



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

September 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,
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 6:00 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Charlotte Rosenblum, Richdale Ave., CRLS student, re revision to the dress code; recommends that the sentence "that students be covered from mid thigh to top of chest" be removed from policy; it is not feasible and is inappropriate in line with other revisions made. She mentioned that she has talked to Principal Smith and he had approved of the earlier version of the dress code which does not include the sentence, "that students be covered from mid thigh to top of chest". (email on file in School Committee office)
- Arianna Thenor, Columbia St., CRLS student, re revision to dress code; she worked on the revision of the dress code policy because she felt it was targeting to specific individuals in their school; she would like the sentence "that students be covered from mid thigh to top of chest" be removed; she feels that sentence makes people feel pressure, unsafe and unwelcoming if they can't express themselves in a certain way
- Diego Lasarte, Kinnaird St., CRLS student, wants to support the students' efforts to reform the dress code and agrees the sentence "that students be covered from mid thigh to top of chest" should be removed. He has been reporting on this issue as the editor of the Register Forum for the last three years.
- Youssef Zerbovaa, Newtowne Ct., CRLS Student, has new proposal for minutes policy to get rid of unexcused absences and tardiness; put this in 320 minutes which would be equal to 4 unexcused absences. He finds the current policy inequitable; change it to minutes; there will be less attendance violation failure (AVF)
- Colby Cassier, Walden St., re access to JK services, spoke of the high cost of daycare; his son was born after the deadline for JK; signed up for 2 years for the lottery and didn't get in; giving preference to siblings for JK leads to distortion in the allocation of these slots; temporary solution is to let children in as spots are available and think of a long term solution in the meantime

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mari Gashaw reported:

On August 28th, the student government held a picnic to set goals for school year and to talk about the upcoming weeks; they also talked about changing "aloha day" to "falcon fun day" to welcome freshmen and celebrate; this change would make it more about CRLS pride, opportunity, diversity and respect.

At a meeting with Dr. Salim on September 4th, Paul, Mari and the CRLS student body president talked about issues happening at CRLS, need for more teachers of color, need for more guidance counselors, need for more inclusive curriculum around LGBTQ history, health curriculum, discipline, special education, sexual assault and harassment and the need for more discounted MBTA passes.

This Thursday is the first student government meeting at 7:15 a.m. in Room 1607.

Paul Sullivan reported:

A group of students assembled to carry out actions drafted by STARR students on combating the achievement gap, organizing a supplies drive to help low income students, utilizing clubs to hold workshops that would help reduce the implicit bias in both students and educators; holding informative meetings for parent; creating posse group of students who understand materials of a class to work with those who may not; students leading cultural competency meetings with educators to help navigate situations which they are unfamiliar with.

On September 4th, Paul and Mari and the CRLS student body president had a meeting with Dr. Salim to inform him of the workings of the student government as well as other student activism groups in the school.

CRLS mentors had the pleasure of welcoming the freshmen class of 2020.

Mayor Simmons thanked members of the public who spoke on the dress code this evening and announced that the School Committee will probably not take action on the dress code tonight. They are welcome to stay for the meeting but the dress code policy may not be resolved this evening.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Regular Meeting – August 2, 2016
- Special Meeting (Retreat) – August 17, 2016

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#16-179 Recommendation: Revisions to Dress Code Policy (Second Reading) (Nolan, 8-2-16)

#16-179, Revisions to Student Dress Code Policy, that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Dress Code Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

Ms. Bowman asked that since it is the first day of school that we give Dr. Salim the time and opportunity to meet with the appropriate administrators and people involved to work on this. She stated that she

would like to calendar this for now. Ms. Dexter asked if a motion can be calendared twice. The Chair noted that we are passing over **#16-179**. **Item #16-179** was passed over.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: None

7b. Innovation Agenda:

Ms. Nolan asked about middle school bus passes. The Chair mentioned that at the School Committee retreat we had agreed on no surprises. Dr. Salim responded that he will follow up with upper school heads.

7c. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to move the entire Consent Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Ms. Dexter removed **items #16-214, #16-219 and #16-220**. Ms. Kelly removed **item #16-216**. Mr. Harding removed **item #16-217**.

On the following roll call, **items #16-213, #16-215, #16-218, and #16-221 through #16-223** were adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-213, Revisions to Policy Governing Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Checks Made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes, that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Policy Governing Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Checks Made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes as detailed in the document (second reading).

#16-215, Contract Award, that the School Committee approve an agreement with the following community partner for an academic enrichment program, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Breakthrough Cambridge, CRLS, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$71,910.00.

#16-218, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for computer software maintenance & support, 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 July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$26,250.00

#16-221, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

McKinney Vento Homeless Students, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$30,000.00. Project/Grant SC17707.

Description: This grant provides referral services and emergency supplies for homeless children and their families, scholarships for summer camps, and training by CPS and community partner agencies for various school staff, including administrators, so all will better understand the issues facing homeless children and families and be able to contribute to their success at accessing services.

#16-222, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

21st Century Community Learning, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$165,000.00. Project/Grant SC17854/855.

Description: The three year 21st Century Community Learning Center grant is entering its 3rd year of implementation. The Putnam Avenue Upper School (PAUS)/East End House (EEH) Out-of-School-time (OST) Partnership Program will continue to focus on engaging with and addressing the needs of at-risk PAUS students, assisting them with meeting their learning and development goals and contributing to meeting CPS Improvement Goals. A .60 FTE Data Grant Projects specialist will provide administrative support to fulfill all grant requirements and deadlines, including attending periodic statewide and regional meetings, administering data collection tools including surveys and other site-based assessments, and preparing grant reports.

#16-223, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

Special Education Early Childhood Allocation, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$57,423.00. Project/Grant SC17607/608.

Description: The SPED Early Childhood Allocation grant funds a paraprofessional (1.0 FTE) in inclusionary classrooms, plus instruction materials/supplies.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#16-214, Contract Award, that the School Committee approve an agreement with the following community partner for the Work Force program, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Cambridge Housing Authority, 362 Green Street, Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$110,000.00.

Ms. Dexter pointed out the program cost is \$4,400 per student per year and that CPS is paying half of that. She doesn't question the program but wanted it noted how costly this is. Mr. Harding shared that these are our most vulnerable students and we should think about how critical it is to expand this program to this particular group of kids. Mr. Fantini thanked the Superintendent for providing an in-depth description of this program in the Weekly. Ms. Nolan looks forward to continued partnership with Workforce and would like to look for additional ways on how they could expand to support students. Ms. Dexter supports the idea that we should make this available to more students. She added that it would also be great to make this type of investment in the younger students. On the following roll call vote, **#16-214** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

***#16-216**, 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.

On the following roll call vote, **#16-216** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-217, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Professional Development, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Research for Better Teaching, One Acton Place, Acton, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$45,233.00.

Dr. Salim responded to the Members' questions regarding the effectiveness of this program and how we would evaluate it. Dr. Salim commented that RBT has been an area of focus of his work over the past few months. He is familiar with RBT from previous work. Principals value the common focus and clarity around this work, mastery of objectives and making student work visible. All of the principals, assistant principals, deans, etc. have all been a part of this work for over 3 years. Many of our instructional coaches and administrators are able to lead this work now. We are developing a cadre of leaders to lead this work. There are multiple levels of evaluation. Dr. Turk shared that we started out with a 3 year window for the RBT contract and that we are looking at it from year to year. She can't say that in future years there will be no contact with RBT since we still have teachers involved in taking the "Skillful Teacher" course. The tapering off will happen when the building of capacity grows. On the following roll call vote, **#16-217** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-219, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for 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:

Schools for Children, 8 Winchester Place, Suite 202, Winchester, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$268,146.00.

Ms. Dexter asked why the transportation costs are so high for out-of-district placements. Dr. Salim asked Dr. Greer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, to respond. Dr. Greer replied that we have 18 students enrolled in the Schools for Children. Part of program design is to build students skills re conflict resolution; some of this learning happens on the bus. It requires us to use their transportation to practice skills while the students are being transporting. Their school days run differently, they have more than 180 school days. On the following roll call vote, **#16-219** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-220, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for 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:

Hummingbird Transportation, 563 Ridge Road, Upton, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$40,800.00.

Dr. Greer responded to Ms. Dexter's questions regarding the high cost of this contract. Dr. Greer noted that only one student uses this transportation and for student privacy reasons she cannot give any more information. On the following roll call vote, **#16-220** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

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

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to move the entire School Committee Agenda for discussion and adoption. Mr. Fantini removed **#16-224** and **#16-227**. Ms. Dexter removed **#16-225**. Mayor Simmons removed **#16-226**.

#16-224, Motion by Ms. Dexter, that whereas the City of Cambridge has established a goal of expanding access to early childhood education for all three- and four-year-olds and the 2015 Early Childhood Task Force Report recommends "ask[ing] the School Committee to study the feasibility of separating junior kindergarten and kindergarten classes in all cases" (p. 13), and whereas the current CPS JK program provides an extra year of taxpayer-funded education to some Cambridge students but not others, the

School Committee encourages the administration to examine the JK program as part of this year's elementary program review.

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/citynewsandpublications/news/2015/11/%7E/media/F8450DA771B342529B5FF721684CAF21.ashx>"<https://www.cambridgema.gov/citynewsandpublications/news/2015/11/~media/F8450DA771B342529B5FF721684CAF21.ashx>

Ms. Dexter spoke in support of her motion. She indicated that one of the recommendations from the 2015 Early Childhood Task Force Report was to look at the JK program in the context of trying to expand opportunities for 3 and 4 year olds. She shared that parents are asking to make this a more equitable system to allow more children to have JK education. Ms. Dexter also indicated that she doesn't see that we need JK and K to be separated. She noted that the Tobin Montessori educates 3 and 5 year olds in the same classroom. Ms. Dexter noted that it is extremely unfair for only some 3 and 4 year olds to have access to JK education. A quick fix would be to fill the empty seats when available to make this a more equitable system.

Ms. Kelly offered a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Fantini, to **#16-224**, Motion by Ms. Dexter, as follows:

Whereas the School Committee recognizes the significant work done by the Cambridge Early Childhood Task Force, whose members included Department of Human Services staff, Cambridge Public School District staff, and community members, that the School Committee accept the recommendations of the Cambridge Early Childhood Task Force along with its five goals noted below and commit to implementing its findings:

Goal #1: Increase Access to and Affordability of Early Education and Care Services

Goal #2: Continuously Improve Program Quality for birth through Third Grade Program and Services

Goal #3: Build partnerships to Promote Strong Family Engagement and Support

Goal #4: Coordinate with Healthcare Providers to Ensure Access to Quality Healthcare Services

Goal #5: Develop an Effective Birth through Third Grade Governance and Leadership structure

Ms. Kelly noted that this is really a partnership between the City and the School Department to make this a successful program.

Mr. Harding thanked Ms. Kelly for remembering there has been a lot of hard work and efforts done by individuals on the city side and school department side. Mr. Harding has a question on goal #1 in terms of the budget and noted that we need to know the cost associated for this and who will be responsible for the funding. Mayor Simmons added that a roundtable could be scheduled with the School Committee and the City Council to have a discussion about this. Ms. Bowman noted her concern that we make sure we work collaboratively with the City to tackle this problem to get the results that we want. Ms. Bowman also shared that her 2 year old daughter is on the waitlist for this program. Ms. Nolan noted that both motions have the same goal to move forward on early childhood education and reminded the Members of the number of years this has been discussed. Ms. Nolan offered an amendment to the last line of Ms. Kelly's substitute motion changing "implementing its findings: to "working with the City and the larger Community to implement its findings". Ms. Kelly accepted Ms. Nolan's amendment.

Mr. Fantini indicated that the goal of this Early Childhood Task Force was to create high quality early education from birth to grade 3 and we have already hired Lei-Anne Ellis in the position of Early Childhood Program Director to see this through. We will be hiring a second position soon of Early Childhood Program Quality Specialist.

Ms. Dexter indicated that she supports the substitute motion. She pointed out this has been going on for 4-5 years. She doesn't believe in 4 to 5 years that we have significantly increased the amount of seats

available to students. We have total jurisdiction of JK and all our preschools and this is an unfair system for taxpayers. Ms. Dexter also spoke about the sibling preference policy for 3 and 4 year old education.

On a voice vote, Ms. Nolan's amendment to Ms. Kelly's substitute motion of **#16-224** was adopted.

On the following roll call vote, Ms. Kelly's substitute motion of **#16-224** was adopted: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

On the following roll call vote, Ms. Kelly's substitute motion of **#16-224** as amended was adopted and the underlying motion will have failed: Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA. Whereas the School Committee recognizes the significant work done by the Cambridge Early Childhood Task Force, whose members included Department of Human Services staff, Cambridge Public School District staff, and community members, that the School Committee accept the recommendations of the Cambridge Early Childhood Task Force along with its five goals noted below and commit to working with the larger community to implement its findings:

Goal #1: Increase Access to and Affordability of Early Education and Care Services

Goal #2: Continuously Improve Program Quality for birth through Third Grade Program and Services

Goal #3: Build partnerships to Promote Strong Family Engagement and Support

Goal #4: Coordinate with Healthcare Providers to Ensure Access to Quality Healthcare Services

Goal #5: Develop an Effective Birth through Third Grade Governance and Leadership structure

#16-225, Motion by Ms. Bowman, whereas the Cambridge School Committee gathered for a Retreat on August 17, 2016, for the purpose of goal setting for the 2016/17 school year and beyond and

Whereas according to school committee members and central administration present, there was agreement on the importance of improving student achievement by focusing on family and community engagement, measurement and evaluation, school climate and excellent instruction;

Whereas the new superintendent has identified elements of these themes in his robust Listening, Observing & Analyzing: Learning –Based Entry plan which will result in an Entry Plan findings update in November-December 2016,

Whereas the School Committee understood the importance of the Superintendent's long-term strategic planning work, there was also consensus for the Superintendent to address immediate pressing issues from the 2015/2016 school year;

Whereas there was agreement on a need to prioritize matters that included the Achievement Gap, Teachers of Color, Sexual Assault and Harassment as well as Motions referred to the retreat: C16-211: Community Relations with Schools, C16-212: Ad-Hoc Transition Planning Subcommittee Evaluation, C16-164: Providing Child Care at Meetings, C16-165: Review of Class Size Policy, and C16-166: Partner Organizations,

Whereas the committee understands the need to effectively leverage the time of our body and the new superintendent to address these issues, therefore be it

Resolved that the School Committee formally refer the above issues and motions to the Superintendent Transition Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for the purpose of prioritizing short-term issues for the superintendent to address parallel to his entry plan work and be it further

Resolved that the Superintendent Transition Ad Hoc Sub-Committee will also make additional recommendations for items not dealt with in the short term to be referred to subcommittees for further vetting and review.

Ms. Dexter asked Ms. Bowman to walk us through her motion **#16-225**. Ms. Bowman explained the spirit of her motion which came out of the School Committee retreat in August. Ms. Bowman indicated that through conversation at the retreat, it was agreed that we would move the items she listed on her motion to the Superintendent Transition Ad Hoc Sub-Committee.

Ms. Nolan noted there was some confusion on how to move forward with these motions. Her goal is to move forward and have these outlined and discussed as soon as possible. Ms. Nolan reminded the public of the sub-committee purpose and structure.

Ms. Kelly thanked Ms. Bowman for work on this motion and appreciates her sub-committee's willingness to take this on.

Ms. Dexter acknowledged that our student School Committee representatives were at the retreat and made wonderful contributions. She noted that the Committee was not allowed to refer any motions from a retreat so she thanked Ms. Bowman from bringing these motions forward with a motion. She also reminded the Committee that we are not allowed to bundle motions and refer them all together since that suppresses conversation. Ms. Dexter asked Ms. Bowman to accept two friendly amendments as follows: (1) this practice would have a deadline of December 1, 2016 and then evaluate how well it is working; and (2) that three of these motions be directly referred to the Superintendent tonight, C16-165 - Review of Class Size Policy; C16-164 - Providing Childcare at Meetings and C16-166 - Partner Organizations. Ms. Dexter explained that the Teaching and Learning Team would be addressing class size anyway. She added that it would be important to have the class size policy before the budget process. Ms. Dexter also noted that we have a family engagement team in administration which could obtain the information needed for child care. Ms. Dexter noted that it would help out administration in looking at partnerships if we had an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Partnerships. Ms. Dexter shared that taking these three motions from the Superintendent Transition Ad Hoc Sub-Committee would lighten the burden of that sub-committee.

Mr. Fantini asked a point of information if Ms. Dexter was offering an amendment. Ms. Dexter indicated that it was a request for a friendly amendment and the maker of the motion has not yet heard her comments. The Chair indicated that she would allow Ms. Dexter to explain her friendly amendment and it would be up to the motion maker to accept it as friendly. If it is not accepted as friendly, Ms. Dexter would need a second at that time. The Chair entertained a request for a second which was provided by Ms. Nolan so that Ms. Dexter's friendly amendment could be discussed.

Ms. Nolan asked for clarification on the December 1st deadline. Ms. Dexter responded that the whole motion would have a deadline of December 1st, and at that time could be evaluated.

Mr. Harding shared that his understanding from the retreat was that we were trying to take work from the Superintendent and we would be defeating ourselves if we were to change course now. We were to prioritize these items before giving back to the Superintendent for his action.

The Chair asked Ms. Bowman if she would take this as a friendly amendment. Ms. Bowman responded that she would take the December 1st deadline recommendation as a friendly amendment but not the second part of Ms. Dexter's amendment in referring C16-165 - Review of Class Size Policy; C16-164 - Providing Childcare at Meetings and C16-166 - Partner Organizations immediately to the Superintendent. She shared that particularly if we are going to work as a body, we can't bring forth the motions that we are indifferent to, specifically if we are going to be intentional about prioritizing items. To only bring forth the items that a particular member brought forward as motions does not come across as friendly, recognizing that we have a new Superintendent and that we need to do due diligence.

Mayor Simmons recapped that it was the agreement of the School Committee as discussed at the retreat to allow Dr. Salim to do his entry plan and in the mean time that the School Committee would take on

some of the responsibility in looking at the work needing action and prioritize it. The School Committee would have a shared set of goals to which we would direct the rest of our work and move forward through the rest of the year and future years. She noted that Mr. Fantini took on the charge of synthesizing these goals in that context. Mr. Fantini handed out a "Cambridge School Committee Brainstorming Goals from Retreat – August 17, 2016" document (on file in School Committee office).

The Chair asked that Ms. Dexter withdraw the deadline part of her friendly amendment knowing that Ms. Bowman is aware of the importance of this work and will make sure it comes back to the Committee by December 1st. The Chair noted that the second part of Ms. Dexter's friendly amendment was not accepted as friendly by the motion maker and would need a motion for a second. When Ms. Nolan seconded the amendment previously if was to bring it forward for discussion purposes only. Mr. Fantini requested the Chair to call the role. Ms. Dexter reminded the Committee that a two-thirds vote would be needed to call the role.

Since discussion has happened, the Mayor exercised her role as the Chair and asked if the amendment to Ms. Bowman's motion has a second. The amendment failed for lack of a second.

Ms. Dexter commented that she is sorry that the Members felt this was an unfriendly amendment. She reminded the Committee that by our Rules, we are not allowed to question the motives of motion makers.

On the following roll call vote, **#16-225, Motion by Ms. Bowman**, was adopted: Ms. Dexter PRESENT; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#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.

Mayor Simmons asked Mr. Fantini to act as Chair as she presented an amendment to her motion **#16-226 to** change the last paragraph to: Resolved, that the School Committee continue its current practices around this matter, and refer this matter to be taken up for future consideration by the School Committee that will meet beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. Fantini in the Chair.

Mr. Harding seconded Mayor Simmons' amendment to motion **#16-226**.

The Members asked the rationale or the conflict behind this motion. Mayor Simmons explained that it has come to the attention of the Chair that a member/members have asked to change how he/she is being addressed at the meetings, recorded in the minutes and listed on the wooden name plate. We have been operating in this way for a 3rd of this year and it makes sense to continue in this way for the remainder of the term and allow the next School Committee to revise the Rules if they so desire. Her concern is that changing this now would be a burden to our staff specifically if only one or two members are requesting this change. She indicated that she has not heard sufficient reason to change how we are addressed. She shared that although we come from different places, we are all equals in this room focused on the education of children.

Mr. Harding asked for suspension of the rules to end discussion and call a roll call vote on **#16-226**. On the following roll call, the motion to suspend the rules failed: Ms. Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan NAY; Ms. Bowman NAY; Mayor Simmons NAY.

Ms. Kelly agrees with continuing with the way we have addressed each other and appreciates the formality on the floor. Ms. Nolan indicated that we might want to take into account someone who categorizes themselves in a different gender. She suggested possibly referring this to a sub-committee instead of spending time on the floor discussing this. Ms. Dexter agrees that this is just "housekeeping" and this doesn't need to be discussed in public. Ms. Dexter noted that she doesn't like gender titles and doesn't use the term "Ms". She would prefer to use her first and last name or Committee person/member Dexter when addressed.

Ms. Dexter placed **#16-226** on the Calendar.

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

#16-227, Motion by Emily Dexter, that whereas Cambridge Public Schools has a chronic absence rate higher than the state average (18% for CPS vs. only 13% statewide), almost 40% of CPS students miss 10 days or more of school, research suggests poor attendance results in lowered achievement, and there is a national campaign to reduce chronic absences in U.S. schools, the Committee urges the CPS administration to: 1) conduct analyses of CPS absence data, including disaggregating absence data by grade and student demographics and investigating the relationship between early grade attendance and later achievement outcomes; 2) implement research-based methods of improving attendance at all grade levels; and 3) keep the Committee and the public informed about its efforts to improve attendance.

In addition, the Committee acknowledges that September is National Attendance Awareness Month.

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=00490000&orgtypecode=5&leftnavid=303&>

<http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/>

<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED485683.pdf>

["http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may08/vol65/num08/Improving-Student-Attendance.aspx"](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may08/vol65/num08/Improving-Student-Attendance.aspx)<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may08/vol65/num08/Improving-Student-Attendance.aspx>

Mayor Simmons placed **#16-227** on the Calendar.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Kelly, **#16-228**, the Report of the August 23, 2016 Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee was accepted as presented:

Meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee
Tuesday, August 23, 2016

School Committee Meeting Room
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Called for the purpose of discussing recent lead testing results in the Cambridge Public Schools. It is anticipated this meeting will end by 6:00 PM.

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

Also Present: Mr. James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Mike Lane, Director of Facilities; Ms. Rosalie Rippey, Director of Family Outreach and Engagement; Mr. Sam Corda, Managing Director of Cambridge Water Department; Mr. Sam Lipson, Director of Environmental Health, Department of Public Health; Ms. Alicia Morris, Nurse for Healthy Homes Program, Department of Public Health

Ms. Bowman in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Bowman called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. After reading the Notice of the meeting, Ms. Bowman stated that she will turn the meeting over to Mr. Maloney to explain why we are testing the lead levels in the water.

Mr. Maloney gave an overview of the lead testing process from beginning to end. He stated that because of the situation in Flint, Michigan last winter, he collaborated with Mr. Corda, Managing Director of the Water Department to test the water in CPS. Around mid March, approximately 10-12 years of data was posted on line that showed good results on the status of Cambridge water. Mr. Maloney explained that the Commonwealth of MA announced a grant program of 2 million dollars to test lead levels in every school throughout the state. CPS worked out an arrangement with the lab in the Water Dept. to test every tap and bubbler in every school, except CRLS, PAUS and War Memorial because they are new and not a priority. The water dept warned us that there is more sediment when school is not in session, therefore the results for lead content can register higher. When all results (about 600 taps) were done, they were posted on line. Roughly 10% tested at a level of 15 parts per billion or above, the level at which the Environmental Protection Agency requires that we take corrective action. For the most part, the problems were not in the risers (pipes that come up from the ground), but in the faucets and taps. A second round of testing showed that we didn't catch everything. The Cambridgeport needed 2 new risers, and the report shows the building is now 100% clear. We have two plumbers on staff and a contract with a plumbing company, and they are going through all school buildings. All of the necessary changes have been made at the Kennedy/Longfellow and now there are only 3 schools that are over, Amigos, Graham & Parks and Tobin which will need risers replaced. The in house staff is still collecting water samples at the King Open Broadway building. The work will be finished by Labor Day, but we won't have all the tests results back by then.

A couple of good things to note are that some of these fixes are in the staff bathrooms where the water is not used for drinking or used by students.

We went to Next Steps on the Agenda and Mr. Lane confirmed that they tested over 600 areas of water sources and stated that the highest level was at the Cambridgeport. The repairs started on June 3rd and ended August 22, with the solution being to replace 2 risers. Moving forward they are preparing to do the mechanical work of changing the fixtures by the 31st and getting additional test samples at the Amigos, Graham and Parks and Tobin buildings. At the start of school Mr. Lane will be meeting with principals at all schools. Amigos and Graham & Parks are above level with 3 taps out of service. There will be no need for bottled water; there are other serviceable options for water usage in these buildings.

Each day there is another town that is testing. Quincy will begin testing in September, Boston has 11 schools that tested over the acceptable level, most of their schools use bottled water and they don't expect to have drinkable tap water in their schools before the 2020's.

The Chair recognized Mr. Corda and Mr. Lipson to speak. Mr. Corda, Managing Director of the Cambridge Water Department, began by stating we are in compliance with the lead and copper rule. The corrosion control program is successful in reducing lead in the drinking water system by increasing the ph level of the water between 9 and 9.5%. Typically the problems are either in the bubbler or the faucet. We use less than 0.25% lead by weight in all brass materials. Lead is not in our water supply, it usually comes from the equipment in buildings, houses and the soil. Unlike Flint, Michigan, we are proactive; going above and beyond to make sure we do all that is possible to provide clean drinking water.

Mr. Lipson, Director of Environmental Health, Cambridge Health Department, gave an overview on why lead is critical to track. Lead is considered a developmental neurotoxin that will affect the cognitive development of kids under the age of 4. We screened kids and looked at data from age 9 months to 4 years as the primary target ages for lead screening.

The chair asked if it is possible to know how long kids were exposed to unsafe levels. Mr. Lipson answers that it depends on the sources. Water is not the primary cause of lead levels in the blood. It is more often in materials homes are built with, soil, dust parents bring home from work sites, etc.

The chair recognized Ms. Morris, Head Nurse for Healthy Homes program, and asked what recommendations she suggests moving forward for concerned parents etc. Ms. Morris agreed with the previous speakers that the risks are very low, and under control, but lead is everywhere. Therefore there are numerous sources of exposure to lead. Regarding water, kids are just as likely to be exposed in their own homes with pipes and fixtures that contain brass (brass is partially lead), being exposed to renovations and fires where lead paint turns to dust. She recommends parents not only look at the schools, but also older homes and the environment, lead is ubiquitous. Children's size and metabolism varies and also contributes to lead results. Ms. Morris suggests parents call her with their concerns and questions; she is happy to take calls and do lead prevention visits with families. She is also willing to organize answering questions in a larger forum if wanted.

Regarding whether or not a child should be tested, the decision to test for lead is up to a pediatrician. Avena puncture testing will show the elevation, but not the source. We test by mandate between ages 4 and 6, and if a child is new to this country. The law that covers kids is up to age 6. Since Cambridge is not high risk anymore, we test up to age 4.

Ms. Nolan asked whether the reason the testing ends by age 6 is because by age 6 the developmental cognitive hazards are less. Ms. Morris confirmed that to be true. The kids are at the greatest risk once they start crawling, they are all over the place, and everything is hand to mouth. Because of the aggressive MA laws and increased awareness, we see less kids with blood levels that are too high.

Ms. Nolan asked if the parents should be concerned about their older kids that attend a school that tested high. Ms. Morris said the risk is quite low, but check with your physician.

The question was asked, as we replace things and do plumbing work, are we up to code? Mr. Maloney said yes. The way the fixtures are molded together and what they are made of solves many problems. It was brought up that since CPS is posting information as we go through the process, is there a way to provide a link to both city and school to make the information accessible? Mr. Maloney will speak to the City Manager about accessibility.

Ms. Bowman thanked everyone. Ms. Nolan moved, Ms. Bowman seconded, to adjourn at 5:30 PM.

Adjourned at 5:30 PM

Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee office

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

Agenda

10. Resolutions:

It was voted to adopt the following:

Motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, that the School Committee goes on record in expressing its deepest condolences to Patrick Ewing, Sr. for the tremendous loss of his father and to the entire family of Carl L. Ewing, Sr.

Motion by Mayor Simmons, seconded by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee goes on record in expressing its deepest condolences to Marian Darlington-Hope, Sean Hope, and to the entire family for the tremendous loss of Agnes Darlington, longtime Cambridge resident who recently passed.

11. Announcements

Ms. Dexter announced that on October 6th, the El Salvador/Cambridge Sister City Project will be having a report back at 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Central Square.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to allow Mr. Fantini to move to an item on the agenda already passed. Mr. Fantini announced that he will be forming an Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee to flush out the goals discussed at that retreat. He is appointing Ms. Kelly and Ms. Nolan to that Sub-Committee and they will be moving forward shortly.

Mr. Fantini announced that the Cambridge Babe Ruth Team, the Hitsmen, received a silver medal in Disney World.

Mayor Simmons announced that unless there are any objections, there will be a joint meeting with the City Council and School Committee re Charter Schools at City Hall on October 24th.

Mayor Simmons announced that the special committee on sexual assault and harassment, bullying and dress code will be meeting on September 27th at 4 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Simmons turned the floor over to Dr. Salim to give an update on the first day of school as Superintendent in Cambridge. Dr. Salim shared that he started his day off at the Fletcher/Maynard Academy along with Mayor Simmons to welcome students and parents. He was able to visit 12 of 18 schools today and will go to the remaining 6 tomorrow. He spoke about the colloquium held last week with all Cambridge educators. He has also visited some of our special education programs with Dr. Greer. He will be having more informal visits to classes and talk to students and families. He said it was a great first day in Cambridge and thanked the support staff for having everything ready.

12. Late Orders: None

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to adjourn (7:58 PM)

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- ✓ Email from Charlotte Rosenblum referred to a public comment
- ✓ Cambridge School Committee Brainstorming Goals from Retreat – August 17, 2016” document

E-mail communications received:

- ✓ Email from Judy Weiss re dress code
- ✓ Lauren K. Gibbs re comments for School Committee Meeting

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

***This contract was brought back before the School Committee for a revote pursuant to School Committee C16-313 dated October 18, 2016 so that Ms. Dexter could be recorded as “present – not voting”.**