

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

December 6, 2016

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. Bowman, Ms. Dexter, Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding (ABSENT),
Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan, and Mayor Simmons (ABSENT)

Also present: Student School Committee Members Mari Gashaw and Paul Sullivan (ABSENT)

Mr. Fantini in the Chair.

Vice-Chair Fantini announced that Mayor Simmons would not be here tonight. She is leading the efforts on the York Street fire relief coordination. Mr. Fantini noted that the Mayor has shown incredible leadership in the coordination of resources on a minute by minute basis with multiple agencies and that the Members appreciate her efforts.

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

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Shawni Ellis, Pine St., parent of Wesley Ellis, advocating for her son to stay in his JK classroom at the Fletcher Maynard Academy; he was moved from PreK to JK based on a recommendation of several teachers and Principal Harris at the FMA; he is 100% acclimated in an amazing JK classroom and is in a routine and takes a sense of pride in going to class (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Tatiana Cruz, 3rd St., parent of two children at FMA, her daughter is being affected and wants her to remain in JK classroom at FMA; the principal and teachers asked that her daughter be moved from PreK to JK; it's been 10 weeks and her daughter is thriving; her family is going through a family situation and doesn't want to move her child out of her stable environment; these four children who are affected don't deserve to be punished for an error made by administration
- Jake Crutchfield, River St., he is a building substitute at the Cambridgeport School; he commented on the budget calendar and the lack of opportunity for more public input on this process; it is unfair for all public hearings to always happen in this building; he asked that the School Committee visit each school to hear the concerns about the budget
- Sophie Harrington, Shepard St., CRLS student in support of motion #16-298 re expanding access to free sanitary hygiene products in all CPS school buildings; she explained that in an emergency, a student would have to go to his/her learning community to get a pass for the nurse's office to get a product and then would need to go on to the bathroom; this takes 15-20 minutes out of a student's learning time; she presented the Committee with a signed petition from CRLS students for free tampons and pads in CRLS Student and Faculty Bathrooms (on file in the School Committee office)
- Juliette Low-Fleury, CRLS student, brought with her a box of tampons for which she paid 13.1 cents per tampon and a box of sanitary pads for which she paid 18.2 cents per pad. She indicated that some CRLS students have been supplying the bathrooms with these

- sanitary products and that students will not steal these sanitary supplies; the school should provide a place which students can feel safe and comfortable; she suggested supplying a box in each bathroom
- Grace McCartney, CRLS student and student government member, voices her support for the recommendation of free sanitary supplies; there is already enough burden placed on students experiencing menstrual cycles during the school day

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to close public comment.

Mr. Fantini asked Superintendent Salim for an update on the status of the CPS children affected by the York Street fire. Dr. Salim responded that we know of 28 students across CPS who have been displaced and 12 of them are residing in local hotels; the other 16 students are living with family members. This number fluctuates as we learn more information from the families and the community. Five staff members have had damage to their homes. Dr. Salim stated that they have been working closely with the Mayor, the City Manager and community and state agencies. He noted that since Saturday we have identified a school based contact for each family so that we have continual communication to enable us to identify the needs of the students. We are providing transportation to and from the local hotels where the families are staying. School adjustment counselors are also available. Dr. Salim acknowledged and thanked the many people who have been involved in the support of these students particularly Mary Grassi, Jim Maloney, Joanne Johnson, Rosalie Rippey, Tina Fisher, Debbie Bonia, Jardin Jerome, school principals, family liaisons and other school and administrative staff. We will continue to provide support and outreach to our families and staff in the affected areas. Dr. Salim referred to the December 6, 2016 York Street Fire Relief Coordination Update document which is on file in the School Committee office. Anyone affected by this fire and in need of support should call Christina Giacobbe at Cambridge Emergency Communications Department at 617-349-9484.

The Members expressed their appreciation to the Mayor, the City Manager and City and School Department personnel who were at the scene of the fire when it first started and who are now there to support our families and students. The Members acknowledged that people are giving of themselves, their time and their money and that this is a tribute to the City of Cambridge. The School Committee encourages any affected families who have not connected to register with City Hall. The City and the School Department will be here for these families for as long as it takes.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mari Gashaw reported that in the past few weeks, NHS, STARS and the Student Government have filled up the Falcon Food Pantry. Mari noted that the past few days have been hard since families and students were impacted by the York Street fire. They are raising money for the Mayor's fire relief fund from money earned from the bagel bench. This week 8th graders are visiting CRLS. Winter sports are starting; the first basketball game is December 13th at 7 pm at CRLS.

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of Ms. Kelly bringing in a motion to deal with the issues at the Fletcher Maynard Academy and also on a motion by Ms. Bowman to bring forward **item #16-298** for discussion and adoption. The Rules were suspended for the purposes stated.

Ms. Kelly offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee agree to a one time exception to the existing School Committee Policy that families at the Fletcher/Maynard Academy (FMA) be allowed to finish the year at the FMA JK class.

Ms. Nolan added that we have a motion on our agenda that specifically addresses this which is **item #16-299**. She indicated that the school did make a mistake; we need to acknowledge that this was an unfortunate situation. The school staff only did this out of the best interest of the children. Given that it has been 10 weeks, we as a body have to make the decision of either sticking to a policy that we all believe, in the face of an individual circumstance for some of our students where it might be less than optimal if we stick to our policy. She stated her desire to work collaboratively around all of these issues.

Ms. Kelly explained her reason for offering this short motion which makes it very clear what we are concerned about and how we can address it tonight. Ms. Nolan would like this to be a substitute for **motion #16-299**. Ms. Bowman indicated that there is a difference between what Ms. Kelly brought in and **motion #16-299**. She added that **motion #16-299** is more involved with greater implications. She wants to keep these two motions separate. Ms. Dexter heard the word political firestorm earlier and indicated that it's not that, it's a policy opportunity and an educational policy. The question is can we give JK seats to younger 4 year olds. We've technically had a pilot of this program during the last 10 weeks. She indicated that the existing policy is arbitrary and makes no sense. The educational decision makes developmental sense. She added that we have learned the following over the last 10 weeks: PreK may not be the best place for all younger 4 years olds; younger 4 year olds can be appropriately integrated into JK classes; younger 4 year olds can be transitioned after the school year starts; and we can effectively use empty seats. Ms. Dexter added that we can't make just a one time exception; this is a wonderful fortuitous coincidence and opportunity, it wasn't a mistake. Mr. Harding indicated his appreciation for Ms. Kelly's motion in wanting to fix this issue promptly. We shouldn't have conversation on a pilot program now. Maybe we should have a deeper conversation later on. He also added that there is a difference between these 2 motions.

On the following roll call, Ms. Kelly's motion, that the School Committee agree to a one time exception to the existing School Committee Policy that families at the FMA be allowed to finish the year at the FMA JK class, was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

Ms. Bowman brought forward **#16-298, Motion by the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee**, whereas the Cambridge Public Schools is committed to providing an educational setting that supports the basic health and biological needs of students that foster a holistic learning environment, and

Whereas toilet paper, paper towels, and hand soap is provided in all Cambridge Public Schools restroom facilities to support basic health needs of the occupants of our buildings, and

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools see sanitary hygiene as an important part of basic health needs for students and provide sanitary products through healthcare professionals; however, these products are not currently accessible in restrooms throughout the District, and

Whereas the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee in collaboration with students, sees expanded access to sanitary hygiene products as a basic health need for our students,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Superintendent convene a task force which will include CRLS students as well as staff to launch a pilot program this academic year that will expand access to free sanitary hygiene products and proper disposal containers,

Be it further resolved that the task force will build on the work of the pilot project to create a plan to expand access to sanitary hygiene products and proper disposal containers at Upper Schools and Elementary schools in addition to the high school in the 2017-18 school year.

Be it further resolved that the provision of sanitary hygiene products and proper disposal containers will be implemented at one or more upper and elementary schools in addition to the high school in the 2017/2018 academic year with a goal of sanitary products and proper disposal containers in all restrooms becoming a standard line item in future facilities and maintenance budgets starting during the 2018/2019 school year.

Ms. Bowman explained that student voices were heard at the Building and Grounds Sub-Committee for which she is the chairperson. She expressed her hope that people see this as an equity issue for our young girls and transgender students. Ms. Bowman gave a background for and summarized the motion which directs the Superintendent to form a task force to expand free sanitary hygiene products in all of our schools starting next year. This year we will work with the advocating students to create a pilot at the high school and take best practices from that pilot to roll out at an upper school and then an elementary school in the 2018-19 school year and then it will be a standard for all schools in 2019-20. We recognize

that this has not been in the budget, so for this year it will be at a smaller scale and not at an additional capital cost. She indicated that Cambridge can be a leader. Mr. Harding thanked Ms. Bowman for her leadership and the in depth conversation at the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee meeting. He hopes that this is the beginning of a bigger conversation with the City. He asked that we communicate this to parents. We can learn from the pilot the most effective way to do this. Ms. Kelly noted that an important part of this discussion was that the word shame came up around this and it is a major step forward to bring this up in a public forum and to talk about it as a public health issue. Ms. Dexter noted that this motion is not just about products but about changing the culture of how we are thinking about women's bodies, tampons, pads and menstrual products. She asked people to think of this in the context of going into a bathroom and for 5 or 6 days a month not having any toilet paper and having to go ask a supervisor for it. She thinks this should be put at a faster timeline. She suggests putting this pilot at the high school, extension school, at least one upper school and at least one elementary school this winter and to have all schools involved in September. Ms. Bowman acknowledged the students' confidence who spoke today to discuss this issue. Ms. Bowman noted that the way the motion is written, it is for one or more schools. We need to be intentional in figuring out budgetary implications to roll this out so it will be long lasting. On the following roll call, **item #16-298**, was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Regular Meeting – November 15, 2016

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

Item #16-226 was passed over by the Committee.

#16-226, Motion by Mayor Simmons, whereas it is incumbent that the School Committee Members adopt a uniform method to be identified by the general public, addressed via roll call, and recorded for public record; and

Whereas, the School Committee formally adopted a process by which members are to be addressed by colleagues and identified by and for the general public during both School Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings via nameplate, CPSD letterhead, and signature; and

Whereas, it has long been recognized that the creation of a more inclusive method will aid the committee with reinforcing norms, establishing continuity, and executing the business of the people; and

Further, that the School Committee convene a preliminary discussion on how members are to be identified, addressed, and recorded for public record. (Dexter, 9-6-16)

6. Awaiting Reports: None

Ms. Dexter asked if there was an update on the #6. Awaiting Reports on the Agenda. Ms. Nolan added that the Superintendent is working on this with his assistant and our executive secretary and suggested having this list at the first meeting in January.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: None

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to move the entire Consent Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed **item #16-282**. Mr. Fantini removed **item #16-286**.

On the following roll call, **items #16-281, #16-283 through #16-285, #16-287 through #16-291**, were adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

#16-281, FY16-17 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers, that the School Committee approves the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund Budget for FY 2016-2017

	<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
51000	Salaries, Wages & Benefits (SW)	(702,144)
52000/55000	Other Ordinary Maintenance (OOM)	687,560
57000	Travel & Training (TT)	14,584
58000/59000	Extraordinary Expenditures (EE)	<u>0</u>
	Total	0

#16-283, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Security Hardware & Firewall Upgrade, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

PJ Systems, dba HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, for the period November 11, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$30,115.00.

#16-284, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Vocational Student Transportation, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Trans Express Inc., 20 Pearl Street, Dorchester, for the period December 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$37,200.00.

#16-285, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Services, funds to be provided from the Grant Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

East End House, 105 Spring Street, Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$120,820.00.

#16-287, Approval of Gifts to Cambridge Public Schools, that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. \$959.17 to the Cambridgeport School, \$780.56 to the Morse School, and \$488.39 to the Kennedy Longfellow School made from O'Connor Portraiture, Inc., as commission for student portraits. Funds will be used for the general support of the schools.
2. \$307.68 to the Kennedy Longfellow School made from Recycle That, LLC, in return for items collected in the school's clothing/book collection box. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
3. An in kind donation of photography equipment (Simmon D2 Enlarger and accessories) made from an individual donor to the Cambridge Rindge & Latin School Visual and Performing Arts department.

#16-288, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Early Literacy Intervention, for the period November 17, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$62,351.00. Project/Grant SC17632.

Description: This grant supports ongoing professional development by Lesley University in Reading Recovery for Early Literacy Interventionists who provide individual tutorial assistance to at-risk first grade students. The .38 FTE Teacher Leader is split-funded with Title I (which covers the balance of .62 FTE.) In addition to part-time teaching duties, the Teacher Leader supervises, trains and conducts professional development for Reading Recovery teachers both in and out of district. This grant also supports the Teacher-Leader in her professional development at Lesley University.

#16-289, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Special Education Program Improvement, for the period December 6, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$50,534.00. Project/Grant SC17674.

Description: The purpose of this program is to advance the skills of educators involved with students with disabilities through high-quality, sustained, and intensive professional development activities. With these funds, educators will receive training in Orton Gillingham Literacy Practicum and Understanding by Design (UDL), a practice which supports the redesign of general and special education classroom settings to improve math and literacy skills for students with disabilities. The grant will also support attendance at the conference of the Council of Exceptional Children.

#16-290, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Nellie Mae Education Foundation, for the period December 6, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$10,000.00. Project/Grant SC17138.

Description: This new grant will support Kindergarten quality enhancement through the provision of Professional Development in JK and K Writing and Storytelling/storyacting.

#16-291, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the following grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Josey Herrington Fund, for the period June 20, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$2,666.00 (Increase of \$100.00). Project/Grant SC16134 Increase.

Description: This grant (the aggregate of many private donations) will be used to commission a piece of artwork and a plaque at the Cambridgeport School in recognition and in memory of Josey Herrington. The painting will be something that inspires and delights young people – just as Josey was inspired and delighted while a student at the school. This increase represents an additional individual donation of \$100.00.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#16-282, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for computer hardware, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers, 25 Drydock Avenue, Boston, for the period December 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$273,300.00.

Ms. Nolan asked about the high cost and specifics of this contract. Dr. Salim explained that these devices were chosen after a lengthy exploration and testing period. These are not entry level models and are expected to last 5 years as required by our bid specifications. They are custom models which include a 3 year onsite warranty. The list price is close to \$1,300 per device on this special configuration but because we purchase in volume, we were able to get the price down to \$1,080 per device.

Mr. Harding asked about the additional \$40,000 listed in the contract for schools. Ms. Spinner, CFO, clarified that the \$40,000 is an amount added to the value of the contract so we have the ability to purchase quickly up to \$40,000 of additional equipment as schools find money to do additional purchasing from their budget. We do not encumber the \$40,000 until an invoice comes in and we make the purchase. On the following roll call, item **#16-282** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

#16-286, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Bread Products, funds to be provided from the Food Service Revolving Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Fantini Baking Company, 375 Washington Street, Haverhill, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Mr. Fantini shared that he has submitted a Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest form as required by G.L. C. 268A, 23(b)(3) (on file in the School Committee office). He indicated that Fantini Baking Company is owned by distance cousins and that he has no financial interest in this company. In order to dispel any appearance of conflict, even when none exists, he will not participate in any matter where this company is referenced as a vendor or provider of services to the district.

Mr. Fantini exited the meeting room.

Mr. Harding in the Chair.

Ms. Nolan acknowledged that there is no financial benefit for Mr. Fantini on this contract and she feels comfortable voting in favor of this contract award. She shared that the recommendation to award a contract to Fantini Baking Company was through a competitive bid process conducted by the Education Cooperative (TEC) Purchasing Program.

On the following roll call, item **#16-286** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mr. Fantini ABSENT; Mayor Simmons ABSENT.

Mr. Fantini in the Chair.

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

On a motion Mr. Fantini, it was voted to move the School Committee Agenda forward for discussion and adoption and to discuss each item individually.

#16-292, Motion by the Community Relations Sub-Committee, that the Controlled Choice policy be amended to remove the cap on kindergarten age students (distinct from junior kindergarten) assigned during the January lottery, per prior practice, effective for the January 2017 lottery, further that this change be reviewed in the fall of 2017 prior to the January 2018 lottery.

Ms. Nolan gave the background information for this motion noting that this is a limited 1 year extension with an explicit date to review the impact of this in a year. She shared that we need to have this in place now before we run the lottery in January. Ms. Dexter commented that there is more pressure on our classrooms due to increased enrollment. She added that there are always unintended consequences. She indicated that with this run it looks like this would only affect 5 paid lunch families. She is concerned that any time we affect first through third choice placements and increase them, we favor paid lunch families because they are more likely to enroll first. Ms. Dexter indicated that we have been talking about

lowering our first and second grade classroom cap of 25 and that this change may increase the eventual enrollment in those grades to more than 25. She inquired what Dr. Salim's plans would be as far as class size. Dr. Salim noted that this question might be related to Motion #16-297 on the agenda. Ms. Nolan noted that we are not talking about raising the cap of 20 students on any Kindergarten class. The question before us is about the assigning of students during the lottery process. Mr. Maloney indicated that this motion eliminates the circumstance when a family chooses a school as their first choice and doesn't get in, but a family picking it as a second choice gets in which happened at least 25 times last year. He also added that it is unlikely that this cap will have any impact on the existing first grade class sizes. Ms. Nolan shared that a disproportionate number of paid lunch families register in January. We are not advantaging or disadvantaging any group of families. Ms. Bowman asked that we articulate the spirit of what is behind this motion. Mr. Harding indicated that projections showed us that there would be no negative change. This motion is to help Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, and the staff at the Family Resource Center to have a policy to ease the burden on FRC process and have the communication to families be clear and succinct. Ms. Dexter asked that we can stop calling it a Kindergarten lottery since there is a JK program. It looks like only 5 families would benefit from this in the mock trial run. She suggested having a comprehensive discussion on controlled choice in a roundtable setting. She asked if this will benefit all K families in this situation or just some. Mr. Maloney responded that this will benefit any K family which would have been rejected for a JK. This is a more distributive process. Ms. Kelly agrees we should have more of a discussion on Controlled Choice to have the same understanding on the background of Controlled Choice. Ms. Nolan, as chair of the Community Relations Sub-Committee, will be working more on Controlled Choice over the next few months. Mr. Maloney indicated that the Controlled Choice report will be in this week's Weekly. On a voice vote, **item #16-292**, was adopted with Ms. Dexter being recorded as a NAY vote.

#16-293, Motion by the Community Relations Sub-Committee, that the School Committee shall receive all School Council minutes and that the Superintendent will work with the School Committee office to determine the method by which the School Committee can receive all School Council minutes. Mr. Harding gave the background for this motion. He asked that through the Superintendent, the formal minutes be forwarded to the School Committee. Ms. Nolan noted that the Committee would still talk about a way for further communication with the school councils. It was indicated that these minutes could be submitted electronically and that the Superintendent would determine the best method. On a voice vote, **item #16-293**, was adopted

#16-294, Joint motion by Mr. Harding and Ms. Kelly, Budget Sub-Committee Co-Chairs, that the School Committee approve the FY 2018 School Committee Budget Planning Calendar (on file in the School Committee office). Ms. Kelly noted that an updated budget planning calendar draft had been distributed (on file in the School Committee office). She indicated that she and Mr. Harding, as Budget Co-Chairs, have added 2 additional public hearings on the budget: January 10th for educators and January 17th for the public. That makes it a total of 4 public hearings on the budget. They are trying to get all the public hearings in before the budget update meeting. Ms. Dexter offered an amendment to change the word "retreat" to "workshop" so that these meetings could be televised. Ms. Nolan seconded Ms. Dexter's motion to amend. Mr. Harding shared that past history has shown us that better meetings happen when you can have direct conversation with the educators in a way that they can be honest and candid with the challenges that are facing the district. He added that sometimes we have retreats off site where we don't have televising capability. He shared that it is intentional that some of these meetings are retreats and some are workshops. Mr. Harding also added that he and Ms. Kelly felt it would be easier for the Superintendent, being his first budget development process, to have these conversations away from the camera. On a voice vote, Ms. Dexter's amendment to **#16-294** to change the word "retreat" to "workshop" on the draft budget planning Calendar, failed of adoption. On a voice vote, **item #16-294**, was adopted.

#16-295, Joint motion by Mr. Harding and Ms. Kelly, Budget Sub-Committee Co-Chairs, that the School Committee approve the FY 2018 Budget Guidelines Draft (on file in the School Committee office).

Ms. Kelly noted that these guidelines are similar to last years and that this is a policy macro document. Ms. Dexter asked for an update on the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee working on priority goals. Mr. Harding indicated that the Superintendent will be meeting with his principals and educators on their priorities. Mr. Harding thinks it is possible that we may need to have another date to discuss goals. Ms. Bowman asked how we are going to integrate Dr. Salim's entry plan and vision into these budget guidelines. Mr. Fantini noted that the Mayor wants to have a retreat to follow up on the goals discussion. Dr. Salim agreed that having a retreat to discuss the goals would be preferable since the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Goals is a Committee of the Whole. Ms. Dexter asked whether Mr. Fantini, Mr. Nolan and Ms. Kelly have met to organize the goals from the August retreat. Ms. Nolan responded that they didn't want to bring the goals before the Committee of the Whole until Dr. Salim has completed his entry plan and we had the budget guidelines. She noted that these goals have been informed in the budget guidelines but they haven't been brought together in a comprehensive document due to the timing issue. She noted that they are in the process and anticipate bringing draft goals forward to the Committee of the Whole soon. On a voice vote, **item #16-295**, was adopted.

#16-296, Motion by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee requests the Superintendent and the Athletic Department, in conjunction with School Committee Order C16-169, be prepared to discuss issues concerning the Athletic Department including the following:

- budget considerations
- academic support for student athletes
- coach evaluation and climate
- and other matters pertinent to the support of CRLS coaches and student athletes.

On a voice vote, **item #16-296**, was adopted.

#16-297, Motion by Ms. Dexter, that whereas the School Committee has asked the administration to bring forward, in January, recommendations for JK-3 class sizes; and whereas class size should be considered along with other school- and classroom-level staffing and student supports; the School Committee requests that the Superintendent bring forward, during the January budget meetings, a set of comprehensive recommendations for elementary school staffing for FY18, including recommendations for JK-3 class sizes and the allocation, across schools, of general education paraprofessionals, intervention teachers, social workers, specialist teachers, co-teachers, and other school-based professionals who work directly with students and/or teachers.

Ms. Dexter summarized her motion which is asking that the Superintendent provide staffing recommendations to the Committee in January. Ms. Nolan suggested that we refer this to the Budget Sub-Committee. She indicated that we get this information every year. Mr. Harding indicated that our formula sets how we do this. Mr. Fantini indicated that this motion calls for comprehensive recommendations. Ms. Bowman added that the Committee already passed a motion regarding reviewing classroom size and she is not clear on what this motion will do.

Ms. Nolan placed **item #16-297** on the Calendar.

Item #16-299 was placed on file by Ms. Dexter.

#16-299, Motion by Ms. Dexter, that whereas the City's Early Childhood Task Force has asked the School Committee to explore the possibility of separate CPS junior kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms; and

Whereas CPS currently provides JK and JK/K classrooms that meet the developmental needs of some 4-year-olds; and

Whereas the administration has expressed concern about the amount of transitions in our JK and K classrooms as students transfer schools between the start of school and December 1;

Be it resolve that any CPS students with birthdays after March 31st who have been promoted from a CPS preK program into a JK or JK/K classroom will remain in that classroom for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year; and

Be it resolved that CPS will study the JK or JK/K classrooms that have younger "promoted" 4-year-olds in order to examine the ability of CPS to accommodate younger 4-year-olds in CPS's JK or JK/K classrooms. These classrooms will be considered "pilot projects"

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, **#16-300**, Report of the November 22, 2016 Community Relations Sub-Committee, was accepted as presented.

Meeting of the Community Relations Sub-Committee
School Committee Conference Room
Tuesday, November 22, 2016
5:15 PM – 6:00 PM

Called for the purpose of reviewing the cap on Kindergarten students assigned during the January lottery based on first grade enrollment as defined by the Controlled Choice Policy, as well as outlining agenda items for consideration at future sub-committee meetings.

Members Present: Ms. Nolan, Chair; Ms. Dexter, (remote participation due to geographic distance); Mr. Harding

Also Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. O, FRC Director of Student Registration and Enrollment; Ms. Sampson, Assistant Registrar

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Nolan called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. Ms. Nolan passed out an agenda and the meeting began by discussing the possibility of a Controlled Choice change on caps on Kindergarten age children.

Mr. Maloney explained how things were done prior to creation of the innovation agenda and before there was a lottery. He mentioned stabilizing the number of kindergarten classes at 4, without having more than three 1st grades at the schools. It was decided last year to go back up to a 52 cap for K students. The current consideration is to remove the cap, which will mean more students will get into schools of choice; it will also mean no longer blocking kindergarten age children.

Ms. Dexter asked if this change will mean that the East side schools will end up with more JK assignments, and more K assignments will go to the West side schools. Mr. Maloney responded yes to getting more K students on the West side, however there is no way to know if it will have any impact on JK getting shifted to the East. Mr. Maloney and Ms. Nolan both agree that Cambridge is a city that has a lot of mobility and therefore, it is always difficult to predict the lottery.

After a discussion on the possible outcomes on amending the Controlled Choice Policy, on a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, the Community Relations Sub-Committee recommended that the following motion be forwarded to the Committee of the Whole at the December 6th Regular Meeting:

That the Controlled Choice policy be amended to remove the cap on kindergarten age students (distinct from junior kindergarten) assigned during the January lottery, per prior practice, effective for the January 2017 lottery, further that this change be reviewed in the fall of 2017 prior to the January 2018 lottery.

Ms. Nolan emphasized that having no cap will not change the JK element. Mr. Maloney stated that if it looks like it will not work, they will inform the Committee.

At 5:45 PM, Ms. O and Ms. Sampson left the meeting. Remote capability for Ms. Dexter ended. Mr. Fantini joined the meeting at 5:45 PM

Moving down the Agenda, it was noted that:

- There needs to be another meeting in September to go over exit surveys. The Community Relations Sub-Committee expects about 6 months of surveys to review to see if anything needs to be referred to the Committee of the Whole.
- Enrollment report may be looked at in conjunction with Buildings & Grounds. It was stated that more parents are choosing neighborhood schools and it may be given more attention.
- Information on the waitlist will come in the Weekly.
- School Councils are asking if School Committee will be assigned to schools and meet with liaisons and school council members; this should be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Harding would like to see the minutes/notes from the school councils' meetings. It was also stated that it would most likely be better if a Member will show up once a year, rather than being attached to a school for all meetings. The School Committee Members need to make sure to tell Principals and School Council in advance of attending a meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, the Community Relations Sub-Committee recommended that the following motion be forwarded to the Committee of the Whole at the December 6th Regular Meeting:

That the School Committee shall receive all School Council minutes and that the Superintendent will work with the School Committee office to determine the method by which the School Committee can receive all School Council minutes.

- It was affirmed that the School Committee of the Whole is required to review the Controlled Choice Report annually. It will be a good idea for the Community Relations Sub-Committee to review it first, to see whether there needs to be a closer look for subtle changes to bring forward to the Committee of the Whole. There should be a Controlled Choice Report by mid December.

Motion to adjourn at 6:00 PM by Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan.

Adjourned (6:00 PM)

Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee

Distributed Documents: (on file in the School Committee office)

- Agenda
- 6 Year Analysis of K at 50 or above Post-Lotteries
- First Cycle Kindergarten Registration School Choice 1 Analysis

10. Resolutions:

Ms. Dexter acknowledged the School Department and City personnel for their work and involvement with the York Street fire relief process.

11. Announcements:

Ms. Dexter announced that there will be a School Climate Sub-Committee meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the School Committee conference room. She is Chairperson of that sub-committee.

Ms. Nolan announced the following:

- ✓ CRLS will be having a Winter A Cappella Jam on December 10th and Dance works on December 16th and 17th.
- ✓ The City of Cambridge is conducting the Participatory budgeting for Cambridge residents age 12 or over with voting from December 3-9, 2016.

12. Late Orders:

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, that the School Committee goes on record in extending its condolences to the family of Marion T. Phillips who recently passed away

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

- FY 2018 School Committee Budget Planning Calendar
- FY 2018 Budget Guidelines Draft
- Test Run Lottery with Cap of 57 provided by Mr. Maloney at the request of a Member
- Disclosure of appearance of conflict of interest form regarding Superintendent's Recommendation #16-286 for Fantini Baking company submitted by Mr. Fantini
- Changes to Controlled Choice - CPS Demographic with 4 year changes (table and graphs) provided by Ms. Dexter
- Statement from Shawni Ellis read during public comment
- Petition signed by CRLS students for free tampons and pads in CRLS Student and Faculty Bathrooms submitted by Sophie Harrington
- Statement from Magda Gerber

E-mail communications received:

- ✓ Email from Paul Ciampa re initiatives
- ✓ Email from Ron Peden re teaches of color in CPS schools
- ✓ Email from John Trevor re Comments on Motion #16-265 with regard to FMA
- ✓ Email from Lauren K. Gibbs re Perspectives from BlackTeachers
- ✓ Email from Lisa Downing re please support embedded honors classes for freshmen
- ✓ Email from Leslie Brunetta re external advisory team honoraria
- ✓ Email from Anna Henchman re support of Motion #16-298 to supply sanitary products at all schools
- ✓ Email from Sarah Block re please vote yes on Motion #16-298
- ✓ Email from John Trevor re comments on Motion #16-299
- ✓ Email from Rebecca Lavine re support of Motion #16-298
- ✓ Email from Kelly Dolan re motions for Early Childhood Education
- ✓ Email from Kate Benanti re World Language – It's time!
- ✓ Email from Dee Elms re World Language – It's time!
- ✓ Email from Esme Green re World Languages

The communications are on file in the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and can be viewed.

Mr. Fantini announced that immediately following this Regular meeting there will be a Roundtable Meeting for the purpose of discussing World Language in the Cambridge Public Schools.

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting (7:42 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee