

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

October 21, 2014

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 Lucy Sternbach and Liz Kubicek

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

Mayor Maher spoke about Cambridge's Sister City exchange program with San José Las Flores, El Salvador. He introduced and welcomed Douglas Serrano, Principal, City Council President, San José Las Flores, who is visiting Cambridge. Also introduced were Jim Wallace and Lee Hardy who is President of the International Network of U.S./El Salvador Sister Cities and an alumni of the Cambridge Public Schools.

The Chair returned to regular order of business.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Denise Mytko, Highland Ave., Somerville, re Draper Lab internship
- Oliver Sussman, Stinson Ct., re transportation policy
- Paloma O'Conner, Bates St., re transportation policy
- David O'Conner, Bates St., re transportation policy
- Susan Fisher, Cushing St., re transportation policy
- Robert Kelley, St. Gerard Terrace, re transportation policy
- Milo Lynch, Green St., re transportation policy
- Nuyen Kim, Mass. Ave., re transportation policy
- Adrianna Lucerno, Dunster Mail Center, re transportation policy
- Craig Kelley, St Gerard Terrace, re transportation policy
- Mary Gashaw, Kid's Council, re transportation policy

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Kubicek and Ms. Sternbach reported on the following:

- Parent Teacher conferences were held today and will also be held Wednesday morning and Thursday evening

- There was a health expo. today focusing on teen health and abusive drugs
- The girls' volleyball team will have senior night on Wednesday and the soccer team will have it on Saturday
- The homecoming game for football is this Friday evening

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Roundtable Meeting – September 30, 2014
- Regular Meeting – October 7, 2014

4. Reconsiderations:

Having filed the proper notice as required by the Rules, Mayor Maher moved reconsideration of the vote taken at the Regular Meeting of October 7, 2014 that adopted the following motion **#14-209**: that whereas the district made a commitment to provide opportunities for all students to be on a pathway to finish Algebra I in 8th grade and whereas the School Committee requested a report on the summer math program and the accelerated program, that in the meantime, while waiting for the report, resources be allocated to ensure that every student who wishes to be on the accelerated pathway in grade 7 and 8 be encouraged to do so and be enrolled in such a class with a teacher.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on a voice vote, the motion for reconsideration prevailed and the matter was again before the Committee.

Ms. Cronin offered a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to refer this item to the Curriculum Sub-Committee to be addressed with other motions related to math. Ms. Nolan spoke in support of her motion and wants to ensure that students who wish to be on the accelerated pathway get the resources and classes they need now and not have to wait for the requested report. Dr. Turk answered Ms. Cronin's question and indicated that they have not received requests for additional resources at this time. Mr. Fantini moved the adoption of Ms. Cronin's substitute motion to refer **#14-209** to the Curriculum Sub-Committee with a sense that it be acted on quickly. On the following roll call, it was voted to refer **#14-209** to the Curriculum Sub-Committee: Mr. Osborne NAY; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding NAY; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan NAY; Mayor Maher YEA.

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar

Mr. Harding asked for unanimous consent to withdraw **#14-208**. It was voted to allow Mr. Harding to withdraw **#14-208**. **#14-208, Motion by Mr. Harding**, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel, the Superintendent, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation position of the School Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to suspend the Rules to take **#14-221**, out of order. The Rules having been suspended for the purpose stated, it was voted to bring forward **#14-221** for discussion and adoption. Discussion followed on liability issues and how other school districts' policies address this matter. Dr. Young expressed his support for these teams and feels involvement of legal counsel will facilitate the process of amending this policy before a final vote. Ms. Nolan explained that this specific language comes from MASCD and is allowed by State law. It is a structured policy and other districts have the same language. Mr. Fantini moved the adoption, seconded by Ms. Nolan, and asked that the Superintendent be encouraged to bring this policy recommendation back at the next regular School Committee meeting. On a voice vote, the following item was adopted:

#14-221, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Fantini, that, whereas current policy for the district on transportation of students for co-curricular and extra-curricular events requires the use of commercial buses or public transportation, and whereas the expense of needing a commercial school bus in all

instances sometimes can limit the participation of students in events, and whereas one way for parents to be involved in supporting students is providing transportation when circumstances warrant such voluntary offers, and whereas many Massachusetts school districts allow for student transportation in private vehicles, that the School Committee amend current policy on transportation of students to include a section "Student Transportation in Private Vehicles", language below, which is based on the MASC sample policy which conforms to all State and Federal laws and regulations. Further that legal counsel be asked to advise on how to amend current policy to ensure alignment with new policy.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION IN PRIVATE VEHICLES

School buses or public transportation or walking should be used when feasible for the transportation of students participating in co-curricular or extracurricular activities. However, when buses or public transportation or walking are not available, or are not a reasonable means of transportation, due to cost, or number of students needing transport, or other reason, private vehicles may be permitted to transport students to or from school activities that fall within the academic day or extend the school day provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. The activity has the approval of the Principal.
2. The owner of the vehicle being used in transporting students must submit a signed statement of personal liability insurance coverage on the vehicle in the amount of \$100,000 - \$300,000, or more, with the Principal.
3. The parents of students to be transported in this manner will be fully informed as to this means of transportation and will sign a statement to this effect.

6. Awaiting Reports:

- ✓ Report by the 2014 summer meeting on the district's efforts to meet the needs of advanced learners including a summary of accomplishments, a plan for future improvements, how success is measured and specific goals for advanced learners. Further that the district includes CALA and other parent input into the report. (Nolan) (C14-098), 5/20/2014
- ✓ Report by fall 2013 on AP program at CRLS (C13-133) (June 4, 2013)

The Chair recessed the Regular Meeting for the purpose of convening the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) meeting for the purpose of a public hearing on the budget guidelines. Mayor Maher ceded the Chair to the Budget Sub-Committee Co-Chairs, Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne and announced that the Regular Meeting will reconvene following the Sub-Committee meeting.

Budget Sub-Committee Meeting (Committee of the Whole) October 21, 2014

Called for the purpose of a public hearing on the FY16 Budget Guidelines.

Members Present: Ms. Cronin, Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Osborne, Mayor Maher

Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne, Co-chairs

A quorum of the budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Mr. Harding welcomed the public to the Budget Sub-Committee meeting and opened the hearing on the FY16 budget guidelines.

Public Hearing on Budget FY16 Budget Guidelines:

- Christine Jelstrup, Pleasant St.
- Mia Klinger-Powell, Daybreak Day Camp
- Karen Engels, Wendell St.
- Karen Dobak, Allston St.
- Pia Cisternino, Hollsworthy St.
- Nora Grodson, Parker St. (read statement from Mary-Ann Matyas)
- Leslie Brunetta, Roberts Rd.
- Mary Ellen Doran, Spring St.
- Cara Seiderman, Charles St.
- Laura Grego, Sedgewick Rd.
- Lisa Downing, Clay St.
- Emily Dexter, Fenno St.
- Craig Kelley, St. Gerard Terrace
- Giulia Folco, Broadway

Mr. Osborne indicated that the Budget Co-Chairs are committed to providing more opportunities for the public to be heard during this budget process.

Adjourned (7:59 PM)

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

The time for recess having expired, the Chair returned to the Regular Meeting.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Level 3 Schools Update.....	Teaching & Learning Team Christine Gerber, Principal, Kennedy/Longfellow School Darrell Williams, Principal, King Open School Mirko Chardin, Head of Upper School, Putnam Avenue Upper School
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The Superintendent introduced Ms. Gerber, Mr. Williams and Mr. Chardin. He thanked them for their leadership. Dr. Turk spoke on behalf of the TLT and all our schools in thanking the School Committee for allowing them to share the work in progress to serve our students in the best possible way. She noted the successful turnaround practices which were recently listed in a DESE report:

1. Leadership, shared responsibility and professional collaboration
2. Intentional practices for improving instruction
3. Providing students specific instruction and supports to all students
4. A safe and respectful collegial climate for teachers and students

Ms. Gerber, Principal, walked Members through the following Kennedy/Longfellow School PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the School Committee office):

- Key Challenges
- 2013 Narrowing Proficiency Gaps – PPI
- Student Growth in ELA
- Student Growth in Math
- What strategies did we implement?
- Data-driven Instruction
- School Climate
- Structures for Collaboration
- Opportunities for Professional Learning
- Technology
- What progress was made?
- Narrowing Proficiency Gaps – PPI
- 2014 School Percentile: 16th
- Kennedy Longfellow – Students with High Needs
- Third Grade ELA
- Third Grade Math
- Grades 3-5 Math MCAS
- Student Growth in ELA
- Student Growth in Math
- Sustaining Improvement
- Data-driven Instruction
- School Climate
- Structures for Collaboration
- Opportunities for Professional Learning

Ms. Gerber responded to questions, comments and concerns from the Committee:

- Look at successes we have achieved and try to build on that
- Listen to teachers for the best structures for them and then support them; being flexible with staff
- How can we transfer this success and help other struggling schools
- Need to set the culture of scholastic achievement so that we are not looking back at this Level 3 status again
- Strategies that were put in place were not just put in place for Level 3 status but for what is best for all our students
- Confident that we have the right strategies in place; make sure strategies in the current form are meeting the needs
- Appreciate attention to summer learning; fortunate to have Title I summer program for grades 1 to 5, Compass Program, East End House and Community Schools
- Identified students who they felt needed support and personally invited them to summer programs
- Worked around alignment to the frameworks; emphasize that work and what it means
- We need to make sure this is sustainable student achievement
- How do you get teachers to embrace cultural change and support them
- Students speak about values and what's happening at school to their parents; parents are well informed and support idea of positive school climate
- Raising of test scores is a byproduct of true learning
- Want to maintain relationship and partnership with Lesley College and strengthen it with the support of Ann Larkin and Sue Cusack

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to Ms. Gerber for her leadership and informative presentation and noted that she should be extremely proud of the movement and direction that the Kennedy Longfellow School has taken.

Mr. Chardin, Head of Upper School, Putnam Avenue Upper School, introduced Ms. Chu-Sheriff,

Assistant Principal and Ms. Wheeler, School Counselor at PAUS. He walked Members through the following Putnam Avenue Upper School PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the School Committee office):

- MCAS Data
- An Opportunity
- Creating a Sense of Urgency
- Strategic Objective to Support Student Learning #1
 - 1. Increase students' problem solving and critical thinking skills across content areas
- Strategic Objective to Support Student Learning #2
 - 2. Build a collaborative culture to support improved instruction
- Strategic Objective to Support Student Learning #3
 - 3. Strengthen Academic Supports
- Strategic Objective to Support Student Learning #4
 - 4. Strengthen Social Emotional Supports
- Next Steps
 - 1. State Level Responses
 - 2. District Level Responses
 - 3. Classroom Level Responses

Mr. Williams, Principal, walked Members through the following King Open PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the School Committee office):

- Progress & Improvement Snapshot
- Agenda
- King Open – All Students PPI
- King Open- African American Students 2013 PPI
- King Open- African American Students 2014 PPI
- King Open – Low Income Students 2013 PPI
- King Open – Low Income Students
- What strategies did we implement?
- Focus on Instruction
- Data-driven Instruction
- Structures for Collaboration
- School Climate
- Planning for change in grade structure
- What were our results in 2014
- School Improvement. What's next? 2014-2015
- Continued Focus on Instruction
- Continued Focus on Instruction
- School Climate
- Increased Support for Teachers' Professional Learning

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Kelly it was voted to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

The Chair thanked Mr. Chardin and Mr. Williams for their informative presentations and apologized for there not being enough time to open discussion and questions regarding their reports. The Members expressed concern that this very important issue be brought back before the Committee in a timely manner. The possibility of scheduling presentations at separate meetings in the future was suggested.

The Mayor will work with Mr. Chardin, Mr. Williams and the Superintendent to find a time that is convenient for them and the Committee to return for further discussion and feedback.

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Cronin, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed **#14-217** and **#14-219**. Ms. Kelly removed **#14-213** and **#14-220**. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#14-214, #14-215, and #14-218**: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#14-216**: Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding PRESENT NOT VOTING; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

#14-214, Approval of Gift of Educational Technology: that the School Committee accept and approve an in-kind donation of 30 Samsung Series 3 Chromebooks, one Slot Cart for the Chromebooks, and related device enrollment services. The donation is made to the King Open School from Facebook, Inc., and has a value of \$9,965.00.

#14-215, Approval of Gifts: that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts:

1. \$500 to the Fletcher Maynard Academy made from the Cambridge Hospital to support the purchase of new playground equipment;
2. \$400 to the Morse School made from Shaw's for the general support of the school.

#14-216, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Nursing 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.

Cambridge Public Health, 119 Windsor Street, Lower Level, Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$67,052.00.

#14-218, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Applied Behavior Analysis Support; 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.

Crossroads School, 11 Huron Drive, Natick, for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$40,040.00

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#14-213, acceptance of M.G.L.c.71, section 47, as pertaining to Student Activity: that the School Committee authorize the provisions of M.G.L.c.71, section 27 as follows:

That school principals/upper school heads may receive money in connection with student activities, which are defined as extra-curricular student programming identified by the principal and approved by the Chief Financial Officer;

That each school principal/upper school head may deposit such money into a Student Activity Agency Account held by the City Treasurer and established for each school;

That interest earned by such Student Activity Agency Accounts may be retained and expended on student activities as directed by each school's principal/upper school head;

That the City Treasurer may establish a Student Activity Checking Account for each school, to be operated and controlled by each school's principal/upper school head, once the principal/upper school head has given bond to the City;

That the maximum balance for Elementary and Upper School Student Activity Checking Accounts be \$5,000, and that the maximum balance for the High School Checking Account be \$25,000;

That Student Activity Accounts be audited annually by the Chief Financial Officer or a qualified designee as assigned by the Chief Financial Officer;

That otherwise undesignated balances in Student Activity Accounts inactive for more than one year be transferred to the City's Scholarship Trust Fund. (Second Reading).

#14-217, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Digital Color Press; 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:
November 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$21,382.80; July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$32,074.20; July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$32,074.20; July 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017 in the amount of \$10,691.40. Total contract: \$96,222.60

#14-219, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Temporary Clerical 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.

The Resource Connection, 161 South Main Street, Middleton, for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$90,000.00

#14-220, Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

- 1. Early Literacy Intervention**, for the period September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$57,535.00. Project/Grant SC15632
Description: These funds support ongoing professional development in Reading Recovery for Early Literacy Interventionist teachers who provide individual tutorial assistance to at-risk first grade students. The .38 FTE Teacher leader, in addition to part-time teaching duties, supervises, trains, and conducts professional development for reading recovery teachers both in district and out of district.
CPS Target Population: All first grade students in all schools.
Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: The short term, tier 3 intervention of Reading Recovery will result in an increased number of students attaining grade level reading proficiency and fewer referrals for special education services.
- 2. Literacy Partnerships**, for the period September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$16,963.00. Project/Grant SC15868
Description: This grant will help support the work of the Understanding by Design (UbD) consultants, Authentic Education, in re-writing the district ELA curriculum units. In addition, the grant will help support teachers in their work implementing the model units designed by the Massachusetts Department of Education, as well as internal professional development.
CPS Target Population: ELA Coaches and K-8 ELA teachers in all schools.
Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: This grant will result in increased reading and writing proficiency as measured by the MCAS, especially in the subgroups of special education and low income students.
- 3. 21st Century Community Learning (Revised)**, for the period of July 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015, in the amount of \$165,000.00. Project/Grant SC15854
Description: This is the first year of a three year 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. The Putnam Avenue Upper School (PAUS)/East End House (EEH) Out-of-School-time (OST) partnership Program will engage and address high needs PAUS students' learning and developmental needs as well as contribute to meeting elements of the CPS Improvement Goals. A .66 FTE Data and Grant Projects Specialist will provide administrative support to fulfill all grant requirements and deadlines, including attending periodic statewide and regional

meetings, administering data collection tools including surveys and other site-based assessments, and preparing grant reports.

CPS Target Population: Students in grades 6-8 at the Putnam Ave. Upper School.

Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: Through engaging in complementary learning enrichment activities designed in collaboration with the Cambridge Public Schools, middle grade students will make strides in their academic and social development as measured by a variety of tools and criteria specified by the MA DOE Evaluation team.

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

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

#14-222, Motion by Mayor Maher, whereas four Cambridge Rindge and Latin School students, Isabella Pestovski, Lorenzo Boni-Beadle, Ellery Buntel and Sam Nguyen interned at Draper Laboratory this summer and worked on various projects with their scientists and;

Whereas their projects are listed below:

Isabella Pestovski

- Worked in a software and algorithms engineering group developing software platforms that can create applications for computers, phones and tablets

Lorenzo Boni-Beadle

- Analyzed forces that could damage an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle as it is lifted from the water using Solidworks and 3D modeling software

Ellery Buntel

- Assisted team in design and assembly of sensor data capture device including electrical design and layout of printed circuit board.

Sam Nguyen

- Worked with engineering team to design calibration equipment. Work included creating a graphical user interface through use of and Win32/ C++

And whereas these students will be invited to showcase their summer projects with Draper Laboratory at the Cambridge Science Festival on April 18th;

Now therefore we ask that that a letter of recognition be sent to Ms. Pestovski, Mr. Bonnie-Beadle, Mr. Buntel & Mr. Nguyen congratulating them on their achievements.

11. Announcements:

The time of the meeting having expired, the Chair announced that the remaining items not voted would be placed on the Calendar.

12. Late Orders:

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Cronin, it was voted to adjourn (10:22 PM)

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary

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

- Kennedy Longfellow School PowerPoint Presentation, 10/21/14
- King Open School PowerPoint Presentation, 10/21/14

- Putnam Ave. Upper School PowerPoint Presentation, 10/21/14
- Letter from Leslie Brunetta on MCAS scores
- Letter from Mary-Ann Matyas on budget priorities
- Letter from Kristina Jelstrup, Lyn Kardatske and Angelita Mireles re budget priorities
- Letter from Mia Klinger re budget priorities (Daybreak Day Camp)