

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL REPORT

Regular Meeting

April 1, 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, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Harding, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Osborne, and Mayor Davis

Also Present: Student School Committee Members 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 6:17 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Chris Nuernberg, Cambridge Street re budget
- Han Bui, Allston Street, re budget/Olá
- Trinity Palhares, Oak Street, re Olá
- Nolan & Mason Silva, Oak Street, re Olá
- Kathy Han, Tremont Street, re budget/King Open
- Jennifer Goulart, Gore Street, re Olá
- Erica Pastor, Lexington Street, re Olá
- Monica Leon, High Street, re Math in Focus/budget
- Robert Vellez, Saint Gerard Terrace, re budget/secretaries
- Emily Dexter, Fenno Street, re budget
- Louisa Winchell, Howard Street, re D.R. trip refund
- Tina Kapur, Upton Street, re budget

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

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of bringing forward **Agenda item #8. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/ for Information), #14-36, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that whereas a community service trip to the Dominican Republic which had been successfully done in prior years and was supported by the Latino student club at CRLS was cancelled very close to the time of departure, and whereas families lost money through no fault of their own, and whereas the families have waited for refunds for a year causing hardship to many, and whereas the unusual circumstances of the trip cancellation merit an exception to the policy of reimbursement, the School Committee orders that all families receive refunds for monies as soon as possible. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose stated. Mr. Harding asked to be informed about what is being done to expedite the reimbursement to families. Mr. Maloney told the Members that this is not an easy process; there are quite a few steps to be taken. He hopes this will be resolved next week. Ms. Nolan was heard in support of her motion. It was voted to refer **#14-36** to the Superintendent.

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

2. Student School Committee Report:

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

- ✓ Science educator and professor, Christopher Emdin presented an awesome lecture at the Cambridge Public Library on Saturday, March 29. Professor Emdin uses Hip Hop concepts to teach science to students in New York City. His argument is not that students who are underachieving cannot do the work; it's just that it is not being presented in ways to help them succeed.
- ✓ College visits are back at the CCRC for anyone interested. Bates is coming up next week.
- ✓ The Student Representatives presented a petition from the students, teachers, and parents, in support of the learning community secretaries/clerks (copy on file in the School Committee office)

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting – March 13, 2014
- Regular Meeting – March 18, 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:

Members passed over the following Unfinished Business:

#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.

#13-213, Motion by Ms. Nolan that whereas research suggests that taking a college level course helps prepare students for college, and whereas the District allows students to take classes at local colleges when appropriate, that the policy on students who take college courses be clarified and written into the course catalog: that four classes is a full course load and that at most one of the four classes each semester may be at a local college/university/community college, including Harvard Extension. Students, who want to take more than four classes, counting any outside college class including Harvard Extension, need to petition their guidance counselor since a balanced student workload is encouraged. Students taking a college class outside the regular school day will work with their guidance counselors on assignment during that period, if not at the beginning or end of the day.

#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 an 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 other 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 of student achievement.

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

7a. Presentation:

7b. Innovation Agenda:

Ms. Nolan asked for a report from the Superintendent re CPS' policy on recess. Dr. Young informed the Committee that he sent a letter to all principals requesting that they act in a way that would align with the existing policy.

7c. Consent Agenda:

It was voted to bring forward Superintendent's Agenda items **#14-33 through #14-35** for adoption. The Chair suggested that **#14-33**, Fiscal Year 2015 Recommended Budget be taken up last, as it will more than likely generate lengthy dialogue between the Members and the Administration.

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#14-34**, Contract Award: Granite City Electric: Electrical Supplies: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for electrical supplies, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Granite City Electric, 450 Western Avenue, Boston, for the period April 1, 2014
through June 30, 2014, in the amount of \$50,000.00

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

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#14-45, Grant Award**: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated: Google Community Grants Fund, for the period March 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014, in the amount of \$15,000.00, Project/Grant SC14102: That the School Committee receive and approve the FY2015 General Fund Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools in the following Statutory Categories:

Description: This grant will support the (Glocal) Global and local Challenge program at CRLS which is addressing social justice concerns through global student involvement. This grant will support half the cost of a trip to China during March of two teams (9 students, 3 teachers and 1 School Committee member) who will study social justice, social entrepreneurship and environmental impacts at the Global Student Leaders Summit with students from across the United States, Canada and China.

CPS Target Population: The 9 students in grades 10-11 who were Members of the two highest scoring Glocal Challenge teams.

Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: Increased student engagement and knowledge about global social and environmental issues and student leadership development.

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

Upon his request, it was voted to allow Mr. Fantini to change his vote from YEA to PRESENT.

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

9. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

Ms. Nolan requested that appropriate letters of thanks be sent to everyone responsible for making possible the recent trip to China sponsored by Google and EF.

It was voted to send a letter of condolence to Kathy Walsh-Malone on the recent tragic loss of her brother, Fireman Lt. Ed Walsh.

It was voted to send a letter of condolence to Mertin Betts, Chair of the Cambridge Police Review and Advisory Board, on the recent loss of his father.

It was voted to send a letter of congratulations to Mrs. Muriel Turk in celebration of her 96th birthday.

The Chair returned to the Superintendent's Consent Agenda to take up **#14-33, Fiscal Year 2015 Recommended Budget**: that the School Committee receive and approve the FY 2015 General Fund Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools in the following statutory categories:

Salaries, Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$ 129,328,665.00
Other Ordinary Maintenance:	25,529,880.00
Travel & Training	1,035,875.00
Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>775,215.00</u>
Total	\$ 156,669,635.00

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Superintendent who walked Members through his proposed FY15 Budget Adjustments (copy on file in the School Committee office). Dr. Young noted that the adjustments do not change the bottom line of the Proposed Budget; the allocation from the City Manager remains completely intact:

- I. Support for CPS Partner Organizations**
Change to FY2015 Expenditures: A reduction of \$17,000.00 to Other Ordinary Expenditures
- II. 3rd Grade Teacher for Kennedy-Longfellow School**
Change to FY2015 Expenditures: An addition of \$63,200.00 to Salary & Wages
- III. 4th Grade Teacher for Fletcher-Maynard Academy**
Change to FY2015 Expenditures: An addition of \$63,200.00 to Salary & Wages
- IV. Family Engagement**
Change to FY2015 Expenditures: An addition of \$17,000.00 to Salary & Wages
- V. Level 3 Schools**
Change to FY 2015 FY Expenditures: An addition of \$20,000.00 to Other Ordinary Expenditures
- VI. District Technology Integration Support**
Change to FY 2015 Expenditures: An addition of \$63,200.00 Salary & Wages
- VII. Carryover of Available Circuit Breaker Revenue to FY015**
Change to FY 2015 Expenditures: A reduction of \$209,600.00 to Other Ordinary Expenditures

Mr. Osborne moved, seconded by Mr. Harding to accept the Superintendent's recommended adjustments to his recommended proposed budget. On the following roll call it was voted to accept the adjustments: Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; and Mayor Maher YEA. Discussion took place around the following questions and concerns:

- Bilingual liaison should be called SEI liaison
- District level integration specialist level of support w/elementary and upper schools
- I hoped that we could fund Breakthrough at their requested level

- Please explain the process taken to eliminate the four clerical positions
- Please clarify how the re-staffing in technology will maintain the integrity of the depth to which we are willing to say we are moving deeper in technology
- I would like to have on-going conversations re the plan for level 3 schools
- How will Math in Focus be aligned with the common core
- I'm concerned that the new system will have the same problems as the old ones
- Why are we moving forward with full implementation with Math in Focus since we have not had a pilot for it
- Professional development can be a detriment if the teachers are out of the classroom often
- How many days will teachers be out of the classroom for Math in Focus professional development
- Can Math in Focus be implemented without a math coordinator
- In general, how many days are our teachers out of the classroom for professional development
- We need to be there for the level 3 schools, financially, emotionally, etc.
- The issues with the clerks is a particularly difficult one for me; no layoffs is a good thing
- I am concerned about the level 2 and 3 schools
- It's hard for me to vote for a budget that doesn't include world language K-5
- We can be spending our money better

Mr. Fantini moved that the Superintendent do a comprehensive review as part of the budget of our JK-5 programs and focus on world language, the impact of the common core, the possibility of increasing art and music and the possibility of increasing instructional time. Ms. Cronin seconded the motion and offered a friendly amendment to include a review of demographics, technology and mental health/behavior. Mr. Osborne asked to include the creation of a task force on world language/immersion education that works in concert with the review. The friendly amendments having been accepted, it was voted to refer the motion to the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee.

The Chair thanked Mr. Harding and Mr. Osborne for an outstanding job done as Budget Co-chairs. Dr. Young joined Mayor Maher in thanking the Co-Chairs. He also acknowledged the Cabinet members and Ms. Spinner for the work that went into preparing the budget.

Mr. Osborne moved the adoption of the Superintendent's budget with adjustments:

Salaries, Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$ 129,535,265.00
Other Ordinary Maintenance:	25,323,280.00
Travel & Training	1,035,875.00
Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>775,215.00</u>
Total	\$ 156,669,635.00

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt Superintendent' recommendation **#14-33, Fiscal Year 2015 Recommended Budget** (as adjusted): Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; and Mayor Maher YEA. Mr. Fantini moved suspension of the Rules for the purpose of reconsideration of the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose stated. The motion failed of adoption.

11. Announcements: None

12. Late Orders: None

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Cronin, it was voted to adjourn (8:58 PM).

Adjourned.

Patricia A. Berry
Executive Secretary to the School Committee