

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

October 20, 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: Ms. Keady Rawson, City of Cambridge Personnel Director, representing the City Manager for Contract Negotiations

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 6:10 PM.

1. Public Comment:

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini, to suspend the Rules to allow members of the public to speak on an item not on the Agenda. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the reason stated.

The following individuals were heard:

- Rebecca Xiong, River St., extend SES revision to Controlled Choice Plan approved at the last meeting to this year which would allow waitlisted children to fill empty slots in the Martin Luther King, Jr. School Mandarin immersion program, presented a petition (on file in the School Committee Office)
- Pia Cisternino, Holworthy St., requests superintendents search hiring process to be extended, she presented the statement she read, a letter from Erica Pastor and an article entitled, "Massachusetts Teachers aim to Knock Down Data Walls" by Sarah Jaffee (on file in School Committee office)
- Nienhe Hsieh, Ballord Place, extend SES revision to Controlled Choice Plan approved at the last meeting to this year which would allow waitlisted children to fill empty slots in the Martin Luther King, Jr. School Mandarin immersion program
- Christina Thompson, Upton St., extend SES revision to Controlled Choice Plan approved at the last meeting to this year which would allow waitlisted children to fill empty slots in the Martin Luther King, Jr. School Mandarin immersion program (emailed statement on file in the School Committee office)

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mr. Andres reported on the following:

- ✓ Friday was the CRLS homecoming game

- ✓ The Head of Charles Regatta was held last weekend; the girls team placed 12th overall which was their best yet and the boys team placed 25th

Mr. Austin reported on the following:

- ✓ Homecoming dance is next week
- ✓ Last week as a student body, they had a chance to attend a student forum with the Superintendent finalists. Students were happy to ask questions. Ben informed the Committee that he was approached today with a petition of 55 student signatures and a few teacher signatures requesting that the Superintendents search hiring process be extended. He noted that the search process is attracting great interest from the students.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting – September 29, 2015
- Regular Meeting – September 29, 2015
- Regular Meeting – October 6, 2015

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward Superintendent's recommendations **#15-244** and **#15-253** for discussion and adoption. The Rules were suspended for the purpose stated.

#15-244, Approval of the Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee & the Cambridge Education Association, that the School Committee approve the agreement as detailed in the document between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association which addresses the moving of school staff, including classroom teachers, as part of the renovation and construction on the Putnam Avenue Upper School, King School, Cambridge Street Upper School and King Open School during the 2015-2016 school year. On the following roll call, item **#15-244** was adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA; Ms. Keady Rawson YEA (for the City Manager).

#15-253, Approval of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 1611, 7/1/15-6/30/18, that the School Committee approve the agreement as detailed in the document between the Cambridge School Committee and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 1611, for a collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, which was ratified by the members of the bargaining unit. On the following roll call, item **#15-253** was adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA; Ms. Keady Rawson YEA (for the City Manager).

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

4. **Reconsiderations:** None

5. **Unfinished Business/Calendar:** None

6. **Awaiting Reports:** None

7. **Superintendent's Agenda:**

7a. **Presentations:**

AVID..... Leslie Davis,
Avid Coordinator, CRLS
Carolyn L. Turk,
Deputy Superintendent

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Leslie Davis, AVID Coordinator and thanked her for her many years of extraordinary work on the AVID program and at CRLS.

Ms. Davis, CRLS Avid Coordinator, walked the members through a PowerPoint presentation on the AVID program (on file in the School Committee office), its impact on students' learning experiences at CRLS, and research about possible program expansion in the Upper Schools. The following group of students who are either currently in the program or who have completed the program and have now moved on to a post secondary school joined Ms. Davis and shared their experiences in AVID and beyond with the Committee: Karina Buruca, AVID Alum/Lesley University junior, Elijah Booker, AVID Alum/Northeastern University sophomore, Iman Mouzinho, CRLS AVID senior and Roodeline Guichette, CRLS AVID junior.

The Members thanked Ms. Davis and the students for their informative presentation and asked why all students are not involved in AVID and how can we expand AVID to the Upper schools. Dr. Turk responded that they have been looking at 2 components for the Upper schools, either summer or out-of-school time. She noted that the Upper school day is structured differently from the high school which would mean that something would have to be forfeited to include AVID during the school day. Mr. Fantini asked how success was measured in AVID and requested that Ms. Davis provide the Members with a 6-year cohort rate.

The Chair declared a two minute recess (7:30 PM).
The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan to bring forward items **#15-245 to #15-251**. Ms. Cronin removed **#15-245** and **#15-248 through #15-250**. Ms. Nolan removed item **#15-247**.
On the following roll call, items **#15-246 and #15-251** were adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

#15-246, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Fresh Pizza, funds to be provided from the Food Service Revolving Fund, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Gill's Pizza Corporation, 51 Wentworth Avenue #19, Londonderry, NH, for the period September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

#15-251, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Big Yellow School Bus, for the period October 20, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$2,000.00. Project/Grant SC16856.

Description: The Mass. Cultural Council provides \$200.00 grants (generally for bussing fees) to individual schools that apply to take field trips to cultural events. Typically 10-12 CPS schools apply and receive awards each year, so we request a \$2,000.00 initial appropriation annually.

The appropriation is only made available for expenditure by schools once individual grants are received.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#15-245, 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:

Research for Better Teaching, One Acton Place, Acton, for the period September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$121,200.00.

Ms. Cronin asked for clarification on coaches. Dr. Turk responded that part of the HET work this year is not only to work with instructional leaders but to focus district-wide for all classrooms, all teachers, and all schools. Dr. Huizenga noted that the purpose of this work with RBT is to bring us to fruition on our mission to achieve excellent instruction in every classroom. On the following roll call, **item #15-245** was adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan NAY; Mayor Maher YEA.

#15-247, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Software Renewal, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Kannon Communications, 36 Brunswick Avenue, Gardiner, ME, for the period November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2016, in the amount of \$28,174.82.

Ms. Nolan asked if this is a system that interfaces with all of our other technology. Ms. Spinner responded to Ms. Nolan and would pass the question on to the ICTS department and respond in the Weekly. On the following roll call, **item #15-247** was adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

Ms. Cronin moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini to bring items **#15-248 and #15-249** together for discussion and adoption. Ms. Cronin inquired why we have 2 contracts for interpreters. Dr. Greer responded that due to the volume of the work, it is more advantageous to have more than 1 interpreting service for a faster turnaround time for families. Mr. Fantini expressed his concern for consistency in sending out documents in multiple languages. Dr. Greer responded that Rosalie Rippey is working with them as a district on a process to determine the best way to send everything out in our most prominent languages. On the following roll call, **items #15-248 and #15-249** were adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

#15-248, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Translation Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Baystate Interpreters, Inc., 55 Lake Street, Gardner, MA, for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$70,000.00.

#15-249, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Translation Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

International Translation Company, 1807 Washington Street, Boston, for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$34,000.00.

#15-250, Grant Award, that the School committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

Massachusetts Creativity/Innovation Initiative, for the period October 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$15,000.00. Project/Grant SC16122.

Description: CPS will participate in and contribute to a state project to develop a set of curricula that help students develop their creativity and capacity for innovation. In collaboration with Lesley University's Creativity Commons, teachers and students in 6th grade science classes will learn to incorporate art and technology into project-based learning activities.

On the following roll call, **item #15-250** was adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

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

Mr. Harding moved to bring forward item **#15-252**.

#15-252, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Kelly, that the Superintendent consult with the high school community, including the faculty, students and administration, and report back to the School Committee with recommendations for a policy on balancing the needs of students to go to the bathroom and get water when needed with minimizing the time spent missing class. Specifically address the concern that students are limited in bathroom use and in some cases are encouraged to refrain from using the bathroom facilities since extra credit is given to students who do not use as many bathroom passes. Further, that recommendations reviewed include allowing bathroom use during community meeting, extending pass time between classes by a few minutes, and any other ideas for ensuring that all students have time to use the facilities. Further, that any of these questions which might involve collective bargaining be considered only with input and guidance from the CEA.

Mr. Harding asked for clarification on this motion. Ms. Nolan read a statement from a student on the bathroom extra credit policy at CRLS. This student had hoped to come tonight to read the statement at public comment (on file in the School Committee Office). Ms. Nolan explained that this issue was originally raised last year and is a concern again this year. She indicated that she hadn't heard anything from the administration to address this issue. She noted that she had asked CRLS students and teachers for their opinion on this motion which they seemed to agree with. Ms. Nolan shared that she is completely uncomfortable for students to get extra credit for not using the bathroom.

Ms. Kelly offered a substitute motion to **#15-252**, seconded by Mr. Harding, as follows: that the Superintendent consult with the high school community, including faculty, students, and administration, and report back to the School Committee, with recommendations for a policy regarding the current four minute passing time between class blocks and whether this amount of time is sufficient for teachers and students to be ready and prepared for each subsequent class block. Further, that any proposed changes that might involve collective bargaining be considered only with input and guidance from the CEA.

Mr. Fantini indicated that he had talked to the CRLS deans and was informed that this was not a school-wide policy noting that some of the deans did not know this was happening. He discovered that it was done in very few classes. Mr. Fantini said that the deans are in favor of stopping this practice. Mr. Fantini encouraged the Superintendent to call Principal Smith to put a stop to this practice asap. Mr. Austin, Student School Committee, agreed that this was not a school-wide policy but that it did occur in some classes.

On a voice vote, **#15-252 Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Kelly, was adopted as substituted:** that the Superintendent consult with the high school community, including faculty, students, and administration, and report back to the School Committee, with recommendations for a policy regarding the current four minute passing time between class blocks and whether this amount of time is sufficient for teachers and students to be ready and prepared for each subsequent class block. Further, that any

proposed changes that might involve collective bargaining be considered only with input and guidance from the CEA.

10. Resolutions: None

11. Announcements:

Mr. Fantini noted that it is imperative that we pay attention to instruction in the classroom and keep our students engaged as we continue with the school moves. He requested that the Superintendent and Leadership team communicate with the leaders of those schools to ensure continued focus on instruction and learning during the moves.

12. Late Orders:

It was voted to place the following on file: **#15-254, Late Motion by Mayor Maher**, that the School Committee may convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel, including potential contract parameters for the Superintendent Contract, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation position of the School Committee. No votes will be taken.

It was voted to adopt the following:

Late Motion by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee send a resolution and a letter of condolence to the family of Mr. Mertin R. Betts.

Late Motion by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee send letters of congratulations to the following individuals who were named as one of the YWCA Cambridge's Outstanding Women of 2015.

Debby Irving
Debra Wise
Erinn Pearson
Linda O'Callahan
Maisha Moses
Myrline Thomson
Renee McLeod
Rev. Virginia Ward (2015 Ruth Barron Award Recipient)

Late Motion by Mr. Osborne, seconded by Ms. Nolan, that the Superintendent confer with Mr. Maloney and report back to the Committee, regarding the possibility of the Approved Revisions to the Controlled Choice Policy (October 6, 2015 Regular Meeting - C15-310) to become effective for this school year.

Mr. Osborne indicated that he may offer an additional motion at the November 17th meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Osborne, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of moving reconsideration of the foregoing votes on all items passed tonight. The Rules having been suspended, a motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption.

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to adjourn (8:10 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- Petition presented during public comment by Rebecca Xiong
- Statement read by Pia Cisternino during public comment; letter from Erica Pastor presented by Pia Cisternino; article presented by Pia Cisternino entitled, "Massachusetts Teachers aim to Knock Down Data Walls" by Sarah Jaffee, <http://www.inthesetimes.com>
- Statement read by Christina Thompson during public comment
- AVID Presentation to the Cambridge School Committee, October 20, 2015
- Letter read by Ms. Nolan from Stella Sieniewicz, 12th grade student at CRLS, re extra credit for not using the bathroom policy