

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### (Official Report)

#### Regular Meeting

May 2, 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. There will be a public hearing on State School Choice.

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

Also Present: Student School Committee Members Mari Gashaw (ABSENT) and Paul Sullivan

Mr. Fantini in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Mr. Fantini explained that Mayor Simmons is attending her granddaughter's graduation and unable to attend this meeting.

#### 1. Public Hearing on State School Choice:

The Chair opened the public hearing on State School Choice. There being no one signed up to speak on the State School Choice, on a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to close the public hearing on State School Choice.

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to suspend the Rules to bring forward **item #17-71, 2017/2018 State School Choice Program – Recommendation for Non-Participation** for discussion and adoption. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the reason stated. Ms. Nolan provided an explanation of the Statewide School Choice Program that allows students from other towns to attend schools in a different school district. This recommendation is not related to our own choice system.

**#17-71, 2017/2018 State School Choice Program – Recommendation for Non-Participation**, that the School Committee vote not to participate in the Statewide School Choice Program for school year 2017-2018 for the following reasons:

1. The need to maintain the quality and integrity of Cambridge Program of Controlled Choice and,
2. The need to maintain flexibility for appropriately sized classrooms in the public schools.

On the following roll call, item **#17-71** was adopted: Mr. Harding ABSENT; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

The Rules still in suspension, on a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to move reconsideration of the foregoing vote on **#17-71, 2017/2018 State School Choice Program – Recommendation for Non-Participation**. On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption. The vote on item **#17-71** is final.

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

Mr. Harding joined the meeting at 6:28 pm.

**1a. Public Comment:**

The following individuals were heard:

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to suspend the Rules to allow members of the public to speak on items not on the Agenda. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the reason stated.

Ryuji Morishita, Davenport St., parent of a son at MLK Chinese immersion program and a daughter at King Open; spoke of keeping families (siblings) together at MLK Chinese immersion program; he spoke of the difficulty of having children attending 2 different schools and that even though his daughter is first on the waitlist it could still be one or two more years until there is an opening due to the SES ratio imbalance; he asked that the School Committee focus additional time to address situations and challenges of families with children already in the immersion program and with siblings with separation hardships (statement on file in the School Committee office)

Cassie Luna, School and Campus Outreach Coordinator for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC), Bishop Allen Drive, she indicated that the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center is in support of Mayor Simmons' motion #17-80 and the sexual harassment and assault prevention recommendations; she shared that BARCC is amazed to have witnessed Cambridge students advocate for change to make sure their community is a healthy and an accountable one and that the City has been so supportive of these young people; she added that through her work with many schools she realizes that change can happen but change only happens when schools take an active approach to supporting survivors and this approach must involve stakeholders from every level (statement on file in the School Committee office)

Liz Speakman, City of Cambridge Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Coordinator, Inman St.; spoke in support of Mayor Simmons' motion #17-80; she indicated that they have worked since the student walk out last April to hear the student needs and based on the feedback which they heard from the students, they put together this comprehensive action plan; she noted that we have an opportunity to be a model with this plan; we can be proactive and preventative before our students go to college where sexual assault and harassment is rampant; she indicated that this Action Plan is what CPS is already doing around social and emotional learning and school climate; we have community partners willing to help the school department with the planning and implementation of this; her role with the City is to support city departments and community organizations to implement these kinds of policies, protocols and practices and she is happy to be a resource

Kimberly Sansoucy, Executive Director of the Women's Commission, spoke in support of Mayor Simmons' motion #17-80; she noted that she was pleased to be part of the Mayor's effort in addressing sexual assault and harassment; she asked that we think about how the students have come forward with this information and where we are positioned as members and leaders in the community and take advantage of what the students are telling us so we can attempt to address these issues; she mentioned that the students were part of this committee for the entire year and the students have said that a policy is not what is needed but a culture shift; the students are most invested in having this shift; she counts herself as an available resource to the students

Venus Taylor, Family and Child Liaison at Transition House. spoke in support of Mayor Simmons' motion #17-80; she wanted to give honor to the arc that young people who they have worked with have expressed; she added that we are leaving kids feeling unsafe and unprotected and she appreciates that this is soon to be addressed

Risa Mednick, Executive Director of Transition House, spoke in support of Mayor Simmons' motion #17-80; she indicated that Transition House is Cambridge's holistic domestic violence prevention and intervention organization; they have been working in close collaboration with CPS for over 30 years; she noted that the policy work is one thing but the culture change work is deep and long term and needs to be started now; she suggested that this work happen quickly and that it be passed on to the Superintendent so that he can appoint someone in his administration to take this work on with full authority in a rich and

robust way and in collaboration with the City-wide domestic and gender based violence prevention initiative; she added that there are community partners who are already working in collaboration in other areas and can be resources (statement on file in the School Committee office)

Jason Homsy, Pleasant St., parent of a JK student in the Chinese immersion program at the King School; spoke of his concern regarding the issue affecting equitability in the kindergarten lottery for the Chinese Immersion program which allows Ni Hao students to transfer into the immersion program as JK-rising students and in this year's lottery, these internal transfers greatly decreased the available lottery seats; he proposes a rational limit on internal transfers based on a target K-level size of 25 and ratio of JK to K students based on number of birth months; he is concerned because his daughter will be entering the lottery next year as a sibling for a K-level spot and she is disadvantaged because of her birth month; he provided a proposal as a hand out (statement and proposal on file in the School Committee office)

Roxam Hymon, McGee St., spoke on behalf of the Cambridge Football program; she shared that she was raised and attended school in Cambridge; she is the mother of 4 children; she gave her family background; she has a daughter who is a CRLS senior, and 2 sons at CRLS, one is a junior and one is a sophomore; both of her sons are very much invested in the CRLS football program and previously participated in Pop Warner and football camps; she shared that she is a football parent liaison and on the FOCA Board and participates in her children's activities; she is concerned about the state of football in Cambridge and the lack of opportunity given our football athletes; she spoke of the previous football coach leaving last year; the athletic director appointed a hiring committee and she was chosen to be on that hiring committee but indicated that the rules changed and the hiring committee was confused because the person who was selected as football coach was not the hiring committee's choice; she stated her belief that the candidate selected does not have the ability to take our football student athletes to the next level therefore limiting their chance for college football scholarships; she shared that the hiring committee's choice for football coach was a more prepared candidate

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to suspend the Rules to allow Members Ms. Hymon to speak for one more minute. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the reason stated.

Ray Doucette, Washington Elms, alumni of the Cambridge football program; played Division I and Division 2 college football and is active in the community and Pop Warner program; he indicated that he is gravely concerned for students and the future of the football program in Cambridge; he is confused and disappointed on the hiring process for this current football coach; it is not all about playing time, it's about classroom and academic work and the training room; he reached out to the athletic director and was on the hiring committee; he shared his belief that the coach selected was not the best candidate for the job and that another candidate was more prepared and had plans for academics; off season workouts and a plan for internal and college recruiting

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to suspend the Rules to allow Members Mr. Doucette to speak for one more minute. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the reason stated.

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

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

Paul Sullivan reported on the following:

- ✓ On Thursday there was an "x-block" scheduled at CRLS to speak about Islamophobia and issues that have come up in the past and ways the community can move forward.
- ✓ Last week was the a cappella jam.
- ✓ This week and next week is Advanced Placement testing.
- ✓ Saturday is SAT day and also the Junior Prom.
- ✓ This weekend the Theatre Department is performing the Tempest.
- ✓ The following weekend the CRLS Dance Program will present DanceWorks.

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

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on a voice vote, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 4, 2017 were accepted as presented.

Ms. Dexter asked the Members and the public to note that the March 1<sup>st</sup> School Climate Sub-Committee meeting minutes which were accepted at the April 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting are embedded into the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes beginning on page 9. She encouraged her colleagues to read the minutes over carefully.

### 4. Reconsiderations: None

### 5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

**#17-65, Motion by Ms. Dexter**, that whereas the School Committee is responsible for conducting an annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, and

Whereas the current Superintendent joined the district on July 1, 2016,

Therefore be it resolved that the School Committee will complete the Superintendent's evaluation by September 12, 2017, and

Be it also resolved that the evaluation meeting will be scheduled for July 25, 2017, or for between September 5, 2017, and September 12, 2017, and that the vice-chair of the School Committee will determine and announce this date by June 6, 2017. (Fantini, 4-4-17)

Ms. Nolan gave an update on the process for the Superintendent's evaluation. She noted that Mr. Fantini, Ms. Kelly and she have met with the Superintendent and indicated that the process they will be using is a version developed by the Mass. Association of School Committees (MASC) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). These are both evaluation tools which Cambridge has used in the past and some parts of these tools may be adapted. She explained that usually in the evaluation of a Superintendent, specific goals are used. We will have goals but they will be different because this is Dr. Salim's first year. Dr. Salim will provide us with a self-evaluation based on all the work he has done this year. The School Committee will receive this self-evaluation prior to the summer meeting. Each of the 7 individual School Committee Members will be filling out their own evaluation form on the Superintendent and then those 7 forms will be compiled into one document for the Superintendent's evaluation. This will be done by the summer meeting and will become a comprehensive document to share with the Superintendent during a public meeting. Ms. Nolan offered an amendment to Motion #17-65 to make the dates listed less specific. She also mentioned that we are working on our district-wide goals and that this will feed into the district planning process.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on a voice vote, **item #17-65** was removed from the Calendar and adopted as amended:

**#17-65, Motion by Ms. Dexter**, that whereas the School Committee is responsible for conducting an annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, and

Whereas the current Superintendent joined the district on July 1, 2016,

Therefore be it resolved that the School Committee will complete the Superintendent's evaluation and schedule an evaluation meeting before the end of September 2017.

### 6. Awaiting Reports: None

Ms. Nolan asked for an update regarding the School Committee Order on the issue of diversity and demographics of representation for extracurricular participation at CRLS which was referred to the CRLS Student Government through and with the Superintendent for further discussion and for a report to be brought back to the School Committee by Student School Committee representatives Gashaw and Sullivan at a later date.

Dr. Salim noted that he and Dr. Turk have been working with Principal Smith around trying to identify ways in which they can support the collection of this data.

Paul Sullivan shared that he and Mari Gashaw brought forth the idea that student government would be the agency to collect the data but it was decided that they would be unable to collect concrete data with complete accuracy so they thought they would ask the opportunity gap task force to send out a survey to students to ask how they felt about extracurriculars at CRLS representing the student body. This survey would be sent out to all students. Ms. Dexter added that she thought the data would include actual student participation and not just their perception. Mr. Sullivan responded that as students they did not have the necessary resources, tools or know how to gather this data.

Mr. Fantini asked about when the Awaiting Reports list would be placed on the Agenda. Dr. Salim noted that through work with his assistant Ms. Carrieri and the Executive Secretary, we have a system established for sharing information and identifying outstanding orders and awaiting reports. This system is utilized with our Cabinet members to follow up on these reports and outstanding orders.

**7. Superintendent’s Agenda:**

**7a. Presentations:** None

**7b. Innovation Agenda:**

**7c. Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to bring forward the Superintendent’s Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Mr. Harding removed items **#17-73 and #17-76**. On the following roll call, **items #17-72, #17-74, #17-75 and #17-77 through #17-79** were adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

**#17-72, 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.

	<u>#Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	1	\$28,136.62
Residential	0	
45 Day Program	<u>0</u>	
Total	1	<u>\$28,136.62</u>

**#17-74, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Computer Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Access Manufacturing Systems, 1 Stiles Road, Suite 205, Salem, NH, for the period April 20, 2017 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$26,700.00.

**#17-75, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for 3D Printers, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Advanced Educational Technologies Labs, 239 Western Avenue, Essex, for the period April 20, 2017 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$43,373.00.

**#17-77, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for carpentry and maintenance supplies, funds to be provided from the General and Grant Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Home Depot, 15 Dan Road, Canton, for the period May 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$60,000.00.

**#17-78, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Wheel Aligner, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Mohawk Rubber Sales of NE, 65A Industrial Park Rd., Hingham, for the period April 20, 2017 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$27,016.00.

**#17-79, Grant Award:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Let's Move/Cambridge Health Alliance, for the period May 1, 2017 to August 30, 2017, in the amount of \$1,000.00. Project/Grant SC17128.

**Description:** Two mini-grants of \$500.00 each have been awarded by the Cambridge Health Alliance's Let's Move Program. They will support the following activities: at the Kennedy Longfellow School, teachers will purchase an array of activity equipment that will be used with a curriculum that teaches students self-awareness and the health benefits of activity; at the CRLS Rise Up program, the grant will provide for six mini sports workshops to introduce less familiar sports such as lacrosse, golf and crew to incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to increase participation in school sports programs.

## 8. Non-Consent Agenda:

**#17-73, that the School Committee approve an increase in school lunch prices:**

	Current	Proposed
Elementary Lunch	\$2.75	\$3.00
High School Lunch	\$3.00	\$3.50
Ala Carte Milk	\$0.50	\$0.50
Adult Lunch-Elementary	\$3.75	\$4.00
Adult Lunch-High School	\$4.00	\$4.50

Mr. Harding asked about why we are raising the school lunch prices. Ms. Bowman asked how the .50 increase in the high school lunch would impact our families. Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, and Mellissa Honeywood, Food Services Director, responded to the Members' questions indicating that Federal law requires school districts charging \$2.86 or less for paid lunches to adjust their average paid lunch price to remain in compliance. The weighted average is calculated by taking total sales (at the varying price brackets) and dividing by total meals served. Cambridge's weighted average is \$2.80. Increasing the prices as they have suggested will ensure that we remain in compliance. Ms. Honeywood explained that it's easier for families to know they will have stable prices for 3-5 lunch years so that is why they are increasing elementary lunch by .25 and high school by .50. They can sustain this price for a much longer period of time instead of smaller annual increments. Ms. Honeywood added that if we don't do a price increase, we are out of compliance with USDA standards and would get repercussions from the State. Mr. Maloney shared that we have the option to raise the price by .10 for high school and elementary for 2017-18, but this would require annual increases. Mr. Harding asked what the repercussions are of not raising the school lunch prices. Ms. Honeywood indicated that we are mandated to have that equity met. The difference would have to come somewhere from the general fund. We could lose our federal and state reimbursement which totals over \$1.5 million a year.

Mr. Maloney pointed out that we are not running this to make a profit. We already subsidize food services to a million dollars a year. Most systems don't do this. Since the Members prefer that the lunch prices not increase, Mr. Harding offered that the right compromise would be to move this for a 10 cents increase for now if necessary. Mr. Maloney indicated that the adult lunch prices would increase by the proposed amounts. Ms. Dexter suggested that Vice Chair appoint an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to look at this issue for the longer term. Mr. Fantini added that some systems don't charge for breakfast or lunch and asked if we had pursued this option. Ms. Honeywood responded that at the current time, there is no state or federal grant which exist that Cambridge qualifies for that would extend free breakfast or free lunch. Mr. Fantini acknowledged Ms. Honeywood for her hard work in the food service program.

Mr. Harding moved an amendment to **item #17-73**, seconded by Ms. Bowman, that if necessary, to increase the elementary lunch price by no more than \$0.10 and the secondary lunch price by no more than \$0.10.

On the following roll call, **items #17-73** was adopted as amended: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

**#17-73, that the School Committee approve an increase in school lunch prices:**

	Current	Proposed	Adopted
Elementary Lunch	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$2.85
High School Lunch	\$3.00	\$3.50	\$3.10
Ala Carte Milk	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
Adult Lunch-Elementary	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$4.00
Adult Lunch-High School	\$4.00	\$4.50	\$4.50

**#17-76, 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:

Royal Taxi Company, 185 Squire Road, Revere, for the period September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$54,000.00.

Mr. Harding asked why we aren't using a Cambridge taxi company. Dr. Greer, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, responded that for student privacy reasons she cannot provide any details.

On the following roll call, **items #17-76** was adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

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

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to bring the School Committee Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. All items were removed.

Ms. Nolan indicated her appreciation for item #17-80 and the earlier public comment from our partners supporting this. Ms. Nolan would like to hear how is this going to rise to the level we want and how we will measure the effectiveness of this plan.

Dr. Salim indicated that in the crafting of this action plan, many school department representatives including administrators, teachers, students and School Committee Members were involved on this committee and a part of these discussions. There has been ongoing work on these issues this year and this is a framework building on that work.

Ms. Kelly, who along with Ms. Bowman, were members of this committee, added that Mayor Simmons provided extraordinary leadership bringing in our City partners and wanting to have a comprehensive understanding of what would be put in place. This Committee created this as a framework to move

forward but not a plan. BARC was incredible helping us to understand the three (3) major areas of what the students would need for us to be able to work with the teachers and the administrators and the cultural change that would be needed. BARC's perspective went from K to grade 12. They do training in a number of schools throughout the state. This initiative and other city-wide committees which Mayor Simmons has put together have been impressive. Students including both Student School Committee reps were part of this committee as well. It was important to have that student perspective in the room and their voices were heard. It would be a major step forward to pass this as it is.

Mr. Sullivan shared that students support this and they have been going to the meetings. There was excitement and energy from the students surrounding this plan. This is framed in tandem to how Club 1 framed their letter. Paul spoke on behalf of Charlotte Rosenblum, President of Club 1, indicating that she and Club 1 totally support this framework.

Ms. Dexter asked if this advisory group will disband now that the recommendation is made. Ms. Kelly responded that it won't be completely disbanded but that they will want to see how this will move forward. Ms. Dexter asked if Ms. Kelly and Ms. Bowman would connect this work to the School Climate Sub-committee for which she is chair and they are sub-committee members.

**#17-80, Updated Motion (5/2/17) by Mayor Simmons:**

WHEREAS On April 13, 2016, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) students participated peacefully in a demonstration organized by Club 1/CRLS Feminism Club to raise awareness about Sexual Harassment and Assault, to outline concerns over its prevalence, and to demand attention from school administrators and the City regarding the seriousness of this problem; and

WHEREAS Club 1 members submitted a letter to CRLS administration to ask for changes to current protocol related to prevention, protection, reporting and recovery in order to decrease the prevalence of sexual harassment and assault in school, and to offer thoughtful recommendations regarding how current protocol could be improved; and

WHEREAS To address the student's demands for change, the Mayor convened a working advisory committee to create recommendations towards a Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Action Plan, and this committee, with representatives of the City Council, School Committee, School Department, Department of Human Service Programs, Domestic and Gender Based Violence Prevention Initiative, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge Public Health Department, Cambridge Women's Commission, CRLS staff, CRLS students, Cambridge Upper Schools, the YWCA, and the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, has met seven times since April 2016; and

WHEREAS The Cambridge School Department has implemented Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention learning modules for CPS principals, administrators, faculty and staff and participated in related district-wide administrative trainings, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and 30 CRLS male athletes have engaged in related presentations and discussions, and all the aforementioned recognize and support the important role schools must play in shaping and maintaining a climate of respect in which all students in every school can thrive; and

WHEREAS The Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention advisory committee has drafted recommendations towards a Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Action Plan for all Cambridge Public Schools, taking into account stakeholder recommendations for how to prevent, mitigate, manage and address it through evidence-based assessment and learning measures, and for improving the reporting and follow-up protocols using evidence-based best practices, with particular focus on ensuring the safety and well-being of incidence reporters and individuals named in any reports; now therefore be it

ORDERED That the Superintendent of Schools be and hereby is requested to formally review the feasibility of all recommendations included in the aforementioned and attached systemic

Action Plan which references CRLS and all the Cambridge Public Schools, and to solicit recommendations from stakeholders, including students, from each school as to what measures should be enacted; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Superintendent of Schools hereby is requested to devise a timetable for the stages of a scaled implementation of these measures, devise plans for implementation, and report back to the School Committee in a timely manner on how, and how soon, this implementation can begin.

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on the following roll call, **item #17-80** was adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

**#17-81, Joint Motion by Ms. Kelly and Mr. Fantini**, whereas ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in December 2015 prioritizes excellence and equity for all students and educators and eliminated the requirements for "highly qualified teacher" and focused instead on appropriately certified teachers.

That the Superintendent authorize the Executive Director of Human Resources in consultation with principals to hire teachers who have appropriate dual or triple certifications. A review of student educational needs and present teacher certifications should be conducted in order to ascertain which certifications would most benefit students. Areas of certification may include: content areas (math, ELA, science, ELL); special education and general education (to increase inclusion); and educational levels (elementary, middle schools, and secondary).

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on a voice vote, **item #17-81** was amended as follows:

**#17-81, Joint Motion by Ms. Kelly and Mr. Fantini**, whereas ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in December 2015 prioritizes excellence and equity for all students and educators and eliminated the requirements for "highly qualified teacher" and focused instead on appropriately certified teachers.

*That the Superintendent consult with principals and with the Executive Director of Human Resources regarding seeking to hire teachers who have appropriate dual or triple certifications. A review of student educational needs and present teacher certifications should be conducted in order to ascertain which certifications would most benefit students. Areas of certification may include: content areas (math, ELA, science, ELL); special education and general education (to increase inclusion); and educational levels (elementary, middle schools, and secondary).*

On a voice vote, **item #17-81**, was adopted as amended.

## 10. Resolutions:

Ms. Dexter explained the following resolutions. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on a voice vote, **items #17-82, 17-83 and #17-84** were adopted.

**#17-82, Motion by Ms. Dexter**, that the Cambridge School Committee expresses its appreciation to CRLS theater faculty member Monica Murray and the entire CRLS performing arts department--students, staff, and faculty--for their extraordinary production of *Scenes from Angels in America: The Millennium Approaches*, by playwright Tony Kushner. We are extremely proud that our high school is one of the few schools in the U.S. to have performed scenes from this gorgeous, scathing, and heartbreaking play about homophobia and the U.S. AIDS epidemic. All aspects of the CRLS production--the choice of scenes and creation of the script, the performances, and the visual and technical components of the production--were beautifully done.

**#17-83, Motion by Ms. Dexter**, that the Cambridge School Committee congratulates School Committee Student Representative Paul Sullivan for his expressive, witty, and moving performance as Prior Walter in the CRLS production of Scenes from Angels in America: The Millennium Approaches, by playwright Tony Kushner. Prior Walter is a complex and pivotal character in this important American play, and Paul Sullivan did an extraordinary job conveying this character's humanity, strength, tragic sarcasm, and suffering. His performance was a gift to the community.

**#17-84, Motion by Ms. Dexter**, that the Cambridge School Committee expresses its appreciation to Cambridge theater artist and CRLS Adolescent Parent Clinician Betsy Bard for her work in writing and producing Circle Up!, an "investigative theater" piece about race and opportunity gaps at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. The Committee also appreciates the hard work and talent of members of the Youth Underground theater company and Circle Up! director Vincent Ernest Siders. Based on interviews with CRLS students and teachers, Circle Up! amplifies the voices of students and offers the Cambridge community an invaluable look at how structural inequality in the U.S. is manifested in our high school.

#### **11. Announcements:**

Ms. Kelly reminded everyone that the annual Holocaust Commemoration is May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 – 9 pm at Temple Beth Shalom, 8 Tremont St., Cambridge.

Ms. Dexter announced that the City Council Finance Committee Hearing on the FY 18 School Department adopted budget is next Tuesday, May 9th, 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Ms. Nolan announced that the high school and upper school graduation dates are posted on our website.

Ms. Nolan explained the "Find It Cambridge" initiative, a gateway to opportunities for children, youth and families in Cambridge, which is web and mobile based.

#### **12. Late Orders:**

It was voted to adopt the following:

**Motion by Mr. Harding** that the School Committee sends letters of congratulations to the 2017 Cambridge Athletic Hall of Fame inductees which includes 17 individual athletes and 3 teams.

**Motion by Ms. Nolan**, that the School Committee goes on record in expressing its appreciation to Harvard University for showcasing student and faculty creativity at the annual Harvard ARTS FIRST Festival.

**Motion by Ms. Dexter**, that the School Committee sends letters of congratulations to current CPS students and educators who have recently won awards:

Dr. Carolyn Turk, awarded a 2017 Cambridge YWCA Women of Color Changemaker Award

Chandra Banks, awarded a 2017 Cambridge YWCA Women of Color Changemaker Award

Mari Gashaw, awarded a 2017 Cambridge YWCA Women of Color Changemaker Award

Robin Harris, awarded a 2017 Cambridge YWCA Women of Color Changemaker Award

Brendan Kells, awarded the George C. Watson Award for Excellence in Teaching Economics

Jayne Lynch, award the Rev. Stanley J. Bezuska, S.J. Achievement Award for Excellence in the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics

Gisel Saillant, awarded the Richard Aieta Award for Promising New Teacher

And to other educators associated with the Cambridge Public Schools who have recently won awards:

Dr. Angela Allen, awarded a 2017 Cambridge YWCA Women of Color Changemaker Award

Kathryn Fenneman, awarded a 2017 Cambridge YWCA Women of Color Changemaker Award

Maisha Moses, awarded a 2017 Cambridge YWCA Women of Color Changemaker Award

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to adjourn (7:47 pm).

Judith T. Martin  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

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

- ✓ Ryuji Morishita
- ✓ Cassie Luna
- ✓ Risa Mednick
- ✓ Jason Homsy

**Email communications received:**

- ✓ Email from Risa Mednick re CPSD Action Plan on Harassment and Sexual Assault Prevention
- ✓ Email from Jason Homsy re Chinese Immersion Internal Transfer Policy

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