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

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting **May 19, 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

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also present: Student School Committee Members Liz Kubicek and Lucy Sternbach

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Antonia Foster, Auburn Park, Innovation Agenda
- Linda Mindaye, Rindge Ave., CRLS Senior, Mayor's Motion #15-107

Mayor Maher and Dr. Young acknowledged Ms. Mindaye's certificate of accomplishment at the Princeton Association of New England Princeton Prize in Race Relations ceremony and her work at CRLS and with the Cambridge community.

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Kubicek reported:

- ✓ The school year is wrapping up for seniors with the last day being May 29th
- ✓ May 29th is Nest Fest School Carnival and Senior barbeque at CRLS; special attention for freshmen and seniors
- ✓ Sophomores are taking the Math MCAS this week
- ✓ The Modern Dance Company show was a wonderful success
- ✓ Student Government recently completed the first annual student government yearly report which summarizes events that student government put on this year. They hope to post the report on the website.
- ✓ Campaigning is now ongoing for Student Government and Student School Committee seats

Ms. Sternbach reported:

- ✓ The 2015 Cambridge Youth Leaders Summit was held Saturday, May 16th, at the Microsoft New England Research and Development Center. The keynote speaker was Pulitzer Prize

winning author Junot Diaz. There were powerful messages on the education system today and how housing affects different levels of education.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting – April 28, 2015
- Special Meeting – May 5, 2015
- Regular Meeting – May 5, 2015

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Presentation: High Expertise Teaching Project Update…… Dr. Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Jon Saphier, President
Research for Better Teaching

The Chair introduced Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent and welcomed Dr. Saphier, President and Founder of Research for Better Teaching. Dr. Turk framed the presentation on the high expertise teaching project explaining that Dr. Saphier would be speaking first and then joined by several groups of staff members who are either out in the field doing the work through Analyzing Teaching through Student Results; or involved in Teacher Leadership And the Skillful Teacher; or the new teacher induction program and mentoring. All of these individuals are working to get to a place of systemic improvement.

Dr. Saphier offered an update and Powerpoint presentation on the work he and his staff have done this year with Cambridge Public School educators noting that the overall goal of the project is more high expertise teaching in more classrooms for more children more of the time. He explained H.E.T (High Expertise Teaching) Theory of Action (hand-out on file in the School Committee Office).

Dr. Saphier showed two video clips that show slices of the content that they are working on in this project; one being highly cognitive and one being highly affective. He asked the Members, Dr. Young, and Dr. Turk to split into groups of three and asked for their observations after watching the video clips.

Dr. Turk introduced Ms. Beggy, Principal of the Morse School, as well as Ms. Headley and Ms. Burns, instructional coaches at the Morse School. Ms. Beggy noted that what made the HET project more meaningful was attending the course with a team from her school and co-planning and jointly presenting professional development. The Morse "team" noted that it was important to develop common language among the team and develop school wide goals. Their work in the HET program aligned with work in the goals of the school improvement plan. It provided a framework to begin to have a conversation. There is a need to involve teachers as soon as possible to move it along. Through "learning walks", HET training has given them a common lens to observe teachers and provide them with feedback.

Dr. Turk introduced Ms. Frost, currently a literacy coach at the Tobin Montessori, and future principal for the Tobin Montessori in September. Ms. Frost attended as a team with Martha Mosman, Principal and instructional coaches, Joanne Cleary and Erin Gutierrez. Ms. Frost mentioned that this year at Tobin Montessori, the coaching team was working with teachers on student tracking. Simultaneously, at RBT

training they were looking at clear objectives, brought work back and open dialogue developed with teachers. How do we know that students own the work that they are doing? The coaching team interviewed students on video asking what are they learning and what are they working on. We need to know what they know. This was a powerful debriefing in professional learning. This has impacted their professional learning community.

Dr. Turk introduced Annie Wilhelmy, CRLS English teacher. Studying "The Skillful Teacher" allowed her to contemplate the structure of how we teach positively and negatively affects students. The course allowed her to reflect on the effectiveness of her own instruction.

Dr. Turk introduced Matt Dunkel and Sara Foleno, Vassal Lane Upper School instructional coaches. Mr. Dunkel stated that the course "Analyzing Teaching for Student Results," was by far the best professional development he has ever taken. From this course, he learned to notice and diagnose more of what is critical to student learning. Ms. Foleno stated that this work is very meaningful to them. It is important to be part of a team and work with a group of teachers to analyze the impact on student learning and how they are moving forward in learning.

Ms. Colbath-Hess, Program Manager for Educator Development, spoke next. She noted that this year Cambridge hired over 100 new teachers with 60 of those new teachers needing mentors. They needed to differentiate learning for these new teachers. Those new teachers with 3-5 years teaching experience and new to Cambridge participated in "The Skillful Teacher" course. The new professional development system is designed for professional learning. All work is aligned at all levels to HET.

Dr. Turk asked Dr. Saphier for his final word. He introduced Kathy Spencer who taught three sections of the HET course and instructed 100 Cambridge educators.

The Members had the following comments, questions and concerns:

- Give us examples of embedding excellent instruction in every classroom
- How has the response been on the ground
- What is the design to meet teachers where they are
- What is the most important thing to get teachers to work on elevating their students
- How do we translate this professional development into the classroom
- Are there any thoughts on how this work affects the initiative on social and emotional learning
- Do we need another coach for cultural competency
- What should a leadership team consist of in an elementary school to make it a vibrant entity
- Do you think our evaluations address the right criteria to encourage our teachers and administrators to perform the way that we want them to
- Do we have enough time in our day for teachers to do the work but not feel overwhelmed
- The hiring process is a big issue - could they make suggestions to help us improve our hiring process
- How much time should principal spend in the classroom

Dr. Saphier and Ms. Spencer discussed the following in response to the Members' questions and concerns:

- Get on top of classroom management quickly
- In hiring, embed the practice of figuring out a person's belief in the capacity of children
- Greatness cannot be achieved without being vulnerable
- Keep this steam on the table at all levels, central office, cabinet, etc.
- In high performing organizations, the greatest leaders develop leadership in other people
- The goal is analyzing the impact on student learning until every teacher is an analyzer
- One of the main categories in this process is how to build a certain type of culture in the classroom
- Change the view of what it means to make a mistake; errors should be normative, common and useful

- Community, risk taking and ownership is what is needed at every level in our district
- Everyone has to be a leader and go on their own journey
- In order for children to thrive, the adults who work for the district have to thrive
- Eliminate things in a teacher's day which are not productive
- Consider extending the school day
- Need teachers who are willing to be leaders
- Instructional leader "hat" should be the "hat" closest to the principal's head

Mayor Maher echoed Ms. Cronin's words earlier in the meeting regarding the enthusiasm in the room. He noted that this was a great update from last year's presentation and that we still have more to focus on and a lot further to go. He thanked Dr. Saphier for the work he has done with our school system.

Dr. Young thanked Dr. Saphier, Ms. Spencer and the staff. He picked up on the word "vulnerable" and people being willing to make themselves vulnerable – nothing inhibits learning like defensiveness whether it be an adult or a student. He noted that it becomes incumbent upon all of us in this room to create a safe environment for people to do that.

Mayor Maher exited the meeting (8:40 p.m.)

Mr. Fantini in the Chair.

7b. Innovation Agenda:

Mr. Harding inquired about an agenda for the meeting of the joint committees of the Building and Grounds and Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committees being held on May 20th.

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to bring forward the Superintendent's Agenda and Supplemental Agenda items forward for discussion and adoption. Ms. Cronin removed **#15-109**. On the following roll call, the balance of the Superintendent's Agenda and Supplemental Agenda items were adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher ABSENT

#15-98, Revisions to Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan as detailed in the document (second reading).
Ms. Cronin asked to remove **#15-98**, Revisions to Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan which was already voted. Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, for suspension of the Rules to rescind the affirmative vote previously taken on **#15-98** and to bring **#15-98** back before the Committee for discussion. The Rules having been suspended for the purposes stated, the affirmative vote previously taken on **#15-98** was rescinded and **#15-98** was brought back before the Committee. Ms. Cronin expressed concerns on the portion of the plan related to cyber-bullying. The Chair informed the Committee that legal counsel exited the meeting when **#15-98** was voted and was not available to answer questions. It was voted to place **#15-98** on the Calendar.

#15-99, Approval of Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts to the Cambridge Public Schools, that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. $717.23 to the Morse School made from O'Connor Portraiture, Inc., as commission for student portraits. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.

2. $164.08 to the Kennedy-Longfellow School made from Recycle That, LLC, in return for items collected in the school's clothing/book collection box. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.

#15-100, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Math materials and manipulatives; funds to be provided from the General Fund. Procurement procedures for this contract have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 9205 S. Park Ctr. Loop, Orlando, FL, for the period May 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of $85,000.00.

#15-101, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for curriculum materials; funds to be provided from the General Fund. Procurement procedures for this contract have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Wilson Language Training, 47 Old Webster Road, Oxford, for the period June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of $73,550.00

Supplemental Agenda:

#15-110, Grant Awards, that the School Committee accept and approve the attached grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated.

1. **USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program *Amendment***, for the period September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, increase by $3,000.00 to a total of $30,225.00 (from $27,225.00). Project/Grant SC15858.
   Description: Funded by the US Department of Agriculture, this grant provides for fresh fruit and vegetable snacks to be served in the early afternoon, 5 days a week, to the students at the Fletcher-Maynard and Kennedy Longfellow schools. The grant supports food purchases and temporary salaries for staff to prepare and distribute the fruits and vegetables. The $3,000 increase will be used to purchase additional food supplies.

2. **Cambridge Arts Council**, ***Bailamos Juntos***, **Amigos School**, for the period May 19, 2015 to December 31, 2015, in the amount of $1,900.00. Project/Grant SC14124.
   Description: This grant will enable the Amigos School to partner with MetaMovements Latin Dance Company to bring a Latin Dance and Music workshop program to 80 kindergarten students. The partnership will complement the Amigos School's dual language program by providing relevant programming in Spanish that reflects Latino culture.

3. **Literacy Partnerships *Amendment 2***, for the period September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, increase by $174.00 to a total of $18,748.00 (from $18,574.00). Project/Grant SC15868.
   Description: This grant will help support the work of the Understanding by Design (UbD) consultants, Authentic Education, in re-writing the district ELA curriculum units. In addition, the grant will help support teachers in their work implementing the model units designed by the Massachusetts Department of Education, as well as internal professional development. The increase of $174 will support the purchase of additional instructional materials.

#15-111, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Computer Hardware; funds to be provided from the General Fund. Procurement procedures for this contract have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Apple Inc., 1 Infinite Loop, Cupertino, CA, for the period March 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015, in the amount of $35,000.00.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#15-109, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for school transportation services; funds to be provided from the General Fund. Procurement procedures for this contract have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of

Massachusetts.

Eastern Bus Company, PO Box 514, Somerville, for the period July 1, 2015 to August 31, 2020, in the amount of $18,301,850.00.

Ms. Cronin asked Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, if Eastern Bus was the company that we use for transporting our students within the city back and forth to school. He replied in the affirmative. Ms. Cronin also inquired how we could assure the safety precaution of having buses with seatbelts during long trips. Mr. Maloney stated that this requirement could be incorporated into the field trip guidelines and would take care of it administratively. Mr. Fantini inquired about the decision to have a 5 year contract with Eastern Bus. Mr. Maloney responded that it works to our advantage and is very common to have a 5 year contract. The vendors match up their vehicle leases with the 5 year contract and obtain better prices. Ms. Nolan asked about the provision of real time information on buses to give parents and others knowledge of bus location. Mr. Maloney responded that they are continuing to work on this and are trying to clarify some items with the Registry of Motor Vehicles. He hopes to have a pilot program in place for June and a full roll-out in the fall. This will require a large amount of training. On the following roll call, **#15-109** was adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Maher ABSENT

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

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan to bring forward the School Committee Agenda for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed **#15-103** and **#15-105**. On a voice vote, items **#15-104** and **#15-106** were adopted.

#15-102, **Motion by the Governance Sub-Committee,** that the School Committee approve the revisions to Chapter I, Section 5, located on page 5 of the 2014-15 School Committee Rules as detailed in the document. On the following roll call, **#15-102** was adopted: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Maher ABSENT

#15-104, Motion by Mr. Fantini, whereas the Cambridge Public Schools should act to take advantage of opportunities for our students and adults to secure careers that will serve them well for a life time. Such an opportunity exists with the planned build out by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology of five parking lots into Housing, Research, Biotech, and Commercial buildings that our school system should do the following:

- Meet with the MIT real estate team to better understand what those opportunities are and what skills our children will need to develop them.
- Since most of these jobs will be union positions that we work with our local unions to create school to union to work pipeline
- That we provide opportunities for adults to be trained either through our vocational education program or coordinate with other agencies.
- That we coordinate our activities with our partners on the City Council and the Mayor's office.
- That we expect active participation from our Rindge School of Technical Arts and its advisory committees.
- That we develop the necessary funding plan to support this effort.

Therefore, the School Committee go on record as supporting the above initiatives and request that the Superintendent support these activities.

#15-106, Report of the Meeting of the Governance Sub-Committee, May 5, 2015

Meeting of the Governance Sub-Committee
School Committee Conference Room
Tuesday, May 5, 2015
4:00-5:00 PM

Called for the purpose of discussing operating and office procedures of the School Committee office, possible revisions to the Rules of the School Committee and any other business that may properly come before the Committee.
Members Present: Mr. Osborne, Chair; Ms. Cronin (ABSENT) Ms. Kelly

Also Present: Ms. Nolan, Ms. Martin, Executive Secretary

Mr. Osborne in the Chair.

2 Handouts presented: Agenda, Sections from Rules of the School Committee pertaining to Agenda items (on file in the School Committee office).

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Executive Secretary of the School Committee and asked that she give a summary of her concerns regarding summer office hours. Ms. Martin began by stating that the School Committee office is currently open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM for a total of 9 hours per day. Ms. Martin suggested during July and August, the School Committee office hours be changed to 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM, or 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM for both herself and Ms. Beard. Ms. Martin represented this position by explaining the FRC closes by 4:00 PM and not many people are around during the summer months. After Ms. Beard leaves at 4:00 PM, Ms. Martin is in this section of the building alone and has concerns regarding safety. Mr. Osborne said it makes sense to move the office hours to 8-4 for both secretaries for the summer months. Ms. Kelly also stated she does not want someone alone in the office when the building is generally unoccupied. It was agreed that a motion would be put forth from the Governance Sub-Committee to the full School Committee at the Regular Meeting of May 19th to revise the Rules of the School Committee by including the summer office hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM during July and August.

Ms. Martin spoke about the need to reduce the amount of paper distributed from the School Committee office. Mr. Osborne is in full agreement and has been looking forward to this happening. We already send out notices electronically. Consolidating notices on one sheet of paper for Members instead of sending each notice separately to each Member is also a way to save paper. The Executive Secretary has the power to make this decision for the meeting notices. It was agreed by all the less paper the better. However, it was stated by Ms. Kelly that some Members like their books. A discussion on the floor in a Regular Meeting will be a good idea as it relates to electronic books. Ms. Kelly stated she is willing to do electronic books when she has been provided a tablet. Ms. Nolan agreed with both Mr. Osborne and Ms. Kelly stating she is in favor of this change, but would like to transition a bit more slowly than a complete overhaul all at once. She would like to be able to opt into having some things in paper, i.e. long policies.

The next item Ms. Martin spoke about was availability for Special Meetings and Roundtable Meetings – Ms. Martin asked that all Members make a strong effort to keep 2nd Tuesdays available for meetings (on the handout under hearings). This will make scheduling much easier in the long run.

There are some concerns about how to decide the time Roundtable meetings should start. Mr. Osborne stated that earlier than 4:30 or 5:00 PM is hard for himself and Mr. Harding. It would be helpful to inform Members well in advance about early start times. On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Osborne, the meeting was adjourned.
Adjourned (4:20 PM)

Dosha Ellis Beard

Confidential Secretary

Distributed Documents (on file in the School Committee office)
Agenda
Sections from Rules of the School Committee pertaining to Agenda items

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to bring forward together **#15-103 and #15-105** for discussion. Ms. Nolan suggested an amendment to **#15-105** and read it as revised. Ms. Kelly suggested incorporating part of Ms. Cronin's motion **#15-103** as follows, "it is incumbent upon the School Committee to support the CEA's wish to impose a halt on the PARCC implementation and to proceed with a community-wide forum that allows all stakeholders – families, students, teachers and elected officials – to come to agreement on the role and implementation of state-mandated standardized testing". On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#15-105, joint motion by Ms. Kelly and Ms. Nolan**, as amended incorporating part of **#15-103**, **Motion by Ms. Cronin**, as follows: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Maher ABSENT

Whereas the Cambridge Education Association presented a petition requesting that the PARCC be further reviewed before implementation and that educational leaders including legislators representing Cambridge have expressed concern over the timing of major changes to the statewide tests, that the Cambridge School Committee support the efforts of those seeking to ensure a comprehensive review of PARCC prior to adoption, which cannot happen in time for the scheduled vote this fall. Further, that whereas Massachusetts has been a national leader in student achievement that the DESE work with teachers on any testing system. Further, that a copy of this motion be sent to all Cambridge representatives and leaders of the state education committees.

It is incumbent upon the School Committee to support the CEA's wish to impose a halt on the PARCC implementation and to proceed with a community-wide forum that allows all stakeholders – families, students, teachers and elected officials – to come to an agreement on the role and implementation of state-mandated standardized testing.

#15-103, **Motion by Ms. Cronin,** whereas, the CEA, on behalf of the CPSD teaching staff, has made known their wish for the School Committee to support Rep. Marjorie Decker's House Bill 340, requesting the Massachusetts Department of Education to impose a 3-year moratorium on use of the PARCC standardized test and the use of high stakes testing to punitively evaluate educators, schools and school districts;

Whereas, the public has also made expressed wishes to halt the implementation of the PARCC test;

It is incumbent upon the School Committee to support the CEA's wish to impose a halt on the PARCC implementation and to proceed with a community-wide forum that allows all stakeholders – families, students, teachers and elected officials – to come to agreement on the role and implementation of state-mandated standardized testing.

#15-105, Joint Motion by Ms. Kelly and Ms. Nolan, whereas the Cambridge Education Association presented a petition requesting that the PARCC be further reviewed before implementation and that educational leaders including legislators representing Cambridge have expressed concern over the timing of major changes to the statewide tests, that the Cambridge School Committee support the efforts of those seeking to ensure a comprehensive review of PARCC prior to adoption, which cannot happen in time for the scheduled vote this fall. Further, that whereas Massachusetts has been a national leader in student achievement, and whereas the current MCAS system is controlled by the state, not a for-profit entity, that the state DESE is requested to continue using only public entities to develop tests, further that the DESE work with teachers on any testing system.

New Business:

Update by four Members who attended this year's National School Board Association (NSBA) Conference in March 2015 as per School Committee Order #C15-105 (April 7, 2015)

Ms. Nolan began with her report. She handed out a summary from NSBA on the sessions which she attended (on file in the School Committee office). She spoke about Monticello High School, Charlottesville, VA and their Learning Commons which transformed library space into a "marker space". Before the Learning Commons transformation, the library had about 400 visits per year by students and 529 classroom visits. It has increased to 71,386 independent visits by students and classroom visits exceed 2,300 to the Learning Commons. She talked about the Colonial District in Northern Delaware, a district similar to our demographics, whose vision is on personalized learning for all. The session on Measuring Principal Effectiveness involved the Dallas ISD Evaluation System. This talked about principals being key to school improvement. Dallas reorganized their school leadership structure and is changing the ways principals are evaluated. All principals in their evaluation are expected to do spot observations often. The workshop on School District Reviews involved the Toronto School District which does a district review every 5 years for all of their schools and focuses on what is going right. Unintended results are a common language developed and reviewers have gained expertise to bring back to their schools. Students and staff are interviewed in their surveys. The last session she spoke about was Transforming High-Poverty Schools with a Culture of Hope and Power of We in which the national teacher of the year talked about the exact same ground – in order to get kids to a higher level, do our schools spend as much time pouring over climate data as on achievement data. They should. Parent conferences are mandatory being held at parent's place of work, coffee shop, homes, or even jail to convey to students how important parents are and to parents how important they are. They also have a program called "notice the kids", which concentrates on the students who may have had a challenging week and every staff member will notice or recognize that student to let him/her know they are cared about.

Ms. Cronin noted that her big "takeaway" from the conference was that there were pervasive themes throughout which included: alignment, partnerships, accountability, leadership connection between student achievement and student well-being in order to get the outcomes that we want, shift in demographics, increase in immigrant populations, role of technology and blended instruction, and steam and stem skills to help students to achieve entry into the competitive marketplace. She spoke on school-based access to community-based partnerships being essential to maintaining the success of challenged students. Two site visits which she made focused on community school partnership – the Pearl Cohen Entertainment Magnet School and the Nissan plant. She mentioned that one school district held career fairs for 8th graders – students became exposed to the kinds of opportunities available in their community. Another session she attended was AVID and hopes to expand our program with high school and upper schools. She also noted that instruction coaching matters. She will send the Members the hand-out (on file in the School Committee office) so that they will be able to link to the session sites she reported about. The sites will be taken down on June 1st.

Mr. Fantini reported that his "takeaway" from the conference was focused on technology and how powerful it is and how technology can extend the school day at not much cost. One technology expert showed on his computer system how they could measure the time children and parents at home were signing into the school system to get self-help and courses. The conclusion was that you have extended the day through technology in a powerful way. He spoke of the AVID session he attended and how the AVID program is impressive in the middle schools and in the entire high school. The Avid leader measured a 6 year cohort rate and has a system that can take graduation rates to high 70 and 80 percentages after finishing 2 years of college and 4 years of college. The average for Massachusetts, after a 6 year cohort, probably doesn't exceed 40 percent. He talked about his site visit to the performing arts school – which produces record labels and with this technology, the school has also created an entrepreneur program. He learned during his visit to the Nissan plant that a Nissan vehicle is produced every minute in a plant that is open 24/7. This country is not producing enough students who can program robots or Nissan would build another plant.
He indicated that it was apparent to him that in addition to School Committee Members, administrators should attend these conferences. He saw teams of administrators with school board members and feels

that we should arrange this when the NSBA Conference is held in Boston in April of 2016. He reminded the Members and the administration that June 1st is the deadline for any programs or sessions we want to submit for the Boston conference. He hopes to pursue through the Superintendent the possibility of tours of our schools and performances by our visual and performing arts students noting that it is our time to shine.

Ms. Kelly stated that being at the NSBA conference was very sobering due to where the state of public education was in Nashville. Nashville had a state takeover of the school system and was required to develop the school system from the ground up. She noted that the population of free and reduced lunch in Nashville was 87%. Parents would work 3 jobs to get their child into a private school in the City of Nashville. This City has made incredible changes in a short amount of time in creating magnet schools. Their tax revenue is decided by a vote not by state legislature. It made her realize that we are in a very privileged environment in Cambridge. The magnet schools she visited were very specialized in vocational education and went beyond partnerships with a lot of funding from local business. These visits to the magnet school made her think that maybe we should look more regionally about vocational education, think in larger units and think about our vocational education as it relates to the economy we are in. Can we think more creatively of how we create alternative tracks for our students with a possible crossover of RSTA with CRLS and the arts and/or media departments. She noted that it was important to have students at an earlier age indicate what is appealing to them in terms of their careers and families.

Mr. Fantini spoke about his motion which passed previously regarding the opportunity which exists with the planned build out by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology of five parking lots into Housing, Research, Biotech, and Commercial buildings and our partnering with MIT in helping to create job opportunities for our recent graduates.

Ms. Nolan mentioned the School Committee's Executive Secretary also attended the NSBA conference and provided them with a report of her learning.

10. Resolutions:

It was voted to adopt the following:

#15-107, Motion by Mayor Maher, whereas Linda Mindaye, a CRLS student, was one of four awardees of a Certificate of Accomplishment at the Princeton Association of New England Princeton Prize in Race Relations ceremony. Linda's project was leading "three-day workshops exploring systemic oppression in race and class." Ms. Mindaye has always been very involved in the Cambridge community, and was an active member of the Cambridge Youth Council. We ask that a letter of congratulations be sent from the Cambridge School Committee congratulating Ms. Mindaye on her award.

#15-108, Motion by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations to Robert S. Hurlbut,Jr., Executive Director of Cambridge Community Foundation, who is retiring after 21 years of leading Cambridge Community Foundation and tirelessly working to build community and make Cambridge a place of opportunity for all.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

It was voted to adopt the following:

Motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Kelly, that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations and thanks to the Executive Committee of the Cambridge Athletic Hall of Fame with special acknowledgement to Mr. Joe Pagliaro, President, and Mr. Richard Rossi, Director, on organizing a successful dinner and induction ceremony held on May 16, 2015.

Motion by Ms. Cronin, seconded by Ms. Kelly, that the School Committee send a letter to City Sprouts founding director, Jane S. Hirschi, in recognition of her book, Ripe for Change: Garden-Based Learning in Schools, being published by Harvard Education Press.

Ms. Cronin also mentioned that Utne Magazine would like to publish an excerpt from Ms. Hirschi's book in is looking for so many "clicks" to accomplish this.

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to adjourn (9:28 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- H.E.T. Theory of Action chart
- Ms. Nolan's hand-out from NSBA Conference
- Ms. Cronin's hand-out from NSBA Conference