

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

### Special Meeting

November 24, 2015

Called for 4:00 p.m., in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room for the purpose of addressing unfinished business from the November 17, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting. The Committee may convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel, superintendent, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation position of the School Committee.

Members Present: Ms. Cronin, Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding (ABSENT), Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Osborne (ABSENT), Mayor Maher

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM.

#### Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Joel Patterson, Reed St., re Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association; indicated that the CEA would like the School Committee to support California Teachers Association; read statement re Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association
- Meg Moloney, Haggerty School teacher, read statement re Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association; asked the School Committee to consider signing the Amicus brief; left document on background and what you can do to help re this Supreme Court case (on file in the School Committee office)

#### Unfinished Business/Calendar:

The Chair brought forward Items **#15-255 through #15-266, and #15-272**, for discussion and adoption. Ms. Cronin removed **#15-256 through #15-260, #15-262 and #15-272**. Mr. Fantini indicated that administration would like to withdraw **#15-257**, Contract for ABAC, LLC.

The following item was withdrawn by the Superintendent:

**#15-257, Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for special education services; funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

ABAC, LLC, 10 Gill Street, Suite J, Woburn, for the period October 12, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$36,900.00.

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#15-255, #15-261, and #15-263 through #15-266**: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne ABSENT; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA Mayor Maher YEA.

**#15-255, 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 Friends of CRLS. Funds will support the schools' Unsung Heroes Program recognizing student accomplishments in scholastic achievement, attendance, citizenship, athletics, and/or leadership.
2. \$500.00 to the Cambridgeport School made from the Phillips Brooks House Association for instructional materials in general support of the school.

**#15-261, Contract Award**, that the School Committee approve an increase to an existing contract for the following vendor for Instructional Materials/Textbooks and Professional Development, funds to be provided from the Revolving Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Wilson Language Training, 47 Old Webster Road, Oxford, for the period June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, from the original contract amount of \$73,550.00, increased by \$30,000.00, for a revised total amount of \$103,550.00.

**#15-263, 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 November 17, 2015 to August 31, 2016, in the amount of \$3,500.00. Project/Grant SC16103.

**Description:** With these funds, OSS will purchase for Special Start the DASH-Assessment tool and early intervention materials for use in the classrooms. With these tools, teachers will be able to more clearly define a child's progress to his/her parents, better align curriculum to specific needs, and develop more detailed IEPs to improve educational outcomes. OSS will also purchase a comprehensive and developmentally appropriate Social Thinking Curriculum, to support young learners' development of the vital social and executive functioning skills necessary for school success in kindergarten and beyond.

**#15-264, Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Title III English Language Acquisition: Immigrant Grant, for the period November 17, 2015 to August 31, 2016, in the amount of \$38,700.00. Project/Grant SC16126.

**Description:** Due to the recent increase in enrollment of Immigrant students, the district is now eligible for the Title III Immigrant grant. This grant will fund an after school program for ELLS in grades 9-12 in ESL, math, and science. It will also provide an ESL class for ELL parents at CRLS to strengthen language skills and family engagement, and an after school ELL College and Career Exploration program. The grant will provide for two Assistant Teachers; one in math for SIFE students at CRLS, and the second, an ELL Reading tutor for the SEI elementary program. Supplies for the program and 15 registrations for teachers to attend the MATSOL annual conference will also be provided.

**#15-265, Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Special Education Program Improvement, for the period November 17, 2015 to August 31, 2016, in the amount of \$50,534.00. Project/Grant SC16674.

**Description:** The purpose of this program is to advance the skills of educators involved with students with disabilities through high-quality, sustained, and intensive professional development activities. With these funds, educators will receive training in using data to determine the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Educators will also participate in professional learning communities throughout the school year, focused on the use of data in implementing Universal Design for

Learning (UDL) to redesign general and special education classroom settings to improve math and literacy skills for students with disabilities.

**#15-266, Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

English Language Acquisition for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students, for the period November 17, 2015 to August 31, 2016, in the amount of \$93,157.00. Project/Grant SC16737.  
**Description:** This grant will fund supplemental instructional services after school and during the summer to improve the educational performance of limited English proficient students in K-8 by assisting these students to learn English and meet State academic content standards. It will also provide supplies for the programs and registration for 3 Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) teachers to attend the annual MATSOL Conference.

Mr. Osborne joined the meeting at 4:35 PM.

**Non-Consent Agenda:**

Dr. Greer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, and Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer, answered the Members questions and concerns related to the Office of Student Services (OSS) budget, out-of-district placement tuition costs, process and procedures for expending OSS funds, and professional develop for the staff of the structured academic program. Ms. Spinner also answered questions regarding the transportation costs for homeless students.

Discussion followed on the increase of out-of-district placements and the possibility of collaborating with other school districts.

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **items #15-256, #15-258 through #15-260, #15-262 and #15- 272**: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Maher YEA. Ms. Kelly asked to be marked PRESENT/NOT VOTING on **items #15-262 and #15-272**.

**#15-256, Special Needs Contracts for Day and Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department**, that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget.

	<u># Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	5	\$286,200.10
Residential	4	\$240,828.81
45 Day Program	0	N/A
Total Current Rec	9	\$527,028.91

**#15-258, Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for student transportation services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Schools for Children, 8 Winchester Place, Suite 202, Winchester, for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$78,000.00.

**#15-259, Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for nursing services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Maxim Healthcare Services, 7227 Lee DeForest Drive, Columbia, MD, for the period November 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$53,250.00.

**#15-260, Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for tutoring services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Education, Inc., P.O. Box 3345, Plymouth, MA, for the period September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$35,000.00.

**#15-262, Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Professional Development, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Walker Partnerships, 917 Belmont Street, Watertown, for the period September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$39,000.00.

**#15-272, Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for homeless student transportation services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

S.P.& R. Transportation, 1 Gagnon Drive, Dracut, for the period December 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, in the amount of \$34,000.00.

The Chair brought forward **#15-269** for discussion and adoption.

**#15-269, Motion by Ms. Nolan**, that the School Committee go on record supporting the California Teachers Association in their lawsuit, Friedrichs v. the California Teachers Association, which is about ensuring that all staff who benefit from the collective bargaining agreements pay the share of union dues used to cover the costs of collective bargaining.

Ms. Nolan offered an amendment to item **#15-269** to add that the School Committee consult with legal counsel to determine the legality of signing the amicus brief since this was not part of her original motion.

On a voice vote, **item #15-269** was adopted as amended:

That the School Committee go on record supporting the California Teachers Association in their lawsuit, Friedrichs v. the California Teachers Association, which is about ensuring that all staff who benefit from the collective bargaining agreements pay the share of union dues used to cover the costs of collective bargaining. Also, that the School Committee consult with legal counsel to determine the legality of signing the amicus brief.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel, superintendent, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation position of the School Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on the following roll call, it was voted to enter into executive session for the purpose stated: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

The Chair announced that the School Committee voted to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel, superintendent, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation position of the School Committee. The Chair announced that no votes would be taken and that the School Committee would not reconvene in open session.

**1. Late Orders:** None

The Open Session ended (5:00 PM).

Judith T. Martin  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- Statement read by Joel Patterson and Meg Moloney during public comment and “Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association – What’s at Stake for School Districts”