



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

March 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. There will be a Public Hearing on the FY18 Budget at the beginning of this Regular Meeting.

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

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

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

1. Public Hearing on the FY18 Budget

The following individuals were heard:

- Jake Crutchfield, River Street, spoke in support of the budget, thanked everyone especially Ms. Spinner, CFO, for the clean comprehensive budget document; 3 Ds is an amazing initiative; how we can identify and have passionate students become Cambridge teachers
- Ameer Bonanno, Putnam Ave, parent, asking for budget funds for an additional fulltime special educator at Amigos; asking for an additional Amigos paraprofessional for a 3rd grade classroom
- Monique Brouillette, Kinaird Street, parent, read a letter with 104 signatures, asking for another full time bilingual special ed teacher, an additional aid for the 3rd grade classroom that is facing problems in the current 2nd grade
- Jacob Barandes, Dana Street, read a statement on behalf of Parent Advisory Group for Advanced Learning, (PAGAL) advocating to identify and support high potential students and advanced learners from underprivileged backgrounds, stated excellence gap is an example of non equity for the advanced learners, asking for more specialists, more tracked classes
- Abraham Cherinet, Richdale Avenue, parent, spoke in support of budget
- Bill Boehm, Putnam Ave & CRLS parent, thanked the staff and School Committee Members for putting a well rounded budget together. Read a statement in support of dual certified teachers and additional professional development, more support in 7th and 8th grade math classes
- Kimberly Mancino, Auburn Street, Putnam Ave & Morse parent, thanked Ms. Spinner and Superintendent for this budget, asking to reallocate funds to academic achievement in the upper schools, dual certified co teachers in math for the upper grades, she is also supporting motions #17-57 and #17-58
- Yaminette Diaz-Linhart, Cambridge Street, stated she is unhappy with the service provided by SPNR transportation, please consider another vendor, SPNR will change the bus schedule unexpectedly, has dropped off her son at the wrong address, their routine practice is a different bus with a different driver
- Kris Newton, Newport Street, CRLS Science teacher, asking for another science teacher, staffing increase does not address the unmet needs in science; need more labs and teachers
- Ross Benson, Brookline Street, CRLS Math teacher, thanked the Superintendent for the two Math positions, more classroom space is needed
- Carroll McGill, Waterman Road, thankful for the additional social worker, is thrilled that the elementary schools will have full time art teachers, expressed a need for an additional 3rd grade classroom at the Haggerty

- Chandra Banks, Mullins Court, parent, advocating for restorative practices in mediation program for adults and students, there is a lack of staffing makes it very hard to make a change in school climate is difficult in all schools. As a middle grades prevention coordinator for 3 years, she understands the need for more staffing before the conflict rather than after the conflict
- Pete Lubetsky, Chestnut Street, advocating for Putnam Ave upper school, math co-teacher positions need more funding
- Kelly Dolan, Upland Road, parent, thanked the city manager for the generous funding, stated we are not teaching our students enough math to compete in the job market after graduation
- Andrea, Koschwanetz, Aberdeen Ave, Amigos parent, thanked everyone for all of the hard work done to put this budget together, she stated she is in support of Ms. Dexter's motion #17-59

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to close the Public Hearing on the FY18 Budget.

1a. Public Comment: None

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Paul Sullivan reported CRLS Basketball team is the new back to back as MIAA Division 1 State Champions

Mari Gashaw reported seniors have applied and will be hearing back from schools in the following week or so and may need a hug

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meeting as presented:

- Regular Meeting - March 7, 2017

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: None

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to move the entire Consent Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed **item # 17-50**. On the following roll call, **items #17-51 through #17-56** were adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini ABSENT; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#17-51, That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Records as detailed in the document (second reading).

#17-52, 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 in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget.

	<u># Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	1	\$27,248.90
Residential	0	0
45 Day Program	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	1	\$27,248.90

#17-53, Approval of Gifts to Cambridge Public Schools be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. \$600.00 to the Vassal Lane Upper School from Harvard University in recognition of the school's participation in instructional rounds. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
2. \$472.00 gift to the district made from the Bank of America Employee Giving Campaign on behalf of Bank of America employees who have chosen to donate to the Cambridge Public Schools. Funds will be used to support field trips.
3. \$210.30 to the Kennedy Longfellow School made from Recycle That, LLC, In return for items collected in the school's clothing/book collection box. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
4. \$100.00 to the Vassal Lane Upper School from Northeastern University in recognition of the school's participation in a graduate student project. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.

#17-54 Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY17 Title I Distribution, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$1,206,457.00 (increase of \$2,900). Project/Grant SC17604.

Description: Seven elementary schools are eligible for Title I services in FY17. These funds will provide, academic, instructional, and support services for all low-achieving students in either reading or math, professional development activities for staff, support for parent involvement activities, as well as supplies and materials.

This increase in grant funds will be used for summer program materials and snacks.

#17-55 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 Distribution, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$382,000.00 (increase of \$2,468). Project/Grant SC17731.

Description: This grant program aims to increase student achievement through a comprehensive district initiative that focuses on the preparation, training, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified educators.

This increase in grant funds will be used for additional stipends for the New Teacher Induction program.

#17-56 Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and

for the period indicated:

FY17 Massachusetts Cultural Council-STARRS, for the period January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$13,900.00 (increase of \$2,500). Project/Grant SC17894.

Description: This grant will support residency artist series at the Cambridgeport School (\$3,800, Underground Railroad Theater); Rindge Ave Upper School (\$5,000, Cambridge Creativity Commons Science activity); CRLS' Media Lab (\$2,600); and, with this increase, the Haggerty School (\$2,500, Cambridge Creativity Commons).

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#17-50 Authorization for the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form due April 7, 2017 for the Tobin and Vassal Lane Upper Schools Located at 197 Vassal Lane. That in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts School Building Authority the School Committee enter an order containing the following resolution:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 21, 2017, the Cambridge School Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form due April 7, 2017 for the Tobin and Vassal Lane Upper Schools located at 197 Vassal Lane, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: The Vassal Lane building currently houses the Tobin Pk-5 Montessori School and the Vassal Lane Upper 6-8 School. The Vassal Lane building was built in 1971 and the existing building and building systems do not meet the educational needs of the building's occupants, the Montessori Pk-5 Elementary School and the Vassal Lane Upper 6-8 School (Middle School). The building is an old electric heat building resulting in high energy cost and consumption. Room windows are mostly all original and approximately 50 years of age. Building temperatures can become uncomfortable due to the age and condition of the distribution system. Roof and windows are all original and while the roof has been patched regularly, the building and its exterior walls are subject to interior leaking during heavy rain and snow storms. In addition to building systems that are past normal life expectations, the building's classrooms, cafeteria and gymnasium do not meet the educational needs of its occupants. Originally built as a K-8 elementary school the building now houses a Pk-5 elementary and 6-8 upper school (middle school) that both suffer from scheduling problems including the gym and cafeteria. Funds are sought for the complete renovation or replacement of the building in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with the State and approved local requirements. The Cambridge School Committee hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance of the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Cambridge to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Ms. Nolan thought it would be useful to let the public know what the timing will be and what process will be launched. The Superintendent explained the application is to consider new building construction within a set timeline which is a very long process. He turned it over to Mr. Maloney to explain the timeline, who stated this first step is a statement of interest. This is step one of three, this is not an application, if we are allowed to submit an application, we will do so in the fall.

On the following roll call, **item #17-50** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

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

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to move the School Committee Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Mr. Fantini removed **item #17-58**.

On a voice vote of the balance, **items #17-57, #17-59 and #17-60** were adopted.

#17-58, Motion by Ms. Dexter,

- WHEREAS: the School Committee fully supports the initiative to level up 9th grade English classes so as to enroll all students in Honors English 9 beginning in Fall, 2017, with a supplementary Honors Access support class; and
- WHEREAS: one goal is to narrow achievement gaps and prepare more students for Honors and AP classes; and
- WHEREAS: the Committee would like to maximize the success of this initiative by providing more-than-adequate staffing in the first year of implementation; and
- WHEREAS: establishing class size limits are policy decisions that have been made by School Committees all over the state, including in Cambridge; and
- WHEREAS: Pilot School classes were capped at 14 students and all CRLS English classes were previously capped at 20 students to maximize the achievement of all students;
THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED: that, for the first year of implementation, SY 2017-2018, Honors English 9 classes will enroll no more than 18 students, or will be co-taught by two teachers assigned full-time to the class; and Honors Access support classes will enroll no more than 16 students, or will be co-taught by two teachers assigned full-time to the class.

Ms. Dexter explained this is a policy issue, she wants class size limited to 17 or 18 students to create adequate learning environments. Dr. Salim stated that there is still a lot of planning on the administrative part of leveling up, there is professional development, the schedule is complex, and they are not ready to set a specific hard cap on class size, but it is a goal. He anticipates the numbers will be low.

Ms. Kelly stated that there has been a lot of discussion on this. She trusts the leadership, teachers and Administration and would like to leave a cap size off. She would like to follow up with the Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee if needed in order to make it work.

Mr. Fantini stated this is a social justice issue. He has full faith in the Superintendent and principal's judgments to know how to respond.

Ms. Nolan stated she is very excited about Level Up adding she agrees that the quality of teachers matters most, and also that teachers say 28 students in a class is just too many. She suggested to amend the motion to take off the hard cap.

Mr. Harding stated he agrees with Ms Kelly, he has confidence in the people that implemented it.

Ms. Bowman stated that the goals have already been articulated. She mentioned being mindful of students with IEPs, of course they need support, and cautioned we need to be careful when making assumptions.

Mayor Simmons, stated that the work has been done, let it get started, review it and then see if it needs to be changed. She offered the motion maker the opportunity to withdraw or amend the motion.

On the following roll call, **Item #17-58** failed for lack of majority: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini NAY; Mr. Harding NAY; Ms. Kelly NAY; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman NAY; Mayor Simmons NAY.

#17-57, Motion by Mayor Simmons, Mr. Fantini and Ms. Kelly,

- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is a culturally diverse community that is home to many immigrant communities, including persons with both documented and undocumented immigration status; and

WHEREAS: Recently, The United States of America has witnessed proposals that have disproportionately targeted immigrant and specifically undocumented communities in our district, a district that reflects a student body where 30% of its students speak another language at home, and over 65 languages are spoken by the families in our community;

WHEREAS: The 1982 landmark Supreme Court decision, *Plyer v. Doe*, prohibits schools from denying students an education, regardless of their immigration status, and this decision means that all the children in Cambridge have the right to an education in the CPSD system; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools celebrate and cherish the rich diversity that our students, families, and other caregivers bring to our classrooms and our school communities throughout the district; and

WHEREAS: In light of the punitive actions that have been threatened by the Trump Administration toward Sanctuary Cities like Cambridge, and the harsh and xenophobic rhetoric the President has engaged in throughout much of the past year, CPSD is making it known that it shall continue to provide supports to its students and their families; and

WHEREAS: These supports will include, but are not limited to: providing an overview of the rights of undocumented families (with the support of legal counsel), facilitating community informational sessions for undocumented families with children in the CPSD system; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee, in conjunction with The Cambridge Public Schools and in solidarity with our community based organizations who support the fair and just treatment of the city's undocumented communities, will create safe spaces in our schools for undocumented families, allow families to register their students for all extra-curricular programs that are offered through CPSD and DHSP programs, and will affirm that students will not be excluded from free meals, transportation, and additional educational services; AND, BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee will work with the Superintendent and other appropriate parties to create and provide an FAQ on the rights of undocumented students to all CPSD families, ensuring that all students and their families are made aware of their rights and are made aware of the fact that they continue to be valued members of the Cambridge community.

#17-59, Joint Motion by Mr. Harding and Ms. Nolan,

That, whereas, an external review of the coaching in CPS in 2014 recommended some changes in the coaching model, and whereas the district responded to the review with some internal discussion and promised a follow-up to the recommendations, and whereas the budget for next year anticipates no changes to coaching allocations, that the School Committee asks for a report on the response to the report on coaching from 2014 with recommendations answering the findings of the report and any subsequent findings by the district as a result of the report.

#17-60, that the Report of the March 8, 2017 Sub-Committee on Community Relations be accepted as presented.

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Called for the purposes of discussing the controlled choice report, providing child care during School Committee public hearings, exit survey procedures and reports, as well as any other business that would properly come before the Sub-Committee.

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

Also Present: Ms. Kelly, Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Rippey, Family Communications Manager, Mr. Clark, Education Liaison to the Mayor

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Nolan called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Ms. Nolan passed out an agenda and addressed the topics on the agenda, as well as topics for future meetings.

Ms Beard discussed the Child Care procedures expected during public hearings on budget. Ms Nolan said the School Committee should provide child care, at least during discussions of the budget, she would like to try for the March 14th and the March 21st Meetings. Mr Maloney is concerned that the person who would be covering would not gain overtime.

Ms Rippey believes the pool of people available to provide childcare is small, but it will be enough. The members agreed that testing this program on March 21st would be the best time.

Ms Nolan moved the focus to exit surveys, which was first on the agenda. She wonders how much support Ms Rippey would need to do exit surveys on a regular basis. Ms Nolan points out that there have been 5 motions regarding exit surveys over the past six years. Parents have been outspoken about not getting an exit survey. Ms Nolan would prefer that an exit survey immediately after someone leaves is more effective than doing it at a later date.

Ms Rippey said that it might take six months for families to get the exit survey, it is currently only done for the people that are still in the state, not everyone informs the school that they are leaving, they need to wait to verify that kids aren't coming, they primarily received responses electronically. She worries about the consistency in switching to exclusively electronic; it would be a difficult task at first to retrain people. She is concerned about the timing since it is such a busy season for her department, the data is better because of data entry deadlines, centralizing processes has been beneficial. Mr Maloney said that social media has taken over what they do; parents get their information from the internet.

Ms Rippey passed out the exit survey report.

Ms Nolan asked what faculty receives the data. Mr Maloney stated that some of the faculty has it, he says that the data is going to be used to make valuable changes.

Ms Rippey pointed out that the data is anonymous. If a parent complains about a teacher the specific teacher is not publicly acknowledged, instead it is just a basic statistic listing the responses.

Ms Rippey went over the statistics for withdrawals:

- The number of withdrawals and where the families went
- Withdrawals by grade and the complications in the data when changing schools
- Where the Students went specifically
- The demographics by type of transfer
- The most important reasons that students left
- Strengths and weaknesses that are presented through the data

Ms Kelly joined the meeting at 5:36

Ms Nolan wants to expand the report to families who move out of state. She also wants this report to be more routine, even two times a year, she reiterated that the closer it is to the event the more responses will be received, and more frequent meetings would increase the response rate. She says 20% response rate isn't bad but an increase would be helpful.

Ms Dexter asked if all parents are being surveyed. Mr Maloney answered no, but he wants to work on a strategic plan to implement this moving forward, he believes some of the issues with people leaving are often due to parents disagreeing with the direction of schools. Parents may leave but the school may be accomplishing its goals.

Mr Maloney believes the goal is that these stats become a part of the controlled choice reports in the fall.

Ms Nolan moved to the controlled choice report.

The following on the controlled choice report was discussed:

- Mr Maloney said that they are not ready to send out the report yet.
- 80 mandatories on the final run, 75 paid, 5 free. Cambridgeport brought this below 100.
- The statistics of elementary school choice
- Balancing full pay and low income in schools
- Neighborhood income in relation to school choice
- Neighborhoods have more say over location than schools
- Kindergarten space and where to provide it
- Concerns about the King Open

Mr Maloney and Ms Rippey left at 6:03

Ms Nolan would like the following:

- To give Mr Maloney a review on the report
- Multiyear statistics available to discuss and go over trends in an easy format
- Wants a brief report rather than one so extensive
- Wants a paragraph about each section

Ms Nolan thinks the reason to use controlled choice is to provide valuable data to improve the experience for families. She thinks we need to be more extensive in utilizing this data. She pointed out that more paid lunch families withdraw. Free and reduced lunch families generally register after January.

Ms Nolan wants the schools to be more evenly enrolled so they don't need to worry about the loopholes. She thinks it is unhealthy for schools when families plan on leaving based on what school they go to. Ms Nolan wants to build on what they know people want, based on the data, she says that they need to make schools more equal for families.

Ms Nolan discussed successful programs at individual schools and if it is beneficial to implement them throughout the schools, she believes they need a draw to East Cambridge so that more parents are interested in them. There might be need for another school building in Western Cambridge based on the increase in families, she also reiterated that we're losing kids in the middle grades and if this stops we will need another upper school. There are significantly more 9th graders than 8th graders, showing that many students left and came back due to dissatisfaction in the middle grades.

Ms Nolan wants to push on enrollment report. She wants more outreach to the schools. School communities have appreciated more outreach by School Committee Members. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Ms Kelly suggested moving the School Committee meetings around to different schools, such as the middle and elementary schools, Ms Dexter is concerned about the broadcast capabilities in each school.

On a motion by Ms Dexter, seconded by Ms Nolan, the meeting adjourned at (6:26)

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

- Agenda
(Exit surveys, Controlled choice report, child care for public meetings)
- Exit survey report

Adjourned
Tyler Stearns
Temporary Confidential Secretary to the School Committee

10. Resolutions:

It was moved by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on a voice vote, it was voted to adopt the following motions:

Motion by Mr. Harding and Mayor Simmons, that the School Committee send a letter of condolence to the family of Gregory Dottin, a CRLS graduate and former Forman for Cambridge Public Works.

Motion by Mayor Simmons and Mr. Harding, that the School Committee goes on record in extending its condolences to the Parker family on the passing of CRLS art teacher Kevin Jameel Parker.

Motion by Ms. Nolan, that the School Committee send letters of congratulations to CRLS students that were placed as finalists at the Salem Film Fest.

Motion by Mr. Harding and Mayor Simmons, that the School Committee goes on record in extending its congratulations to the Boys Varsity Basketball team for back to back MIAA State Championships.

11. Announcements

Ms. Nolan announced that Mr. Sullivan will appear in his last performance of Angels in America, a very moving story about AIDS in America, on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Wellsley High School at 2:30 pm.

Mayor Simmons announced that the Syracuse 8 will be at the Sullivan Chamber at City Hall on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 from 6-8 pm discussing their book Leveling the Playing field.

Mayor Simmons announced that the LGBTQ will have a Town Hall Meeting at City Hall on Thursday, April 13, 2017 from 5-8 pm

Mr. Fantini announced that the workshop attended by himself, Mayor Simmons and Ms. Kelly on last Sunday with Jose Mateo on race diversity and education had some very powerful and very moving discussions.

Ms. Gashaw announced that she, former Mayor Ken Reeves, Kara Hill and Sandra Graham spoke at the King School to 4th and 5th graders about The Power of Protest. It was very powerful and engaging promoting social justice.

12. Late Orders:

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, on a voice vote, it was voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Dosha Beard
Interim 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:

- ✓ Kelly Dolan
- ✓ Kimberly Mancino
- ✓ Bill Boehm
- ✓ Monique Brouillette
- ✓ Jacob Barandes

Email communications received:

- ✓ Email from Daniel Michaud Weinstock re CPS Budget
- ✓ Email from Kelly Dolan re FY18 Budget Input
- ✓ Email from Monica Velgos

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