

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

March 3, 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 (~~ABSENT~~), Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Osborne, Mayor Maher

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also Present: Student School Committee Member Liz Kubicek

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Lyn Kardateke, Second St., School Calendar
- Sara Levy, Davenport St., Math program
- James Harvey, Copley St., Math Program
- Kari Kuelzer, Copley St., Math Program
- Karen Dobak, Allston St., Math Program
- Pamela Blau, Sherman St., Math Program

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, 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 to allow the following people to speak on the topic of world language:

- Christopher Tipper, Thingvalla Ave., World Language
- Tyler Giannini, Corporal Burns Rd., World Language
- Brian Kopperl, Arlington St., World Language
- Kjersti Rosen, Magnolia Ave., World Language
- Alexandra Mahajan, Baldwin School student, World Language

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Kubicek reported on the following:

- ✓ Curriculum night at CRLS is March 5th
- ✓ Spring fling is scheduled for March 20th sponsored by radio station, JAM'N 94.5
- ✓ Spring sports season officially starts on March 15th
- ✓ CRLS festival show went to the preliminary round of competition and is one of 3 schools selected to go on to the semi-finals on March 14th with hopes of moving on to finals
- ✓ Public performance of the CRLS festival show, "The Elephant Man", is March 11th at the Fitzgerald Theatre

- ✓ CRLS Model UN team is presently on way to NYC to represent Sudan in a Model UN Conference

Ms. Nolan announced that National History Day recently took place and CRLS students almost swept the historical papers division being awarded first and second place and both honorable mentions. Three middle school students also participated and won prizes.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 24, 2015.

4. Reconsiderations:

Having filed the proper notice as required by the Rules, Mr. Fantini moved reconsideration of the vote taken at the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2015 that adopted the following: That the School Committee approve Superintendent's Recommendation #15-25, Approval of SY2015/2016 Cambridge Public Schools Academic & School Committee Calendars. Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, to bring the reconsideration before the Committee for discussion. Mr. Harding asked for clarification from the motion maker as to why he asked for reconsideration of #15-25. Mr. Fantini explained that he filed reconsideration to give a parent the opportunity to speak on her concerns with the proposed SY15/16 school calendar especially with the first day of school being September 8th and parents having issues with childcare during the first week of September. Mr. Fantini suggested taking into consideration the language of starting school the first Tuesday after Labor Day during our future teacher contract negotiations.

On a voice vote, the motion for reconsideration of #15-25 failed of adoption. Mr. Fantini expressed his desire to be recorded as YEA on the vote for the reconsideration. The vote taken at the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2015 adopting #15-25 prevailed.

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports:

- ✓ Report by fall 2013 on AP program at CRLS (C13-133) (June 4, 2013)

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Math Program Update.....	Jessica Huizenga, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Lisa Scolaro, Acting Director Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
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Dr. Young welcomed Dr. Huizenga, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Ms. Scolaro, Acting Director of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to begin the math update presentation.

The following educators assisted Dr. Huizenga and Ms. Scolaro in the presentation:

Christina Astrove, Graham & Parks Grade 2 teacher
Eileen Gagnon, STEM Teacher-in-Charge
Elsa Head, VLUS Grade 7 teacher
Deb Holiday, Graham & Parks Grade 1 teacher
Monica Leon, King School Math Coach
Jayne Lynch, District Math Coach, STEM

- Making CPS Work for all by increasing rigor and supporting Learners
- Math in Focus
- Accelerated Math Pathway
- Summer Program
- Math in Focus – Increasing Rigor
- Fifth Graders Think...
- Curriculum Review Cycle, Phase 3: Implementation/Monitoring
- Math in Focus and the Instructional Core
- SY2014-15 Implementation (All 1, 4,5, 6-8 classrooms, six schools with full 2nd and 3rd grade implementation)
- Professional Development
- Transfer Tasks
- The Pluses
- The Challenges
- From the Practitioners
- Data Analysis (our worry)
- Elementary District Assessment Data
- Grade 5 District Assessment Data
- District Assessment Data Grade 5
- Upper School District Assessment Data
- Grade 7 District Assessment Data
- District Assessment Data Grade 8
- Grade 7 Performance and Demographic Data
- Next Steps
- Year-Long Curriculum and Instructional Program
- The Accelerated Math Pathway (AMP)
- Successes
- Implementation Challenges/Unintended Consequences
- Demographics – Grade 8 District Demographic Data and Grade 7 District Demographic Data
- District Assessment Data Analysis
- AMP on Grade Level
- Grade 8 Comparison of Percent Correct
- Recommendations
- Reevaluation
- Summer Programs
- Summer Program Recommendations

Dr. Huizenga, Ms. Scolaro and their team responded to the Members questions, comments and concerns:

- Impressed with efforts, information and candor
 - Equity in outcomes
 - How are we looking at readiness
 - Look at instruction and the shifts we need to make
 - Look at instruction in upper school; task force will look at intervention at the upper schools
 - Recommending intensive intervention for students in warning in the upper schools
 - Math instruction is similar in every upper school; teachers share ideas at monthly professional development meetings and also visit each other's schools
 - Appreciate the idea that all students are "loving" math
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- Are any of the changes during the past 2 years statistically significant
 - How does the trend line we see by sub-group compare to the previous five years
 - Goal in this report was to be transparent in all points
 - There are gaps in data collection; data given was all that could be supplied

- Standards changed in 2011; district assessment questions had to change
- Huge decline in Algebra to 10% of our incoming 9th grade class going straight into geometry; we need to dramatically increase that
- Have the norm be the Accelerated Math Program be the regular math pathway; have it be opt out instead
- Terminology may discourage students and families, e.g. 3 years of math in 2 years
- Share the same goal of wanting 80% of our students taking Algebra 1 by 8th grade and moving on to Geometry in 9th grade
- There are variants to what Algebra I is in other districts; research would need to be done on data from these districts; we are looking at true high school Algebra I in Cambridge
- Longer term goal would be that AMP would be the norm in Cambridge in the next few years
- Detracking model by Carol Burris: all learning Algebra
- Six students accepted to MIT last year, huge jump from previous years
- How would you define rigor; how do you convince parents their children are in rigorous environment
- We are upping the ante to the level of content our students are being exposed to, providing students to push the limits of their abilities
- Is extra attention put on level 3 schools or other schools needing it
- Are we using right tool to identify students early enough to make sure they get the interventions they need
- Is there a success plan for K-5 students falling behind
- Use symphony math and intervention based on that data in every school K-5.
- After school and summer programs are not well attended; how do we resolve the issue of giving kids intervention
- Kids pick athletics, clubs, other areas of interest over math
- Suggest winter vacation workshops
- In K-5, are any teachers certified in math; is it required
- There is a math endorsement exam as part of MTEL general test
- Teachers continue with professional development classes that supplement their learning
- From 4th grade on, content specialists are where districts are moving
- Focus on the school day and the principal's role
- Dealing with a cohort of upper schools students whose math skills aren't where they should be
- Demographic divide is worrisome
- Do we have lower expectations of certain sub-groups, consciously or sub-consciously
- Concern that all of our students learn the math they need to succeed
- Request demographic information by lower-income as well

The Chair thanked Dr. Huizenga, Ms. Scolaro and their team for the informative presentation. He noted that the Committee has great interest in making the math program the best we can for all students in the system. This is the time to reenergize ourselves on math and science. Dr. Young acknowledged Ms. Scolaro for her outstanding leadership in the integration of the two departments. Ms. Scolaro recognized and thanked her amazing team.

7c. Consent Agenda:

Ms. Kelly moved, seconded by Ms. Cronin, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Mr. Harding removed item **#15-47**. Ms. Cronin removed item **#15-50**. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the balance of the items:

#15-48, Approval of Gifts to Cambridge Public Schools, that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. A gift of \$800.98 to the Cambridgeport School made from O'Connor Portraiture, Inc., as commission for student portraits to be used for the general support of the school.

2. An estimated value of \$99.80 in in-kind donations of sports equipment (tennis balls) made from Ms. Cynthia Frude to the Athletics Department for the general use of the CRLS boys and girls tennis teams.

#15-49, 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 lists 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	1	\$33,281.34
Residential	1	\$25,210.50
45 Day Program	0	N/A
46	Total 2	<u>\$58,491.84</u>

#15-51, 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 March 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$93,456.92.

#15-52, 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 June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$35,000.00.

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:

#15-47, Approval of a 2015-16 Kindergarten Assignment Band, that the School Committee approve a 2015-16 Kindergarten Assignment Band of +/-9% to the District's JK-5 October 1, 2014 percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch compared with full pay lunch students, further, that all students be assigned to a seat in a school in this lottery. In assigning all students, the Superintendent shall have flexibility to exceed the cap of 50 kindergarten age students per school after the lottery is run. In so doing, the integrity of the waitlist shall be honored. The October 1, 2014 percentage for paid students was 55% and free/reduced students were 45%. Mr. Harding asked if Mr. Maloney could clarify the rationale behind this recommendation. Mr. Maloney explained that the new policy calls for the Superintendent to make a recommendation each year of what the percentage should be when not zero. They are comfortable recommending +/-9% band. Assignment letters will be sent out this month. Mr. Harding moved **#15-47** for adoption. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#15-47**: Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of moving reconsideration of the foregoing vote on **#15-47**, Approval of a 2015-16 Kindergarten Assignment Band. The Rules having been suspended, a motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption.

#15-50, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for lease of C75M2 Digital Color Press and External Printer; 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.

Xerox Corporation, 45 Glover Avenue, Norwalk, CT, for the period:
March 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$5,871.76; July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$17,615.28; July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$17,615.28; July 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018 in the amount of \$11,743.52. Total contract: \$52,845.84

Ms. Cronin highlighted the process that led to this contract award. She stressed that this printer has been needed for years and had concern as to why there wasn't a system or timeframe in place when equipment needs to be repaired, refurbished or replaced. RSTA students rely on this equipment to fulfill the requirements of the curriculum. Ms. Nolan indicated that the Committee was conscience of the cost of this printer and the initial recommended request was for a higher priced machine. She noted that a collaborative effort took place and time was needed to reach out to the business community. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#15-50**: Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

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 item **#15-54**. Ms. Cronin removed item **#15-57**.

On a voice vote, **#15-53**, **#15-55**, **#15-56** were adopted.

#15-53, Joint Motion by Mr. Osborne and Mr. Harding, whereas, summer learning loss has been identified in an ongoing study of urban communities as greatly reducible through effective programming, the Committee requests that the Superintendent initiate contact with RAND Corporation, which conducted a national study of summer programs, and identify and engage Cambridge staff and resources as well as educational partner institutions with the goal of launching a holistic analysis of Cambridge Public Schools' summer program offerings. The Superintendent is asked to name a panel charged with developing a strategic approach to addressing summer learning for Cambridge Public School students.

#15-54, Motion by Mr. Fantini, that no staff reduction be made in any school with level 3 status. At Ms. Nolan's request, on a voice vote, item **#15-54** was referred to the Superintendent.

#15-55, Motion by Mr. Fantini, that the Superintendent report to the School Committee a transition plan after the Lesley College Initiative at the Kennedy-Longfellow ends this school year.

#15-56, Motion by Mr. Fantini, that the law firm of Collins, Loughran & Peloquin be retained for legal services related to collective bargaining.

#15-57, Motion by Ms. Nolan, that the School Committee go on record as supporting the recommendations of the STEAM Working Group, and endorsing the vision of implementing a robust comprehensive plan to improve opportunities for Cambridge youth and young adults, (as summarized in City Council Policy Order O-25, passed unanimously on February 23, 2015) and further that the committee recognizes the ongoing partnership with the city on the STEAM initiative. Ms. Cronin thanked Ms. Nolan for bringing this motion forward and complimented the City Council for the work it has been doing. She recognized the partnership that exists between the City and the School system and wants it to advance. Mr. Harding noted that he would like to see a more informative process where the School Committee can be involved at a different level. Ms. Nolan pointed out that Ms. Scolaro has been working on a grant with WPI to bring a STEAM initiative to the district. Mr. Fantini expressed that the creation of internships for our CRLS students is an important part of this. On a voice vote, item **#15-57** was adopted.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolence):

On a voice vote, item **#15-58** was adopted.

#15-58, Motion by Mayor Maher, that the School Committee go on record congratulating the staff and administration of the Tobin Montessori School on their full American Montessori Society accreditation. The Tobin Montessori School is officially the only public district level Montessori program in the country to achieve full American Montessori Society accreditation for all levels, Children's House, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary. This process was an enormous undertaking and the School Committee appreciates the effort and hard work that went into this.

11. Announcements:

Mayor Maher announced that Mr. Harding's grandmother received a life-time achievement award at the NAACP breakfast this week.

Mayor Maher informed the public that the Members were wearing white ribbons in recognition of "The White Ribbon Campaign" sponsored by the Public Health Department. This campaign was created to urge men and boys to be leaders to help end violence against women. White Ribbon Day is Thursday, March 5th. The Chair asked the School Committee men to take the pledge: "From this day forward, I promise to be part of the solution in ending violence against women".

12. Late Orders:

It was voted to adopt the following:

Motion by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee sends a letter to Kathy Reddick, President of the Cambridge Branch of the NAACP, congratulating her on her retirement and thanking her for 16 years of dedicated service to the NAACP.

Motion by Ms. Cronin, that the School Committee sends letters of congratulations to our RSTA 2015 SkillsUSA District winners:

Diesel Equipment Technology

- Gold Medal – Dylan Cabral
- Silver Medal - Ziaul Islam
- Bronze Medal – Jacob Donnelly

Power Equipment Technology

- Bronze Medal – Harley Romulus

Carpentry

- Bronze Medal – Georgia Watt

Motion by Ms. Cronin, that the School Committee sends letters of recognition to two of our talented instructional technology specialists, Heather French and Ingrid Gustafson, for being featured on the cover of the latest issues of Harvard Magazine and included in a story on technology in the classroom.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to adjourn (9:30 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary

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

- School Committee Update: Math Initiatives PowerPoint Presentation

- Letter from Sara Levy (presented at public comment)
- Written statements from Christopher Tipper, Tyler Giannini, Brian Kopperl, and Kjersti Rosen (presented at public comment)
- Letter from Alexandra Mahajan (presented at public comment)