

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Meeting

March 25, 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 hearing public comment on the FY 15 School Committee Budget and for further discussion on the Budget.

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

Also Present: Dr. Jeff Young, Superintendent
Dr. Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Maryann MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools
Dr. Victoria Greer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Dr. Jessica Huizenga, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer
Jean Spera, Director of Student Services
Lori Likis, Chief Planning Officer
Chris Colbath-Hess, CEA President

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

The following individuals were heard re the School Committee FY 15 Budget:

- Karla Anderson, Hancock Street
- Mary Rita Vaz, Crosby Street, Arlington
- Hah Bui, Allston Street
- Jaime D'Almeida, Hamilton Street
- Doug Tuttle, Clark Street
- Carla Nuernberg, Cambridge Street
- Holly Donaldson, Montgomery Street
- Eric Henderson, Ellery Street
- Odete Silva, Oak Street
- Kris Newton, Newport Street, Arlington
- Burmi Martin, Gore Street
- Sunia Trauger, Myrtle Avenue
- Bill Zamparelli, Emmons Place
- Nina Nolan, Putnam Avenue
- Ingrid Gustafson, River Street
- Mary Ellen Donan, Spring Street
- Karen Dobak, Allston Street
- Pia Cisternino, Holworthy Street
- Anna Henschman, Fayerweather Street
- Ellen McLaughlin, Windsor Street
- Toni Kim, Concord Avenue
- Beena Sarwar, Norfolk Street
- Emily Dexter, Fenno Street

- Terry Gist, CRLS

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

The Chair thanked all speakers and directed the meeting to a discussion on the budget. Discussion took place around the following:

- ✓ Third grade position needs to be reinstated at K-Lo
- ✓ K-Lo is heading in the right direction; we need to support the teachers
- ✓ The technology specialist at the Upper Schools should remain
- ✓ Education is about people
- ✓ We should support the full time librarians also
- ✓ The sibling problem can be rectified
- ✓ The situation at the K-Lo is not so simple
- ✓ What are the ramifications of making the teaching reduction
- ✓ I am concerned about the equity; how will it not affect the other schools
- ✓ Give us again the rationale of the reduction in clerical positions at CRLS
- ✓ It would be helpful to understand why we would go forward with one school doing Kodaly music program and not world language
- ✓ Shining the light on the school volunteers is overdue
- ✓ The JK cut-off is a killer
- ✓ I appreciate the energy with which citizens continue to speak up about world languages
- ✓ The focus always has to be in the best interest of our children
- ✓ Make sure we have a program in place to partner in math
- ✓ We need to develop a strategic plan in the use of technology
- ✓ My biggest concern is the career-readiness track
- ✓ We have to figure out a way to support the level 3 schools
- ✓ What exactly is your vision for the family engagement coordinator
- ✓ None of us want to see people lose jobs; children are our first and primary concern
- ✓ I support the OSS restructure
- ✓ The sibling problem should be of concern to all of us
- ✓ I would like more information re the issue of the tech specialist
- ✓ I fully support the recommendation for the changes in the Office of Student Services
- ✓ I trust that we are going to be able to resolve the issue of class size as it was discussed; the committee should hear back from the administration if this is not going to happen
- ✓ I would like to see us build an alumni list
- ✓ Charter schools are doing a great job at marketing
- ✓ I fully support Dr. Greer and her reorganization
- ✓ Why is it not a benefit to have family liaisons in the Upper Schools
- ✓ We should look at the effectiveness of existing programs

The Chair thanked the Members and the Superintendent and his team.

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Cronin, it was voted to adjourn (8:54 pm)

Patricia A. Berry
Executive Secretary to the School Committee