved that Calendar **item #17-243** be removed from the Calendar and placed on file.

**#17-243, Motion by the Community Relations Sub-Committee**, that whereas how siblings are assigned to the immersion programs should be aligned with the district goals of supporting families and prioritizing sibling togetherness in schools, that the lottery for Kindergarten assign all siblings in the two immersion programs prior to any internal transfers and further that the internal transfers within the schools with immersion programs be ended starting with the January 2019 lottery for the 2019-20 school year. (Nolan 10-3-17)

**6. Awaiting Reports:** None

**7. Superintendent's Agenda:**

**7a. Presentations:** None

**7b. Innovation Agenda:**

**7c. Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed **item # 17-246**, Ms. Dexter removed **item #17-251, item #17-252, item #17-253, item #17-263, item #17-264**, Mr. Fantini removed **item #17-261**. On the following roll call, **items #17-247 to #17-250, item #17-252, item #17-255 to #17-260, #17-262 and #17-265** were adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

**#17-247, FY17-18 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers**, that the School Committee approves the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund Budget for FY2017-2018.

	<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
51000	Salaries, Wages & Benefits (SW)	(384,750)
52000/55000	Other Ordinary Maintenance (OOM)	294,250
57000	Travel & Training (TT)	85,981
58000/5900	Extraordinary Expenditures (EE)	<u>4,519</u>
	Total	\$ 0

**#17-248**, Approval of Revisions to Cambridge Public Schools Family and Medical Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy, that the School Committee approves the revisions to the Family and Medical Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

**#17-249** that the following be referred to a second reading: Approval of Revisions to Weapons and Assaults on School Staff Policy, that the School Committee approve the Revisions to the Weapons and Assaults on School Staff Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

**#17-250**, 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 on the attached 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	9	\$570,770.66
Residential	5	\$1,055,388.69
45 Day Program	<u>0</u>	
Total	14	<u>\$1,626,159.35</u>

**#17-252** that Superintendent's Recommendation #17-252, Contract Award, that the School Committee approve an agreement with the following community partner for City Links Mentorship Program, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Enroot (Formerly Cambridge Community Services), 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2108, in the amount of \$45,000.00.

**#17-255**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for electrical supplies, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: NorthEast Electrical Distributors, 560 Oak Street, Brockton, for the period November 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$60,000.00.

**#17-256**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for student transportation, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Hummingbird Transportation, 53 Ridge Road, Upton, for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$42,000.00.

**#17-257**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Musical Instruments, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Southwest Strings, 1721 S. Cherrybell Street, Tucson, AZ, for the period October 9, 2017 to December 31, 2017, in the amount of \$29,600.00.

**#17-258**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for instructional materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Wilkem Scientific, P.O. Box 301, Pawtucket, RI, for the period November 24, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$29,800.00.

**#17-259**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for instructional materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Sargent Welch/VWR International, P.O. Box 92912, Rochester, NY, for the period November 24, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$37,500.00.

**#17-260**, Approval of Gifts to Cambridge Public School, that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.1.) An in-kind donation to the Visual & Performing Arts Department from individual donors of four Etude trumpets, one A. Martin guitar, and one Conair clothes steamer. 2.) An in-kind donation to the Peabody School from an individual donor of a Steinway and Sons piano.

**#17-262**, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated: FY18 Special Education IDEA Allocation, for the period September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$2,664,250.00. Project/Grant SC18605. **Description:** The purpose of the Federal Entitlement Grant Program is to provide funds to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs. Of this funding, \$200,000 is budgeted for professional

development, including \$15,000 in stipends for staff training. The \$68,821 in temporary salaries represents an offset for the Proportionate Share of services provided to private school students. The remainder will be used for out-of-district tuition for students. (Note: amount indicated is \$3,000 less than the full state allocation as a membership fee of \$3,000 to Mass Urban Project is paid directly by DESE.)

**#17-265**, Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated: FY18 Massachusetts Cultural Council-STARRS, for the period November 13, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$24,200.00. Project/Grant SC18894.

**Description:** This year the MCC grants will support residency cultural series at the Haggerty School (\$5,000, Collective Mural Project); the Tobin School (\$5,000 for a Zero Waste/Kids Green their School Project); Amigos (\$5,000 for Dance in the Schools); Fletcher Maynard Academy (\$5,000 for Water/Kids Green their School); and Cambridgeport (\$4,200 for Underground Railroad Theater).

## **8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

**#17-246**, Approval to Re-establish a Cap of Students at the Kindergarten and/or Junior Kindergarten Grade Level for the SY 18-19 JK/K Lottery, be adopted as follows: when enrolling students for kindergarten and/or junior kindergarten each school or program will admit no more students per grade level than the number of seats that the school or program has in its first grade classrooms plus 2. Once the number of students admitted to kindergarten or junior kindergarten reaches the number of seats in that school's or that program's first grade plus 2, only children from the other grade level will be admitted. In other words, if a school or program with two first grades with a capacity of no more than a total of fifty (50) students, the assignments of students to junior kindergarten would not exceed 52 and the assignment of students to kindergarten would not exceed 52.

In a situation where the maximum capacity of kindergarten or junior kindergarten students have been assigned to a school and a vacancy occurs the first student on the wait list shall be assigned unless his/her assignment brings the kindergarten or junior kindergarten enrollment over the maximum capacity number of the schools' or a program's first grade. If the assignment of the first child from the waitlist would result in a grade level enrollment number greater than the first grade capacity, the Family Resource Center shall move down the waitlist until a child from the other grade is reached or leave the seat open.

Ms. Nolan stated this item will not affect the prior motion, **item #17-271**, that was just passed.

Ms. Dexter asked how we will know that we won't be in the same situation that we were in the last time we lifted the cap in the Kindergarten age grouping. Now we are putting the cap back in.

Mr. Maloney stated that there are no guarantees. There may be some situations; however we have limited real estate which contributes to the cap.

Ms. Dexter asked that since we added a kindergarten at Cambridgeport and Fletcher Maynard Academy, will a first grade be added also. Mr. Maloney confirmed that a first grade will be added to the Cambridgeport this coming year. Real estate is the issue that determines why they are dropping back down to four kindergarten classes at the Cambridgeport. Mr. Maloney explained that we need to have more seats than we have students. We prefer not to put students on hold; it is not good for building community.

On the following roll call, **item #17-246** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

**#17-251**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: uAspire, 31 Milk Street, Suite 900, Boston, for the period September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Ms. Dexter asked some questions regarding financial aid, and if there is an advantage of using a vendor instead of guidance counselors. The Superintendent responded first on the issue of financial aid. He explained that there were some challenges with timelines on college applications. We will be more able to be more strategic with financial aid assistance using the uAspire partnership. We are reviewing our grades 6-12 and will share information with Members in the next few months.

Ms. Dexter thanked Dr. Salim for the clarification. She stated that this is a very important social justice issue regarding financial aid. She is asking for a survey to see if success increased with uAspire. Mr. Harding thanked the Superintendent for bringing this before the board, stating that there has not been enough support in the Guidance department. Not only do students need guidance to get into school, but they also need help filling out the financial aid forms. Guidance Counselors' reviews show that our students need support in these areas after they graduate and want to go to college. He supports this motion.

Mr. Sullivan shared that he is going through this and has benefitted enormously from the uAspire counselors and agreed that the guidance counselors are very valuable, stating the students need to compartmentalize their different items with their counselors.

Mr. Fantini stated that in case you noticed this contract award does not have enough funding, additional money is coming from Biogen.

On the following roll call, **item #17-251** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Mayor Simmons ~~ABSENT~~.

**#17-253**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for the development of a therapeutic sports program, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Doc Wayne Youth Services, Inc., 418 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, for the period October 15, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Ms. Dexter asked the Superintendent if there is any data on this from last year and are they coming in and working with the students during the school day. Dr. Salim stated that it is for both staff and students; they are on campus two days a week. We don't have year to year measures, but we do have cohort differences and progresses.

On the following roll call, **item #17-253** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Mayor Simmons ~~ABSENT~~.

**#17-254**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Software and Maintenance, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: NOVAtime Technology, Inc., 1440 Bridgegate Drive, Diamond Bar, CA, for the period January 24, 2018 to January 23, 2019, in the amount of \$49,000.00.

**#17-261**, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated: Summer Camp Scholarships, for the period November 21, 2017 to August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$5,000.00. Project/Grant SC18143. **Description:** This grant from an individual donor, former CPS Superintendent Bobbie H. D'Alessandro, will provide support for summer camp tuition for autistic children in need. Her gift is in memory of James "Jim" Conry, who spent thirty years as financial manager of the Cambridge Public Schools

Mr. Fantini thanked Ms. D'Alessandro for this Grant Award and expressed appreciation and admiration for Mr. Conry's years of service to the district, a great employee and a hard worker who loved Cambridge Public Schools. Ms. Nolan added that we should also send a letter of appreciation to Ms. D'Alessandro.

On the following roll call, **item #17-261** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA.

**#17-263**, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated: FY18 Title III: English Language Acquisition for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students, for the period September 28, 2017 to August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$82,481.00.

Project/Grant SC18737. **Description:** This grant will fund three five-week supplemental summer enrichment programs for English Language Learners (ELLs) at the Graham and Parks, Kennedy Longfellow and Vassal Lane Upper School. The programs will improve educational performance by assisting these students to learn English and meet State academic content standards. It will also provide support for Parent ESL classes, supplies for the programs, and registration for Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) teachers to attend the annual MATSOL Conference. ELLs at a private school who are assessed for eligibility will receive tutoring services on a proportional basis.

Ms. Dexter asked about the number of students expected to be in the summer programs for English Language Learners (ELL) and what grade levels. Dr. Salim stated about 100 students are enrolled in this program, grades one to eight, and that this program has been funded for the last 10 years.

Ms. Nolan asked if we were expecting the reduction in funds. Dr. Salim answered that this is one of the challenges around budgeting, however we will still be able to provide the services for students despite the lack of funding.

**#17-264**, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated: FY17 Title II-A/Teacher Quality Increase, for the period September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$383,160.00 (increase of \$1,143.00). Project/Grant SC17731.

**Description:** This grant aims to increase student achievement through a comprehensive district initiative that focuses on the preparation, training, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified educators. This is the second increase to our FY17 Title II-A allocation, the end date for which has been extended to June 30, 2018. The increase will be used for additional professional development materials.

Ms. Dexter asked are the two permanent positions funded and the temporary salaries funded by this grant? Dr. Salim answered that this grant has come before the Committee before and the temporary section of this grant is a small increase for stipends for mentor teachers. As it relates to the permanent positions, those previous two positions were moved off of the grant.

On the following roll call **items #17-263** and **#17-264** were both adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

#### **9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notification/Requests for Information):**

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to bring forward the School Committee Agenda for discussion and adoption. Mr. Harding removed **item # 17-266**, and **item #17-268**, Mr. Fantini removed **item #17-267**, and **item #17-273** for the purposes of placing them on the Calendar, Ms. Dexter removed **item #17-269**, **item #17-270**, **item #17-271**, **item #17-272**, **item #17-273**, **#17-274**.

Ms. Dexter asked for a suspension of the rules to bring forward **item #17-268** so that Mr. Sullivan could be permitted to exit the meeting. On a voice vote, the rules were suspended for the purpose stated. Mr. Sullivan stated that he wanted to be present for the conversation, as this is an issue pertaining directly to the high school. He does not have any comments at this time but would like to be able to contribute in the future.

**#17-268** that the Superintendent report to the School Committee on the elimination of the "College Prep" designation from the CRLS Course Catalog and on all relevant materials.

Mr. Harding stated that this has been going on for years. He wants to know the status. He was assured that it would be taken care of, once and for all and as of now it has not been addressed. He knows that families believe their kids are going to get a good education. The title is misleading. It should be changed to something else. There is a real issue of equity of students remediating at Bunker Hill Community College.

Ms. Nolan stated that this has been brought up however other districts have changed theirs to not include college prep. The State does not require this term. If it is the will of the Committee, since the conversation started 4 years ago and it was already agreed that we don't want to use College Prep anymore, the policy will be changed.

Mr. Harding stated the fact is we already said this. Why are we still debating what we already agreed on, this should have been done. This issue has not been addressed although the order has been issued. Why has this not happened?

Ms. Bowman supports the change of the name. She does not care what we name it, but whatever is decided, make it quality. She is concerned that we have pathways that do not set our students up for success.

Dr. Salim stated that he is happy to provide an update to the Committee on this work. This came up in X block, as Mr. Sullivan stated. There needs to be an inclusive process on what the shift will be. There will be a change for the course catalog moving forward they just don't know what the change will be.

Dr. Turk stated that it is easy to change the name. What we are trying to achieve is harder to define. She shared an experience at X Block: the only label that matters and the labels we use matter. The importance of these conversations was that it is the language the students use. Do students get positive or negative labels? Do you accept or reject the label? The goal was to help students move forward. So what does it say about you being in college prep? These conversations also happen with staff. Mr. Smith is not late in doing what he has been assigned.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he agrees with Superintendent Salim and Dr. Turk, that it is not a good idea to replace it without knowing what to replace it with. Mr. Sullivan also added that changing the words and not changing the curriculum and circumstance does not do any good. Words carry a lot of weight with students and they need to be accurate. There is truly a deceptive title associated with College Prep. They also talked about the Honors designation. It is no better than CP. Honors is something in the world to aspire to, however this is not a reality here in CRLS. Lastly, we should give careful consideration to what we call all courses at CRLS.

Ms. Dexter suggested amending the motion to say: *That the School Committee requests that CRLS discontinue the course label "College Prep" in the next school year 2018-2019; and that CRLS administration reflect on and consider alternative terms for "Honors"*. On a unanimous voice vote on the amendment, and the motion as amended, **item #17-268** was adopted as amended.

The Mayor joined the meeting at 7:30 pm. Mr. Sullivan left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

**#17-267** that whereas there is evidence that consumption of "sugary drinks," including chocolate milk or fruit juices with only natural sugar, contribute to childhood diabetes and obesity, the School Committee requests a report from the administration on the extent to which sugary drinks are made available to students in CPS cafeterias in the elementary, middle, and high school grades.

Ms. Dexter commented on item **#17-267**, stating that it is very helpful when parents ask us to put items on the calendar which allows the parents to come forward and speak to issues of concern.

Ms. Nolan asked if it should be referred to the food and advisory committee; however it remains on the Calendar.

**#17-269** that whereas the School Committee has adopted an on-line registration system for the rental of our facilities; And whereas the policy has not changed; And whereas many local youth groups who have never been charged fees previously are starting to get bills; Be it resolved that the administration review our policy and determine what is happening and recommend a course of action.

Ms. Bowman stated that this goes to anyone not just sports, it could be drama. There will be a meeting in December.

Ms. Nolan stated that Ms. Bowman did a wonderful job and referring this task to the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee will bring this issue to a favorable end.

Mr. Harding stated that some of the groups that are using our buildings for free have some money. Some are non profit and have almost no money. Think about what may be fair and equitable.

Ms. Dexter recognized that this has been a lot of work and she appreciates it. She is not sure what the difference is between category II and III. She suggests collapsing those two categories. Any organization that gets funding from the City, i.e. the Arts Council or from the Cambridge Foundation should not try to pay money back to us.

Mr. Fantini wanted to make sure that a member of the audience, Mr. Loud, knows that our policy has not changed.

The Mayor requested to suspend the rules in order to apologize and explain her late arrival. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Bowman the rules were suspended for the reason stated. Mayor Simmons explained that she and Mr. Harding were at a funeral and she was also required to attend a community meeting at the Cambridgeport School regarding a shooting, the shooting was not at the school but in the community.

**#17-270** that whereas in May 2003 the School Committee adopted to join the SOLVED (Shore Occupational Learning and Vocational Education Division) Collaborative; Be it resolved that the School

Committee receive a report on the number of students that have taken advantage of this opportunity and the course of study they pursued. On a voice vote, **item #17-270** was adopted.

**#17-271** that whereas how siblings are assigned to immersion programs should be aligned with the district goals of supporting families and prioritizing sibling togetherness in schools, beginning with the January 2018 Lottery for **new students entering CPS** in the 2018-2019 school year, the internal JK to K transfer program from King Ni Hao to King Chinese Immersion and King Open to King Open Ola will be eliminated. This means that JK students registering for the 2018 Lottery for school year 2018-2019 will not have the opportunity to transfer for their K year between programs at King and King Open during the 2019-2020 school year. Furthermore, all internal transfer rules in place for the two programs at the time of the 2017 Lottery for the 2017-2018 school year will govern the current JK to K transfer rights for internal transfers between King Ni Hao and Chinese Immersion and King Open and Ola. This means that current JK students in King Ni Hao and King Open retain their internal transfer rights for their K year for the 2018-2019 school year. Further, that the administration will work to ensure that all siblings affected by the internal transfer policy be assigned to their siblings' school for the 2018-2019 school year (second reading). On a voice vote, **item #17-271** was adopted.

**#17-272** that the budget guide be mailed to all households except dormitories. Further, that the administration and School Committee work together on future mailings to include additional information on the district.

Ms. Bowman wants the citizens of Cambridge to know what is going on, even if it is only once a year. It models what we are doing on the city side.

Ms. Nolan stated she would not get info if she wasn't on the Committee. There was a request for how much this will cost. The budget guide has already been prepared however we can try to change it next year. Ms. Nolan brought some brochures with her. She demonstrated what the library, the City and what CPS sends out. The CPS budget guide will be cheaper; we don't use a lot of color.

Ms. Dexter suggested we not send anything during the holidays. She also suggested we give less detail 2 or 3 times a year for a cost of \$2,200.00.

Mr. Harding wonders if the school department has publications that are already being sent out that can include the budget guide. He worries that not many will actually read it. Mr. Harding also asked if this would go to families with students in the schools, adding the Charter Schools are looking at their marketing in a very different way; and are actively recruiting students. We need to display the good things that are going on in our public schools.

Dr. Salim confirmed that the document is online. He explained the budget implications and cost.

Mayor Simmons stated that the budget narrative does not tell a good story about the school department. She is looking for a better way to effectively do the outreach and provide information to the community. She agrees with Ms. Dexter to have a conversation to put these documents together.

Ms. Bowman suggested a Communications Sub-Committee to work with the administration on mailing the budget guide, stating that she will bring this issue up again at the next meeting.

Ms. Dexter placed **item #17-272** on the Calendar.

**#17-273** that whereas the School Committee and CPS administration have prioritized **expanding and strengthening family and community partnerships**; and Whereas annual School Committee budget discussions held in public, along with public hearings at which family and community members are invited to speak, influence how educational resources and opportunities are distributed to CPS schools and students in the following year; and Whereas not all family or community members can easily attend public meetings due to childcare responsibilities, physical disabilities, work schedules, lack of transportation, and other circumstances; Therefore be it resolved that the School Committee will seek to increase community participation in the budgetary process by expanding community engagement efforts for the FY19 budget discussions by:

- 1.) Providing childcare at budget hearings and publicizing childcare availability on notices about budget hearings;
- 2.) Assessing the need for language interpreters, including sign language interpreters at meetings;
- 3.) Holding at least one budget hearing on a Saturday in a location other than the School Committee Meeting Room;

- 4.) Broadcasting, live streaming and video-archiving all budget-related roundtable discussions, workshops, retreats, and special meetings.

These rules will apply to the FY19 budget convenings, to be reviewed for permanent status by the Fall of 2018.

Ms. Dexter says it is interesting that an additional 4,000 people voted in the election this year. It is the tax payer's money, it is their schools.

Ms. Bowman stated that she agreed to co-sign on this motion as we look into ways to engage our community more. She wants to know how to move forward.

Mr. Fantini placed **item #17-273** on the Calendar stating it would be a good idea to have Ms. Kelly, a Budget Co-Chair who is not in attendance this evening, be able to speak on this issue. Mayor Simmons stated that we can talk about it at the organization meeting; adopting the rules provisionally.

Ms. Dexter stated that a motion was passed for the Governance Sub-Committee to meet on this issue, the public is still waiting for that meeting to be scheduled.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on a voice vote, **Item #17-274**, the Report of the September 22, 2017 Community Relations Sub-Committee was accepted as presented.

Meeting of the Community Relations Sub-Committee  
School Committee Conference Room

Friday, September 22, 2017  
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Called for the purposes of continuing the discussion started last spring on sibling admission to the immersion programs and the policy on the waitlist as it relates to the immersion programs and to review the data from the Kindergarten lottery surveys conducted last school year.

Members Present: Ms. Nolan, Chair; Ms. Dexter, Mr. Harding (ABSENT)

Also Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Linh O, FRC Director of Student Registration and Enrollment; Jake Crutchfield, Charlotte Wang, Jason Homsy, Ryuji Morishita, Annette Valdez Dimaggio

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Nolan called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. and passed out an agenda explaining the Community Relations purpose. She stated that she will allow comments from the public at the end of the discussions.

In the last couple of weeks, Mr. Maloney sent information out to families about sibling preference to immersion programs at Ola & MLK. There is a motion at the bottom of the agenda regarding the controlled choice policy which led to this discussion. It has been asked in the past whether we assign siblings first in any lottery. It is already in practice that the district honors sibling preference.

Mr. Maloney stated that there are 2 solutions to this issue. His first option would be to eliminate the Ni Hao sibling preference. Internal transfers were explained to everyone regarding the MLK Ni Hao enrollment. This past March something happened in the lottery that they want to avoid in the upcoming lottery. They want to eliminate the Ni Hao preference. The preference is to let the JK students transfer into Ni Hao or Mandarin program. If the original intent was to help out the King, it is no longer necessary to keep this option; soon there will be little or no seats for the general student population.

Ms. Dexter asked for clarification about how to get on the wait list. Ms. Nolan explained that only the King Open Ola and MLK Chinese Immersion programs are relative to this meeting. The Amigos school is not discussed in this meeting because it is a school and not a program within a school as are the programs at the MLK and King Open schools. Internal transfers have the same protocol as always, which is that they get first choice before the lottery comes into play.

When discussing internal transfers, occasionally Ola students want to transfer to Chinese Immersion and vice versa. Ms. Dexter mentioned that internal transfers only go in one direction, Ms. Nolan brought up going in both directions.

Mr. Fantini joined the meeting at 9:20 am.

Before discussing specific solutions, Ms. Nolan asked if there were any questions. Ms. Wang asked to know which lottery would be affected by this change. Mr. Maloney answered that it will impact the 2018 lottery in January. Ms. Wang asked if there is any consideration if her child that is entering the lottery ends up not getting in although her sibling is already enrolled in the program. Mr. Homsy stressed there was never a guaranteed entry for the younger siblings and suggested introducing a temporary policy.

Ms. Valdez DiMaggio stressed the need for families to affirm their culture so children can communicate with grandparents. The 50/50 ratio is unfair; adding it is not that way in other states. She only has one option for a school not ten options. Mr. Morishita stated that he has one 2<sup>nd</sup> grade child in Ni Hao that wants to be in Chinese Immersion and one 4<sup>th</sup> grade child in Chinese Immersion. As families move into Cambridge, keeping the families together is important and the rules that apply to immersion makes things difficult. He hopes the Committee will look at the families that are entering from first grade and beyond. Ms. Valdez Dimaggio stated it is very hard, almost impossible to get into schools for bilingual language. She mentioned that Spanish students are not always allowed to stay in Spanish speaking schools. Sometimes English speaking students are given preference.

As it relates to sibling preference for immersion programs, Ms. Nolan wants the Committee of the Whole to ensure siblings are assigned first, internal transfers are assigned second; and the lottery is for general enrollment.

It was stated that changes should be for the 2018 lottery going forward. It was made clear that when the JK wait list expires it cannot renew before the next year. Apparently there are 3 different wait lists. Parents try to reverse the existing process. We need more programs that parents want their children to get into and then this would be a long term goal. Mr. Maloney stated that the issue is not always the program, sometimes the issue is the location of the school.

Mr. Maloney stated that there are 2 options on transferring. He recommends the simplest step is to write a policy to avoid last years' situation, beginning with applicants with the 2018 lottery; there would be no preference for Ni Hao JK to transfer into the immersion program. All were in agreement and propose that siblings first, then Ni Hao, then the lottery. Internal transfers will continue as is for one year only and next year internal transfers will no longer exist. The Sub-Committee Members agreed and the motion will be on the Agenda for the next Regular Meeting on October 3, 2017.

Number 2 on the agenda is to review data from surveys of K families. When we have waitlists, families are always waiting. It was explained that the Chinese Immersion program goes to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Third, fourth and fifth grades have separate Chinese classes i.e. Social Studies classes are in Chinese etc. There should be opportunities for families to be admitted. Mr. Fantini is in favor of controlled choice and does not support non-integrated schools. Ms. Nolan passed out a waitlist chart as of 5/30/17 and explained what the chart means, adding that there seems to be a drop off on the waitlist. (On file in the School Committee office).

The question was asked why waitlists include free and reduced lunch families. Spanish families on the waitlists are not getting in. The waitlist does not support Spanish first families. Private nannies help English first students become proficient in the language which bumps out other students. Mr. Maloney stated CPS is prohibited by federal law to use racial and ethnic identities. "Non-native speakers" is the only politically correct term to be used; making language the identifying metric. There have been instances that non-native Spanish speakers qualify to be in a program, and have the means for their children to attend private immersion preschools; in which case the level of skill needed in the test has been raised. Ms. Dexter asked that if the Sheltered English Immersion policy changes, what will happen.

The dilemma is non native Spanish speakers Social Economic Status qualifications cannot be changed because full pay income families will also benefit. We are close to the cap at the Amigos. At the King we have to be careful not to get too far over the seats in trying to merge the two programs.

The sibling issue is not clear cut. Ms. Valdez Dimaggio stated native Spanish speakers are not given fair consideration with the waitlist. The ratio is not 50/50 in reality. If a Spanish speaking student vacates a seat, it should be filled with a different Spanish speaking student. Mr. Maloney stated that we have a policy and it has to be adhered to. Mr. Morishita agrees with Mr. Fantini on diversity, but feels that the immersion programs are different because they impact a different population of students. Amigos has always been very popular, it is growing for Chinese immersion also.

Ms. Nolan wants to concentrate on what is the best educational solution for the entire district, rather than a neighborhood. Mr. Fantini asked does a third or fourth grader need to take a test if the student is on the waitlist. Mr. Maloney stated that language skills are suspect for a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. It was also noted that the curriculum has changed over the years.

The grade at which language proficient speakers can transfer into immersion programs if waitlisted and empty seats (part 2 of number 1 on the agenda) was revisited. It was suggested to always remember that what is done for one school, affects the entire district. Ms. Nolan would not like to see language proficient speakers continued. She wants it eliminated. Right now it is at grade 4. Mr. Morishita wants it dropped to grade 2. We are waiting for data from Mr. Maloney on this issue.

The second item on the Agenda was discussed: Review of data from two surveys of Kindergarten families, these surveys were only done in English. The surveys of kindergarten families were provided to the Members from Mr. Maloney over the summer. There are two major issues; when families don't get their choices, it ends up being very confusing for the district. Our policy states we take the evidence from controlled choice and look at problems and find solutions that enhance the balances. A goal of this survey is to get at true first choice preference. Geographically, we have an imbalanced city. One side of Cambridge has too many kids; the other side of Cambridge has too many schools. All of the private schools are on the west side of town. If paid lunch families were choosing schools with the same level of free and reduced families, there would be no issue. Paid lunch families choose what they can afford. Ms. Nolan offered that we should take this report with a grain of salt. The question was asked what "self correcting materials" means. It is advisable if you don't have proximity to Graham and Parks, don't put it as a first choice. The online survey got 30% responses, which is very high – usually the response is only 10%. Parents are very invested in kindergarten. Many don't put Amigos because they know it is over chosen. Ms. Valdez Dimaggio stated that they think they will get in and so they are not very vocal. This last issue on the agenda is to get us to evaluate controlled choice. It has to be used in order for it to work. Is it possible to expand our immersion Programs? The issue was discussed whether or not these issues are for Buildings and Grounds or Community Relations. Ms. Dexter agrees that Community Relations need to review controlled choice, and take more action. Mr. Maloney cautioned that we need to make sure we remember what Amigos is being compared to. It is compared across the State of K-8 schools.

Motion for the Regular Meeting of Oct. 3, Policy change for Controlled Choice:

That whereas how siblings are assigned to the immersion programs should be aligned with the district goals of supporting families and prioritizing sibling togetherness in schools, that the lottery for Kindergarten assign all siblings in the two immersion programs prior to any internal transfer and further that the internal transfers within the schools with immersion programs be ended starting with the January 2019 lottery for the 2019-20 school year.

Ms. Dexter motioned, seconded by Ms. Nolan to adjourn.

Adjourned (10:35 am)

Dosha Beard

Confidential Secretary to the School Committee

Distributed Documents: (On file in the School Committee office)

- Agenda
- SY 17-18 Immersion Programs Waitlists as of 5/30/17
- SY 17-18 Non-Immersion JK/K Waitlists as of 5/30/17

#### 10. Resolutions:

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, **item #17-266**, **item #17-275** and **item #17-276** were brought forward for discussion and adoption.

**#17-266**, that whereas this has been an unusually difficult year for the City of Cambridge and for the Cambridge Public Schools community; and Whereas the adults who work in our schools—educators, staff, administrators, parents, volunteers, and others—are often the emotional first-responders when negative events and tragedies affect our community; The Cambridge School Committee wishes to express its deep appreciation to all those who work in our schools, who have done so much this past year to uphold the values of our city and of our public school system, and who, in addition to performing their regular jobs, have been repeatedly called upon to provide extra emotional support to our students, our students' families, and to their colleagues, in response to unusually difficult local, national, and global events and circumstances. We are very grateful. On a motion to waive the reading of **item #17-266**, on a voice vote, six voting affirmative, one voting negative, and the reading of **item #17-266** was waved. Mayor Simmons placed **item #17-266** on the Calendar.

**#17-275, Motion by Ms. Dexter and Ms. Nolan** that the Cambridge School Committee commends State Senator Sal DiDomenico for sponsoring and passing, with overwhelming majorities, legislation that overturns the 2001 state referendum that eliminated bilingual education. This new legislation affirms the value of multilingualism and languages other than English, and provides educators with the much-needed flexibility to design programs for the English Language Learners in their district. We also commend the creation, in the legislation, of a "seal of bi-literacy" on Massachusetts high school diplomas for students who graduate with mastery of more than one language. As a school district, we are proud to offer three language immersion programs, and to be currently expanding our elementary school language programs. Nolan stated that Helen Solizarno was instrumental in passing this bill and should be recognized. Ms. Nolan and Ms. Dexter amended **item #17-275** to include: *Further, that Representatives Hecht, Decker and Rogers be recognized for their sponsorship of the companion House Bill and Further, a letter of appreciation is sent to Helen Solorzano for her leadership as Executive Director of MATSOL.* Ms. Dexter stated that the legislation of offering bilingual education is huge. On a unanimous voice vote on the amendment, and the motion as amended, **item #17-275** was adopted as amended.

**#17-276**, that the Cambridge School Committee congratulates Mr. Hasson Rashid upon his successful completion of the Commonwealth Seminar, a program for current or future leaders that is "designed to help open the doors of government to communities of color, recent immigrant groups, and other under-served and under-represented constituencies." Mr. Hasson has been a strong advocate for the many homeless residents of Cambridge and others living in poverty in our city. He has also provided compelling testimony about the need for the CPS curriculum to include the study of the causes of poverty and homelessness, and has developed a draft curriculum on these topics. We congratulate Mr. Rashid for being an effective community leader, a tireless advocate for social justice, and a role model of a lifelong learner. On a voice vote, **item #17-276** was adopted.

#### 11. Announcements:

On December 13th at 11:30 am. Mayor Simmons is hosting a holiday party.

On December 5th at 3: 00 pm, Ms. Dexter is having an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to look at AV policy. The administration will bring forward a revised policy. It was also stated that Ms. Low Fleury is celebrating thanksgiving with her family.

## 12. Late Orders:

It was voted to adopt the following:

Ms. Nolan and Ms. Bowman offered a late order regarding the deportation of Haitian families under the temporary protected status program scheduled to be ended. *Whereas the federal government is recommending that protection from deportation for Haitian families under the Temporary protected Status (TPS) program be ended, the School Committee requests that the administration work with the city and legal counsel to ensure that affected families are supported and report back to the committee. Further, that the report also include recommendations on supporting other families, from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, who may also lose TPS in the near future.* On a voice vote, **item #17-277** was adopted.

Mr. Harding, Mr. Fantini and Mayor Simmons offered a Joint Late Order asking *That the Superintendent to work with the athletic director to have the thanksgiving game be consistent with 80 year tradition. Former Mayor Frank Duhay made sure we built community through football games. Class reunions began to happen around these games.* On a voice vote, **item #17-278** was adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:10 pm.

Adjourned (8:10 pm).

Dosha Beard  
Interim Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- John Summers, Farimont Street, #17-267, sugary drinks
- Alex Loud, Tremont Street, #17=269, gym fees
- Jason Homsy, Pleasant Street, #17-271, Chinese Immersion

## Email communications received:

- ✓ Ryuji Morishita, #17-243, Internal transfer lottery/fix
- ✓ Melody Josh Komyerov, #17-243, Internal transfer/lottery fix
- ✓ Patricia Lee, #17-243, Internal transfer/lottery fix
- ✓ Regina Cheung, 317-243, Internal transfer/lottery fix
- ✓ Min Zeng, #17-243, Internal transfer/lottery fix
- ✓ Paul Ciampa, #17-272, communicating the CPS budget to citizens of Cambridge
- ✓ Monica Velgos, #17-272, communicating the CPS budget to citizens of Cambridge
- ✓ Anita D. McClellan, #17-272, communicating the CPS budget to citizens of Cambridge
- ✓ Lyn Kardatzke, #17-272, communicating the CPS budget to citizens of Cambridge
- ✓ Anna Kim, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Sam Perman, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Stephanie Erber, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Jonathan Turner, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Astrid Steverlynck, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Anthony Shufflebotham, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Zelekash, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Kat Kaufmann, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Stephen Keen, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Deborah Korn, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ LLiza Tague, #17-269, gym space for youth groups

- ✓ Melinda Gray, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Rachael Cob, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Jamie Vidaurrazaga, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Matthew Longo, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Peggy Crown, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Ian Griffith, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Matthew Mazzotta, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Miran Kim, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Liz Dawes Duraisingh, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Paul F. Toner, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Jake Kaufmann, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Maria Rondeau, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Andrew Darien, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Jascha Smilack, #17-269, gym space for youth groups
- ✓ Sachiko Rodes, #17-269, gym space for youth groups

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