

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

January 20, 2015

Called for 6:00 PM in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee. The Committee may convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for Level III grievances as part of collective bargaining and litigation strategy as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation positions 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 Liz Kubicek

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Caitlin Roberts, Huron Ave., budget, Kodaly music for Haggerty
- Wendy McDowell, Dudley St., budget Kodaly music for Haggerty, Petition to fully fund Kodaly at Haggerty
- Lynn Brown, C CVS, IA/budget
- Carroll MaGill, Waterman Rd., budget, Kodaly music for Haggerty
- Emily Dexter, Fenno St., IA
- Pia Cisternino, CPAC Vice-Chair, nomination of Dr. Greer for the 2015 Community Partnership Award at Federation for Children with Special Needs

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Kubicek reported that the Winter Formal at the Kendall Marriott will be held on January 30th and the winter sport season is coming to a close. She informed the Members about a Harvard Ed. School facilitated dinner where Cambridge police officers and high school students sat down together and discussed important racial issues in the community. Although Ms. Kubicek was unable to attend this dinner, feedback from students was positive and many found it an incredibly enlightening and empowering event. She hopes to attend a follow-up meeting which is planned in the near future.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Regular Meeting – January 6, 2015

- Special Meeting (Retreat) – January 7, 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)

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Office of Student Services
Report.....

Victoria Greer,
Assistant
Superintendent
of Student
Services

Dr. Young introduced Dr. Greer and thanked her for her leadership. He indicated that this is an annual report which is given each year to provide the Members with a sense of the path that the Office of Student Services has taken over the last 12 months including successes, work in progress and challenges ahead. Dr. Greer introduced her leadership team who will be joining her in the presentation: Jean Spera, Director of OSS; Rebecca Altepeter, Coordinator of High School, Upper School, Out-of-District; Shelagh Kelley-Walker, Coordinator Pre-School/Special Start; Karyn Grace, Interim Coordinator Curriculum, Instruction, Inclusive Education; and Marc Wright, Fiscal and Operations Manager.

Dr. Greer and her Leadership Team walked the Members through the Office of Student Services Annual Report to the School Committee PowerPoint presentation (on file in the School Committee office):

- OSS Vision
- The Office of Student Services
- Student Support OSS
- Data Review
- Comparison by Disability
- Disability by Grade Tiers
- Updates of Programs and Services
- Office of Student Services
- Section 504 2014-2015 Update
- OSS Student Support Team Model
- Office of Student Services Coordinators
- Our Accomplishments
- Special Start
- Related Services
- School Entry
- Inclusive Education Staff Development
- OSS Staff focused on Curriculum, Instruction, and Inclusive Education
- Inclusive Instructional Specialists and Academic/Enrichment Manager
- Behavior Specialists
- Professional Development Partnerships
- Upper School, High School, Out-of-District Support
- Reintegration Work
- John's Story
- Challenge
- Out-of-District

- Upper School News
- Exciting News for CRLS
- School Support
- Continuous Improvement
- Year 2 Goals and Strategic Planning
- Strategic Planning Process
- Strategic Planning Timeline
- Questions to Ponder

Dr. Greer and her leadership team responded to the questions and concerns from the Committee. The Members praised and expressed appreciation to Dr. Greer and her leadership team for such a comprehensive and informative presentation which helped them to understand the many changes which have recently evolved in the OSS department.

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Mr. Osborne, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Osborne removed **#15-20**; Mr. Fantini removed **#15-21**.

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt items **#15-18, #15-19 and #15-22**.

#15-18, Authorization for the Superintendent to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the replacement of the Fletcher Maynard Academy school building boiler. That in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts School Building Authority the School Committee enter an order containing the following resolution: Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on January 20, 2015, the School Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form that will be submitted to the MSBA no later than February 13, 2015 for the Fletcher Maynard Academy school building located at 225 Windsor Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

The funds are sought to be used for the replacement of the building's boiler. The Windsor Street building's boiler dates to 1960, is inefficient, and requires frequent maintenance. The age and inefficiency of the boiler is a major nuisance and cost to the district. This project falls under priority category number 5, which is for the replacement, renovation, or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility as determined in the judgment of Authority.

The Cambridge School Committee hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or another funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

#15-19, Authorization for the Superintendent to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the replacement of the Kennedy Longfellow / Putnam Avenue school building roof. That in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts School Building Authority the School Committee enter an order containing the following resolution:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on January 20, 2015, the School Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to

authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form that will be submitted to the MSBA no later than February 13, 2015 for the Kennedy Longfellow (grades PK-5) / Putnam Avenue Upper (grades 6-8) school building located at 158 Spring Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

The funds are sought to be used for the replacement of the building's roof, including the installation of photovoltaic panels if deemed structurally possible. The Spring Street building was constructed in 1971, and much of the roof is the original roof dating back to the early 1970s. While some areas have been replaced, even these areas are mostly in excess of 20 years old and have been repeatedly patched. Despite constant repair work, the roof and original skylights are chronically leaking. This project falls under priority category number 5, which is for the replacement, renovation, or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility, as determined in the judgment of Authority.

The Cambridge School Committee hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

#15-22, Grant Awards, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, - Biotechnology, for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$50,000.00. Project/Grant SC16101.
Description: The RSTA Biotechnology Program has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC). With the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science (MAMS – a high school affiliated with the Worcester Polytechnic Institute) and three CRLS biology teachers, RSTA will participate in the biotech company IOMICS' Pathways Initiative, a large research project aimed at mapping genetic networks in yeast which may be relevant in treating human disease. This grant supports the purchase of equipment that will enable students to participate in real-world, project-based experiments in their biotechnology and biology elective courses. Independent of the grant, IOMICS will provide professional development for teachers and training for several students during the summer.
2. Massachusetts Creativity / Innovation Initiative, for the period January 20, 2015 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$15,000.00. Project/Grant SC15122.
Description: CPS will participate in and contribute to a state project to develop a set of curricula that help students develop their creativity and capacity for innovation. In collaboration with Lesley University's Creativity Commons, teachers and students in 6th grade science classes will learn to incorporate technology into project-based learning activities.

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

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#15-20, Approval of New Summer Program Coordinator Position, that the School Committee approve the creation of a new position, the Summer Program Coordinator, who will lead the establishment of a well-planned, coordinated academic summer program district-wide.

Ms. Kelly expressed her concerns regarding why **#15-20, Approval of New Summer Program Coordinator Position**, is coming forward at this time considering the budget process. She indicated the need to look at more than six months into the future and think about what we desire our summer programming to look like in the next 3 to 5 years instead of reacting to a crisis situation.

Dr. Young explained that the timing is connected to the receipt of a message from Lesley University that as of this summer, the funding for the Compass program has ended. This program has been in operation for more than 35 years; 160 Cambridge students attend each summer. Lesley cut administrative positions that managed the implementation of Compass and cannot run the program without that support. Ms. Spinner and Ms. MacDonald explained the reasoning behind creating a summer program developer position who would coordinate academic summer programs district-wide as well as the Compass program. It was mentioned that applications are due to go out in 2 weeks and the Compass program could be lost.

The Chair introduced Ms. Ann Larkin who told of her involvement with the beginning of the Compass program which started in 1975. She noted that the growth has been amazing for this 6 week summer program which gives students everything they need in the academic and enrichment areas with a thematic approach.

Mr. Osborne stated that we need to develop a more comprehensive and strategic approach to summer learning planning with a more holistic solution.

All the Members expressed their appreciation of the work of the Compass program and understand the need for summer learning. They want to make sure summer compass happens this summer, but it shouldn't blend with other programs this year. There is a need during the next budget cycle to take a more comprehensive approach at summer learning.

Mr. Harding noted that this gives us the opportunity for further conversation on the design of a program, the data that drives it, and the process to get there and to think about it in a short and long term way.

Mayor Maher thanked Ann Larkin for her passion and commitment and thanked Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Spinner for their help. He is committed to expanding this type of programming to make sure no child is excluded due to cost.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mayor Maher, it was voted to refer **#15-20** to the Superintendent requesting that he come back with a short-term solution to ensure that the Compass Program goes forward and a long-term solution as to how we will address summer learning.

Mr. Fantini asked for clarification of the vendor for this contract. Ms. Cronin reminded Dr. Greer of the Committee's request to obtain more specific information on these institutions. Dr. Greer noted that she would embed this information in her comprehensive report which she will be presenting next month. **#15-21, Special Needs Contracts for 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.

Day Program Tuition Contracts	1	\$36,869.70
Residential Program Tuition Contracts	0	N/A
45 Day Program Contracts	0	<u>N/A</u>
Total Current	1	\$36,869.70

On the following roll call, **#15-21** was adopted: Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mayor Maher YEA. Ms. Kelly asked for and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on a vote that had already passed.

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

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Osborne, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward **#15-24, Motion by Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne, Co-Chairs of the Budget Sub-Committee**, that the School Committee approve the Proposed FY'16 CPS Budget Calendar, as outlined on pages 1 and 2 of the attached document. The Rules having been suspended for the purpose stated, Mr. Harding amended the Proposed FY2015/16 Budget Development Calendar changing the date of the public hearing on the Superintendent's proposed school budget to March 25th from March 24th due to a School Committee professional development opportunity scheduled on the 24th. On the following roll call, **#15-24** was adopted as amended: Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Cronin, to bring forward **#15-23** for adoption.

#15-23, Motion by Mayor Maher, that the School Committee vote to accept the amended articles of agreement for Shore Educational Collaborative, as per the attached document. On the following roll call, **#15-23** was adopted: Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolence): None

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

It was voted to adopt the following:

Motion by Mr. Harding seconded by the entire Committee, that the School Committee send a letter of condolence to the family of Muriel Best.

Motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by the entire Committee, that the School Committee send a letter of condolence to Ms. Shirley Harvey, Family Liaison at the Cambridgeport School, on the loss of her eldest son, Cedric Harvey, Jr.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for Level III grievances as part of collective bargaining and litigation strategy as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation positions of the School Committee.

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

The Chair announced that the School Committee voted to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy for Level III grievances as part of collective bargaining and litigation strategy as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation positions of the School Committee and that no votes would be taken and that the Regular Meeting would not reconvene.

Adjourned (9:15 PM)

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary

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

- Letter from Caitlin Roberts (presented at public comment)
- Letter from CPAC officers (presented at public comment)

- Petition to Fully Fund Kodaly at Haggerty School (presented at public comment)
- Unequal Schools: Comparing Two Schools Located in Cambridge's Poorest Neighborhoods 2013-2014 School Year, prepared by Emily Dexter and Leslie Brunetta (presented at public comment)
- Unequal Schools: Unequal demographic, staffing and neighborhood challenges that create unequal opportunities for low-income students to learn in CPS elementary schools: FY 15, prepared by Emily Dexter and Leslie Brunetta (presented at public comment)
- Office of Student Services Annual School Committee Report PowerPoint Presentation