

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

November 1, 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,
Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan, and Mayor Simmons

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Yadid Eisenberg, Trowbridge St., re accessibility of public child care junior K; he has been a Cambridge resident for 6 years and parent of two daughters ages 2 and 6; he obtained his Ph.D. from MIT; he shared his experience on making the decision of whether his wife should return to work or stay at home with the children: they have paid \$4500 each month in child care which adds stress on their personal life; this also has a major impact on the demographics of the city; those without financial means will choose to live somewhere else; please enable residents to have access to the JK program; this would be key to a better future for all
- Moran Yasser, Craver St., parent of two boys ages 5 ½ and 3; lucky that the 5 year old was born on March 27th; noted that transition into junior kindergarten and the financial burden of child care being lifted was amazing; urges the School Committee to consider filing the empty JK spots
- Kobi Kastiel, Holden St., there are currently 70 to 100 seats available between JK and K classes; since the move to universal JK won't be soon, what do we do with available seats in the system; do we give them to families who need them; these empty seats are paid for by taxpayer money; this is just a pilot program with no budgetary constraints; it will be a gradual process; he reminded the Committee that this pilot program can help kids go to school; please move forward as soon as possible
- Yaara Rom, Holden Green, she supports JK/K pilot proposal, we need to educate our children in sharing and accepting others; sharing is the building block of our society; resources are limited so now is the time for sharing; this is important for School Committee Members, City administrators, and parents to show our next generation by example of being accepting of others regardless of race or color; this pilot proposal encourages parents to send their children to school in a different neighborhood
- Linda Arnedo, Grant St., parent of two children, gave example of a friend who said she was so glad her child was born before March 31; access to JK can really make a big difference in someone's life

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

Mayor Simmons announced that at 5:30 PM the School Committee met in Executive Session re a Level 3 Grievance filed by AFSCME, Local 1611, and that a vote was taken at that meeting. She entertained a motion to ratify the vote taken in that Executive Session. On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call it was voted that the School Committee ratify and confirm the vote taken in Executive Session on November 1, 2016 with respect to the AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1611, Level III Grievance that was heard in Executive Session on October 18, 2016: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mari Gashaw reported that students in the STARS class visited the Baldwin School and worked with special start and first grade students on how to create peacemaking communities. Today is November 1st which is the deadline for early applications for college and for FAFSA and CSS. Mayor Simmons asked if we are reaching students when it comes to FAFSA. Mari responded that we have a new program called uAspire which helps greatly.

Paul Sullivan reported that Project 10 East held a coming out assembly for National Coming Out Day last Friday. It was well attended and received by all in the community. November 11th is the opening night for the CRLS Fall musical "in the Heights".

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting – October 18, 2016
- Regular Meeting – October 18, 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

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: None

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to move the entire Consent Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan removed **item #16-259**.

On the following roll call, **items #16-254 through #16-258, and items #16-260 through #16-264**, were adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-254, Approval of the Revisions to the Physical Examinations of Students Policy, that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Physical Examinations of Students Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

#16-255, Approval of the Revisions to Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco and About Family Life/Sex Education Policy, that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Family Life/Sex Education Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

#16-256, Approval of the Revisions to Student Health Services and Requirements Policy, that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Health Services and Requirements Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

#16-257, Approval of the Revisions to Communicable Disease Policy, that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Communicable Disease Policy (second reading).

#16-258, Approval of the Revisions to the Health Education Policy, that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Health Education Policy (second reading).

#16-260, Approval of Amendment to Food Service Employee Association Agreement July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018, that the School Committee approve the agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Food Service Employee Association for an amendment to the collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018 in order to correct an error in the calculation of the "low rate" in the salary schedule set forth in the collective bargaining agreement between the parties.

#16-261, Approval of the Shore Educational Collaborative Articles of Agreement, that the School Committee approve the Shore Educational collaborative Articles of Agreement, as stated in the document.

#16-262, 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 as detailed in 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 and/or Grant Fund Budget.

	<u>#Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	3	\$173,525.50
Residential	0	
45 Day Program	0	
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>\$173,525.50</u>

#16-263, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Nursing Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Cambridge Public Health, 119 Windsor St., Lower Level, Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$69,298.00.

#16-264, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Confucius Institute, for the period October 18, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$10,000.00. Project/Grant SC17136.

Description: This new grant will support the Chinese Language Classrooms at CRLS with materials, training and cultural events.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

On the following roll call, **item #16-259** was adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter PRESENT NOT VOTING; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA. **#16-259, Contract Award**, that the School Committee approve an agreement with the following community partner for the City Links Mentorship Program, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

*Enroot, (Formerly Cambridge Community Services), 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$45,000.00.

*This contract is being brought back before the School Committee for a revote pursuant to an order passed by the School Committee at the Tuesday, October 18, 2016 Regular School Committee meeting.

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

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to move the School Committee Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Mr. Fantini removed all items.

#16-265, Motion by Ms. Dexter, whereas the Cambridge School Committee has voted to support the City's goal of expanding preK seats in Cambridge because of the obvious benefits of preK education;

Whereas the City of Cambridge has prioritized making Cambridge affordable for low- and moderate-income families and preK education is a major expense for parents of young children;

Whereas Cambridge Public Schools currently offers a junior kindergarten program to children who turn four-years-old before March 31;

Whereas there have historically been and currently are many empty seats in CPS JK/K classrooms, particularly in under-chosen schools that would benefit from increased enrollment;

And whereas the School Committee is obligated to use public funds and public resources to serve the greatest possible number of Cambridge children and families;

Be it resolved that CPS will implement a very small pilot project this school year of making empty JK/K seats available mid-year to children who will turn four-years-old between April 1, 2017, and April 31, 2017, as a way to observe the effect of enrolling JK/K classrooms to meet capacity in CPS schools. This project will have no budget implications and there will be no obligation to repeat the pilot in future years if the project is determined to be disruptive or unsuccessful in its first year. Details of the proposed project are in the accompanying document.

On a motion by Ms. Dexter, seconded by Ms Nolan, Ms. Dexter offered the following substitution to **Motion #16-265:**

Whereas the Cambridge School Committee has voted to support the City's goal of expanding preK seats in Cambridge because of the obvious benefits of preK education;
Whereas Cambridge Public Schools currently offers a junior kindergarten program to children who turn four-years-old before March 31;
Whereas there have historically been and currently are many empty seats in CPS JK/K classrooms, particularly in under-chosen schools that would benefit from increased enrollment;

And whereas the School Committee is obligated to use public funds and public resources to serve the greatest possible number of Cambridge children and families;

Be it resolved that CPS will implement a small pilot project this school year, 2016-2017, of making empty seats in JK-only and blended JK-K classrooms available mid-year to children who will turn five-years old between April 1, 2017 and April 31, 2017 as a way to observe the effect of enrolling JK-only and blended JK-K classrooms to meet capacity in CPS schools. This project will have no budget implications and there will be no obligation to repeat the pilot in future years if the project is determined to be disruptive or unsuccessful in its first year. It will not affect the current age at which Cambridge children are guaranteed a JK seat (March 31). The project will be subject to Controlled choice requirements.

Project restrictions:

- No entering JK children will be added to K-only classrooms.
- No currently enrolled children will be required to move classrooms.
- No more than 2 children will be added to any single under-enrolled JK or BLENDED JK-K classroom.
- No more than 6 children to one school.
- Participants will be either April-born siblings of children already enrolled in the school they enter or April-born children who signed up for the October 3-year-old/younger 4-year-old lottery last year and are currently on the wait list for Special Start, FMA preschool, or Tobin Montessori but will be turning 5 this April. This will eliminate the need to advertise the pilot and solicit new applicants.

If there are more families of April-born children who express interest than there are available seats given the above restriction (which I doubt will happen), siblings will be given preference and other names will be put in a hat or otherwise chosen randomly. Controlled choice restrictions will apply, but not neighborhood preference.

Ms. Dexter explained her substitute motion to **#16-265** and distributed "Notes on Ms. Dexter's Motion re: Pilot project to fill 12-20 empty CPS JK seats" (on file in the School Committee office). She gave details of the empty seats which have been available. She asked what happens with JK when we don't have waitlist. She added that all 4 year olds are entitled to come to JK and often we over project; some people don't show up. There are a lot of seats available in a city where people are struggling to pay rent and daycare expenses. She indicated that it starts off with more seats in the less chosen schools. Parents move to the more desirable schools and the other schools have more seats becoming available. We have a cycle of under-enrolled schools. It's disturbing how many families in Cambridge are trying to find pre-schools. We can't just freeze schools and not make changes. Ms. Dexter shared the project restrictions to this pilot program.

Mayor Simmons asked Ms. Dexter to yield the floor to allow her colleagues to speak. Mayor Simmons indicated to Ms. Dexter that her colleagues haven't had the opportunity to read this substitute motion and back-up material and it curtails the quality of the discussion. Since it is a substitute motion, other people may have wanted to come tonight to share in public comment but did not know in advance. Mayor Simmons suggested placing this on the Calendar.

Superintendent Salim indicated that this motion came before him and that a detailed response to this proposal to alter JK entry age was done in a joint memo to him from Assistant Superintendent MacDonald and Chief Operating Officer Maloney. Dr. Salim added that he appreciates the public comments but

respectfully disagrees with this motion. He indicated that it is not in the best interest of the Cambridge Public Schools to recommend a significant change in its enrollment policy mid-year without considering the impact of the entire community of child care and pre-school providers. He spoke of the challenges of the ranges of academic and developmental needs of the children and the disruption of established routines and cultures in the classroom. He also spoke of the recommendations made by the Early Childhood Task Force.

Ms. MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, and Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, also shared their thoughts and recommendations on this motion. Ms. MacDonald noted that there isn't anyone who doesn't agree that high quality early childhood education is critical for all children. We studied this for many years and spent the last year and a half to study the issue of early childhood services throughout our community. She shared that in the Early Childhood Task Force Report, the first goal is to "Increase Access and Affordability of Early Learning Care and Services", and one of the stated strategies is to "ask the School Committee to study the feasibility of separating Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes...". Mr. Maloney offered that it's important to think about who would benefit if this was done today. We would be limiting the access to these seats to free and reduced lunch families. Full paid families would have a better chance of getting these bonus seats. One of these schools has a problem of keeping these seats filled. This has unintended consequences. For us to consider this and to have a policy change in November right before a lottery is very unfair for some people who signed up a year ago. Controlled choice is complex. Last year by the end of the year, we had only 30 empty seats. We are proud of our controlled choice program. We made changes to the "bands" last year.

Mayor Simmons turned it back to the Committee for discussion. Ms. Kelly is concerned that it wouldn't be a fully vetted public process, wouldn't be transparent and wouldn't include all the families in Cambridge who want to participate. Mr. Fantini indicated that seeing strong opposition from administration, he would not be able to support this. Mr. Fantini shared that our controlled choice plan is nationally renowned and he takes great pride in it. Mr. Fantini added that initiatives that aren't vetted out well are a concern. Mr. Harding added that it's about being respectful of the work which has been paved forward. One of the criticisms we have is that different families are being treated unfairly. He understands the troubles and struggles of families with young children. Mr. Harding shared that we have to be fair while delivering policy at our level. Disruptions to classrooms cannot be minimized. Process with the city side is the way to go. We need to think more strategically when we bring motions in to the Committee. Ms. Nolan added that she loves the idea but does not think it's something we can do right now. It's a gift that we have any 4 year olds in all day JK. It is hard to see empty seats and not want to fill them. You never want to fill something to 100%. We need flexibility. If she thought it was good for this City right now, she would do it. Ms. Bowman wants to go on record that she was very intentional in the content of the work she was doing with the Building and Grounds Sub-Committee. She doesn't know a single person who wouldn't want this service for the children. Ms. Bowman added that when we bring these issues to the floor without vetting, without consulting with the administration who we hired and we don't engage them in this very important decision, it undermines the public and our body. Ms. Bowman added that this is not good policy making. She hopes with issues like this that are so deeply intimate that we give our colleagues the time to do due diligence.

Ms. Dexter indicated that she appreciated the discussion on this motion. She noted most of this information was in the document everyone had access to on Thursday. Ms. Dexter indicated that she sent a memo responding to the Committee relative to the administration's response. Ms. Dexter added that this is a tiny project, not a policy and is a very simple pilot. We could advertise this. She hasn't heard any other solutions on what we do with these empty seats and indicated that this was not new.

Mayor Simmons concurred with the majority of the body. We have studied this a great deal and the Committee does not take this likely. This is not only the school department's problem it is a city problem. We need to find a solution that meets the needs of every family. We can't change the rules in the middle of the school year.

Mr. Harding noted that it is better for the Committee not to have back-up documents to School Committee Member motions as part of the official meeting book or posted and linked to the online agenda. He added

that past practice has been that motion makers never added back-up materials as part of the motion. In the past, back-up materials were handed out by the Member at the meeting or sent in an email. He does not want potentially inaccurate information being part of the official motion.

On a voice vote, Ms. Dexter's substitution to **Motion #16-265** failed of adoption.
On a voice vote, the main **Motion #16-265**, failed of adoption.

#16-266, Motion by Ms. Bowman, whereas the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee met to discuss capacity issues for the Cambridge Public Schools facilities and,

Whereas the Committee agreed there needs to be intentional forward thinking regarding future enrollment shifts within the Cambridge Public School District, therefore be it,

Resolved that the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee recommends that CPS in collaboration with the City of Cambridge give an update on the current renovation project at the King Open School/Cambridge Street Upper School, initial thoughts on the Vassal Lane Upper School/ Tobin Montessori School project, initial thinking on the next school redevelopment project and infrastructure improvement investments for all CPS buildings that are not slated for demolition. Be it further,

Resolved that the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee recommends that CPS creates a five year contingency plan that addresses the capacity needs of all CPS buildings based on future enrollment projections to accommodate potential growth within the district.

Ms. Bowman gave background information on her motion **#16-266**. She noted that we need to think of the future and we need to think of current projects to have a sense of where we are and what new schools we see in the future. Ms. Bowman also wants the Committee to think of how buildings that aren't being addressed are being supported and how will we handle additional enrollment. Ms. Nolan noted that this will be for future discussion and updates. Mr. Fantini complimented Ms. Bowman, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee, for doing due diligence and staying on top of these issues. Ms. Kelly thanked the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee for this very clear motion and noted that it is very important to take into consideration the buildings which are not being demolished to keep them at the same level of buildings which are being replaced. Ms. Bowman shared that she wanted to be sensitive to administration and didn't put a date on this. She asked administration for a timeline. Mr. Maloney responded that possibly they would be ready for a follow-up discussion at a Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee meeting in December.

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Kelly on a voice vote, **item #16-266** was adopted.

#16-267, Motion by Ms. Dexter, that whereas Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School strives to ensure that all students have opportunities to explore their interests and acquire the skills, knowledge, and dispositions required for successful young adulthood;

Whereas CRLS strives to ensure that all students receive the academic support and guidance necessary to develop and work toward post-secondary goals; and

Whereas not all students enter CRLS with strong academic skills, a strong identification with school, and an ability to independently access resources;

Be it resolved that the School Committee requests that the CPS and CRLS administrations ensure that, in the 2016-2017 school year, despite increased CRLS enrollment:

All students, 9th graders in particular, receive academic support services and guidance services commensurate with their needs; i.e. those with greater need receive greater support.

All students, 9th graders in particular, who are at risk for low academic achievement, have difficulty identifying and accessing resources, and/or display signs of school disengagement are provided with supplementary academic and/or guidance support.

Any student wishing to "double up" their requirements, i.e. take two required courses in the same subject in one year, are able to do so.

Be it further resolved that the School Committee pledges to ensure that the CRLS principal will receive with any additional discretionary funds or staff positions required to meet the needs of all students in the current school year, in particular those at risk for academic failure or school disengagement.

Attachment: Notes on 2016-2017 9th grade cohort
Link to description of CRLS Guidance Department:
http://crls.cpsd.us/about_crls/c_r_l_s_guidance_department

Ms. Dexter explained her motion **#16-267** and that this motion offered a reassurance of the School Committee's support of Principal Smith in his need to meet the growing enrollment of CRLS. Mr. Harding shared that he and Ms. Kelly met as Budget Co-Chairs with Principal Smith last week. Mr. Harding indicated that he has full confidence in Principal Smith as principal of CRLS and knows that he will come forward to the Committee with any needs. Mr. Harding suggested referring this motion to the Budget Sub-Committee and to the Superintendent. Mayor Simmons asked to refer this to the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee. Mr. Harding indicated that guidance and CRLS staffing are clearly some of the issues that we will have a roundtable discussion on during the budget process. Ms. Kelly handed out the draft calendar for FY2018 budget planning calendar (on file in the School Committee office).

On a motion by Mayor Simmons, seconded by Mr. Harding, on a voice vote, item **#16-267** was referred to the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee.

#16-268, Joint Motion by Mayor Simmons, Ms. Kelly, and Mr. Fantini, whereas the City of Cambridge Public School Department (CPSD) continues to make strong efforts to ensure that its workforce accurately reflects the rich diversity of the community it serves, and it continues taking proactive steps toward creating a more supportive, culturally-sensitive work climate for all employees; and

Whereas to ensure that the CPSD's mission of creating a more culturally sensitive workforce is achieved, it would be wise to extend any training and programming around cultural competency not only to the Cambridge Public School Administrators and Department Heads and to members of its workforce but also to the legislative leaders that are responsible for creating the CPSD's policies; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Mayor and the Superintendent/Administration form a working group to create a series of training modules to affect this mission.

Mayor Simmons indicated that this motion **#16-268** seeks to work out a process with the Superintendent, the policy makers and officials on both sides to participate in cultural competency training. The Members indicated their support and excitement for this motion. Mari Gashaw noted that she hopes there is an opportunity for young people to be involved as well.

On a voice vote, **item #16-268**, was adopted.

#16-269, Motion by Ms. Nolan, that whereas there has been discussion on changing ninth grade core academic classes by eliminating the option of separate honors classes in History and/or English and whereas School Committee sees the involvement of all community stakeholders as essential for improving education, including students, teachers, administrators and parents in decisions affecting all students, that the Superintendent set up opportunities for comprehensive outreach to all stakeholders prior to any recommendation to the School Committee on any proposed changes to CRLS course level options.

Ms. Nolan explained her motion **#16-269** and offered background information. She noted that there has been ongoing discussion and now is the time to move forward on this and to make sure we have community-wide involvement and notification.

Mr. Fantini in the chair (7:47 PM)

Dr. Salim shared that he has spent time with students and teachers at the high school and has been exploring this in greater detail. The reason for this exploration is to have increased access to high level courses to underrepresented groups specifically at the 9th grade year and to think about supports for all students to insure that they can be successful in this setting. Dr. Salim shared that this work has taken place over time and that they have been working with Carol Burris, a national consultant. He introduced CRLS Principal Smith, Janice Tingle, Coordinator of English/Language Arts; Adrienne Stang, Coordinator of K-12 History and Social Studies; Jen Hamilton, Dean of Curriculum (ELA), Learning Community C; Tanya Milner Dean of Curriculum (Social Studies), Learning Community R; and Jean Spera, Director of Student Services, who answered questions and concerns from the Members

Principal Smith informed the Committee that the plan for this is not yet complete. He added that the goal is to have Honors English Language Arts and History for all students in 9th grade next year. He added that they are leveling up and developing a thoughtful plan. They believe this is the area and the grade in which students can change the concept of who they are. Beyond the 9th grade experience, there is no other plan on leveling up. He shared that they look forward to having more productive conversations as they move along.

Mayor Simmons in the chair (8:26 PM)

Mayor Simmons thanked Principal Smith and his team for their work. Mayor Simmons noted that she appreciated Ms. Nolan's motion which brought this conversation forward but does not want to slow this process down and have this motion get in the way. She suggested letting the Superintendent and his administration do this work and come back to the Committee with an update.

Mari Gashaw asked if the content of curriculum is changing to be more inclusive of students, especially students of color. She also asked if the teacher cohorts would be changing and what supports would be available for 9th graders to insure that they are going to succeed in 10th grade honors or AP classes.

Ms. Bowman suggested having additional discussions on this in a sub-committee setting to give an opportunity for the community to have conversations and be part of this process.

Ms. Nolan indicated that she doesn't want to slow this down and that the spirit of this motion was to make sure that when this plan is completed, we are ready to move quickly and have community involvement and support.

On a motion by Ms. Dexter, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on a voice vote, **item #16-269**, was referred to the Curriculum and Instruction Sub-Committee.

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Dexter, on a voice vote, **#16-270**, Report of the October 6, 2016 Meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee, was accepted as presented:

Meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee
Thursday, October 6, 2016
School Committee Meeting Room
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Called for the purpose of reviewing revised building permitting recommendations, evaluate current lead testing and repairs, discuss budget implications for providing female hygiene products in CPS buildings, and discuss capacity issues for CPS facilities.

Members Present: Ms. Bowman, Chair; Ms. Nolan, Mr. Fantini

Also Present: Mr. Harding, Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Lane, Facilities Director; Jean Cummings, Cambridge Day reporter and

parent; Lyn Kardatzke, parent; Stephanie Groll, parent, Jose Luis Rojas, parent, Adel Daghmouri, parent, Nevena Zubcevik, parent

Ms. Bowman in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Bowman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. After reading the Notice of the meeting, Ms. Bowman stated for each agenda item, the members of this sub-committee will speak first; along with administrative representation, at the end of their discussion she will open the floor for public comment and the public will be allowed to speak within a two minute limit.

I. Building permitting recommendations

Mr. Maloney stated that Ms. Spinner and some administration members have been reviewing our permitting process; they have done a lot of research and have quite a bit of data. Ms. Spinner stated the district is in the process of implementing an online system for renting our facilities. They are going to pay particular attention to the fee structure as it relates to the categories of users which will most likely result in more than two categories of Cambridge vs. non Cambridge residents. They are addressing the necessary issues while in the process of transferring from paper to online and their goal is to be in a database environment ASAP. Vendors are still submitting applications in paper; they are taking the existing paper information and entering it into a database, eliminating kinks along the way. Ms. Spinner passed out a proposed review to implement the policies for rentals (on file in the School Committee office); and stated they need to adjust the existing policies, procedures and fees to protect the investments and the improvements to the renovated buildings, especially when theatre tech support is required.

Ms. Nolan suggested reaching out to other districts, for comparisons, before we do a proposal and also stated she would like parent groups to use our schools at no cost. Ms. Bowman suggested a draft or recommendation be produced for responses from the community. Ms. Spinner agreed with providing a draft and then tweak along the way. The time frame for the 1st draft is early December. We should come to an agreement by March or April to have the documents effective by July, 2017 for the upcoming academic year.

Mr. Fantini asked if we track who we rent to, and asked if he could have a report? The response is that there cannot be a written report; we are in the process of leaving the paper process, going toward the electronic system. We will electronically invoice people and they will send checks. Hopefully by July, we will have the ability to take credit card payments. Advance payments were recommended. It is a standalone system that ties into IT; however there is no reason to connect it to anything else. Security deposits and/or insurance certificates were suggested for certain categories of renters when a large event or multiple days event happen or are under consideration. Updates to the School Committee policy on rentals are needed. Since principals will be part of the approval process for building to building usage, we need a procedures manual.

Ms. Bowman suspended the Rules, Ms. Nolan seconded, to allow Mr. Harding to speak. Mr. Harding asked about scheduling and co-use of the War Memorial, the King and other facilities during the sports season and asked for clarity regarding outside agency rentals. Mr. Maloney responded they are already addressing this issue. It was agreed home sports teams have priority for athletic space over outside sports teams and this will be outlined in the rental agreement. There was no public comment.

II. Lead Testing and Repairs update

Mr. Maloney explained that Mr. Lane will walk all in attendance through the update and reviewed the facilities department lead project over last winter and the past summer; he mentioned that the Water Department was very accommodating and the plumbers went above and beyond the call of duty. Testing was a high labor intensive process and the end result, so far, is that there are 11 taps, out of 600, that still remain high and are out of service.

Mr. Lane explained that CPS used the Water Department guidelines to test the taps; it took 3 to 4 months to get samples from all buildings. The test results usually came back a week later. Cambridgeport had the biggest problem because the issue was in a riser instead of the fixtures.

All problems at the Cambridgeport are now fixed. There are some issues at the Amigos, King Open, Morse and Tobin schools. There is a draft proposal that should be ready by December showing us at 10%. The Environmental Protection Agency is looking to lower their percentage rate from 15% to 10%. The results of the 5-6 remaining taps recently tested should be in by the end of the week. There are 3 fixtures at G&P; the updates will be in the weekly.

Signs have been posted from the beginning and continue to be updated. Reports have been posted and continue to be updated on the web. Next steps will be to decide how often we will test and whether or not to flush the taps every morning.

Mr. Fantini congratulated the maintenance department for all of their hard work. Parents, principals and teachers were recognized and thanked for their patience and understanding.

Ms. Bowman opened the floor for public comment.

- Stephanie Groll, parent of 3 at Graham & Parks, is delighted with the lead testing that has been done; she is here tonight re health safety issue on the artificial turf field at Graham & Parks. According to research, there is no definitive answer as to whether or not it causes cancer and/or respiratory problems, it gets into the children's mouths, shoes, bed etc., she wants a study done, asap, of the safety of this surface, kids are on the turf before, during and after school resulting in a lot of exposure, asks that the turf be replaced by real grass. (Statement on file in the School Committee office). Ms. Bowman stated that since this is not on the agenda, Mr. Maloney will respond to this issue at a later time.
- Nevena Zubcevik, parent of a kindergartener at the Graham & Parks, re artificial turf field at Graham and Parks, stated that the rubber particles, made up of old tires, worry her, they are ubiquitous, even though we are very proactive she is concerned. Mr. Maloney informed everyone that because we don't own the land, we use the buildings, we need to have a conversation with the city, as they maintain and install the fields at all schools.

III. Budget for providing female hygiene products in CPS buildings

Ms. Bowman made a statement regarding the State of New York implementing a policy wherein they are providing feminine hygiene products in some of their municipal buildings, and she thought we should consider doing the same in our schools. She asked what the budget implications are.

Mr. Maloney passed out a spreadsheet, (on file in the School Committee office), and explained that it is a very comprehensive proposal; we do not have the money in this or next year's budget.

Mr. Lane spoke about the number of unisex or ladies facilities and daily maintenance to explain the cost. Everyone agrees that the price is high.

Ms. Nolan motioned, Mr. Fantini seconded, to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Harding speak.

Mr. Harding asked about what the will is to do this; can we make a student use a certain product? What about gender neutral bathrooms? Will the School Committee think of this as a priority? He suggested we find a cheaper way.

Ms. Bowman explained why she brought this forward. She stated that this is sensitive issue of how are we supporting our young girls in our school system. A pilot program would be a good place to start. It was decided this issue should be a discussion for the Committee of the Whole. Public health, privacy and dignity issues are important and should not be ignored. There was a discussion on free vs. a fee.

Ms. Nolan asked if other districts do this. She cautioned about making it public before consulting with parents and students, and then let the public have something to say.

Mr. Fantini suggested we have the public health department come speak.

Mr. Harding says some fee, even if it is nominal will be necessary. Mr. Maloney suggested a revised package for this issue in December. It was suggested to do two versions: a broad version and a pilot version of the revised package.

Ms. Bowman opened the floor for public comment.

- Lynn Kordaski, parent, doesn't know of any parent who would object to having these products in the schools.
- Jean Cummings, parent of a 13 year old, encourages a fee, and supports implementation, mentioned some girls, new to something different, don't always organize well.

IV. CPS facilities capacity concerns

Mr. Maloney stated we are not able to add to our capacity at the King building because of cost, zoning etc. There will be 2 additional classrooms for the King Open building. Because of the growing SEI population, growing OSS standalone classrooms and the fact that our general enrollment is growing, our buildings are full. In some schools, in order to make more space, we are moving away from computer labs; and moving to carts and laptops, turning the labs into classrooms. We are working with Gina Roughton, Ed. Tech Coordinator, to make adjustments. We still have computer labs at the Amigos, Cambridgeport, Kennedy/Longfellow and Haggerty to be looked at. We have open seats in grades 3, 4 and 5; kindergarten has about 84 open seats. It was brought up that K1 is robust and the Amigos is a stress area for classrooms in the middle grades. There will be a classroom added when they eliminate a computer lab at the Amigos, but if students stop leaving our district, how will we provide for the middle grades? The Rules were suspended so that Mr. Harding could be freely included in the conversation.

Ms. Spinner stated that if retention rises in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades, the upper schools are going to overflow.

Ms. Bowman asked what this committee can do to plan and has multi scenarios.

Mr. Fantini suggested a long range plan of capital improvements.

Ms. Nolan asked for the status of the Order for a report on bathroom status and air conditioners (C15-306). It was stated that we need to improve on annual upgrades. Since a review has not been done for at least 10 years, the State is due to review CPS to rank our buildings. We also have not been able to get full Massachusetts School Building (MSB) funding, they will not fund auditoriums, air conditioners and gyms. We have benefited for Fletcher Maynard Academy for exterior, roofs and boilers.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, the Rules were suspended to extend the meeting to 7:15 PM.

Mr. Harding stated we need to think about our aspirations in relation to capacity; and used the King building as an example stating it is a newly built school and 10 days after opening, there is not enough space. It was stated that there will be two more rooms at the Vassal Lane school. There was a question as to whether a better site for the Amigos school would be the Longfellow site. It was stated it was an economic decision to move administration out of Thorndike Street with no expense to the education of our students. Are we ready to plan in case Northpoint comes onboard? There could be an extra 200 students at Alewife.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, the Rules were suspended to extend the meeting to 7:20 PM.

Ms. Bowman opened the floor for public comment.

- Lyn Kardatzke, Amigos parent, suggests we provide a communication plan with the principal of the Amigos school to inform parents about eliminating the computer lab and turning it into a classroom sooner rather than later
- Jose Luis Rojas, Amigos parent, thanked everyone for all of the work that has been done at the school, stated that most things have been discussed that were on his mind. However he worries they will split up again and hopes we will find a solution that allows the school to stay together.
- Adel Daghmourie, Amigos parent, students at middle school will not have enough space he suggests we consider shuffling the resources around, he has been hearing plans for a long time and so far nothing has actually been done
- Jean Cummings asked about the Kennedy Longfellow building plans.

Ms. Bowman stated she will give her full attention to all of the issues raised during public comment.

Ms. Bowman thanked everyone for their participation. Mr. Fantini moved, Ms. Nolan seconded, to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

Adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee office

Distributed Documents > (On file in the School Committee office)

- Agenda
- Handout from Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer
- Handout from Mr. Lane, Director of Facilities
- Statement from Stephanie Groll, Graham and Parks parent

10. Resolutions: None

11. Announcements: None

12. Late Orders:

Ms. Nolan shared that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) conference is beginning tomorrow (November 2nd) and she asked if the Committee could authorize one of its members to represent the Cambridge School Committee as a delegate at the MASC Delegate Assembly taking place at this conference. Mayor Simmons responded that although she would like representation from this body, this would not be the process since there was not enough time for Members to have reviewed the delegate manual or advise the delegate of the position of this body on the matters which would be presented for a vote.

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

- ✓ Draft FY2018 School Committee Budget Planning Calendar
- ✓ Notes on Ms. Dexter's Motion re: Pilot project to fill 12-20 empty CPS JK seats

E-mail communications received:

- ✓ Email from Sara Levy re CPS school bus transportation failures and a complete breakdown
- ✓ Email from Julie Croston re Drama in the Upper Schools
- ✓ Email from Andrew Richman re in support of Ms. Dexter's motion #16-267
- ✓ Email from Anna Henchman re to consider the pilot program for greater JK access
- ✓ Email from Judy Weiss re in support of Ms. Dexter's motion #16-267
- ✓ Email from Cara Seiderman re in support of Ms. Nolan's motion #16-269

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

Mayor Simmons announced that immediately following this Regular meeting there will be a Roundtable Meeting for the purpose of discussing Educational Technology in the Cambridge Public Schools.

On a motion by Ms. Dexter, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting (8:30 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee