

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

May 5, 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 6:32 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Terry Gist, CEA President, CEA petition to review testing schedule and new initiatives, Just the Facts - Government Relations, House Bill #340 lead Sponsor Rep. Decker an act relative to a moratorium on high-stakes testing and PARCC
- Karen Engels, Graham & Parks School, stop PARCC test
- Rose Levine, Graham & Parks School, stop PARCC test
- Kathy Greeley, Graham & Parks School, stop PARCC test
- Juan Lozada, Pearl St., Amigos parent, read statement from Amigos School Council in support #15-95
- Rachel Wyon, Sidney St., success of trip to sister-city El Salvador, "Salsa for El Salvador" event on May 15th at 5:30 p.m. at Amigos School featuring report from the delegation
- Sophia Gottlieb, Loomis St., CRLS senior, her proposal #15-93, therapy dog pilot project
- Pia Cisternino, support of therapy dog pilot program, concern on proposed timeline for Superintendent's search and how it will impact the Committee's plans to involve the community in this process
- Julie Viens, Loomis St., support therapy dog pilot program to address students social emotional issues

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

1a. Public Hearing on State School Choice:

The Chair opened the Public Hearing on State School Choice:

The following individual was heard:

Dr. Gregory Sieczkiewicz, Clifton St.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to close the public hearing on State School Choice.

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to suspend the Rules to bring forward the Mayor's motion **#15-93** for adoption. The Rules having been suspended for the purpose stated, it was voted to bring **#15-93** forward. On the following roll call, **#15-93** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Mayor Maher YEA.

#15-93, Motion by Mayor Maher, That Sophia Gottlieb, a senior at CRLS, has proposed to implement a therapy dog pilot program in the Special Education department of Cambridge Rindge and Latin, with CRLS faculty Kathleen Fitzgerald as her proposed project supervisor. Further, Kathryn Rocco and Allison Wade (social workers), and Paula Silva and Caitlin Curry (Special Education faculty), have all expressed their support in this project, and;

That Ms. Gottlieb has provided the following rationale for the pilot: Physiologically, dogs have been scientifically proven to lower human blood pressure. During interaction with a dog, a person's brain releases oxytocin, serotonin, endorphins, or a combination of the three which, putting it simply, are "happy" chemicals. Emotionally, therapy dogs have been proven to lessen anxiety. There have been a multitude of therapy dog programs in different institutions throughout the country, including local areas such as Harvard Medical School and The Cambridge Program, and;

That we are requesting that Superintendent Dr. Young along with Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Student Services Dr. Greer meet with Ms. Gottlieb and discuss the feasibility of piloting such a program at CRLS.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mayor Maher and the Committee acknowledged Ms. Sternbach's 18th birthday.

- ✓ AP Exams are taking place; Junior prom was held last Saturday; Senior prom is being held this Saturday; the CRLS Jazz Orchestra is performing this evening; May 15th is the Modern Dance Company performance
- ✓ Ms. Sternbach stated that she supports #15-93 therapy dog pilot program
- ✓ Ms. Sternbach spoke about discussions held with Principal Smith regarding student activism addressing the Baltimore case. The CRLS community considered a walkout but decided against it in light of the arrest of the six police officers. She noted that they will try to continue to connect with black lives matter in Cambridge.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting – April 7, 2015
- Regular Meeting – April 7, 2015
- Special Meeting – April 14, 2015

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Mr. Osborne, to suspend the Rules to bring forward **#15-90** and **#15-91** for discussion with **#15-73** since they also relate to computer hardware and software. The Rules having been suspended for the purposes stated, it was voted to bring **#15-90** and **#15-91** forward.

#15-73, Contract Award: CCS Presentation Systems: Computer Software
C15-099, 4/7/15 (Nolan), that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Notebook Software License; 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.

CCS Presentation Systems, 132 Northeastern Blvd, Nashua, NH, for the period April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$26,700.00.

#15-90, 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 May 15, 2015 to September 30, 2015, in the amount of \$250,000.00

#15-91, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for interactive whiteboard technology; 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.

AdTech Systems, 490 Boston Post Road, Sudbury, for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$320,020.00.

Mr. Steve Smith, Chief Information Officer, responded to Ms. Nolan's questions and concerns. He explained that these 3 contracts are all tied into the completion of a technology model infrastructure K-12 throughout the district. All of these are combined to build a solid infrastructure. The Smart notebook licensing is a compliance issue. Smart is a brand. The licensing piece allows us to use smart notebook software regardless of what hardware is in place. The Apple contract is the culminating piece of our replacement cycle K-12. Every classroom will have an interactive device. We are at the point where we will have a standard model in each classroom with the same access and same technology tools. The devices may change but the infrastructure will remain solid.

On the following roll call, **#15-73**, **#15-90** and **#15-91** were adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne ~~ABSENT~~ YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini ~~ABSENT~~ YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: None

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to bring forward the remainder of the Superintendent's Agenda items **#15-83 to #15-89** and **#15-92** for discussion and adoption. Mr. Harding removed **#15-85**. Ms. Kelly removed **#15-87**. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the balance of the items.

#15-83, 2015/2016 State School Choice Program – Recommendation for Non-Participation, that the School Committee vote not to participate in the Statewide School Choice Program for school year 2015-2016 for the following reasons:

1. The need to maintain the quality and integrity of Cambridge Program of Controlled Choice and,
2. The need to maintain flexibility for appropriately sized classrooms in the public schools.

#15-84, FY 2015 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers, that the School Committee approves the following transfer appropriations between statutory categories within the FY2015 General Fund Budget:

Account Code Range	Statutory Category	Increase/(Decrease)
51000-51999	Salaries, Wages and Benefits	(\$144,499)
52000-55999	Other Ordinary Maintenance	(\$29,598)
57000-57999	Travel and Training	\$174,097
58000-58999	Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>N/A</u>
Net Change to FY 2015 General Fund Budget		\$0

#15-86, 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 (first reading).

#15-88, Gifts/ Miscellaneous Receipts, that the School Committee accept and approve a gift of \$1,000.00 to the Morse School made from Intel through its Cambridge retail vendor MicroCenter as part of Intel's Score with Intel program. The gift is made for the general support of the school and will be utilized to support Morse's Saturday MCAS program.

#15-89, Day & 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 and/or Grant Fund Budget.

	<u># Active Contracts</u>	
Day	0	N/A
Residential	1	\$33,611.50
45 Day Program	<u>0</u>	<u>N/A</u>

Total Commitments to Date: 1 \$33,611.50

#15-92, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for referral services of certified professionals; 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.

Delta T Group, 233 Needham Street, Suite 512, Newton, for the period January 5, 2015 to June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$90,000.00.

Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#15-85, Agreement Between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Regarding School Moves at the Putnam Avenue Upper School, King School, Cambridge Street Upper School and King Open School, that the School Committee approve the Agreement Between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Regarding School Moves at the Putnam Avenue Upper School, King School, Cambridge Street Upper School and King Open School as detailed in the document. Mr. Harding asked Mr. Maloney to summarize what this agreement means. Mr. Maloney responded to Mr. Harding that teachers prefer to pack their own belongings for a move and are given one (1) day of compensatory time in the next calendar year and are paid \$100. In this agreement, it allows a paraprofessional at the discretion of the principal to work up to 40 hours and also

recognizes clerks to work additional time over 40 hours with overtime. Teachers will pack outside of their normal teaching hours and will be supplied crates during the week of May 18th when MCAS ends. On the following roll call, **#15-85** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

#15-87, Revision to File Coding of Wellness Policy, that the School Committee approve the revision of the file coding for the Wellness Policy from "File: EFK" to "File: ADF" in order to align the file coding of this policy to the codification used by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, which aligns to the NEPN Policy Coding System that is used by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the National School Boards Association. Ms. Kelly asked Attorney MacFarlane for an explanation of file coding. Ms. MacFarlane clarified the information. On a voice vote, **#15-87** was adopted.

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

The Chair brought forward the School Committee Agenda for discussion and adoption.

#15-94, Motion by Mayor Maher, that the revised draft of the Superintendent Search Firm Request For Proposals (RFP), which was developed by Ms. Barbara Allen, Director of Human Resources for the Cambridge Public School Department and Ms. Amy Witts in the City's Purchasing Department be adopted for final approval as detailed in the attached document. Ms. Allen, Executive Director of Human Resources and Ms. Witts, City Purchasing Agent answered questions from the Members. Ms. Allen noted that Section 8 on comparative criteria needs to be tweaked slightly going forward. Ms. Witts noted that the categories in Section 8 comparative criteria of highly advantageous, advantageous and not advantageous seem to allow for a ranking system which is not something that happens in this situation so that language will be tweaked in the next draft. Ms. Nolan asked for clarification that the only change to this draft would be in Section 8 related to ranking criteria. Ms. Allen and Ms. Witts confirmed this and also that there may be possible formatting changes. The Members discussed the aggressive timeline. Mayor Maher added that in comparing this timeline with other timelines in other districts, this timeline does fall within those categories. It is approximately 2 months earlier but 6 months in duration which is what other searches have been. Ms. Witts noted that the School Committee would have to vote approval of the contract in June. On the following roll call, **#15-94** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

Mr. Fantini asked for and received unanimous consent for himself and Mr. Osborne to be recorded in the affirmative on missed roll call.

#15-95, Motion by Ms. Nolan, that the School Committee and the administration in conjunction with the Amigos School staff and School Council have a planning session to develop a short-term and long-term plan for the Amigos School to ensure the growth and success of the school. Mr. Harding noted that although the Amigos School is unique as a K-8 school, maybe these issues should be discussed at the May 26th Roundtable on Upper Schools. He wants to make sure administration is comfortable having these two conversations. Mayor Maher stated that this is worthy of discussion and recommended referring this motion to a joint committee of the Building and Grounds and Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committees for dialogue. Ms. Nolan agrees that this joint committee could meet to identify the issues. Mr. Osborne indicated that these are two separate issues with K-5 to consider at the Amigos School. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted that **#15-95** be referred to a Joint Committee of the Building and Grounds and Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committees and the Chairs are requested to hold the meeting prior to the May 26th Upper School Roundtable Meeting. Also, that the Amigos School staff and School Council be invited to attend.

Dr. Young and Dr. Turk requested that in order to make the Upper School Roundtable as useful to the Members as possible that they submit their concerns, requests for data, questions to Dr. Turk in advance so that the Upper School Heads can be as prepared as possible. Mr. Harding wanted to clarify that this will be a hard conversation to have. He asked that the Members be informed of the key points such as things going on and things going well. The Members are concerned about the upper schools and have

expressed this over the last 18 months. A more robust conversation is needed on student profile, academic achievement, social and emotional learning, and sports and extra-curricular programs that were promised.

10. Resolutions:

It was voted to adopt the following as amended by Mr. Fantini to include Martha Walsh, Confidential Secretary to Legal Counsel:

#15-96, Motion by Mr. Fantini, That the School Committee send letters of congratulations to each of the following Cambridge Public School teachers/administrators and support staff who are retiring at the end of this school year:

Clifton Adamson, Fletcher/Maynard
Elena Arrendol, Baldwin
Jacqueline DeAngelo, Payroll
Joyce DeMella, Tobin Montessori
Bronwyn Dillon, Kennedy-Longfellow
Patricia Donahoe, Amigos
Kathleen Drew, King Open
Lydia Garcia, Amigos
Deborah Greene, Fletcher/Maynard
Kathleen Hagan, RAUS
Susan Harris, CRLS Safety & Security Office
Elaine Koury, VPA Coordinator
Nancy Madeiros, Finance
Mary Marfione, Haggerty
Gail Miller-Hayes, Human Resources
Martha Kelley Mosman, Tobin Montessori Principal
Linda O'Brien, Kennedy-Longfellow
Linda O'Connor, Morse
Rayanne Santosuosso, Payroll
Joanne Schiano, Amigos
Deborah Sercombe, Amigos Principal
Linda Smith, Peabody
Margaret Urquhart, Kennedy-Longfellow
Marie Vieira, VLUS
Carol Worsham, PAUS
Mabel Yukling So, PAUS

It was voted to adopt the following:

#15-97, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Harding, that the School Committee congratulate the district, with special recognition to Jim Maloney, Dana Ham and Kristen von Hoffman for their work of CPS being selected one of only fourteen districts nationwide to be honored with a 2015 Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Award. Ms. Nolan asked that Mr. Maloney acknowledge anyone else who was involved in this work.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of moving reconsideration of all the votes taken tonight. The Rules having been suspended, a motion

to reconsider the foregoing votes, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption. All votes are final.

Motion by Mr. Fantini, that the Community Relations Sub-Committee brainstorm ideas with administration in developing a plan to include Cambridge Public Schools participation at the National School Board Association's Annual Conference being held in Boston from April 9 through April 11, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Harding and Mayor Maher, that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations to former Mayor Ken Reeves on being named visiting Professor at MIT School of Urban Studies and Planning and to wish him well in his new endeavor.

Motion by Ms. Cronin, that the School Committee send letters of congratulations to the following RSTA Creative Design student contest winners for the 2015 Shop Inman by Moonlight Poster Contest:

1st Place: Kayla Moore, Junior
2nd Place: Esmeralda Asprilla, Junior
3rd Place: Seamus Donaldson, Senior
4th Place: Kayla Moore, Junior

Motion by Ms. Cronin, a group of RSTA students recently participated in "One Boston Day" by creating hand-crafted wood planters for the residents of Sancta Maria Nursing Facility. The students also helped to plant flowers in the planters with the residents for them to enjoy this Spring. We applaud the students for participating in this day of kindness in this way, and ask that the School Committee send letters of thanks to the following RSTA students:

Shavonne Graustuck
Samerawet Tsgie
Elysia Correia
Brianna Duncan
Absalom Minsk
Saleh Jiddawi-Nunley
Carlo Cremonini

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Osborne, it was voted to adjourn (8:05 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- DRAFT, File #6830, Request for Proposals for Executive Recruitment for Superintendent Search Consultant Services
- PCR Rubric, Performance Based Assessment (PBA)
- CEA Petition
- Just the Facts, House Bill #340 – an act relative to a moratorium on high-stakes testing and PARCC, lead sponsor Rep. Marjorie Decker
- Suggested by CEA: Resolution from School Committee calling for a moratorium on high-stakes standardized tests
- "The Opt Out End Game" – *Lily's Blackboard*
- *I am an educator*, Jesse Hagopian's Lesson Plan for Liberation: "Opt out now": The Seattle NAACP revives the legacy W.E.B. Du Bois, demands an end to Common Core testing
- *USA Today*: Get rid of 'test, blame, punish' by *Lily's Blackboard*
- Got Salsa? flyer, Salsa for El Salvador!!