

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL REPORT

Regular Meeting

June 3, 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, and Mayor Maher

Also Present: Student School Committee Member Lucy Sternbach and Emily Gray

Mayor Maher in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of hearing from the participating students in the MA Environthon and also several scholarship recipients. The Rules having been suspended for the purpose stated, Mr. Fantini introduced Mr. Ronald Dibling-Moore, Student Advisor/Science Teacher who gave a brief background about the contest. The students introduced themselves and described the role he/she played in the contest. Mr. Fantini presented a framed certificate to the team; it will be placed in the display case at CRLS.

The Chair introduced the scholarship winners and asked them to come forward for recognition. Ms. Nolan gave a background on the various scholarships. CRLS principal, Damon Smith, read the names of the recipients and introduced the students. Some of the students spoke about the scholarships they received. Mayor Maher presented certificates to the students. Ms. Nolan took pictures.

In addition to the above mentioned presentation, plaques were presented to the Student School Committee representatives in appreciation of their hard work and dedication. Ms. Nolan took pictures of the Mayor with Emily and Lucy holding their plaques. The Members congratulated the students and wished them well. Emily is graduating from CRLS on Thursday; Lucy will be returning for the 14-15 school year.

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Chris Colbath-Hess, CEA re PARRC
- Erica Pastor, Lexington Street, re PARRC
- Ann Barnes, Bowdoin Street, re PARRC
- Amy Nadel, Grove Street, re PARCC
- Mary-Ann Matyas, Russell Street, re PARCC
- Whitey Allen, Foster Street, re PARCC
- Tassia Thomas, Ellsworth Park, re PARCC
- Kathy Greely, re PARCC

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Gray and Ms. Sternbach reported the following:

- CRLS students held a walk-a-thon in honor of Charlene Holmes who tragically passed away on June 3, 2012. The students walked the 2 miles to the Frisoli Youth Center. The event was organized by fellow student, Mercedes Wallace
- CRLS seniors graduate Thursday, June 5 at 6:00 PM
- The freshmen took the MCAS on Monday and Tuesday
- Spring sports are over; the softball, baseball and lacrosse teams made it to State
- The girls' track team are State champions
- Liz Kubicek is the student representative for SY 14-15

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow the City Manager to make his presentation to the Committee. The Rule having been suspended for the purpose stated, the Chair introduced Mr. Richard Rossi, City Manager; Ms. Lisa Peterson, Deputy City Manager; and Mr. James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer-CPSD.

Mr. Rossi gave an update on the King-Open School; Ms. Peterson presented a time-line.

Discussion took place around the following:

- Is there a way to get this report in writing
- What is the order of schools for work to start
- Do you envision the same process happening re keeping the neighborhoods informed
- At what point are the building specs included
- How closely are you looking at enrollment projections
- How many of our buildings are prepared for major upgrades
- Are there plans for early childhood

The Chair thanked the City Manager, the Deputy City Manager and Mr. Maloney for an informative presentation.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Regular Meeting – May 6, 2014
- Regular Meeting – May 20, 2014

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Awaiting Reports:

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

6. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to remove from the Calendar for discussion the Superintendent's evaluation instrument: **#14-66, Approval of the Process for Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools**. Ms. Nolan raised the question of the number of measures and proficiency goals by sub-groups. Discussion took place around the approval of **#14-66**; it was amended as follows: That the outcome document will be substituted by the new document which will be prepared by the Superintendent and Ms. Likis to increase the number of measurements and values that the School Committee would have to adhere to. On the following roll call it was voted to adopt **#14-66**, as amended: Mr. Harding NAY; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan NAY; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

Ms. Cronin expressed concern re **#14-06, Joint Motion by Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne**, that the Superintendent consult with the high school principal and staff around making a change to college preparatory designation for all classes at CRLS. Further, that any potential change of the course name be implemented by the 2014/15 school year. She would like to have a conversation with CRLS Principal Smith regarding the college prep classes. Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne were heard on the motion. Mayor Maher asked to leave **#14-06** on the Calendar and to suspend the Rules for the purpose of bringing forward two motions. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to suspend. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose stated. On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Cronin, it was voted that the Mayor schedule a roundtable or working meeting regarding the subject of disparity among some sub-groups of students in the Cambridge Public Schools. Ms. Cronin moved that the Mayor schedule a roundtable or working meeting with the high school principal and his staff regarding college prep and AP classes at CRLS. Mr. Osborne offered a friendly amendment to include "with student input". Ms. Cronin accepted Mr. Osborne's friendly amendment. It was voted that the Mayor schedule a roundtable or working meeting with the high school principal and his staff, with student input, regarding college prep and AP classes at CRLS.

The Members passed over **#13-122, Motion by Mr. Fantini and Mr. Harding** that each of the elementary and middle schools be provided with feedback in the form of a written report, provided by a expert consultant retained under the Request for proposal (RFP) process, as to the progress each school is making towards meeting the data-driven, high-quality improvement strategies as noted in the School Improvement Plans, other guiding documents and indicators as designated by the Superintendent, including parent satisfaction. Further, that the Superintendent shall provide copies of each report to the School Committee as part of its annual review of the School Improvement Plan as required by law. Further, the Superintendent shall provide analysis of the progress or lack thereof student achievement.

7. Superintendent's Report/Presentations/Consent Agenda:

7a. Presentation:

7b. Innovation Agenda:

Ms. Nolan asked if the schedule changes in the Upper School will include a reduction in world languages. Dr. Turk was heard. She is not aware of a reduction in world languages; however, she will look into it.

7c. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to bring forward Superintendent's recommendations **#14-78-#14-83** for adoption or a second reading: Ms. Nolan removed **#14-78, #14-79, and #14-80**. On the following roll call, the following items were adopted: Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mayor Maher YEA:

#14-81, Approval of Policy Governing Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Checks Made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes: that the School Committee approve the Policy Governing Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Checks Made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes as detailed in the document (first reading). Referred to a second reading.

#14-82, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Transportation Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

S.P. & R Transportation, Inc., 1 Gagnon Drive, Dracut, for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$9,631,813.74.

#14-83, Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

MASexcELLS-Amendment, for the period May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2017, in the amount of \$104,000.00. Project/Grant SC15105.

Description: Amendment increasing the grant award accepted and approved by the School Committee on May 6, 2014 (Order #C14-078). This amendment reflects inclusion of the third and fourth years of the four year grant that will provide for the major portion of the salary of an ESL coach to support general education teachers of ELL students in grades K-8. The coach will support effective instruction for ESL and SEI students and will assist with student assessment.

CPS Target Population: All ELL students in grades K-8 across the district.

Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Improved instruction for English Language Learners will lead to improved student achievement as measured by local and state assessments.

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

The Chair moved the following to the end of the meeting:

#14-84 Motion by Mayor Maher, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation position of the School Committee.

9. Non-Consent Agenda:

Ms. Nolan spoke in support of **#14-78, Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for Statewide Testing in 2014/2015:** that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's Recommendation for Statewide Testing in 2014/2015 as detailed in the document. The Members joined her in her support and thanked the Superintendent for bringing in the recommendation. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#14-78:** Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

Ms. Nolan expressed concern re **#14-79** and **#14-80**, as they appear to be the same, and if there is a way to streamline the policies. Attorney MacFarlane was heard. On the following roll call, it was voted to refer **#14-79** and **#14-80** to a second reading: Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

#14-79, Approval of Revisions to Anti-Bullying Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Anti-Bullying Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

#14-80, Approval of Revisions to Anti-Bullying Section of Rights and Responsibilities Handbook: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Anti-Bullying Section of Rights and Responsibilities Handbook as detailed in the document (first reading).

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

Mayor Maher amended **#13-85** to remove Joyce Demella from the list and add Donna Daniels, Judith Doyle, Kathleen Kelsey, Quilda Macedo, Susan Shine, Anne Smith, Joan Soble and Jurina Vellucci. Mr. Fantini offered a friendly amendment to include "and when necessary resolutions", following congratulations. The following was adopted as amended:

#14-85 Motion by Mayor Maher, that the School Committee send letters of congratulations, and when necessary resolutions, to each of the following Cambridge Public School teachers/administrators who are retiring at the end of this school year:

Eugenia Athanassiu, Morse
Audrey Cabral-Pini, CRLS
Kathleen Clinton, CRLS
Donna Daniels, CRLS
Judith Doyle, Haggerty
Cornelia Heise-Baigorria, HBECE
Fran Hiller, King Open
Kathleen Kelsey, Cambridgeport
Yvon Lamour, CRLS
Judy Lazrus, G&P
Quilda Macedo, CRLS
Barry McNulty, Asst. Principal
Ellen Miller, Kennedy-Longfellow
Andrea Plate, RAUS

Karen Rudgis, G&P
Anthony Russo, CRLS
Holly Samuels, CRLS
Elba Santiago, Amigos
Susan Shine, RAUS
Filomena Silva, Dean of Students
Anne Smith, G&P
Joan Soble, CRLS
Karen Thompson, G&P
Jurina Vellucci, King Open
Margaret Walsh, PAUS
Geraldine (Maggie) Whalen, OSS
Rosalie Williams, CRLS/RSTA

11. Announcements: None

12. Late Orders:

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to send a letter of congratulations to the coach of the girls' track team on winning the State championship.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Osborne it was voted that a letter of condolence be sent to the Anne Marie Picanco, Manager of Human Resources, and her husband, Joe Picanco, School Custodian, on the recent passing of Ms. Picanco's mother Teresa Victoria.

On a motion by Ms. Cronin, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted that in response to the need to monitor closely our two Level 3 schools, the program development of our four new upper schools and our high school's response to the findings of last year's NEASC study, that the Superintendent and the Principals of each of these schools prepare for our review at this summer's meeting an executive summary of major issues implemented and outcomes documented in support of identified school improvement needs.

The Chair moved that the School Committee go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation position of the School Committee. The Committee will not reconvene in regular session; no votes will be taken except the vote to adjourn. On the following roll call, it was voted to enter into Executive Session for the purpose stated: Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

Adjourned (8:58 PM).

Patricia A. Berry
Executive Secretary to the School Committee