S C H O O L C O M M I T T E E

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting **November 17, 2015**

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. Cronin, Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Osborne, Mayor Maher

Also Present: Student School Committee Members: Griffin Andres and Ben Austin

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Giuerlancia Laurent, Windsor St., concerns on lack of announcement for bomb threat in Harvard Square
- Nien-he Hsieh, Ballord Place, support for Mr. Osborne's motion on SES revisions; strengthening for the immersion program and district-wide focus on world language

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mr. Andres reported on the following:

- ✓ Boys cross country placed 2nd in Eastern Massachusetts; Girls volleyball team lost to Quincy; Boys football team got second win of season over Arlington Catholic
- ✓ Last Friday there was a protest staged by the Black Student union standing in solidarity with the students of color in Missouri and Yale, walk through Harvard and Central Square with a "die in" on Massachusetts Ave.

Mr. Austin reported on the following:

- ✓ Number of students asked him to express their wishes that more information be provided to them in response to the bomb threat
- ✓ Wednesday is Falcon pride day and a pep rally
- ✓ Footloose school musical is incredible
- ✓ A number of social studies classrooms discussed terrorism in Paris and throughout the world; Mr. Austin expressed gratitude to those teachers for opening up the discussion

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting – October 15, 2015
- Special Meeting – October 16, 2015
- Regular Meeting – October 20, 2015
- Special Meeting – October 27, 2015

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

College Success Initiative…… Susan Walsh,
Assistant Director for Adult & Family Services
City of Cambridge Dept. of Human Services
Damon Smith, Principal, CRLS
John

Principal Smith introduced: Ms. Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services; Emily Singer, OCS Coordinator; John Lindamood, Director of Resident Services Cambridge Housing Authority; Allison Allen, Director of Planning, Office of Workforce Development; Evette Layne, Executive Director of Upward Bound. Principal Smith and his team walked the Members through the following College Success Initiative PowerPoint presentation (on file in the School Committee Office) and answered the Members questions and concerns.

- College Success Initiative Governance & Structure
- College Success Initiative Partners
- College Success Initiative Vision Statement
- Baseline Data: CRLS graduates from 2006 and 2007 who obtained a post-secondary credential within six years.
- Comparison by Income Levels: Class of 2006 and 2015
- College Success Initiative 3-year Strategic Plan GOALS
- GOAL1, Coordination of Services among City of Cambridge, CRLS, Non-profit and Higher Education Partners
- GOAL 2, Promotion of College Readiness for Low-income students
- GOAL 3, College Access and College-focused Financial Education for Low-income Students and Families
- GOAL 4, Post-Secondary Supports for Low-income Students
- Questions and Comments

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

The Chair placed items **#15-255 through #15-266, and #15-272** on the Calendar:

#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.

#15-256, 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.

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

#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.

#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.

#15-261, 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.

#15-262, 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.

#15-263, 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.

****Supplemental Recommendation:***

#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.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to bring forward items **#15-267 to #15-271** for discussion and adoption.

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#15-267**: Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mayor Maher YEA. **#15-267**, **Motion by Mayor Maher**, that the law firm of Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis and Holland be retained for legal services related to contract negotiations for the new Superintendent of Schools.

On a voice vote, **#15-268**, **Motion by Mr. Harding**, was adopted as corrected by Mr. Harding: that the Vice-Chair of the School Committee schedule and organize a retreat in January with the School Committee and the Superintendent to reaffirm the working relationship with the Superintendent and the short term goals of the Cambridge Public Schools for the remainder of SY2015-16.

Mr. Harding placed **#15-269**, **Motion by Ms. Nolan**, on the Calendar: 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.

On a voice vote, **#15-270**, **Motion by Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee/Task Force on Norms and Goals**, was adopted as follows: that the School Committee adopt the Norms developed by the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee/Task Force on Norms and Goals as detailed in the document.

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Statement of Intent:
We acknowledge that a School Committee meeting is a working meeting of the School Committee that is held in public, not a public meeting. The below norms will ensure that committee meetings are effective and efficient.

How we communicate:

- The School Committee will remain respectful and professional while deliberating issues collaboratively. The School Committee will focus on issues rather than individuals.
- The School Committee and Superintendent recognize the importance of proactive communication and agree there will be no surprises. If members of the School Committee or the Superintendent

has questions or concerns, they agree to contact each other well in advance of the meeting to facilitate informed and reflective conversation.
- School Committee members agree to refer important questions they receive from members of the school community to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will investigate and provide ALL members with the information needed to respond to an issue.
- It is our responsibility to set the tone for the entire school system, and we will make every effort to promote a positive image for our school system. We will operate transparently and respectfully, maintain confidentiality, and respect the Open Meeting laws.
- School committee members will channel requests for information, reports and data through the Superintendent and the School Committee Chair rather than directly to staff. The Superintendent will ensure that each member has equal access to this information.
- The Superintendent and School Committee recognize the importance of working collaboratively with City officials to improve our schools, and we will actively seek ways to enlist their support in our efforts.

How we govern:
- The School Committee will strive to reach decisions by consensus.
- Members should bring their best intentions and an open mind to each meeting to seek creative solutions to the issues before them.
- The School Committee as a whole is a policy making body and members are elected to represent the entire Cambridge community. The powers of the School Committee are granted to the committee of the whole when a quorum exists, and not to individual members.
- School Committee members agree to thoughtfully seek and support solutions that will provide the greatest benefit to students. Once the School Committee has taken action, Committee members will support the official position of the School Committee.
- We acknowledge the importance of subcommittees, and we agree to treat subcommittee membership and participation with the same gravity and weight as the Committee as a whole. We agree to utilize them to focus on a specific topic in-depth and prepare for presentation, deliberation, and possible action by the full School Committee. The subcommittee will not usurp the authority of the Committee of the whole.*

How we improve:
- The School Committee is committed to implementing an ongoing norm monitoring process and an annual self-assessment.
- School Committee members and the Superintendent recognize the importance of joint professional growth and development, and they agree to participate in experiences designed to deepen knowledge and strengthen working relationships to advance the work of the Cambridge Public Schools.
- The annual Superintendent evaluation is the responsibility of the School Committee of the whole and will represent the composite of all members feedback.
- We recognize the importance of honoring our agreed-upon norms and beliefs, and we agree to take responsibility for reminding one another when we get off track.

We gratefully acknowledge the Taunton School Committee and their work on norms, which helped us formulate ours. We are thankful for their full approval for us to use their norms within our framework.

On a voice vote, **#15-271**, **Motion by Mr. Osborne** was adopted as follows: that Cambridge's Controlled Choice Policy be revised in the following ways in order to more effectively support the district's goals and core values.

1. Effective with the 2015-16 school year, the School Committee restore the +/- 10% SES band for assigning students to grades JK-8.

2. Effective with the 2015-16 school year, the School Committee restore the calculation of student socio economic status to capacity of a school's grade rather than the actual enrollment of the grade.

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to waive the second reading for item **#15-271**.

10. Resolutions: None

11. Announcements:

The Chair announced that he would call a Special Meeting for Tuesday, November 24, 2015 for the purpose of addressing the unfinished business from tonight's meeting.

Mr. Harding moved suspension of the Rules, seconded by Mr. Fantini, to allow the Superintendent to speak on yesterday's bomb threat against Cambridge schools. The Rules having been suspended for the purpose stated, Dr. Young spoke that he appreciated the patience and understanding of the entire community. He noted the challenges of communicating when you have competing interests in trying to get the information out quickly but also as accurate as possible. The Emergency Operations plan that exists for the Cambridge Public Schools which provides the protocol for a threat assessment was followed. In the coming days, Dr. Young, Mr. Maloney, City Manager Rossi, and Police Commissioner Haas will meet to debrief on this matter and will publish the findings of that debriefing meeting. The Superintendent thanked the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, Police Commissioner Hass and the local public safety officials for their assistance.

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

12. Late Orders: None

The Open Session ended (8:00 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- College Success Initiative (Powerpoint presentation slides)