

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL REPORT

Regular Meeting

February 4, 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

Mayor Maher in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- John Delancey, Elm Street, re Budget
- Emily Dexter, re Budget

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

- Ms. Sternbach reported that CRLS' Winter Ball was held last Friday; it was a huge success; over 400 tickets were sold
- 20 students participated at the Harvard International Model UN conference, some representing Burkina Faso, others representing Egypt (Jan 30-Feb)
- 10 students took the AMC exam (a very competitive math test where students can win state-wide awards and go onto national levels)
- Large class sizes take away from the learning process; adding more teachers to budget would be beneficial to students; more teachers mean more levels
- Swim team earned the GBL Championship

The Chair moved to the Presentation section of the Agenda and turned the meeting over to Ms. Likis, CPSD Chief Planning Officer. Ms. Likis introduced Ms. Eva Mitchell, Associate Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Ms. Christine Brant, Site Visit Team Member. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Brant walked Members through the following PowerPoint presentation:

Mr. Fantini in the Chair.

- Purpose of district review
- District Standards – District System of Support
- Important Components
- District Review Process
 - Data and Document Analysis

- Data and document analysis
 - On-site visit: February 24-27
- District Review Process
 - Findings and Recommendations
- Understanding District Systems
- District Review Process
 - Draft Refinement
- District Review Process
 - Report Publication
- Report published

Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Brant responded to Members' questions and concerns.

The Chair thanked Ms. Likis, Ms. Mitchell, and Ms. Brant for their presentation.

Ms. Nolan moved to suspend the Rules to go into Executive Session.

The Chair opted to move through the Agenda until the Mayor is present to participate in the Executive Session.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval: None

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Awaiting Reports:

Ms. Nolan asked for an update on the following:

- ✓ Report by spring 2013 on high school resource room, as recommended by WestEd review of special education services. (C12-061) (April 3, 2012)

Dr. Turk said that the report is on the radar. She will report something in the Weekly or have a time line available for the next Regular Meeting.

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

Dr. Young reported that Mr. Smith, CRLS Principal, is working on the report and the information should be available soon. Mr. Smith will be working from the language of the motion.

The Chair declared a 5 minute recess.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

6. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

The following items were brought forward for discussion/adoption:

On the following roll call, the following motion failed of adoption: Ms. Kelly Nay; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne Nay; Ms. Cronin Nay; Mr. Fantini Nay; Mr. Harding Nay; Mayor Maher Nay.

#14-02, Motion by Ms. Nolan that whereas the January Kindergarten registration period is about to begin, and whereas the controlled choice policy helps spread out choices geographically, which is helpful in light of the differences across the city in availability of seats in nearby schools, that families will not be encouraged or discouraged from putting a proximity school first choice and that if a non-proximity school is put first that no family will be advised to consider changing the choice and that all families will be encouraged to select a school based on their own criteria.

On the following roll call, the following motion failed of adoption: Ms. Kelly Nay; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne Nay; Ms. Cronin Nay; Mr. Fantini Nay; Mr. Harding Nay; Mayor Maher Nay.

#13-212, Joint motion by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Turkel (past Member) that the December 2nd, 2013 response to School Committee Order #C13-147-Controlled Choice Policy, item 2a, be amended to include more information on the process for developing the plan for change with a draft process shared with the School Committee for input and guidance prior to finalization. The process will include how the entire community will have input, criteria for choosing the school(s) and how the initiative(s) proposed will achieve socio-economic balance.

Members voted to pass over the remaining 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:

6a. Innovation Agenda:

6b. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion/adoption. Ms. Nolan removed **#14-10** and **#14-14** (Supplemental). On the following roll call, the following items were adopted:

#14-09, FY13-14 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers: that the School Committee approves the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund Budget for FY2013-2014.

	<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
51000	Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$337,292
52000/55000	Other Ordinary Maintenance	(233,546)
57000	Travel & Training	(103,826)
58000/59000	Extraordinary Expenditures	80
	Total	\$ 0

#14-11, Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

SPED EC Program Improvement, for the period January 20, 2014 to June 30, 2014, in the amount of \$4,275.00. Project/Grant SC14103.

Description: The grant will support professional development around the continued use of the 'Creative Curriculum' implemented during SY13 in the Special Start program. Professional development will be supplied to teachers, aides and parents of students in the program.

CPS Target Population: The Creative Curriculum supports pre-school age children in the development of social competence, language development and science exploration.

Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: This training will support pre-school educators to strengthen instruction and effectively modify curriculum. Staff and parent collaboration will be enhanced and will support IEP development and the continued use of Creative Curriculum.

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

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

The following was referred to the Governance Sub-Committee:

#14-13, Motion by Ms. Nolan, that the School Committee authorize the Executive Secretary to work with the Governance Sub-Committee to plan for implementation of a computer based system for streamlining access to materials for School Committee meetings for both Members of the Committee and the public. That such plan be presented to the Committee by this May.

9. Non-Consent Agenda:

Ms. Nolan asked for clarification on the FTE. Dr. Turk was heard.

#14-10, Special Needs Contracts for Day and Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department: that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions on 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 Budget:

1 student	Bay Cove Human Services	\$30,502.00
<u>1</u> student	Perkins School for the Blind	<u>57,499.70</u>
2 students		\$88,001.70

On the following roll call it was voted to adopt **#14-10:** Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

Ms. Nolan would like to understand what it is that the district will be receiving. Dr. Huizenga was heard.

#14-14, Instructional Coaching Program Evaluation Services: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Instructional Coaching Program Evaluation Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Consensus Now!, 5 Constitution Hill, Providence, RI, for the period February 18, 2014 to August 30, 2014, in the amount of \$71,900.00

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#14-14**: Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

The Chair called a recess for the purpose of convening the Budget Sub-committee (Committee of the Whole).

Recessed (8:08)

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE (Committee of the Whole)

February 4, 2014

Called for the purpose of further discussion on the budget process and follow-up on the January 28, 2014 Budget Retreat.

Members Present: Mr. Harding; Mr. Osborne (co-chairs); Ms. Cronin; Mr. Fantini; Ms. Kelly; Ms. Nolan; and Mayor Maher

Mr. Harding in the Chair

A quorum of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. Mr. Harding said that the purpose of the meeting is to hear more from the Committee about what it wants from the Superintendent relative to the Budget and the Budget process. Also, it is an opportunity to discuss with Dr. Young any specific concerns about the following 17 items discussed at the January 28, 2014 School Committee Retreat:

1. Introduction (J. Young)
2. Update Budget Development Process (C. Spinner)
3. Bilingual Program Requirements (J. Huizenga)
4. Math in Focus Implementation (J. Huizenga)
5. Elementary World Language (M. MacDonald)
6. Curriculum Development in FY15 (M. MacDonald/J Huizenga)
7. RTI Update & Budget Need (M. MacDonald)
8. School Improvement Fund for Level 3 Schools (M. MacDonald/J Huizenga)
9. Family Engagement Plan/Cultural Competency Training (L. Likis)
10. Upper School Program (C. Turk)
11. Secondary Schools (C. Turk)
12. Special Education Program (V. Greer)
13. School Climate/Behavior (C. Turk)
14. Staff Diversity (B. Allen)
15. Transportation (J. Maloney)
16. Leadership Development (C. Turk)
17. New Teacher Orientation (J. Huizenga)

Mr. Harding called for the pleasure of the Committee. Discussion took place around the following:

- ✓ What will the infrastructure of the Family Engagement Plan (#9) look like
- ✓ When will we have a fuller plan and what will that position be in charge of
- ✓ How will that affect the rest of the family engagement structure
- ✓ It is time for us to do further expansion and put into place the family engagement plan that we have been discussing

- ✓ What are we going to do when a student doesn't reach the grade level benchmark by the end of the year
- ✓ What kind of support are we going to have to help students with executive function issues, etc.
- ✓ Ensure that students transitioning into high school are aware of all options available to them
- ✓ Take into consideration additional guidance councilors in the high school
- ✓ Class size at CRLS
- ✓ It would be reassuring to the public if we had more information about class size and how is the issue being addressed
- ✓ If we need more teachers to reduce class size then we should hire them
- ✓ Glad to see that world language is still being discussed
- ✓ I feel that class size is more of a scheduling issue, rather than a budget issue; we need to address that before this gets out of hand
- ✓ Middle schools should have their own formulas that provide more support for low income students
- ✓ Our kids need to start reading at grade level; we need to deliver on the intervention promise
- ✓ We need to get our data system working better; we need to know what happens to kids when they leave our system
- ✓ I want to take an intentional look at student achievement
- ✓ It would be good to have a report on what the upper schools need
- ✓ Private schools; charter schools are selling smaller class size
- ✓ In support of a policy that supports that class size be limited to 25
- ✓ Enhance our ELL and SEI programs
- ✓ What is the ratio make-up of advanced classes

The Chair thanked the Members and the Superintendent for their input. Mr. Harding encouraged the Members to email the Superintendent and Ms. Spinner with any additional questions.

Adjourned 8:48 PM.

Patricia A. Berry
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by the Whole Committee, it was voted to send a letter of condolence to the family of Bill Cobham, who recently passed away.

Mr. Fantini brought forward **#14-12, Joint motion by Mr. Fantini and Ms. Nolan**, that the School Committee convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#14-12** and convene in Executive Session. The Chair announced that no votes would be taken and that the Committee would not reconvene in the Regular Meeting: Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

11. Announcements: None

12. Late Orders: None

Adjourned: 8:50 PM.

Patricia A. Berry
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Executive Session

February 4, 2014

Called for the purpose of discussing strategy for collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee.

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; James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Maryann MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Barbara Allen, Executive Director of Human Resources; Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel; Michael Gardner, representing the City Manager

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:53 PM and turned it over to Attorney MacFarlane. Ms. MacFarlane gave the Committee an update on the status of the negotiations with CEA. She and Mr. Gardner clarified the issues at hand. There are a few outstanding items; the negotiations are nearing closure. There are some requests from the Union and there is language cleanup required.

It was the consensus of the Committee that Ms. MacFarlane and Mr. Gardner should proceed with the negotiations.

Adjourned (9:58 PM).

Patricia A. Berry
Executive Secretary to the School Committee