

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## (Official Report)

### Regular Meeting

February 24, 2015

*(Postponed from February 3 and February 10, 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. The Committee may convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for negotiations with non-union personnel as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the School 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 Member Lucy Sternbach

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

### 1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Tiffany Robinson, parent, Cambridge St. Upper School, hiring support staff
- Betsy Preval, teacher, Cambridge St. Upper School, hiring support staff
- Ann Cason-Snow, parent, Cambridge St. Upper School, hiring support staff
- Tracey Pratt, Bonaire St., Somerville, teacher at Cambridge St. Upper School, space for Freedom School's secular 6-week summer literacy program for 30 of our students
- Justin Hildebrandt, Powderhouse Terrace, Somerville, Exec. Dir. Somerville Freedom School affiliated with the Connexion Methodist Church, space for Freedom School's secular 6-week summer literacy program

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

### 2. Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Sternbach reported on the following:

- ✓ Winter sports teams are doing well: swimming team broke 7 records; girls track won States and are moving to All States; and boys and girls basketball teams qualified for States
- ✓ CRLS hosted the speech and debate club event over February break
- ✓ Model UN Club attended a Harvard Conference and will be going to NY City to represent Sudan
- ✓ Pennies for patients is starting up during the first week in March; last year \$800 was raised

### 3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting – January 20, 2015
- Regular Meeting – January 20, 2015

**4. Reconsiderations:** None

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

**6. Awaiting Reports:**

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

Ms. Nolan noted that a few questions still haven't been answered under Awaiting Report on the AP Program. Dr. Young responded that he recently saw a draft of the latest version and the Members should have it soon.

**7. Superintendent's Agenda:**

The Chair asked the Superintendent to give a quick update on the State's flexibility on the timing of MCAS test dates due to the many cancelled school days. Dr. Turk noted that Cambridge has the DESE approval to extend the window for administering the tests by one week. The calendar will be posted on the CPS website tomorrow (2/25/15).

**7a. Presentations:** None

**7c. Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Mr. Fantini removed items **#15-26 to #15-29**.

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the balance of the items:

**#15-25**, SY2015/16 Cambridge Public Schools Academic & School Committee Calendars, that the School Committee approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for the SY2015/2016 Cambridge Public Schools Academic and School Committee Calendars.

**#15-30**, Special Needs Contracts for Day and Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department, that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget and /or Grant Fund Budget.

	<u>#Active Contracts</u>	
Day	3	\$108,787.33
Residential	0	N/A
45 Day Program	<u>0</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total Current Rec	3	\$108,787.33

**#15-31**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for direct student 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.

Center for Autism & Related Disorders Inc., 19019 Ventura Blvd., Suite 300, Tarzana, CA, for the period September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$49,200.00.

**#15-32**, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for student transportation; 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.

Schools for Children, 20 Academy Street, Arlington, for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$150,000.00.

**#15-33**, Approval of Gifts of Educational Technology, that the School Committee accept and approve an estimated value of \$1,020.00 in in-kind donations made to the Information, Communications & Technology Services Department of the following gifts:

1. Izotope RX4 software and MHChannel Strip Plugin (estimated value of \$650) to the Media Arts Program donated by individual donors.
2. iPad (estimated value of \$370) to enhance technology at the Haggerty School donated by Horace Mann Educators Corporation.

**#15-34**, Grant Awards, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Special Education Program Improvement, for the period January 29, 2015 to August 31, 2015, in the amount of \$49,148.00. Project/Grant SC15674.  
**Description:** The purpose of this program is to advance the skills of educators involved with students with disabilities through high-quality, sustained, and intensive professional development activities. With these funds, educators will develop a least restrictive environment protocol to determine the needs of students during each annual IEP meeting; they will also participate in professional learning communities facilitated by Dr. Marilyn Friend throughout the school year, focused on developing common language and practices for students with disabilities in the general education classroom. Educators and instructional leaders will also participate in training on the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) to redesign general and special education classroom settings and implement the three principles by the fall 2015 to improve math and literacy skills for students with disabilities.
2. Massachusetts Cultural Council-STARRS/CRLS, for the period February 3, 2015 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of 2,700.00. Project/Grant SC15894.  
**Description:** This grant will support a residency artist series at CRLS of StoriesLive, provided through the Young Audiences of Massachusetts.

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

#### **8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Fantini moved the adoption of items **#15-26 to #15-29**. On the following roll call, items **#15-26 to #15-29** were adopted: Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini NAY; Mr. Harding YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

**#15-26**, Response to CEA Unit C Level III Grievance C1-13-14, that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the response to the Cambridge Education Association's Unit C Level III grievance C1-13-14 in accordance with WR15-517-CN(A).

**#15-27**, Response to CEA Unit C Level III Grievance C2-13-14, that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the response to the Cambridge Education Association's Unit C Level III grievance C2-13-14 in accordance with WR15-517-CN(B).

**#15-28**, Response to CEA Unit C Level III Grievance C3-13-14, that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the response to the Cambridge Education Association's Unit C Level III grievance C3-13-14 in accordance with WR15-517-CN(C).

**#15-29**, Response to CEA Unit C Level III Grievance C3-13-14, that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the response to the Cambridge Education Association's Unit C Level III grievance C4-13-14 in accordance with WR15-517-CN(D).

**Supplemental Recommendation:**

**#15-42**, FY14-15 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approves the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund Budget for FY2014-2015.

	<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
51000	Salaries, Wages & Benefits	35,203
52000/55000	Other Ordinary Maintenance	75,468
57000	Travel & Training	(102,671)
58000/59000	Extraordinary Expenditures	(8,000)
	Total	\$ 0

Mr. Harding asked Ms. Spinner to clarify Recommendation **#15-42**. Ms. Spinner explained the rationale behind moving funds between the statutory accounts. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#15-42**: Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

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

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to bring forward the School Committee Agenda for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed items **#15-37** and **#15-38**. Mr. Osborne removed item **#15-43**. Mr. Harding removed item **#15-44**. Mr. Fantini removed item **#15-45**.

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#15-35**, **#15-36**, **#15-39**, **#15-40**, **#15-41** and **#15-46**: Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

**#15-35, Motion by Mayor Maher**, whereas the first Tuesday of September falls prior to the opening of school, and whereas there are two Jewish holidays observed in September which fall on Tuesdays, that the School Committee meetings be changed to the 2nd and 5th Tuesdays, September 8, 2015 and September 29, 2015 respectively, instead of the 1st and 3rd.

**#15-36, Motion by Mr. Fantini**, that the School Committee request the Superintendent to provide an update as to the status of hiring a math coordinator.

**#15-39**, Report of the Meeting of the January 13, 2015 Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole)

**Meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Budget (Committee of the Whole)**

**Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room  
459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA  
Tuesday, January 13, 2015 (5:30 PM to 8 PM)**

Called for the purpose of discussion on the FY2015/2016 Budget. There will be a presentation focusing on the FY2016 Enrollment and Budget Projections for the Cambridge Public Schools.

Members Present: Mr. Harding (~~ABSENT~~), Mr. Osborne, Co-chairs; Ms. Cronin, Mr. Fantini, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan, and Mayor Maher

Also Present: Superintendent Jeff Young

Deputy Superintendent Carolyn Turk  
Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Victoria Greer  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Jessica Huizenga  
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Maryann MacDonald  
Executive Director of Human Resources Barbara Allen  
Chief Operating Officer James Maloney  
Chief Financial Officer Claire Spinner  
Chief Planning Officer Lori Likis  
CEA President Terry Gist

Mr. Osborne in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, Mr. Osborne called the meeting to order at 5:44 PM.

Mr. Osborne asked Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer, to begin the presentation on the FY2016 Enrollment and Budget projections which was postponed from January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Spinner walked the Members through the FY2016 Enrollment and Budget Projections PowerPoint presentation (on file in the School Committee office):

FY 2016 Enrollment & Budget Projections:

- Enrollment
  - Current Year: 6,678
  - Enrollment Growth past 4 years: 8%
  - Projected enrollment SY14/15: (+99)
- Enrollment by Grade Groupings
- Student Demographics
- K-8 Average Class Size
- Projected FY16 Class Size
- High School Average Class Size by Subject Area
- Budget Estimates for FY2016
- Preliminary Expenditure Projection Assumptions (Maintenance of Effort)
- Projected Expenditures
- Expenditure Increases for FY2016
- Projected General Fund Expenditures by Category: \$163.4M
- FY2016 Projected Revenue
- Revenue Assumptions
- Comparison of Expenditures to Revenues
- Resolving Gap Between Revenues & Expenditures
- FY2016 Budget Process

Mr. Harding joined the meeting.

Mr. Osborne opened the floor to questions from the Members.

Ms. Spinner answered the Members questions and concerns regarding the following:

- An assumption is made that everything is staying in place for next year. Enrollment is looked at school by school, and if a classroom needs to be added, then that additional teacher will be added. However, if classroom enrollment drops below contractual level for a classroom, then a teacher position will be reduced.
- Department heads and principals start with a "maintenance budget". They are given the numbers of staff (FTE) and classrooms for the year based on their enrollment. Ms. Spinner meets with the department heads and principals by program areas.

- What is the process in working with the school councils? Do we monitor their involvement in the budget process? School Councils have a consultative role and principals are encouraged to have conversations with their school councils now.
- Schools are allocated a per pupil bucket of discretionary funding which is on average \$50K (+ or - \$10K) as well as School Improvement Funds. This discretionary funding is used for operational costs, e.g. books, instructional materials.
- School Councils have a very specific role in the use of school improvement funds. The planning for these funds will happen in April and May for items that they want to implement for the next fiscal year. They are waiting for data and the planning process to determine this. On the SIP funding side, also taken into consideration are allocations for the SEI program, OLA, the demographics of schools and some programs being more expensive to run.
- The Members appreciated receiving the Status of FY2015 Initiatives – Working Document.
- It's difficult to project SEI; incredible growth this year. The G&P SEI students were under projected and SEI students over projected at VLUS. There is no mathematical process that helps Ms. Spinner project SEI enrollment.
- Ms. Spinner explained how she projected upper school enrollments since it's still fairly new and she would need more experience and years of data to be more accurate.
- Class size at high school level is good news as well as the reduction of out-of-district placements
- Two schools' enrollment declined 10% per our projections (King Open and King). What is the status and why?
- Larger decline in enrollment in Putnam Ave. Upper School and Vassal Lane Upper School.
- Ms. Spinner explained the 4% of the budget allocated for all other expenses: \$4.2M. It is for professional and technical services, instructional materials, technology, workshop stipends, travel and training, conferences, equipment, and debt service.
- Ms. Spinner noted that we don't have a specific contingency built into our budget. We start with reserve teachers and aides. Needing to put another classroom teacher in due to enrollment would be the biggest area. Extra funds for energy costs and tuition are built in since it's easier to have a little extra in April than to not have enough to pay energy bills or tuition which may arise for an out-of-district student.
- Is there an impact on our utilities expenses with the net zero building?
- Sometimes SIP funds pay for additional FTE for art or music to free up prep time for collaboration among the teachers.
- Is there a correlation with Charter Schools and our lack of retention in our upper school enrollment?
- Need to watch retention pattern; at this point we are not seeing the retention going much past second grade, but it is being watched.
- If our typical retention pattern shifts, it could lead to an impact on space.
- Doesn't look like there is a big shift in demographics with exception of ELL.
- The pension cost is given to us by the City as the City's requirement for a fully funded pension plan by a certain date. Pension costs do not include anyone retiring from Mass. Teachers' Retirement System.

Mr. Maloney spoke on demographics and noted that the numbers have been consistent over the last ten years in categories of free and reduced, race and ethnicity. Our numbers are slightly down compared to the projections for the upper schools. Ms. Rippey is working with him on a plan as the first steps to draw attention to the fine aspects of our middle grades and high school. They are also looking at the possibility of hiring a part-time data analyst to investigate further.

The Superintendent indicated that we are early in this budget process. The general thrust is to continue to work on the FY2015 initiatives and to proceed with the social and emotional learning piece as well as with work to get the upper schools where they should be. He also spoke on the projects underway in tandem with the City, e.g. STEM, early childhood education, out-of-school time opportunities. Dr. Young asked Ms. Spinner to update the Members in the near future on the work of the City Early Childhood Education Task Force.

Dr. Young mentioned that a presentation is planned for the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting on the Math in Focus implementation and accelerated pathway for upper schools. He recently received a draft of the written report of these two areas.

Mr. Osborne spoke about reaching out to teachers, school administrators, parents and citizens during this budget process. Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne distributed the Draft Cambridge School Committee FY2015 Budget Guidelines to the Members for their review and discussion (on file in School Committee office).

Mr. Osborne noted that the guidelines are the guiding principles of how we produce the next budget for our school system.

The broad, overarching themes presented in the proposed FY2015/16 Budget Guidelines are:

- Student Achievement
- Elementary Schools
- Upper Schools
- High School
- Program & Curriculum Evaluation
- Special Populations
- Family Engagement and School Climate
- Operations & Long Range Planning

Mr. Harding asked Dr. Young how he uses the budget guidelines provided by the Committee. Dr. Young responded that the guidelines give them a strong sense of the voice of the community on priorities. He noted that the guidelines are helpful when they are clear and pointed, but less helpful when flexibility is not allowed on how to accomplish them.

The Budget Co-Chairs encouraged the Members to express their ideas and priorities so that the Superintendent would be given the clearest possible direction of how to proceed with this budget.

The Members and the administration discussed the following priorities:

- Student achievement
- Social and emotional learning
- Reducing the achievement gap
- Successful upper school program
- Equity of outcomes
- Excellent teaching
- Finding the most effective way to help students across the board
- Some issues apply to all schools; fit into other broader categories
- Growth mindset framework
- Improve quality of instruction and curriculum
- Teaching teachers and evaluators what effective teaching is
- School Climate
- World Language given the constraints of a 6 hour day
- Operations and long-range planning, issues of space within some schools
- Finding a permanent location for CPS administration

The following overarching themes were considered top priorities:

- Upper schools
- Social and emotional learning
- Closing the achievement gap

The Budget Co-Chairs discussed the draft budget calendar which they have been following. They will work with administration and come back in the near future with a revised, accurate calendar for adoption.

The Members were requested to send additional feedback on their priorities to Dr. Young, Ms. Spinner and the Budget Co-Chairs. It was suggested that they prioritize the guidelines and consider what is most important to them. It was requested that the Budget Co-Chairs distribute in advance any revisions to the FY2015/16 Draft Budget guidelines to the Members.

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Cronin, it was voted to adjourn (8:00 PM).

Adjourned  
Judith T. Martin  
Executive Secretary  
to the School Committee

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

- Financial Forecast & Enrollment Projections, Fiscal Years 2016 – 2020
- FY 2016 Enrollment & Budget Projections
- Status of FY2015 Initiatives – Working Document (1/12/15)
- Logic Model, Year-Long Curriculum and Instructional Program
- RBT Theory of Action
- Draft FY2016 Budget Development Calendar
- Draft FY2015 Budget Guidelines

**#15-40**, Report of the Meeting of the January 21, 2015 Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee

**Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Curriculum and Achievement**

**January 21, 2015**

**Dr. Henrietta Attles Room**

**4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

The meeting was called for the purposes of discussing and updating the Committee on the district's tiered system of support (RTI). Topics anticipated to be discussed will include Core Instruction, Universal Assessment and Progress Monitoring, as well as Systematic Problem Solving and Intervention designed to meet the needs of all students.

Members Present: Ms. Cronin, Chair; Mr. Fantini, Ms. Nolan

Also Present: Dr. Jessica Huizenga, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Ms. Maryann MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Ms. Christine Gerber, Principal of the Kennedy-Longfellow; Dr. Nancy Campbell, Principal of the Haggerty; Ms. Susan Pemsler, Literacy Coach at the Haggerty; Ms. Patty West, Early Literacy Interventionist at Haggerty; Ms. Shelley Midkiff-Borunda, Early Literacy Interventionist at the Kennedy-Longfellow; Dr. Christopher Parker, IDEAL Consulting Services, Inc.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Ms. Cronin in the Chair.

Handout presented: Response to Intervention: Principles and Practices to Improve Outcomes for ALL Students PowerPoint presentation (on file in the School Committee office).

The Chair stated the purpose of the meeting and turned the meeting over to Dr. Huizenga.

Dr. Huizenga began by introducing her team of presenters, who then walked the Members through the following presentation beginning with Dr. Parker.

Dr. Parker (presently working with 3 schools: Fletcher/Maynard, Kennedy-Longfellow and Haggerty) opened the presentation by going through the beginning of the handout. He also emphasized a few points: There is an ongoing bi-weekly assessment of Tier 1 students needing progress monitoring and receiving RTI support. He also stated assessments are not synonymous with testing.

Ms. MacDonald shared some history from the 2010/2011 school year, describing when intervention was first launched with one year training for the staff and principals at the Morse, Baldwin and Cambridgeport schools using the PCG Consulting Group. In the following year they added Math to go along with Literacy. In 2013/2014, during the Innovation Agenda, there was training in Intervention for elementary schools. They used their Literacy Assessments, working with Dr. Parker, and implemented the *FAST* Assessment System.

Ms. Gerber spoke about Tier I. Dr. Campbell spoke about Tier II. Ms. West spoke about Progress Monitoring. Ms. Pemsler spoke about Progress Monitoring during winter 2014 and Intervention Effectiveness.

- Response to Intervention: Principles and Practices to Improve Outcomes for ALL Students
- Goals of the Presentation
- Principles and Practices in a Tiered Systems of Support
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (3-Tier Instructional Model)
- Making RTI work – Five Foundational Factors
- Process of Implementation
- Foundational Factor No. 1...Research-Based Assessment System
- Assessing Basic Skills
- The Link between Assessment & RTI
- Cambridge Assessment System *fast* (formative assessment system for teachers)
- Research Based Assessment
- FAST & Response to Intervention
- Tier 1: Core Instruction
- Tier One
- What are the five Key Components?
  - Phonemic awareness
  - Phonemic Decoding (Word Study)
  - Fluency
  - Comprehension
  - Vocabulary (Oral Language)
- We also can't forget
  1. Background Knowledge
  2. Writing (esp. Reading Response work)
  3. Syntax (Grammar)
  4. Motivation
- The Effectiveness of Tier 1 Instruction will Drive Proper RTI Implementation
- Differentiating Content: The Reading Competence Continuum
- Differentiating Delivery includes
- Rotation Chart is Posted – Sample 1
- Reading Jobs
- Tier 1 Universal Screening and Data Teams Longitudinal Data Analysis
- Other Reports
  - Intervention Effectiveness
  - Response to Intervention
  - Weekly Gains
  - Sorts
- Tier II Intervention Support and Progress Monitoring
- Tier II Intervention
- Goal Setting and Progress Monitoring
- Progress Monitoring

- Tier 3: Intervention and Support
- Tier III: Tools
- What We've Learned
- Lessons
- Lessons Learned
- Important Considerations
- Important outcomes from this work
- Next Steps
- Net Steps Year 3 and Beyond
- Student Support Teams
- Stage 1: GLDMs & PMMs
- Easy? Expect a 5-8 year initiative to implement RTI effectively
- Take Home Points
  - ✓ RTI is not simply a method to identify students with learning disabilities – it is about improving results for students – the fact that it can help systematically identify students with learning disabilities is incidental.
  - ✓ This can be done in practice.
  - ✓ It takes a tremendous amount of time and support for teachers and administrators.
  - ✓ It is good for kids.

The PowerPoint presentation ended at 5:45 PM.

The Chair noted there was not much time for questions, there was a short discussion with questions, comments and concerns around the following issues:

- Mr. Fantini stated he was concerned and asked if small groups can be construed as tracking? Dr. Campbell responded to the tracking concern saying not really because small groups are more flexible and constantly changing.
- Cut scores increase as they gain mastery
- Working as a team to own the literacy projects
- Different text levels
- There are a lot of students in Tier II
- How much gain do students make
- Conversations with teachers about the core
- Reading Recovery in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade as a Tier 3 Intervention Tool
- Phonics Collaboration
- Shared ownership across all teams
- Adaptive reading is the only screener that is computer based
- SPS and FAST
- Data goes into the FAST System, then pulled from FAST by IDEAL and put into SPS
- Ms. Cronin asked about CRLS, is RTI considered a K-12 model and if we have the Tool Box that we really need to address all of the students needs?
- Ms. Nolan asked about tracking, how do we deal with the milestones and common core of developmentally challenged students and are we over testing?
- One minute assessments
- IEP for all students

Members stated they have many questions but since we have run out of time, they will communicate their questions to Dr. Huizenger through email. The Chair made closing remarks and thanked Dr. Huizenga and her staff of presenters for such a comprehensive, detailed and positive presentation.

Adjourned (6:08 PM)

Adjourned  
Dosha Ellis Beard

Confidential Secretary

**Distributed Documents** (on file in the School Committee office)

- ✓ Response to Intervention: Principles and Practices to Improve Outcomes for ALL Students PowerPoint presentation.

**#15-41, Motion by Mr. Fantini**, that the School Committee send a resolution to Shavaun O'Neill on her retirement as a CRLS Special Educator.

**#15-46, Motion by Mr. Fantini**, that the School Committee send a resolution to Jesse Vidinha in recognition of the voluntary support given to the CRLS boys' hockey team over the last ten years.

Mr. Fantini asked for suspension of the Rules to speak on an item already adopted. It was voted to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Fantini to speak on **#15-36**. Mr. Fantini asked the Superintendent when the Committee would receive a status report on the hiring of a math coordinator. Dr. Young responded that information will be provided in the Weekly, and there will be a math presentation at the March 3, 2015 Regular Meeting.

**#15-37, Motion by Ms. Nolan**, that, whereas the changes made to the Controlled Choice Policy related to the kindergarten lottery resulted in some adjustments made in 2014, that the administration review the kindergarten and junior kindergarten parameters around the lottery and ensure the assignment process may be run in the best interest of the district. Ms. Nolan expressed her concerns that the lottery is transparent, clear to parents when they make their choices and run in the way that parents expect it to be run. Mr. Maloney responded to Ms. Nolan's concerns and noted the possibility of a recommendation on the band being brought forward in March. On a voice vote, **#15-37** was adopted.

**#15-38, Motion by Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne, Co-Chairs of the Budget Sub-Committee**, that the School Committee approve the FY 2016 Budget Guidelines as outlined in the attached document. Ms. Nolan raised the question on how, given these guidelines, we can provide in a timely manner ideas on how to insure these guidelines are met. Mr. Harding noted that they struggled with not having the time we would have used in a budget retreat. He asked that the Members articulate their priorities electronically to Ms. Spinner and Dr. Young. Dr. Young praised the budget co-chairs for their work in inviting feedback from the public and staff. He stated that even though the guidelines had not passed officially, they have been using 90% of these guidelines for the past few months and will be focusing on a small number of areas, e.g. reading proficiency in the early grades; social and emotional learning; and the upper schools. On a voice vote, **#15-38** was adopted.

**Supplemental Motions:**

**#15-43, Joint Motion by Mr. Fantini and Ms Cronin**, whereas, Freedom Schools, a non-profit Children's Defense Fund program that helps curb summer learning loss and close achievement gaps for low-income/high risk students, wants to start a free program for 30 children in Cambridge this summer, we request the Superintendent confer with Freedom Schools to see if space (three classrooms) can be made available for them. Freedom Schools requests they be informed as soon as possible as they need to proceed with their summer planning. Mr. Osborne is concerned about the space issue challenge. He wants the Committee and administration to rethink summer learning with a more holistic approach. He read a possible substitute motion which he had developed, "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". Mr. Maloney spoke on the issue of space and noted that the leadership team should identify the best service providers. Mr. Fantini asked if Mr. Osborne was providing a substitute motion or an amendment. Mr. Osborne

stated that he was providing a substitute motion. Mr. Fantini responded that K-5 summer opportunities were few. He stressed that this was a fully funded pilot program which would meet our need and be the right thing to do for our children. He welcomes a strategic plan to go along with this. Mr. Osborne withdrew his substitute motion. On a voice vote, **#15-43** was adopted.

**#15-44, Joint Motion by Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne**, that the Superintendent, Executive Director of Human Resources and the Affirmative Action/Recruitment Officer plan a Roundtable by the end of this school year to discuss the findings of the Affirmative Action Officer's Report of January 21, 2015 which outlines a Strategic Plan for the improved recruitment and retention of CPS teachers of color to support the district's stated goal of 30% diversity among the teaching staff. Mr. Harding thanked the Superintendent and his staff for their prompt response. Members had different responses to the report. They need to know what the work plan will be in getting to the 30%. Mr. Fantini gave credit to the Superintendent who has been very responsive in hiring a diverse workforce including his leadership team and also appreciates Ms. Allen's hard work in promoting diversity. He requested an update from Ms. Allen regarding the program she has been working on with local colleges. On a voice vote, **#15-44** was adopted.

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

**Supplemental Resolutions:**

**#15-45, Motion by Mr. Fantini**, that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations to Melissa Honeywood, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, and her staff for being ranked #1 in America for Best Food by Niche.com, an online ratings service. Over 3,800 school districts were ranked according to the variety of healthy, quality food options they offered; their ability to accommodate various dietary preferences; and how students rated the quality of cafeteria fare. This achievement reflects the collaborative work of Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge Public Health Department, Institute for Community Health, and City Sprouts over the past 12 years to improve school meals. Successful strategies have included developing and taste-testing new dishes, coaching and training food service staff, launching a farm-to-school program, and introducing salad bars. Mayor Maher and Mr. Fantini recognized Ms. Honeywood and her outstanding food service department staff. Ms. Nolan noted that she doesn't support the methodology of this website, but does support CPS's phenomenal food service department. On a voice vote, **#15-45** was adopted.

**11. Announcements:**

**12. Late Orders:**

It was voted to adopt the following:

**Motion by Ms. Cronin**, that the Vice-Chair and the Superintendent provide the School Committee with the status of the Superintendent's evaluation by the next meeting.

**Motion by Mayor Maher**, that the School Committee Members send a letter extending their best wishes to Bobby Travers on the occasion of his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for negotiations with non-union personnel as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the School Committee.

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

The Chair announced that the School Committee voted to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy for negotiations with non-union personnel as an open meeting would have a

detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the School Committee and that no votes would be taken and that the Committee would not reconvene in open session.

Open Session Adjourned (7:44 PM)

Judith T. Martin  
Executive Secretary