

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## (Official Report)

### Regular Meeting

March 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, (~~ABSENT~~) Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan and Mayor Simmons

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

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

### 1. Public Comment:

Mayor Simmons explained that citizens who wish to speak to the Committee during public comment may sign up to speak for 3 minutes on an item that is listed on the agenda.

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave., CEA President, ceded his time to Mary Elizabeth Cranton
- Mary Elizabeth Cranton, Ellsworth Ave., parent, in support of bargaining for a fair contract
- Jenny Chung, Washington St., in support of bargaining for a fair contract
- Tanya Milner, Ferrar St., CRLS Dean, in support of bargaining for a fair contract "Settle the Contract"
- Billy McDonald, Putnam Ave., "Settle the Contract" in support of the staff, they work hard every day, love Cambridge and the kids
- Jacob Barandes, Dana St., speaking in support of motion #17-40 – closing education gaps, representing Parent Advisory Group for advanced learners, short changing high potential students (statement on file in the School Committee office)

It was motioned by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Dexter to suspend the rules and allow the speaker to conclude with his last sentence.

- Carin Nuernberg, Cambridge St., speaking in support of motion #17-41 specifically for the OLA program, suggests more support for all of the bilingual programs, suggests more robust representation of bilingual programs on the CPS website, suggests printing brochures in more languages, outreach to Cambridge Housing Authority and the Center for Families, possibly posting billboard ads in the city
- Jake Crutchfield, River St., Agenda Item #3 – very helpful if the School Committee would create a budget process summary or review to serve as a document for residents that cannot make the meetings because of time restrictions
- Jill Santiago, Mass Ave., speaking in support of resources for advertising the bilingual programs

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

### 2. Student School Committee Report:

Student School Committee Member Paul Sullivan was excused from the meeting tonight.

Student School Committee Member Mari Gashaw reported there will be a performance of Angels in America this Thursday at 7:00 PM, followed by a panel on AIDS; Eli Collin and Paul Sullivan both won excellence in acting awards and the tech crew won excellence in set design during the theatre competition for this show; in regards to sports the spring sports season has started, the boys team is continuing to excel, the X Blocks regarding hateful signs was very successful, 15 students on the Youth Council will be going to Washington DC for the National League of Cities to build relationships with other delegations, Girls Basketball ball made it to the state tournament.

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

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, it was voted to accept and adopt the Minutes of the following meetings as presented:

- Special Meeting – Budget Retreat, January 11, 2017
- Special Meeting – Budget Retreat, January 31, 2017
- Regular Meeting, February 7, 2017
- Special Meeting – Budget Retreat, February 7, 2017

### 4. Reconsiderations: None

### 5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

On a motion by Ms. Dexter, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to bring forward the Unfinished Business/Calendar for discussion.

**#17-29, Motion by Ms. Dexter**, whereas CRLS plans to enroll all 9<sup>th</sup> 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. (Nolan 2-7-17)

Ms. Dexter thanked Dr. Salim for the report in the Weekly on this issue. She supports the work and reiterated concerns of class size. Ms. Nolan added she would like to support the work done to date and would like to know the outcomes and measures, adding the date of April 2017 may be too soon for another report to be provided. Mr. Fantini stated that much of what was asked for has been answered, and the administration is doing an excellent job. Ms. Kelly is satisfied with the information received to date. Ms. Bowman agrees they have done a good job of making adjustments, Mr. Harding agreed asking the Superintendent to explain the specific outcomes and measures through the Weekly. Mayor Simmons commended the Superintendent for keeping the School Committee updated with presentations. The Superintendent stated he appreciates the support, spoke about professional development, explaining the work that the Administration does on a weekly basis and the work of the district planning team. He stated sharing information through the Weekly, on the web, with parents and school council has been working well. Ms. Nolan reiterated her request for the outcomes and measures. Mr. Harding asked that the communication be updated regularly. Ms. Kelly suggested instead of writing paragraphs, a visual model may be better. The Mayor asked that any further questions on **item #17-29** be answered in the Weekly. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, on a voice vote, **item #17-29** was removed from the Calendar and placed on file.

**Joint Motion by Mayor Simmons and Mr. Fantini**, 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.

Mr. Fantini stated this is a very successful program, the problem with space is not new, the intent looking forward is to work collaboratively with the City for much needed space.

Ms. Bowman recommended sending this joint motion to the Bldg and Grounds Sub-Committee. Mr. Harding stated he is not in favor of this motion going to a Sub-Committee and would rather it go to the City Manager as soon as possible. Ms. Dexter supports the issue. Ms. Nolan agrees with putting this motion in the Bldg and Grounds Sub-Committee. Ms. Kelly plans to attend the Buildings and Grounds meeting on Thursday to discuss the issue. Mayor Simmons stated that because we are in a busy budget season she would prefer to get it in front of the City Manager, through the Mayor and then bring it back to Buildings and Grounds because of her concern that space is not an issue on the budget agenda. On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the amendment that the motion be referred to the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee, on a voice vote, the amendment failed of adoption for lack of a majority. On a voice vote, the main motion was adopted.

**Motion by Ms. 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 to the boarding and exiting of 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.

Ms. Dexter stated this motion is in response to concerns by parents of a bad bus accident that happened during the fall in another community. Ms. Nolan stated she appreciates the concern, and stated we do routinely review our policies. She suggests since we have a good policy, we put this off for now. Mr. Fantini wants to refer this to the Superintendent because it is a safety issue even though it did not happen in Cambridge. Mayor Simmons does not want to refer this item to the Superintendent because his priorities are currently on the budget. She would rather place it on file. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on the following roll call Ms. Bowman NAY; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding NAY; Ms. Kelly NAY; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons NAY, the item failed of adoption. Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, the item was removed from the Calendar and placed on file.

**6. Awaiting Reports:** None

**7. Superintendent's Agenda:**

**7a. Presentations:** None

Ms. Nolan asked if there will be a calendar of presentations so School Committee can know what will be presented ahead of time. The Superintendent will respond to Ms. Nolan in the Weekly.

**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 #17-34**. Ms. Dexter removed **item #17-36**. On the following roll call, **item #17-35, items #17-37 and #17-38, item #17-41** were adopted: Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

**#17-35, 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	\$29,852.04
Residential	0	0
45 Day Program	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	1	\$29,852.04

**#17-37, Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Computer Hardware, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

PJ Systems dba HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, for the period February 3, 2017 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$25,500.00.

**#17-38, Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Biogen Foundation – City Sprouts Middle School Program, for the period March 15, 2017 to December 31, 2017, in the amount of \$5,000.00. Project/Grant SC17139.

**Description:** This grant from the Biogen Foundation will be used to support the City Sprouts garden program at the Upper Schools and to support collaboration between garden program staff and science teachers.

**#17-41, Motion by Mr. Fantini,**

- WHEREAS: Cambridge’s commitment to Two-Way Bilingual programs is unmatched in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and
- WHEREAS: Cambridge has three immersion programs: Amigos, King Open-Mandarin, and Ola-Portuguese and
- WHEREAS: there is evidence that bilingual instruction is an effective means of closing achievement gaps and
- WHEREAS: bilingual programs help prepare students for the global future, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED: that the Superintendent review existing outreach efforts with the intent of bringing more awareness to Immersion options
- AND: Further, that the Superintendent reach out to impacted communities to seek input.

**8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

**#17-34**, that the School Committee approves the revisions to the Student Records Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

Ms. Nolan, she asked if kindergarteners will be able to obtain library cards. Dr. Salim responded Kindergarteners will be included and in addition there will also be a data agreement. Ms. Dexter asked if this can include K to 5 instead of just K. Dr. Salim stated that so far, the agreement is only for K. Mr. Fantini asked what format the information will go to the library in. The Superintendent responded that it will be an encrypted file working with ICTS. It was motioned by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote **item #17-34** was adopted.

**#17-36, 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:

PJ Systems dba HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, for the period:  
March 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017 in the amount of \$50,200.00; September 1, 2017 to August 31,

2018 in the amount of \$8,900.00; September 1, 2018 to August 31 2019 in the amount of \$8,900.00. Total Contract: \$68,000.00.

Ms. Dexter asked for clarity on handheld devices. Dr. Salim stated part of this is in response to transitioning our email system. Mr. Maloney confirmed this is primarily brought about for switching over to Google from FirstClass for communications and managing security of student data. Ms. Nolan and Ms. Bowman stated that they are very happy with this change. On the following roll call, **item #17-36** was adopted as presented: Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan 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 entire School Committee Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Mr. Harding removed **item #17-39**, Ms. Dexter removed **item #17-40**, Ms. Nolan removed **item #17-42**

On a voice vote of the balance, **items #17-41** and **items #17-43 through item #17-46** were accepted.

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to suspend the Rules to allow a member to go back to a previous item on the agenda. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the reason stated. Mr. Fantini explained to the public that **item #17-41** was accepted as presented.

**#17-39, Motion by Mayor Simmons**, Chapter 1, Section 2. of the Rules of the School Committee be revised as follows:

**Section 2. Regular Meetings.** The regular meetings of the School Committee shall be held on the first and third Tuesday evening at 6:00 o'clock during the months of September through June. During the months of July and August one regular meeting of the School Committee shall be scheduled **on the first Tuesday of August**. No meeting of the School Committee shall go beyond 10:00 o'clock in the evening. Any extension of the meeting beyond 10:00 o'clock in the evening requires a motion and a two-thirds vote of the School Committee as provided below in Chapter II, Section 4.1. If necessary, the Chair shall have the option of calling a meeting as provided below in Chapter I, Section 3, Special Meetings.

Mr. Harding asked for clarification on the language in red. He thinks the process is best left alone, does not want to lock in a date and cause unnecessary problems. Ms. Simmons respectfully disagreed and wants to allow for predictability, stating this change will not be set in stone, it can be modified. Ms. Kelly supports having it on a fixed date, stating it makes it easier for vacation planning. Ms. Dexter asked if this motion fits in with the Superintendent evaluation process. Ms. Kelly stated the Superintendent evaluation is not going to be part of a business meeting. Mr. Fantini supports the Mayor's Motion. On a voice vote **Item #17-39** was adopted with 4 Members voting YEA and 3 Members voting NAY.

**#17-40, Motion by Ms. Dexter**, that whereas the Cambridge School Committee is committed to closing achievement and opportunity gaps by race, economic class, gender, disability status, and English Language Learner status, the Committee requests that the Superintendent, in reviewing CPS staffing, take, into account:

- CPS's 2016 disaggregated PARCC and MCAS scores; and
- The recommendations from the Cambridge-based Schott Foundation for Public Education for "Lifting All Children Up;" from the Cambridge-based Rennie Center for Education, Research & Policy and Boston-based Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center in their "Roadmap to Expanding Opportunity;" and from Ed Byrne's report, "Bridging Educational Equity and Excellence: A Plan to Raise Academic Achievement and Close Gaps in Cambridge Public Schools."

<http://schottfoundation.org/infographic/lifting-all-children>

<http://expandingopportunity.org/>

[http://www.cpsd.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_3042785/File/school\\_committee/agenda/EdByrne\\_Report\\_on\\_Equity.pdf](http://www.cpsd.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3042785/File/school_committee/agenda/EdByrne_Report_on_Equity.pdf)

Ms. Dexter explained there are 2 sections to this motion, the first section looks at our PARCC and MCAS scores, the second section looks at resources and acknowledge that we are tuned in and paying attention to what is occurring. This motion is an affirmation. Ms. Kelly wants to know what action needs to be being taken. Ms. Bowman stated the Superintendent may already be aware of these issues. Ms. Nolan agreed these are good sources of info and if they don't know they should know. Mayor Simmons asked that it be retracted and rewritten or she asks it be placed on file. Dr. Salim referenced the multi district year planning and stated he is looking at a lot of related data. Ms. Dexter has withdrawn the motion, asking for unanimous consent, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote **item #17-40**, was withdrawn.

**#17-42, Joint Motion by Ms. Bowman and Ms. Kelly**

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools seek to ensure the safety of our students in the event of inclement weather conditions and

Whereas new technology allows for more accurate forecasting for major meteorological events and

Whereas parents and other community-based institutions look to the School District to provide leadership in determining the safety of transport of students during severe winter weather in a timely manner,  
THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved that the School Department review its process for making "the call" during extreme winter conditions to ensure we are giving parents, students, and community institutions timely notification regarding school closures.

Ms. Bowman stated this is in response to our last big storm. We should be able to do this in a more timely manner. Ms. Kelly added this is always difficult for families and teachers, she acknowledged that the district has improved from the 5 am robo calls. Ms. Nolan understands the difficulty, she is torn, stating it is operational, not policy. Since it is up to the staff, not School Committee, she does not want to support this. Ms. Gashaw stated her frustration is in not knowing whether we have school tomorrow is extremely important and crucial. There should be some timeframe i.e. by 5:00 we should know whether or not there will be school. Mr. Fantini supports the motion, indicating some parents are not able to accommodate late closings. Mr. Harding stated the Superintendent is in a difficult situation because half will be angry no matter what the call. He thanked Mr. Maloney for letting School Committee know as soon as the call has been made and asked if we actually have a snow day policy. Ms. Bowman reiterated this motion is about the time frame in which the Administration makes the call. Dr. Salim stated yes it is difficult and we never take it lightly. He explained they rely on the resources of the DPW, and technology. Affirmation for school being open does not happen just in case there is a need to close at the last minute. Ms. Bowman motioned to amend the motion to add the teachers and the Superintendent. Mr. Harding asked about communication with after school programs for plans when there are snow days. Mr. Maloney stated he will add communication with after school programs to their "to do" list. On the amendment, moved by Mr. Harding and seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote in the affirmative vote of five Members, one voting in the negative and one absent, **item #17-42** was adopted as amended:

**#17-42, Joint Motion by Ms. Bowman and Ms. Kelly**

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools seek to ensure the safety of our students and teachers in the event of inclement weather conditions and

Whereas new technology allows for more accurate forecasting for major meteorological events and

Whereas parents and other community-based institutions look to the School District to provide leadership in determining the safety of transport of students during severe winter weather in a timely manner,  
THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved that the Superintendent and the School Department review its process for making "the call" during extreme winter conditions to ensure we are giving parents, students, teachers and community institutions timely notification regarding school closures.

On a voice vote, the following reports were accepted:

#17-43, Report of the January 12, 2017 Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Superintendent Transition Planning

**Meeting of the Superintendent Transition Planning  
Ad Hoc Sub-Committee  
Thursday, January 12, 2017  
School Committee Conference Room  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

Called for the purpose of reviewing initial insights and findings from the Superintendent's Listening, Observing, and Analyzing: Learning-Based Entry plan.

Members Present: Ms. Bowman, Chair; Mr. Fantini, Ms. Nolan,

Also Present: Ms. Dexter, Dr. Salim, Superintendent; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Likis, Chief Planning Officer; Mr. Maloney, COO; Marc Levine, Cambridge Day reporter

Ms. Bowman in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Bowman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. After reading the Notice of the meeting, Ms. Bowman stated that the public will have the opportunity for public comment after each agenda item, with a two minute time frame after the Members of the Sub-Committee speak. She turned the meeting over to Dr. Salim who walked all in attendance through a power point presentation.

**Entry Plan Report and District Planning Process  
Cambridge Public Schools  
January 12, 2017**

Agenda

- Entry Plan Process
- Findings, Opportunities and Emerging Vision
- Draft Strategic Objectives
- CPS District Plan Development Process
- Next Steps and Discussion

Superintendent's Core Values

- Teaching and learning must be at the center of our work
- Every student deserves the opportunity to achieve their full potential
- All of us are responsible for the success of our students
- Collaboration with families and community partners is essential
- Help and support must be in place at every level

Framing Question

- How do we build on the strengths of CPSD to create a thriving, innovative, and high achieving school system that prepares every student for success after high school, eliminates gaps in opportunity that contribute to gaps in achievement, and supports the social, emotional, creative, and intellectual development of all children?

Entry Process – 3 buckets = Entry, Strategy & Planning

Purpose of Entry Plan

Listening and Learning

Triangulating Data

Entry Discussions

Observations, Data Analysis and Document Review

Landscape of Initiatives

### Key Supports for Entry Process

#### Findings: Strengths

- Strong sense of school community
- Strong relationships among staff
- Emerging focus across schools
- Instances of effective collaborative learning among educators
- Innovative school-wide instructional models

#### Findings: Challenges, Tensions, and Opportunities

- Achievement and Opportunity Gaps
- School Autonomy and District Alignment
- Implications of Controlled Choice for schools
- Managing change and initiatives
- Social and Emotional Learning Needs
- Equitable opportunities for collaborative learning among educators
- Assessments: Purpose, quantity, philosophy
- Recruitment and retention of teachers of color

#### Preliminary Data from Vision Development

#### Vision Questions for CPS

- What does it mean to be a successful graduate of Cambridge Public Schools
  - ✓ What would our students be prepared for?
  - ✓ What knowledge, skills, and positions would they have gained?
- To accomplish this, what would CPS look like? Sound like? Feel like?

#### Vision Exercise

- Teacher Advisory Team (CEA Superintendent Advisory Committee)
- Transition Team
- Principals and Central Administrators

#### *In Process*

- School Councils
- Educators

#### Draft Strategic Objectives

1. Equity and Access: provides all students with opportunities regardless of background
2. Support for the Whole Child: support schools, educators and leaders through effective professional learning to provide tiered academic, social, emotional and behavioral support for every student
3. Innovation and Partnerships: Enhance and expand innovative programs and practices that build on collaboration with families and community partners.
4. Implementation and Progress Monitoring: Ensure resources and time for successful implementation and regularly measure progress towards meeting benchmarks and goals in multiple ways

#### Developing a District Plan

#### Drawing on Planning for Success Model

#### The District Planning Process (three phases)

- Create Plan
- Align Systems
- Implement

#### District Plan Elements

1. Mission, Vision, Core Values
2. Data Analysis and Theory of Action
3. Strategic Objectives and Initiatives
4. Outcomes (SMART Goals)

#### CPS Approach to District Planning Timeline

- Visioning for the future: Dec.- March
- Data and Root cause analysis: Jan. – Feb.
- Development of strategic objectives: March - April
- Setting outcome measures: April - May
- Quality review and revisions to final plan: May - June
- Draft plan to present to School Committee: June

#### Next steps

- Form District Planning team
- Engage School Councils and Stakeholders in Visioning for the future
- Conduct root cause analyses with Admin Council
- Check for understanding and resonance of draft strategic objectives
- School Committee updates on District Planning progress

End of presentation.

There was a discussion around the following questions, comments, and concerns:

Ms. Bowman stated that the timeline is very aggressive and asked how Dr. Salim would like to see this power point presentation incorporated into the existing schedule of Budget meetings. She would like to be able to layer his thoughts into it.

Ms. Nolan began with a compliment about students being included in his vision. She would like to know how the alums feel about what is happening now, she also wants to know what they would like to see done differently. A survey was suggested. She agrees the timeline is aggressive, however it is doable. Dr. Salim is thinking about many strategies and will work with the School Committee on making these initiatives happen.

Ms. Bowman asked Dr. Salim what is his vision for his draft strategies? Dr. Salim responded that he recognized the importance of having a draft and having the planning team work with the existing data and initiatives already in place. Examine what is working and getting rid of what is not working was mentioned.

Mr. Fantini recognized this as a well thought out strategic plan and encourages patience. Dr. Salim agreed with patience and stated that sometimes strategic plans fail when people try to do everything at once instead of prioritizing and taking things one at a time. Mr. Fantini asked if he was finished with his listening tours. Dr. Salim responded that he is almost finished; he has been to all schools.

Mr. Fantini bought up listening to clerks and custodial maintenance staff, to which Dr. Salim stated he has already been in contact with these two groups and plans to meet with security. His plan is a 3 year strategic plan.

Ms. Nolan enthusiastically referred to the draft strategic objectives, paying particular attention to #1 and #4. As it relates to #2, she stated that all kids, (especially girls) in every level, do not get expectations for rigorous learning. As for #3, she found the Design Lab concept impressive, adding that internal and external partnerships are important to recognize all around.

Ms. Bowman noted this part is the easy part; it will become harder as strategies and initiatives are added. The School Committee will figure out how to share the information.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Jake Crutchfield, Cambridgeport building substitute, is overjoyed about the Design Lab, he also agrees with the strategic plan. He asks that the Superintendent be cognizant of the fact that second semester is a very stressful time for teachers and adding extra requirements at that time of the year will be challenging
- Ms. Dexter spoke about the District Planning process (in 3 phases) and suggested we look back at the Superintendent Search process. She wants the Committee of the Whole to be a major part of the goal setting process and wants the planning meetings to be public Roundtables meetings.
- Ms. Nolan mentioned a possible violation of the Open Meeting Law
- Ms. Likis stated that with the planning for success model, the School Committee is responsible for adopting and approving. There should be 1 or 2 School Committee Members, not more. The goal is to have multiple perspectives. There is a strong desire to try to balance out the number of administration, teachers, students, etc. to be mindful of a balance of power and mindful of diversity, understanding, and valuing the fact that different cultures plan differently. An all inclusive planning team is best

#### Next Steps

Mr. Fantini stated a presentation to the School Committee would be a good place to start for the next steps.

Ms. Nolan explained the district planning process overlaps with the goal setting process and is closely aligned. Dr. Salim expressed it can get confusing regarding which goals are being discussed, individual Superintendent's goals and District goals. Ms. Nolan stated it is good to use and build on what already has been done during the Superintendent Search process.

Ms. Bowman asked what the practice is for people responding to concepts or objectives in the same way Dr. Salim has shown. Dr. Likis stated using the strategic planning model process that the plans come from 3 different sources:

- Future visioning
- Analysis of current performance
- Effective evidence based practices from others

Ms. Bowman has a goal to fuse the budget process with his presentation. He stated he would like to add that as a special question.

Mr. Fantini motioned, Ms. Nolan seconded to adjourn at 7:05 PM.

Meeting adjourned > 7:05 PM

Dosha Beard  
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee office

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

- Agenda
- Superintendent Proposed Entry Planning Timeline
- Entry Plan Report and District Planning Process power point presentation

**#17-44**, Report of the February 2, 2017 Sub-Committee on the Budget (Committee of the Whole) Public Hearing on the FY 18 Budget

**Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole)  
Public Hearing  
Thursday, February 2, 2017**

**CRLS Attles Room  
5:30 PM – 6:30 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 6:30 PM.

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

Also Present: Dr. Salim, Superintendent; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Adams, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Jean Cummings, Cambridge Day Reporter

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 5:30 PM.

Ms. Kelly and Mr. Harding welcomed everyone and opened the hearing on the FY 18 Budget

**Public Hearing on Budget FY18 Budget:**

- Dan Monahan, CEA President, re no time to add World Language to a school day
- Suzanne Russell, Haggerty Literacy Coach, re no time to add World Language to a school day
- Jessica Karwowski, Haggerty teacher, re no time to add World Language to a school day
- Rachel Hickey, Haggerty teacher, re time constraint for World Language for students with disabilities
- Jolene Stewart, Haggerty 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, re concerned for science standards, no room for world language
- Fabian Noronha Ola Kindergarten teacher King Open, re brochure from Utah Dual Language Immersion Program to support Ola Program at King Open
- Mary-Ann Matyas re greater access to teaching professionals, more translation services for school events to be sent out in other than English, resources for afterschool activities in the middle grades
- Kris Dixon, Fresh Pond Pkway, re needs not being met for social emotional learning in lower grades, property taxes account for 85% of school budget
- Kelly Dolan, Upland Rd., re asks Dr. Salim to please fund more instructional support in the classroom
- Everest Huang, James Way, parent, re advanced Chinese learning advocate
- Diego Lasaste, Kinnard Street, CRLS Student and editor in chief of Register Forum, he is asking School Committee to double the budget to \$10,000.00 annually to cover the increase in volume of pages in the paper and to cover the increase of additional editions of the paper
- Caroll Magill, re Haggerty parent submitting a letter re third 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom for social/emotional learning at the Haggerty, concerned about world language program taking up too much time- what language, what curriculum, culturally proficient, do parents see survey, what do we lose by adding this new program, it may not be worth it
- Kimberly Mancino, Auburn St., re PAUS will resubmit a letter concerning the need for more money to hire more teachers, qualified SEI teachers, family liaison
- Jackie Mow, Highland Ave, Martin Luther King school parent, wants to know what is going on with their program on Chinese Learning, please don't let the kids forget their Chinese at 12 years old.

- Abdi Somater, CRLS and elementary parent, happy with the Chinese immersion program, please continue the program
- Jane Chiang, Spring St., Martin Luther King school parent of 2, Chinese Immersion program in support of continuing it at the PAUS
- Sarah Baszto, Cambridgeport teacher, re not anti language, but there is no time for an extended day recommends increasing bilingual program at another school

Mayor Simmons joined the meeting at 6:20 PM

Ms. Kelly called a recess at 6:22 PM. The time for recess having expired, the meeting reconvened at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Nolan motioned, Ms. Dexter seconded to adjourn at 6:30 PM.

Dosha Beard  
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee Office

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

- Utah's PORTUGUESE Dual Language Immersion Program brochure
- Letter from Kelly Dolan with 28 additional names

**Email communications received:**

- ✓ Maija Pratt-Rojas, Amigos teacher re advocate for more classroom staffing
- ✓ Andrea Koschwanez, Amigos parent re teacher support in classrooms
- ✓ Naveed Rahman, Amigos School parent re more classroom teacher support
- ✓ Silvia Gerszkowicz, Amigos parent re more highly qualified teachers and assistants in the classrooms
- ✓ Alissa Coggins, Amigos re classroom teacher support
- ✓ Caitlin Roberts, Haggerty parent, re support of Kodaly, World Language Pilot and Mindfulness programs, increase staff for social/emotional support
- ✓ Elisabeth Pilcher, Amigos parent, re more teachers and assistants in the classrooms
- ✓ Jasmine Moran, MLK parent, re advanced Chinese classes for middle school students
- ✓ Karen Sweeney Chun, Amigos parent, re classroom support
- ✓ Minnie Mildwoff, Amigos Parent, re more teachers in the classrooms
- ✓ Empar Rollano-Hijarrubia, Amigos Parent, more teachers in the classrooms
- ✓ Emer Grall, Amigos & CRLS parent, re teaching assistant in the middle grades, additional counselor in CRLS
- ✓ Robert Sherman, Amigos parent, re teachers and assistants in the classrooms
- ✓ Andrea Koschwanez, PAG-AL/CALA coordinator, re support for under resourced students with disadvantaged backgrounds, support for teachers in classrooms, higher ceiling for adaptive testing
- ✓ Regina Cheung, MLK parent, re support for Chinese at an advanced level at PAUS
- ✓ Kelly Dolan, re instructional supports in the classroom
- ✓ Nancy Leymarie, Amigos teacher, re teachers and assistants in the classrooms
- ✓ Melissa P. Baldwin, Haggerty parent, re support for art teacher

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

**#17-45**, Report of the February 2, 2017 Sub-Committee on the Budget (Committee of the Whole) Budget Priorities on the FY 18 Budget

**Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole)  
Thursday, February 2, 2017  
CRLS Attles Room  
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

Called for the purpose of sharing concerns and priorities for the FY 2018 School Department Budget. It is anticipated that this meeting will end by 7:30 PM.

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

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, Mr. Harding called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. He then turned the meeting over to Dr. Salim who began by speaking about bridging budget priorities together between Cabinet Members and School Committee Members. He shared the emerging priorities of the leadership team, which included staffing at CRLS, high school guidance, Level-Up plan at CRLS, Elementary World Language, Technology, SEL, recruitment and retention of Educators of Color.

Ms. Kelly opened the floor for Members to speak on their priorities.

Mr. Fantini stated his priorities are full time art teachers in all schools, Kodaly, Mindfulness (a short money item), Design Thinking, he also stated that he supports the Superintendent's goal of social/emotional learning, extend Chinese learning to PAUS middle school, World Language concerns need to be talked over, Vocational Education needs to be strong.

Mayor Simmons stated she is thankful for the robust budget process, after the presidential election we are faced with the fact of some hard times ahead, as 15 million dollars will be extracted from our City budget (5 million of which is in the school budget). So we need to look at our budget in terms of President Trump taking 15 million dollars from our City. CPS needs stronger coalitions with the city side. Mayor Simmons stated World Language should happen, but at what cost - are we sure we should do this now - what will we cut in order to do it, should we pilot it – how do we make it work in the school day. We should listen to our teachers.

Ms. Nolan stated she would like to follow up on a few things outlined earlier, she supports Chinese Immersion in the middle grades, supports the short money required for the Register Forum, and wants copies of the Forum sent to the upper schools, she is also in favor of the Level-Up plan implications and more summer programs. Ms. Nolan stated although we did agree to explore it, full time art teachers in every school may not be the best choice. World Language keeps getting put off, there are always challenges but research shows advantages to it, she hopes we can do World Language now as opposed to later.

Ms. Dexter asks the district to start at the classroom and then look at the district, more partnership programs, we should use a wrap-around approach to schools, she asks for the City to share these costs, every class that is taught is a core class, we have a 1950's model of approaching World Language, wants ancillary funds for more trained instructional staff.

Ms. Kelly stated she wants to pick up on the wrap around approach with using that approach for the most vulnerable students and schools, she fully supports and wants to fully fund the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Leveling-Up on

ELA, concerned about guidance in the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades, Ms. Kelly stated she learned a lot going through the PAUS and stated this needs to happen in all upper schools to help assess needs, more development on social/emotional learning is needed, dual certification of special education and content teachers throughout the district would make a big difference in many classrooms, family engagement is important ongoing project throughout the district.

Mr. Harding stated he wants us to always keep our eye on the most vulnerable students as always, coaches need less than \$10,000.00 in academic support for at risk athletes to stay on their teams, he suggested also along with the funding to reach out to our partners, i.e. Tutoring Plus which can also add additional support. He mentioned teacher diversity and a realignment of the Affirmative Action Officer and Human Resources, it may take a systemic approach rather than funding, support for the middle schools, they all have unique challenges but still look at them collectively, suggests to send an academic swat team to the upper schools, continue to focus on social/emotional learning, there is a large consistency of asking for more support in the classroom, co teaching may be the way, there are HSEP concerns, SEI presentation was very moving; the teachers have an extremely tough job, guidance is another big place that needs resources, World Language needs to be planned the correct way, he is concerned about the conflict between parents and teachers on this issue. He encouraged the Superintendent to be bold.

Ms. Kelly wants to look at assessing the roles of the social workers, school adjustment counselors, school psychologists and the guidance counselors and how they overlap. Where is there synergy, take another look at how these different positions work together. Transportation may need to be readjusted as it relates to special education, she is interested in knowing what Dr. Salim is seeing in root analysis

Ms. Nolan asked Dr. Salim to look at his prior work in a different district and tell us what we should be doing differently and smarter with our resources.

Mr. Fantini agreed that we look closer at dual certification.

Mayor Simmons and Mr. Harding want the Superintendent to force the Members to look at the hard decisions because it will set the bar going forward.

Ms. Dexter asks the Superintendent to look at class-size; sometimes we create social/emotional learning problems by over- crowding the kids, and used the Haggerty School as an example of things getting better once the kids were broken up into smaller groups.

Ms. Nolan motioned, Mr. Fantini seconded to adjourn at 7:35 PM

Dosha Beard  
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee Office

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

- Mr. Fred Fantini

**#17-46**, Report of the February 16, 2017 Sub-Committee on Curriculum and Achievement

**Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee Mtg.  
Putnam Avenue Upper School Auditorium**

**February 16, 2017  
6:00-8:00 pm**

Called for the purpose of holding a community forum for parents and guardians to share their experience at Putnam Avenue Upper School.

Members Present: Ms. Kelly, Chair; Ms. Dexter, Mr. Harding (~~ABSENT~~) and Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Mr. Fantini, Dr. Salim, Superintendent; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Spinner, CFO; Principal Chardin, Principal of Putnam Avenue Upper School

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the meeting was called to order by Ms. Kelly who read the call of the meeting and then turned the introductions over Principal Chardin, who led the staff and students in their welcoming ritual of a rousing and enthusiastic chant. He then turned the facilitation over to Mayor Simmons. Mayor Simmons, in honor of Black History Month, spoke about various Black individuals who have contributed to our educational achievements here in Cambridge and how the Martin Luther King Jr. School came to have its name. She shared a quote by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She then announced this is the first of 4 meetings to be held in an upper school across the district. She stated this Sub-Committee meeting will be a listening meeting, meaning the Members and Administration are going to listen only instead of speaking. She encouraged speakers to limit their time to three minutes.

**Public Comment**

- Betsey Chace, Putnam Street, parent of 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, re dual certified math support, support for the dedicated staff
- Katherine Codd, Brookline Street, parent, re concerns about teacher turnover, support for hard working teachers
- Abdi Samater, Oak Square Road, parent of 4 , 2 here at PAUS re support of staff and community (statement on file in School Committee office)
- Paolo Cozzi, Spanish teacher of 14 years at PAUS, supports the teamwork, is surprised to hear this school is in crisis, he is proud of this part of his career, teachers challenge students and students work hard
- Billy McDonald, science teacher at PAUS, Vice President of the CEA, re teachers and administrators are the best he has come by, all students are inspired and do their best
- Gerald Dottin, parent of PAUS and Morse students, Coach at PAUS, re very proud of the achievements of the students at this school, loves the support network and success rate here, most of his athletes go on to excel at sports at the high school
- Putnam Ave, CRLS and PAUS parent, she credits the teachers here for all of her success at CRLS. Her son needs some help with behavior and they are very supportive and helpful, strong sense of community helps make it all work
- Julie Messina, Western Ave, parent of PAUS 6<sup>th</sup> grader, with significant special needs, she feels very supported at how much this school has gone out of its way to help her child, partial inclusion placement has been very helpful, she asks SC to support OSS, in regards to the social studies support using the co-taught model, her son is excelling now more than ever – he loves school and loves learning (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Linda Ford, PAUS parent, has seen a lot of growth in her 2 children, networking is tremendous, there should be more teachers in the classroom, more security in the schools, more collaboration, more training, she does not want to attack the system, wants to be a part of it
- Monica Eke, Linden Street, parent of 7 children, in the past has pulled her students out of public schools for more structure, once Mr. Chardin became the principal, her last two came back and

she has seen an improvement, she embraces change and suggests when trouble comes, find solutions by working together, she acknowledged the administrative staff that she already knows, and stated she is looking forward to getting to know the others

- Kevin Keegan, Elm Street, parent, both of his children have graduated from PAUS, he was concerned about his daughter and making the innovation agenda work, he is happy with the way all staff stepped up to the plate to make sure his kids succeeded, he feels bad to hear the unfair criticism, his son is doing very well at CRLS thanks to PAUS. He is 100% for PAUS and making the innovation agenda work, and is confident that the problems can be fine tuned moving forward
- Ripul Chitalia, an educator and CRLS parent, re recognizes the difficulty the teachers face, he is impressed by the individual attention paid to each student, he has been able to communicate with the teachers, he wants to hear what the complaints are, suggest we begin to see the glass as half full instead of half empty.
- Brandon Sciarra, band director and specialist team teacher leader, proud to have the privilege of teaching at PAUS, has a strong school spirit, supports innovation agenda (statement on file in the school committee office)
- Nashua Khalil, math special educator, Muslim, Egyptian American educator embraces diversity (statement on file in the school committee office)
- Adel is a CRLS student who is very happy to have been a PAUS student, teachers would stay as late as 6:00pm to help her, she does not get this at CRLS, she still comes back to visit a lot and the teachers here still help her with her high school work, feels like she never left and is shocked to hear there are complaints about this school
- Aton Morman, music and chorus teacher at PAUS, re disagrees with a school in crisis, there has been tremendous growth, it will continue to improve, would not want to teach anywhere else
- Bill Boeam, parent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, is very involved in PAUS, member of the school council, stated PAUS strengths include: dedicated staff engaging parents, school culture and teachers are fantastic, diversity is a strength, this school is not in crisis, it is not failing, improvements can include: increase the small percentage of staff, retain teachers that are strong, data on scores- DESE reports say we can be doing better relative to other schools, advocates for a concept of co-teaching in math
- Minnah, 6<sup>th</sup> grader, re loves this school the teachers are awesome, they do imitations of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck and are nice, kind and positive (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Carla Elder, parent, this school has been the best fit for her child, it is like a second home for her daughter, she will continue to support this school, she believes in letting the staff do their job
- David Carroll, Putnam Ave., parent of 2 daughters, has loved every part of the experience so far, PAUS has a great VPA program, to be frank, he and his wife are surprised about the complaints
- Tess, recent graduate from PAUS, along with the required academic education, she has also learned to be positive with the various ups and downs of life
- Elizabeth Eil, parent, she is very happy with her daughter's social engagement, the students celebrate each other and the teachers as well. Extra help with homework, morning math has been amazing, please help to protect those opportunities
- Jenny Chung, 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher, re general support for the school and teachers
- Jo Quest-Neubert, Alpine Street, PAUS reading specialist, she is most proud of the celebration of diversity in both staff and students, she shared a story about one of her Muslim students, and how after meeting two other Muslim teachers, they worked together to increase his cultural pride and arranged for this student to have a place to make salat (midday prayer), suggests that School Committee Members listen to all of their diverse constituents, representation matters, please understand they are working on the scores, (statement on file in the School Committee office).

- Suzzane Palomo, parent, of an A student, after acknowledging the outstanding teaching staff, strong diverse community, stated the score card says differently, re wants more resources so performance can improve
- Megan Laskarzewski, 8<sup>th</sup> grade special educator at PAUS, Cambridge has a history of high turnovers, not just PAUS. She was emotional speaking about the test scores because her students will always struggle, it was frustrating to suddenly go from MCAS to PARCC, her students suffered, they did not feel they have been “held harmless”, they feel they were blamed and now they are back to MCAS, throughout it all she loves PAUS and is dedicated to it
- Beth, parent, is bothered that complainers went straight to School Committee instead of going to school council first before labeling PAUS as a school in crisis, please provide supports for teachers in math, she sees teachers come in early and stay very late for students that don't still attend PAUS
- Greg, 8<sup>th</sup> grader, although he has struggled in some ways academically, his character has developed a lot, this school is still trying to steady its feet, but it is better than it was, everyone cares for each other
- War Amari, 7<sup>th</sup> grader, at first she was terrified, she got comfortable quickly, she gets good grades, the teachers are always here and sometimes she helps the teachers during afterschool help, please understand scores don't always tell the whole story
- Cozah, art teacher, read a statement from Ayatt Eljaek, 6<sup>th</sup> grader, who was too shy to publicly read her statement, she loves her school and is happy to be a part of this community, (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Jan Buckwalter, parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grade daughter who is loved and cared for by all teachers, they are dedicated, they are amazing and they need more support in the classroom and in classroom management, we need to commit to our students by committing to our teachers, she thanked the School Committee Members for listening
- Celeste Cilance, Elm Street, CRLS student, the innovation agenda was a little rough for her in the beginning of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, however her teachers were wonderful, she shared some difficult experiences ending with successful problem solving techniques by her teachers, even though she has graduated, she still comes back to see some former teachers that are still here
- Armando Gutierrez, 6<sup>th</sup> grader, really likes PAUS, he was very afraid at first, but now he's happy and not afraid anymore. He asks his teachers for help when he has problems, or needs help with his homework, there is a lot of cooperation, this is a good community
- Kimberly Mancino, parent, spoke about not receiving the promised resources that were expected to come with the innovation agenda, she is happy with the teachers, she recognizes the love, diversity is not the problem, the data says the academic performance is – the school district needs to do better, the teachers are doing their part, she invited School Committee Members to the School Improvement Council and the Putnam Ave. Family Association to get the know the truth about what is going on
- Felandoz, parent, his son has challenges but the teachers involve the parents in the process at an early stage and there have been improvements, his son is happy, he is grateful for the support and results when all of the efforts are brought together, he closed with “together we can”
- Paula Clineman, she works in 16 different schools, background in math and science, always feels very welcome by staff and teachers at PAUS, the students are doing extraordinary things she has witnessed tremendous growth here, wants and needs feedback on what is keeping students from meeting their goals, the way to learn is by taking risks, the transparency and openness has been remarkable

Ms, Kelly thanked everyone that came up to speak. She reiterated that this is the first of four Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee listening meetings to reflect upon what we learn about the strengths and challenges at each upper school, also looking at the similarities and the differences. She stated that she previously had the opportunity to visit Putnam Avenue Upper School and was able to witness the learning processes going on in the classrooms and meet with students, administrators and teachers.

Coming here tonight and hearing from the parents and students has helped her to better understand what is going on. Ms. Kelly recognized areas that need help and acknowledged that the school culture is on point.

Mayor Simmons made closing remarks, thanking all for coming and sharing their thoughts. The hours for the meeting having expired, the Mayor formally asked for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Dosha E. Beard  
Interim Executive Secretary to the  
School Committee

### Documents

- Agenda

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

- Abdi Samater, parent, re support for the staff and community of PAUS
- Julie Messina, parent, re support for PAUS and OSS staff
- Brandon Sciarra re support of innovation agenda

### Email communications received:

- ✓ Jason Duncan, re support of student engagement
- ✓ Betsey Chace, re respect for those with PAUS concerns
- ✓ Michelle Hicks, re concerned about returning to level 3 status again
- ✓ Nashua Khalil, re PAUS math special ed. Teacher, re support for the respect of diversity at PAUS

*E-Mail Communications are in the School Committee office and can be viewed.*

### Index Card communications received: (on file in the School Committee office)

- Tanzid Sakib, former PAUS, current 10<sup>th</sup> grade CRLS student, re teachers are more than teachers, they are friends and family, beyond a great education, he learned to be positive, respectful and to care for others
- Mahari Teele, parent of 7<sup>th</sup> grader, supports the efforts of the teachers and leadership
- Mario, parent of 3 boys, two have had an amazing experience, one is struggling, please provide support to the school to help students with special needs

### 10. Resolutions:

**#17-47, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Harding**, that whereas the Posse Foundation identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes with a focus on urban students from diverse backgrounds and whereas Posse Scholarships are among the most generous in the nation -four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships - and whereas Posse Scholars have the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence as part of supportive, multicultural teams, and whereas six CRLS students are Posse Scholars this year, that the School Committee send congratulatory letter to the Posse Scholars for 2017 from CRLS: Abdulai Barry, Kazya Crasta, James Johnson, Rihanna Oumer and Veronica Sargent. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding on a voice vote to correct two names in **item #17-47** the following amendment was adopted: correct spelling for Kavya Crasta and Rihanna Oumer.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, on a voice vote **#17-47** was adopted as amended:

**#17-47, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Harding**, that whereas the Posse Foundation identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes with a focus on urban students from diverse backgrounds and whereas Posse Scholarships are among the most generous in the nation -four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships - and whereas Posse Scholars have the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence as part of supportive, multicultural teams, and whereas six CRLS students are Posse Scholars this year, that the School Committee send congratulatory letter to the Posse Scholars for 2017 from CRLS: Abdulai Barry, Kavya Crasta, James Johnson, Rihanna Oumer and Veronica Sargent.

By unanimous consent Mr. Harding was allowed to withdraw **#17-48. #17-48, Motion by Richard Harding** that the School Committee goes on record in extending its congratulations to former CRLS student Casey Affleck for winning the Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in *Manchester by the Sea*.

**#17-49, Motion by Ms. Nolan**, that the School Committee hereby goes on record in expressing its deepest condolences to Lauren Gibbs whose daughter Mara Gibbs, CRLS class of 2015, died in a tragic fire on February 7 2017. On a voice vote, **item #17-49** was adopted.

#### 11. Announcements:

Ms. Nolan stated that if people feel moved to honor Mara Gibb's life, Reed College has set up a scholarship fund in her name.

Mr. Harding thanked and acknowledged the school administration and the greater community including the Public Health Department and the Peace Commission for their work to end violence against women on White Ribbon Day.

Mr. Fantini announced that our boys made it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of playoffs in Hockey, the 5 seniors showed great leadership and we are well on our way to becoming a hockey town.

Mayor Simmons announced that Mr. Lucas, former Asst. CRLS Principal, is inviting students and teachers to the CRLS Alumni Association's Are You As Smart As a CRLS Student?, community academic challenge on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at the Fitzgerald Theatre at 7:00 pm, also the Mayor's office will host a discussion and book reading event with Alif Muhammad, former CRLS teacher, who is one of the members of The Legendary Syracuse 8, will be discussing the book Leveling the Playing Field which tells the story of the Syracuse 8 football team on April 18, 2017 6:00 PM in the Sullivan Chamber at City Hall.

She thanked Mr. Harding and Former Mayor Reeves for a very successful MLK Brunch

**12. Late Orders:** Ms. Dexter will draft a letter to be sent to the Girls basketball team. Ms. Dexter's second late Order was placed on the Calendar.

Mayor Simmons will submit a late resolution for Ethel Ampy, a school volunteer that passed away.

Mr. Fantini motioned, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to adopt the late resolution for Ethel Ampy.

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting (8:15 PM).

The Chair read the Notice to convene in Executive Session immediately following the Open Session and announced that no votes will be taken in Executive Session and that we will not return to an open session.

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

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:

- ✓ Tanya Milner
- ✓ Jacob Barandes
- ✓ 58 pages of signatures from CEA faculty and staff
- ✓ Jenny Chung

**Email communications received:**

- ✓ Email from John Trevor, Chair of Fletcher Maynard Academy/Spanish Program Committee – Motion #17-41
- ✓ Email from Thomas Akbari after school sponsored extracurricular activities
- ✓ Email from Cara Seiderman – Motion #17-29

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