

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

February 7, 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,
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 6:05 PM.

1. Public Comment (3 minutes):

The following individuals were heard:

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow members of the public to speak on an item not on the agenda. The Rules were suspended for the reason stated.

- Elise Faucher, Haggerty School Grade 5 teacher, asked to yield her time to Patty West.
- Meg Moloney, Haggerty School Grade 4 teacher, asked to yield her time to Patty West.
- Patty West, Haggerty School teacher, spoke on behalf of parents and teachers who answered the survey on world language; she indicated that parents who wanted world language were interested in students being proficient by 5th grade; parents are concerned that the present proposal does not align with their goal; they are concerned that world language won't be done well and will take away from other programs; their School Advisory Committee is working on enriching curriculum with hands on learning, science, fields trips and integrated curriculum; they would like more social and emotional learning and mindfulness
- Zoe Levitt, Fayerweather St., CRLS senior, she spoke in support of motion #17-28; she is the co-founder of the Jewish Heritage Club at CRLS; she spoke of graffiti incidents at CRLS; she is working with a team of student leaders created to address issues of school culture; they have an idea to create an X-Block where classes are shortened and then use that time to hold discussions in homerooms about these issues; she is spearheading the effort to create one block on February 17th; they have the support of Principal Smith and Mr. Tynes; she is asking the School Committee to count this time as instructional time because it is crucial to their community; she is also asking for more "X-Blocks" throughout the year (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Noah Epstein, Raymond St., CRLS senior, speaking in support of motion #17-28, he is part of the group to create "X-blocks" next week; he hopes to create a culture of upstanders so that as a community we can all support each other in the face of adversity; he requests that the School Committee consider these blocks as educational time; he added that students aren't aware of the history of hurtful words and symbols and don't realize the implications of their use (statement on file in the School Committee office)

- Milo Cason-Snow, Marney St., CRLS senior, speaking in support of motion #17-28; indicated that it is important that the school community have an opportunity to discuss hateful events when they occur. He supports the "X-Block" proposal
- Maia Levitt, Fayerweather St., CRLS freshman, speaking in support of motion #17-28, spoke of her experiences as a student at Vassal Lane Upper School; students aren't educated about what hateful symbols mean; she suggests that the School Committee recommend taking a look at the middle school curriculum around holocaust education (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Crystal Johnson, High School Extension Program, re motion #17-25, she asks that a roundtable not be scheduled until the administration does further review to see if remedies already put in place are working

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mari Gashaw reported that tomorrow seniors will be taking yearbook pictures. In addition, this week there will be senior nights for various sports teams to have their last home games.

Paul Sullivan reported that last Friday the Student Government held the Winter Ball. It was a great time. Tomorrow juniors will begin their college process during periods 2 and 4 with their guidance counselors.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting, January 17, 2017
- Regular Meeting, January 17, 2017

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

The Committee passed over unfinished business:

Motion by Ms. Emily Dexter, whereas winter brings icy weather, the School Committee requests that the administration review our school bus safety policies as detailed in Committee policy #EEAEC (Bus Safety Program and Discipline Policy) as well as bus safety monitoring practices and report to the Committee in an upcoming Weekly report.

The Committee also requests that the administration bring forward any recommended revisions to the current CPS school bus policies. Particular attention should be paid to practices related the boarding and exiting school buses, dropping off young children, and seatbelt policy on daily bus rides, field trips, and in-district and out-of-district transportation for students with disabilities and other students attending school outside of the district. (Nolan, 1-17-17)

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 Mr. Fantini, it was voted to move the entire Consent Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed item #17-18. Ms. Dexter removed items #17-19 and #17-23. On the following roll call, **items #17-20 through #17-22** were adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#17-20, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for direct student services; funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Crossroads School, 11 Huron Drive, Natick, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$27,500.00.

#17-21, Approval of Gifts to Cambridge Public Schools, that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. \$2,000.00 to the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School made from the Friends of CRLS for the school's Unsung Heroes program recognizing student accomplishments in scholastic achievement, attendance, citizenship, athletics and/or leadership.
2. \$700.00 to the Fletcher Maynard Academy made from Scholarship America for a field trip.
3. \$700.00 to the Kennedy Longfellow School made from the Boston Museum of Science for a field trip.

#17-22, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Early Childhood Special Education Program Improvement, for the period February 7, 2017 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$2,650.00. Project/Grant SC17103.

Description: In recent years Massachusetts has added the domain of Social-emotional learning to its curriculum standards. Through the purchase of the social emotional program materials, Special Start will better support our young learners' development of the vital social and executive functioning skills necessary for school success in kindergarten and beyond.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#17-18, Approval of SY2017/2018 Cambridge Public Schools Academic and School Committee Calendars, that the School Committee approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for the SY2017/2018 Cambridge Public Schools Academic & School Committee calendars.

Ms. Nolan suggested that we put this on hold until we decide on the name for the holiday on the second Monday of October. Ms. Kelly agrees with Ms. Nolan and indicated that she could call a meeting of the Civic Unity Sub-Committee to discuss this. Ms. Bowman asked if this would have an immediate impact. Dr. Salim noted that family and staff appreciate the calendar in advance. Dr. Salim suggested that this could be posted as a draft on the website. On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, item #17-18 was adopted as a draft and also referred to the Civic Unity Sub-Committee for discussion on naming the holiday which falls on the second Monday of October.

#17-19, 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, 2017 to January 23, 2018, for the amount of \$49,000.

On the following roll call, **item #17-19** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#17-23, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Massachusetts Life Sciences Center – Biotechnology, for the period January 9, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$105,000.00. Project/Grant SC17101.

Description: The RSTA Biotechnology Program has been awarded a \$105,000 grant from the MA Life Sciences Center (MLSC). The funds will be used to purchase equipment for a new Biomanufacturing training program (\$100,000) and for educator professional development (\$5,000). Biomanufacturing is the large-scale production of biologics using living cells. According to the MassBioEd 2016 *Annual Job Trend Forecast*, biomanufacturing jobs are projected to account for 29% of the 4,328 new biotech jobs in MA by 2018.

The Members commented on the importance of this grant which could help to facilitate a high quality vocational program leading to possible employment. On the following roll call, **item #17-23** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

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

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to move the entire School Committee Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Mayor Simmons removed item #17-24. Mr. Harding removed item #17-25. Ms. Nolan removed item #17-27. Mr. Fantini removed item #17-29. On a voice vote, **items #17-26, #17-28, #17-30 and #17-31** were adopted.

#17-24, Motion by Mayor Simmons, that the School Committee may entertain a motion to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Executive Secretary to the Cambridge School Committee) and for the purpose of conducting contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Executive Secretary to the Cambridge School Committee) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and/or negotiation positions of the Cambridge School Committee. On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on the following roll call, **item #17-24 was** adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA. The Chair announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session for the reasons stated after the regular business of the meeting.

#17-25, Motion by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee requests the Superintendent to schedule a Roundtable meeting to discuss the school climate, student achievement and a curriculum overview of the High School Extension Program. The Members agreed that it would be important to have an update on the High School Extension Program since they haven't been updated in a long time. Mr. Harding clarified his motion noting that it is important to find out what is going on at the present time so that the Committee could be helpful. He shared that he understands this is ongoing work and asked that this motion be adopted and then referred to the Superintendent to decide the process of when and how this roundtable would happen. On a voice vote, **item #17-25** was adopted and referred to the Superintendent.

#17-26, Motion by Mr. Harding, that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee on the status and schedule of evaluations of all Cambridge Public School principals. Further, that the Superintendent provide an update to the School Committee on the contract status of all principals.

#17-27, Motion by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Bowman, that whereas the Cambridge Public Schools proudly stands for student leadership and civic engagement and whereas the City of Cambridge has stood proudly as a beacon for unity and tolerance, that the School Committee commend student Mari Gashaw for her leadership locally and nationally as part of the demonstrations for civil rights and justice for Black lives.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to give unanimous consent to move **item #17-27** to the resolution section of the agenda. Ms. Bowman shared information on why she and Ms. Nolan made this motion which was to acknowledge their colleague Mari Gashaw for her outstanding leadership and courage. Ms. Bowman mentioned recently seeing Mari on a live stream at a protest in Washington, DC. Mari Gashaw thanked the School Committee and school district for recognizing her and shared that she wouldn't be here if it were not for the schools. On a voice vote, **item #17-27** was adopted.

#17-28, Motion by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Kelly, that whereas CPS has stood firmly to support core values of tolerance openness, diversity and inclusion, that the School Committee joins the school administration in their work to ensure the safety and feeling of belonging for all groups in our schools.

#17-29, Motion by Ms. Dexter and Ms. Nolan, whereas CRLS plans to enroll all 9th grade students in Honors English 9 in Fall, 2017; and whereas English 9 has been a class with Honors and College Prep levels and CRLS strives to provide all students with encouragement and support to succeed in honors work; the School Committee requests that the administration provide the Committee and community with a report on plans including anticipated outcomes and measures of success for the all-Honors English 9 course and honors support course. Further that the report be provided by the first meeting in April 2017. Ms. Nolan placed **item #17-29** on the calendar.

On a voice vote, the following reports were accepted:

#17-30, Report of the January 10, 2017 Sub-Committee on Curriculum and Achievement

**Meeting of the Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee
School Committee Conference Room
January 10, 2017
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Called for the purpose of discussing the proposed FY 2018 model for 9th grade English and History.

Members Present: Ms. Kelly, Chair; Ms. Dexter, Mr. Harding

Also present: Mr. Fantini, Ms. Nolan, Dr. Kenneth Salim, Superintendent; Dr. Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Anda Adams, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction; Dr. Victoria Greer, Asst. Superintendent for Student Services; Ms. Claire Spinner, CFO; Mr. Principal Smith, CRLS; Ms. Adrienne Stang, K-12 History and Social Science Coordinator; Ms. Jennifer Hamilton, Dean LC C; Ms. Tanya Milner, Dean LC R; Mr. Dan Monahan, CEA President; Mr. Tony Clark, Educational Liaison to the Mayor; Ms. Jean Cummings, Cambridge Day Reporter

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ms. Kelly read the call of the meeting and turned the meeting over to Dr. Turk and Principal Smith. Dr. Turk began by explaining they will present information and engage in a conversation on how English Language Arts is presented to our incoming 9th grade students. Principal Smith introduced his staff: Ms. Stang, Ms. Milner and Ms. Hamilton and then went through the presentation explaining the work that has been done and what the school is proposing for the future.

**Leveling Up –
Developing HN ELA 9 and HN World History 2 for all CRLS 9th Grade Students**

- Starting in SY 2017-18, CRLS will offer HN ELA 9 course for **all** 9th grade students
- Starting in SY 2018-19, CRLS will offer HN World History 2 course for **all** 9th grade students
- Both courses are semester based courses
- No additional courses for “leveling up” at this time

- Rationale – Why is the school proposing this plan
 - our community must address student achievement in terms of equity, access, and expectations
 - we must consider and question our established practices. Especially, if they are not yielding the outcomes we want for all students
 - the talents of late bloomers go undiscovered
 - 9th grade is the best opportunity to get students to know how far they can go
 - Physics curriculum
 - NEASC decennial evaluation
- Course Ethnicity Breakdown
- Issues and Concerns
 - alternating day course
 - adopt AVID strategies
 - examine the Move Up program
 - perfecting work that began in SY15-16
 - student leadership support
 - STARs Peer Leadership & Community Action class report
 - more diverse classes
 - lingering achievement gap
- Sample Schedules

Principal Smith mentioned that all students are not succeeding. How do we improve achievement opportunities for all of our students? The Ethnicity Breakdown slides show that African American students trail far behind White students. Principal Smith also spoke about issues and concerns with the honors challenges. They are developing an honors access class in FY 18-19. Carol Burris is a person they have worked with in the past and will work with again on this issue. They will continue to work with the Central Office, CRLS staff, families, students and other stakeholders as they advance their plan. He thanked the Sub-Committee for their time and the central office for their tremendous support.

At 6:31 PM the Chair called a 1 minute recess. The time for recess having expired, the meeting was re-convened at 6:32 PM.

Ms. Kelly thanked Principal Smith for his presentation and then offered Dr. Salim an opportunity to speak. Dr. Salim stated this is an exciting program, very important work and there is a need to plan around what the students achieve and how to measure their success. Dr. Salim also stated since his involvement with this process, he has seen positive progress with this program. Ms. Kelly asked Principal Smith if anyone on his team had any questions. There were no questions. At the pleasure of the Sub-Committee the following questions were asked.

Mr. Harding thanked Principal Smith and his team for this work and stated he is grounded in supporting the work. Mr. Harding voiced concern regarding freshmen vs. juniors; when students are juniors, teachers know them better than when students are freshman. He also asked why he waited, since the achievement gap has been around for a long time. Mr. Smith responded that the PD profile needs to be robust and the support piece needs to be in place before starting the program. It is still being enhanced. He wants CRLS to be a 1 to 1 school with all students having technology. He is comfortable for moving one piece at a time, and one year at a time. Mr. Harding asked about how Mr. Smith will make it known there is a new standard and expectation for 9th grade. Ms. Stang responded that it is up to the middle school piece as it relates to the IA. She stated there will be rigorous writing assignments, how all students will complete these assignments so that when they arrive at 9th grade they will be more successful because of the introduction at the middle school level. Dr. Turk spoke about expectations and support. If we expect it, the kids will rise to it. At an open house for the rising 9th graders, they will be speaking to students about this plan. Mr. Smith spoke about the social issues being addressed along with the academic. They need life skills beyond the classroom. Mr. Harding asked how CRLS will make sure families understand. Mr. Smith responded that families will be informed at an open house this Thursday and made to understand this is a very specific opportunity not a widespread venture. A lot of

energy and effort will be concentrated on making sure families know this new program is focused on 9th grade.

Ms. Dexter's comments and questions included the following: She is fully supportive of this discreet, yet important change and is happy to see the students being involved in this process. She feels that parents are going to want to know what these classes look like as far as logistics and class size. What will program evaluation and curriculum look like? She asked Principal Smith to explain about the OSS part. Mr. Smith restated that they had talked about the OSS, ELA and World History teachers being together. There will be an added piece of having another department in SY 18-19. The biggest structural change will be that ELA 9 and HN World History are going to be semester courses; they are not getting rid of the old curriculum, they are adding on to the existing HN 9 course. Ms. Dexter indicated parents will want to know how this will differ from the existing ELA 9 class; what will the activities be like, they will want to know what the class size will be and are they all reading the same books? Mr. Smith answered that these are ongoing issues; they are not new and they are always looked at individually and nurtured. He also stated that we all anticipate a range of achievement that is higher than what we are used to. He knows the potential is there. Our students are more capable than we give them credit for. We just have to make the commitment to move forward and do it.

Ms. Kelly mentioned the need to identify the students that need extra supports; especially students with disabilities, and make sure they get that support.

Ms. Hamilton stated that CP and HN curriculum are the same; they are both reading the same text but not at the same pace. She recognized that behavioral issues are a big concern in some CP classes. She is confident in the skills that her teachers have to handle all issues, academic and emotional. It was stated that through the Mayor's program, we will be offering a Summer English Support class.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Ms. Nolan began by stating she is excited about this program and is very supportive. She asked a few questions regarding social emotional learning also. She agrees with only having ELA now. Parents she has spoken to are glad to hear it is one subject and one grade at a time. When they get to History, they will have knocked all the kinks out from the English experience. This presentation is a lot different than the one that was presented 15 years ago, which is a positive testament. She mentioned that we should look at some data about what happened when we went from one semester blocks to full year blocks in CP. What did we learn from that? Principal Smith referred to the Sample Schedules in the presentation and spoke about the logistics. He stated that small change will have a huge impact. Ms. Nolan stated that the Honors curriculum should be more robust. She also asked how the success of this program will be measured. Principal Smith answered that the enrollment and retention of students moving into honors classes, a school climate survey, and a teen health survey will speak to the students' ability and success. Student achievement is another way to look at the data points. He stated that physics is not "the" model, but part of "a" model; it has challenges and needs to be looked at. Ms. Milner added they also measure success by looking at grade distribution for CP and Honors students that have been collected over the past 3 years. The PSAT and SAT tests scores show useful data. It was also mentioned that Lexington High is doing the same thing that we are.

Ms. Kelly, with closing comments, stated she acknowledges the large amount of time and work that has gone into presenting this program and she is very excited about it. She believes it will be transformative for both students and teachers. It was an excellent presentation. A Motion was submitted from the Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee:

Whereas the district leadership and CRLS administration plan to implement the 9th grade English Leveling Up Model in FY 2018, that the budget implications of this model be shared with the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) by February 7, 2017

This Motion will go on the agenda for the January 17, 2017, Regular School Committee Meeting.

Public comment was closed.

Ms. Dexter motioned, Ms. Kelly seconded to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee

Documents Submitted > (on file in the School Committee office)

- Leveling Up powerpoint presentation

#17-31, Report of the January 11, 2017 Sub-Committee on the Budget (Committee of the Whole) Public Hearing on the FY18 Budget

Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole)
Public Hearing
Wednesday, January 11, 2017

CRLS Attles Room
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Called for the purpose of a Public Hearing on the proposed FY2018 School Department Budget. It is anticipated that this meeting will end by 5:00 PM.

Members Present: Mr. Harding (~~Absent~~) and Ms. Kelly, Co-Chairs; Ms. Bowman, (~~Absent~~); Ms. Dexter, Mr. Fantini, Ms. Nolan (~~Absent~~) and Mayor Simmons (~~Absent~~)

Also Present: Dr. Salim, Superintendent; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Greer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Adams, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Allen, Executive Director of Human Resources

Mr. Harding and Ms. Kelly in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) being present, Ms. Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

Ms. Kelly welcomed everyone to the Budget Sub-Committee meeting and invited Dr. Salim to speak. He began by thanking the educators who are here and mentioned his ongoing work with teachers and administrators through structured opportunities, the Superintendent Advisory Committee and the Cambridge Education Association. He stated he is looking forward to their comments. Mr. Harding opened the hearing on the FY 18 School Department Budget and informed everyone, no matter the mixed reviews of coming before the Committee, he hopes the teachers feel empowered to state their feelings realizing they are in partnership with the Committee.

Public Hearing on Budget FY18 Budget:

- Dan Monahan, CEA President, thanked the educators for attending in this forum, encourages educators to participate in the budget conversations
- Rose Levine, Larch Rd., Graham and Parks teacher, staffing priorities, need more interventionists, counselors, full time SEI family liaison & translation support staff
- Karen Engels, Wendell St., Graham & Parks teacher, staffing, SEI family liaison and counselors, curriculum resources for field trip buses, updated text resources and chromebooks

- Lolly Lincoln, Brookline St., FMA teacher, listed many examples in support for full time art teachers

Mayor Simmons and Ms. Nolan joined the meeting at 3:50 PM

- Leo Muellner, Allston St., TIC, advocating for full time visual arts at all schools
- Jeff Konigsberg teacher at 2 schools, listed what is missed by teaching at 2 schools, including parent teacher conferences, staff meetings, extra- curricular activities, curriculum night, international night, graduations, support of the Design Lab
- Angie UyHam, Hancock St., Literacy Coach at CambridgePort, parent, support for the Design Lab
- Tracey DeLucia, Lacklan Rd., CambridgePort teacher, support for the Design Lab
- David Albert, Rindge Ave., asks for additional support in the classroom, full time paraprofessionals, there are too many rooms in older schools that are not fit for learning

Ms. Bowman joined the meeting at 4:05 PM

Ms. Kelly called a recess at 4:05PM. The time for recess having expired, the meeting reconvened at 4:20 PM.

- Ross Benson, Brookline St., CRLS math teacher, asks for more teaching staff to accommodate the growing student population
- Barbara Dorritie, Monument, Medford, CRLS biology teacher, need more instruction space to keep students from being turned away from science classes, urges to maintain the class size and not raise the cap

Mr. Harding called a recess at 4:30 PM. The time for recess having expired, the meeting reconvened at 5:00 PM. Ms. Kelly made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Nolan.

Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee Office

Documents/Statements referred to during public comment: (copies on file in the School Committee office)

- Maude Morgan re Design Lab
- Leo Mueller re full time V/A teachers

Email communications received:

- ✓ Email from Sarah Hogan re FY 18 Budget
- ✓ Email from Elizabeth Hill re FY 18 Budget
- ✓ Email from Adam Epstein re Budget Priorities: Kodaly Music
- ✓ Email from Angie UyHam re Cambridge Educators Design lab
- ✓ Email from Karen Engels re summary of comments: math & literacy interventionists, SEI family liaison, translation support, special educators

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

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

#17-32, Motion by Mr. Fantini, that the School Committee goes on record in extending its appreciation to CRLS art teacher, Elizabeth Menges and her Studio One students with the following resolution:

- WHEREAS: In recognition of the art work and collaborative efforts by art teacher, ELIZABETH MENGES AND HER STUDIO ONE STUDENTS, in the creation of a Mural Project entitled "Urban Decay" which will be on display beginning January 24th; and
- WHEREAS: this mural project was created in partnership with Lesley University College of Art and Design with the attached description providing detailed information regarding that partnership; and
- WHEREAS: MS. MENGES' CLASS over the years has always done this type of collaborative work throughout the community and MS. MENGES deserves recognition for her efforts to provide our students with meaningful experiences; and
- WHEREAS: because of this collaboration with our students, Lesley College of Art and Design wishes to pursue future collaboration with CRLS students; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED: that a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee.

Mr. Fantini gave background information and read a description of this mural. He noted that he was impressed by the students' work and Ms. Menges' dedication to the students over the years. On a voice vote, **item #17-32** was adopted.

#17-33, Motion by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee goes on record in extending its condolences to the family of Renae Gray and assures her family of the Committee's deep and heartfelt sympathy, and further that a copy of the following Resolution be inscribed to the memory of Renae Gray in the archives of the City of Cambridge School Committee and that a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and sent to the family of Renae Gray.

City of Cambridge School Committee
Resolution of Respect for Renae D. Gray

We honor you for whom you were and the special things you've done,
That made your life so rewarding and made you such a special woman.
Your memories are ours to cherish as we fondly remember your ways,
Keeping you safely tucked in our hearts is where you'll always stay.
Our community honors you because of the beautiful difference you've made.

Deep sorrow fills the hearts of the members of the City of Cambridge School Committee with the passing of Renae Gray, the announcement of which we profoundly felt. Her support and dedication has left a noble heritage in her keen interest to the community. We revere her dedication as one of our forbearers; her years of service were distinguished by her integrity and devotion. We have now been deprived of the services of a valuable and faithful friend. Those who knew her can truly estimate her worth.

Whereas, Renae Gray was an avid activist in the City of Cambridge, was a member of the YWCA, where she was a regular volunteer, served as member of the Racial Justice Committee, and also as Chair of the Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, At the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, she served diligently with boundless enthusiasm as an ally, an advocate and an inspiration working at the helm of the Elder's Program as well as in other areas. Even in failing health, she embodied a temple of honor and virtue, serving with a combination of unlimited energy and unselfish devotion whose influence will always be with us; and

Whereas, Renae Gray was involved closely in the community and with every political campaign where her aims were extraordinary, her motives right; she was a friend, a loyal voter, a hard worker with an amiable personality and a great spirit that impacted many lives, being humorous, enjoyable, loyal, trusted and true; and

Whereas, In her kindness, she saw the need as well as the cause and showed a good thing in helping her fellow being. To paraphrase the words of Abraham Lincoln, "This world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but we can never forget what she did here." Renae Gray, a devoted mother, utilized

her ability to counsel, encourage and motivate, being a guide and an inspiration to all in their pursuits;
and

Whereas, We will miss the firmness of her purpose, the dignity of her virtues, the ideals which she captured. It is not a disaster to be unable to capture your ideal, but it is a disaster to have no ideal to capture. Renae had ideals to capture, and she will be missed by friends and associates in the Cambridge community where she was esteemed and recognized as one whose acts and deeds were worthy of emulation.

Be It Therefore Resolved, that the City of Cambridge School Committee assures her family of our deep and heartfelt sympathy. We extend profound condolence on the passing of Renae Gray and trust they will be comforted with the peace of accepted sorrow; and

Resolved, That while we pause to pay tribute to Renae Gray, we will cherish fond memories and appreciation of timeless efforts she shared with the community. We give thanks for her great spirit that endeared her to the lives she touched. May she enjoy eternal rest and the rewards she has earned.

Renae, we would love to hear your voice, we would love to see your smile though blindly we will grope;
But the memory of your helping hand will bore us on with hope.

Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be inscribed to the memory of Renae Gray in the archives of The City of Cambridge School Committee.

Respectfully submitted in Love and Friendship, this third day of February in the year 2017.

Richard Harding, Jr., for The City of Cambridge School Committee
Mayor E. Denise Simmons, Manikka L. Bowman, Emily R. Dexter,
Alfred B. Fantini, Richard Harding, Jr., Kathleen Kelly, Patricia Nolan

Mr. Harding read the Renae Gray resolution. He remarked that Renae was a remarkable woman who understood that action meant everything. She stood up for the people who felt marginalized. She never complained about her health issues and remained active. She was very encouraging and empowering to other people in the neighborhood. She was invested in the lives of young women in our community. He is deeply saddened by the fact that she will no longer be with us and offered condolences to her daughter Michelle. Ms. Bowman commented that Renae is the reason she is now a School Committee Member noting that Renae guided her into this leadership role. Mayor Simmons commented that Renae lived life richly and used her time well being proactive around issues and enjoying what the world had to offer. Mayor Simmons offered a friendly amendment to **item #17-33** to add a line which would state that Renae was a leading motivator to change the name of the neighborhood called "Area 4" to "the Port". Mr. Harding accepted Mayor Simmons friendly amendment. On a voice vote, **item #17-33** was adopted as amended.

Ms. Dexter offered the following late resolution, seconded by Ms. Nolan, which was adopted on a voice vote:

Late Motion by Ms. Dexter, that the School Committee extends congratulations to the 40 CRLS students who won Gold Key, American Visions Nominations, Silver Key or Honorable Mention in the Massachusetts Scholastic Art and Writing Contest, which is part of the National Scholastic Art and Writing Contest.

The Committee also extends congratulations and appreciation to all members of the CRLS Visual and Performing Arts department, RSTA, and the English Department for nurturing the talent of our high school students and encouraging them to enter this highly competitive creative national contest.

Ms. Kelly offered the following late resolution, seconded by Mr. Harding, which was adopted on a voice vote:

Late Motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee goes on record in extending its appreciation to Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato for his work in the City of Cambridge with the following resolution:

WHEREAS: it has come to the School Committee's attention that the REV. DR. CHRISTIAN BROCATO, who has presided over Saint Peter's Episcopal Church since September 2011, shall be leaving this position to become the Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, MI; and

WHEREAS: during his years in Cambridge, REV. BROCATO has not only served as one of our city's most respected spiritual leaders, he has also been an integral and vital force within our community, regularly presiding over the annual MLK Day Commemoration and Remembrance services, taking part in the Mayor's monthly Interfaith Leadership Breakfasts, and helping to ensure that Saint Peter's Episcopal Church is a house of worship in which people from all walks of life, of all races, creeds, genders, and ethnicities feel welcomed, respected and included; and

WHEREAS: REV. Brocato has invested tremendous time and energy to reinvigorate and grow his congregation, he has given great time and energy toward strengthening the connective tissues between the local faith-based communities and the municipal government, furthering their shared humanitarian missions, and he has always approached his mission with purpose, good humor, and a genuine warmth that has won him friends and admirers not just in Central Square, but all throughout the Cambridge community; BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED: that the School Committee formally goes on record in thanking The REV. DR. CHRISTIAN BROCATO for his many years of exemplary service in presiding over St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and in wishing him great success in this next chapter of his life; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that a copy of this Resolution hereby is requested to be forwarded by the School Committee Secretary to The REV. DR. CHRISTIAN BROCATO on behalf of the entire School Committee.

11. Announcements:

Mayor Simmons announced that during Black History Month Bernice L. McFadden, author of *The Book of Harlan* will be at the Cambridge Public Library Main Branch on February 23rd from 6 to 8 pm. She added that we will also be unveiling the Black History Stamp.

Mayor Simmons announced that on Tuesday, February 14th, from 12 to 1:30 pm there will be a celebration called "Heart of Gold" being held at City Hall to thank the staff for their tremendous work in dealing with the aftermath of the horrible York Street fire in December.

Mayor Simmons announced that Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato's last service will be this Sunday at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church on Massachusetts Avenue.

Mr. Harding announced that at 11 am on February 25th the Cambridge branch of the NAACP is having a Martin Luther King leadership brunch at 85 Bishop Allen Drive. Mr. Harding added that the keynote speaker will be Congressman Joseph Kennedy, III. Mr. Harding indicated that he would send a flyer to the Executive Secretary to share with the Members.

Mari Gashaw announced that the Port Café is having an event at 6:30 pm on February 15th at the Community Arts Centre and the theme is "love, love, love".

Mayor Simmons announced that during the month of February there is an exhibit in the Mayor's Parlor of local art work including that of the artist Kencaid. She will circulate the date of the artists' talks through the Executive Secretary.

12. Late Orders:

Mayor Simmons and Mr. Fantini offered the following late motion which was seconded by Ms. Bowman. Mr. Fantini placed this motion on the calendar.

Joint Motion by Mr. Fantini and Mayor Simmons, given the increased need for classroom space at the Media Technology space on Broadway due to increased enrollment at CRLS, that the Superintendent be requested to confer with the City Manager to collaboratively discuss opportunities to provide space given that the City's 22 View Program is housed in the same location.

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to recess the Regular Meeting to convene into Executive Session for the purposes stated: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

The Chair announced that votes may be taken in Executive Session and if so they will be ratified in open session when the Committee reconvenes the Regular meeting.

The Chair announced after the Regular meeting, the Committee would convene the Budget Retreat.

Regular Meeting recessed at 7:15 PM.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair returned to the Regular order of business at 8:04 PM.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on the following roll call, it was voted to ratify the following vote taken at tonight's Executive Session, that the School Committee approves the contract of the Executive Secretary for the period of 1 year effective January 1, 2017, with the terms as negotiated and accepted by the Members and the Executive Secretary and further that the School Committee authorizes the Mayor to sign on behalf of the Committee the negotiated contract for the Executive Secretary to the School Committee: Ms. Nolan NAY; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

Distributed Back-up Documents/Handouts:

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

- ✓ Zoe Levitt
- ✓ Noah Epstein
- ✓ Zoe Levitt

E-mail communications received:

- ✓ Email from Corinne Espinoza re citizen letter regarding CPS budget hearing – January 17th
- ✓ Email from Dana Rogers re “We Love Mr. Epstein and Baldwin’s Music Program!”
- ✓ Email from Pamela Blau re CPSFY18 budget priorities
- ✓ Email from Daniel Sobelman re Kodaly Music Program
- ✓ Email from Anita D. McClellan re graffiti in the boys bathroom at CRLS
- ✓ Email from Maixuan Phan re music program at Baldwin
- ✓ Email from Anita D. McClellan re “why aren’t all budget meetings televised for transparency?”
- ✓ Email from Andrea Koschwanez re motion on tonight’s agenda

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

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Nolan, it was voted to adjourn the open session (8:07 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee