

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

August 2, 2016

Called for 5:00 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, Emily Dexter, Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding (ABSENT),
Ms. Kelly (ABSENT), Ms. Nolan, and Mayor Simmons

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

1. Public Comment:

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini, to suspend the Rules to allow a member of the public to speak on an item not on the Agenda. It was voted to suspend the Rules for the reason stated.

- Lauren Gibbs, Newport Rd., parent of 2015 CRLS graduate, thinks all students should have faculty of color; wants follow through on recruiting and retaining faculty of color at CRLS and CPSD; supports demands of the CRLS Educators of Color group, Ed Byrnes' report to the previous Mayor and Rhea Dunn's TRACCT proposal; supports foreign language study in 1st through 10th grades; supports the concerns of parents and teachers for more funding in classroom learning rather than administration (statement on file in the School Committee office)

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave., Cambridge, CEA President, on behalf of the CEA officially welcomed Dr. Salim; looks forward to working with Dr. Salim and supporting him through his entry plan
- Sara Block, Shepard St., CRLS 1983 graduate, dismayed about the proposed dress code; vague language; questioned language, "all students must be covered from mid-thigh to the top of chest in non see through materials"; questioned how clothing discussions would happen in private (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Charlotte Rosenblum, Richdale Ave., CRLS student, the proposed language, "all students must be covered from mid-thigh to the top of chest in non see through materials" is not feasible in terms of female clothing in 2016; this is far more restrictive language than last year and a huge step backwards; feels insulted that this was added against what students have been fighting for during the past 2 years; students fought for a safer and accepting environment for women of all body types; races and economic backgrounds; removal of line "all students must be covered from mid-thigh to the top of chest in non see through materials" would make dress code much more productive and respectful; purpose of a dress code in 2016 should be to advocate respect and to teach respect

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

The Chair announced that Ms. Kelly is absent tonight due to a family matter.

2. Student School Committee Report: None

Ms. Nolan shared that Paul Sullivan conveyed to her that he had a conflict and would try to come to the meeting later. She also added that Mari Gashaw is out of town. The Chair asked that in the future, the Student School Committee convey any messages through the Executive Secretary.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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

- Special Meeting – June 21, 2016
- Regular Meeting – June 21, 2016

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward **item #16-179** for discussion and adoption. The Rules having been suspended for the purpose stated, **item #16-179** was brought forward.

#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).

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, an amendment to **#16-179**, Revisions to the Dress Code policy, to remove the language “all students must be covered from mid-thigh to the top of chest in non see through materials”. Ms. Bowman offered clarity to the language since she had a part of bringing that language in. She noted that it was not specific to women. This took out the gender specific language and included men who “sag” their pants. She suggested coming up with specific language that does not single out one gender. Ms. Nolan questioned the repercussion if we remove that language from the policy. She added that the actual language wasn’t sent to students until the last week of school so the students did not have the opportunity to weigh in on it. Ms. Nolan suggested calendaring this item until principals, heads of upper schools and involved students have a chance to discuss. Emily Dexter added that she doesn’t feel the School Committee should decide on a dress code policy. She indicated that the dress code should be decided at the school level with principals and parents. Mr. Harding asked for clarity and expectation throughout the school on this policy and wanted to have clearer guidelines on who this policy would govern. Dr. Turk shared that concern about language was brought to her attention on Thursday. She has had two meetings with Principal Smith since then and wants to take a closer look and to make sure there is clarity. It is being looked at as a district policy not a school policy. Principal Smith will reach out to Ms. Rosenblum tomorrow. The Chair indicated that it’s important that we have a district policy. She thanked Ms. Bowman for her work and acknowledged that Ms. Bowman was trying to be gender free, fair and impartial. The Chair noted that we should have one rule that everyone follows and not rely on our own opinion; a policy gives you a guide. There needs to be specific training once this policy is adopted. The Chair shared that a special committee has been appointed to look at sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying and the dress code. She will keep the Superintendent apprised of what the special committee is doing. Mr. Fantini suggested that maybe pictures would be helpful in the policy of what is appropriate and what isn’t.

Ms. Nolan placed **item #16-179** on the Calendar.

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

Mr. Fantini in the Chair (5:30 PM)

Mayor Simmons in the Chair (5:45 PM)

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Overview of Superintendent's Entry Plan

Kenneth Salim, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Salim walked the Members through the following PowerPoint presentation overview of his Entry Plan (on file in the School Committee office):

Listening, Observing and Analyzing: A learning-based Entry Plan for Cambridge Public Schools

- Overview
- Introduction and Core Values
- Entry Plan Purpose
- Entry as Foundation for Strategy Development and District Planning
- Stages of Entry Plan Process and Key Supports
- School Committee and Entry Process

Dr. Salim responded to the Members' questions, comments and concerns.

Mayor Simmons thanked Dr. Salim for his report and for his ideas. She welcomed him and wished him good luck on behalf of the families and students. She noted that he has an extraordinary leadership team and will be very well supported.

Dr. Salim closed by saying he is excited to formally kick off this entry plan. He added that there is no more important work than insuring excellence and equity for all of our students.

Dr. Salim introduced Dr. Anda Adams, our new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to move the entire Consent Agenda forward for discussion and adoption. Mr. Fantini removed **items #16-183, #16-200, and #16-204**. Emily Dexter removed **item #16-194**. Ms. Nolan removed **item #16-199**.

On the following roll call, **items #16-178, #16-180 through #16-182, #16-184 through #16-193, #16-195 through #16-198, #16-201 through #16-203, and #16-205** were adopted: Ms. Bowman YEA; Emily Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-178, 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 (first reading).

#16-180, 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	10	\$852,327.96
Residential	2	\$395,561.45
45 Day Program	0	N/A
Total	12	\$1,247,889.41

#16-181, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Lease of Parking Lot for the Fletcher Maynard Academy, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Cambridge Community Outreach Tabernacle, 190 Harvard St., Cambridge, for the period August 15, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$17,875.00; for the period August 15, 2017 to June 30, 2018, in the amount of \$18,400.00; for the period August 15, 2018 to June 30, 2019, in the amount of \$18,950.00. Total Contract \$55,225.00.

#16-182, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for a 2017 Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Liberty Chevrolet, 90 Bay State Road, Wakefield, for the period July 20, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$29,351.00.

#16-184, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Consultation Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Riverside Community Care, 270 Bridge Street, #301, Dedham, for the period September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$135,000.00.

#16-185, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for professional development, funds to be provided from the Grant Fund, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Commonwealth Learning Center, 220 Reservoir St., #6, Needham, for the period September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$27,000.00.

#16-186, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for printing and mailing services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Sterling Business Products, P.O. Box 845, Medford, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$170,000.00.

#16-187, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for classroom instructional materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

School Specialty, P.O. Box 1579, Appleton, WI, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$300,000.00.

#16-188, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Student Tuition, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Norfolk County Agricultural High School, 400 Main Street, Walpole, for the period September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$44,388.00.

#16-189, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for fresh meat for Food Services, funds to be provided from the Revolving Fund, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Mayflower Poultry Co., Somerville Live Poultry, Inc., 621 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$60,201.00.

#16-190, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for carpentry and maintenance supplies, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Home Depot, 16 Dan Road, Canton, for the period October 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$75,000.00.

#16-191, 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:

EL Education, 247 West 35th Street, New York, NY, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$31,000.00.

#16-192, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for curriculum materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

American Reading Company, 201 S. Gulph Rd., King of Prussia, PA, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$28,700.00.

#16-193, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for summer programs, 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 July 1, 2016 to August 30, 2016 in the amount of \$54,325.00.

#16-195, Contract Award, that the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor for Professional Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Public Consulting Group, 148 State Street, 10th Floor, Boston, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#16-196, Approval of Gifts to Cambridge Public Schools that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. \$218.29 to the Morse School made from O'Connor Portraiture, Inc., as commission for student portraits. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
2. \$70.45 to the Morse School made from Target's Take Charge of Education program for the general support of the school.
3. An in-kind donation of design/printing of a banner for the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School crew team made from Cambridge Repro-Graphics.

#16-197, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Josey Herrington Fund, for the period June 20, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$2,566.00. Project/Grant SC16134.

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

#16-198, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Popplestone Foundation, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$269,348.00. Project/Grant SC17695.

Description: This foundation grant will continue to support the salary of 2.0 full-time music teachers in grades K-2 at the Peabody School and the Fletcher-Maynard Academy, as well as contribute funding for 0.4 of a 1.0 teacher FTE at the Tobin School. Funds will also be used to purchase sheet music and other instructional materials necessary to implement the program.

#16-201, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

Expanded learning time, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$726,526.00. Project/Grant SC17829.

Description: This grant will provide 300 additional hours of instruction/year for all students at the Fletcher-Maynard and ML King Schools. The funding supports stipends for additional working hours for teachers and Assistant Teachers; FTEs include a .54 project coordinator and 2.0 FTEs for Assistant Teachers (up from 1.37 last year). Other Expenses include field trips and elective partners.

#16-202, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Occupational Education Vocational Skills, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$84,840.00. Project/Grant SC17606.

Description: As part of the FY17 Budget process, the grant-funded portion (0.67 FTE) of RSTA's Computer/Tech teacher was allocated to the district budget, funded by a permanent transfer from the school's materials budget to salaries. Accordingly, the Perkins grant can now fund a greater share of program materials in FY17, including computer technology and licenses for the Creative design and Media tech lab, computer technology for the Early Education program, and equipment for the Health Assisting and Automotive programs.

#16-203, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

Title III Summer LEP Support, for the period July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016, in the amount of \$2,547.00. Project/Grant SC17784.

Description: In combination with the Title III grant, this grant will fund part of the stipend of a Reading Teacher for a 5-week summer enrichment program for approximately 20 Elementary English Language Learners from across the district.

#16-205, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

Special Education IDEA Allocation, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$2,658,484.00. Project/Grant SC17605.

Description: The purpose of this Federal Entitlement Grant Program is to provide funds to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual need. Of this funding, \$200,000 is budgeted for professional development, including staff training in Universal Design for learning, and the remainder will be used for out-of-district tuition for students. (Note: amount requested is less than allocation as the membership fee of \$3,000 to Mass Urban Project is paid directly by DESE).

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#16-183, 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 it:

Harborside Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 301076, Dallas, TX, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$95,000.00

Mr. Fantini asked for clarification on why we are using a company located in Texas. Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the company's corporate office is located in Texas but the staff who are actual nurses working with our students are out of a local office. On the following roll call, **item #16-183** was adopted: Ms. Bowman YEA; Emily Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-194, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for placement and management of volunteers in both elementary, upper and secondary schools, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Cambridge School Volunteers, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$176,365.00.

Emily Dexter asked a question re the tutors who will work in early literacy program K-3 and how this fits in with the rest of our intervention program around reading. Ms. MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent, responded that the volunteers in this particular program are assigned as supplemental and after-school. On the following roll call, **item #16-194** was adopted: Ms. Bowman YEA; Emily Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-199, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Title 1 Distribution, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$1,203,557.00. Project/Grant SC17604.

Description: Seven elementary schools are eligible for Title 1 services in FY17. These funds will provide academic, instructional, and support services for all low-achieving students in either reading or math, professional development activities for staff, support for parent involvement activities, as well as supplies and materials. Grant funds support 2.35 FTEs for the Program Coordinator (1.0), secretary (.60), and Family Liaison (.75), plus 5.67 FTEs for teachers in the Title 1 schools. Fifteen percent of the grant is reserved to provide additional support for students as well as professional development in the district's Level 2 schools. In addition, 1% of the grant supports family engagement activities. The grant also serves eligible Cambridge students attending private schools.

Ms. Nolan asked to calendar this recommendation pending receipt of a report which would indicate how and why these funds are assigned to the different schools. The Chair asked Dr. Salim if

calendarizing this item would be problematic. Dr. Salim responded that there are considerations regarding the timing of this grant. Ms. Spinner indicated that there are staff members who need to be on the payroll on the first day of school and if we don't have this adopted we won't be able to charge that payroll to this grant. Ms. MacDonald responded that she will send a summary of the funding allocations to the Members which is based on the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch taking into consideration the number of students in each school. This also includes funding for upper schools, literacy programs and summer programs. The Chair urged all Members to pose any questions on recommendations particularly those time sensitive to administration prior to the meeting. Mr. Harding asked for clarity on the information that Ms. Nolan is requesting. Ms. Nolan expressed concern that in the past no funds were allocated to the upper schools and would not calendar this item if it was problematic. On the following roll call, **item #16-199** was adopted: Ms. Bowman YEA; Emily Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

Mr. Fantini had no further questions on **#16-200 and #16-204** and moved both for adoption. On the following roll call, **items #16-200 and #16-204** were adopted: Ms. Bowman YEA; Emily Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-200, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

Coordinated Family & Community Engagement, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in the amount of \$277,700.00. Project/Grant SC17851.

Description: This CFCE grant supports pre-school-aged children and their families through a collaboration between CPS and the City of Cambridge DHSP's Center for Families. Together they provide a seamless network of programs that are responsive to diverse families, including: conducting ongoing outreach, information, and referrals; providing family literacy-based play groups and community-wide activities; partnering with public schools and community-based programs to support Kindergarten registration and screening; providing family education and support services; and engaging families in supporting early childhood development through utilization of the ASQ screening tool and follow-up activities and referrals to address challenges early. In CPS, the grant funds 1.40 FTEs, including the grant supervisor, Project Coordinator, Early Childhood Specialist, and Family Support Specialist. Over 50% of the grant is subcontracted to the Center for Families, supporting many types of specialist positions.

#16-204, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Title II-A/Teacher Quality, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, in the amount of \$379,549.00. Project/Grant SC17731.

Description: This grant program aims to increase student achievement through a comprehensive district initiative that focuses on the preparation, training, recruitment and retention of highly qualified educators. Grant funds will provide a 1.0 FTE Program Manager for Teacher Development who will coordinate the New Teacher Induction and Mentoring programs and all other professional development and training programs in the district. This grant will also support stipends for the mentoring program for new teachers as well as a 1.0 FTE district-wide ELA coach. Participating private schools are served in proportion to their enrollment.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of moving reconsideration of the foregoing votes on all items passed. The Rules having been suspended, on the following roll call, a motion to reconsider the foregoing votes, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption: Ms. Bowman NAY; Emily Dexter NAY; Mr. Fantini NAY; Mr. Harding NAY; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan NAY; Mayor Simmons NAY.

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

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to move the entire School Committee Agenda for discussion and adoption

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to adopt **items #16-206 and #16-207**.

#16-206, Joint Motion by Mr. Harding, Emily Dexter and Ms. Bowman, that whereas there was a tragic fatal bicycle accident in Inman Square in June, the School Committee requests that the CPS administration, in collaboration with the Police and Community Development Departments, review and evaluate the safety of Inman Square for students walking or bicycling to and from school, and report back to the Committee their conclusions and any proposed changes, if any, as soon as possible.

#16-207, Joint Motion by Emily Dexter and Ms. Kelly, that whereas sports teams and extracurricular clubs and activities will begin in August and September, and whereas CPS has an anti-hazing policy to protect all students, the School Committee requests that the Superintendent ensure that all CPS staff are familiar with the anti-hazing policy, clear about the definition of hazing and the disciplinary consequences, and aware of procedures for responding to and reporting hazing behavior should it occur.

Furthermore, that the Superintendent ask all CPS middle and high school administrators to ensure that 6th-12th grade students are made aware of the definition of hazing, our anti-hazing policies, and procedures for students to report any hazing behavior they observe, experience, or learn about. Particular attention should be paid to communicating this information clearly to students who are English Language Learners or who have communication-related disabilities.

On the following roll call, **items #16-208 and #16-209** were approved: Ms. Bowman YEA; Emily Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly ABSENT; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-208, Invoice for \$4,165.00 from National School Board Association (NSBA) for 2016-17 annual dues

#16-209, Invoice for \$6,888.00 from Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) for 2016-17 annual dues

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to adopt the following report as presented:

#16-210, Report of the June 15, 2016 Community Relations Sub-Committee

Meeting of the Community Relations Sub-Committee
School Committee Conference Room

Wednesday, June 15, 2016
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Called for the purposes of following up on the exit surveys; reviewing the controlled choice report and any other business that may properly come before the Committee. It is anticipated that this meeting will end by 10:30 AM.

Members Present: Ms. Nolan, Chair; Emily Dexter, Mr. Harding (ABSENT)

Also Present: Mr. James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Rosalie Rippey, Family Communications Manager; Ms. Kathy Sampson, Assistant Registrar; Ms. Monica Velgos, parent; Mr. Jared Cosulich, parent

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Nolan called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Ms. Nolan passed out an agenda and explained the purpose of the Community Relations Sub-Committee. Ms. Nolan recognized the parents and allowed them to speak if they desire.

Exit survey: status, update, reports, and ensuring future regular schedules

Ms. Rippey passed out an Exit survey of Students Leaving CPS from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016. Discussions followed around the following issues concerns and questions:

- ✓ An annual review
- ✓ Improve communications to School Committee with the results of surveys
- ✓ Ethnicity and economic status of students that leave
- ✓ students to suburbs and gateway communities
- ✓ students of parents that are here for a short time for studies and temporary work
- ✓ Examine SES population data and see how big the changes are

Ms. Rippey passed out the Spring 2016 Leavers Survey Summary for October 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016. Discussion followed:

- ✓ What was the most important reason you left CPS?
- ✓ What are the strengths or weaknesses of CPS?
- ✓ Feedback
- ✓ For more accurate impressions, we may need to survey current families also
- ✓ It was agreed to combine the exit survey with the controlled choice report from July 1 to June 30th

Controlled Choice: review, set date for review with more complete information (July)

Mr. Maloney stated that enrollment of African American students has decreased Handouts were passed out on Demographics data JK- 8 for five years

Discussions followed:

- ✓ Data is not saved for more than 5 years in the Aspen system
- ✓ Do we need to save this info?
- ✓ Do we need it grade by grade?
- ✓ Is it useful?
- ✓ There are more charter school choices in the elementary grades than in the middle grades
- ✓ Students come into the elementary and the high school, but not the middle grades
- ✓ We don't keep data for long periods of time because it becomes less and less relevant
- ✓ Certain J-K lottery winners do not enroll unless it is their first choice
- ✓ The total number of applicants has grown pretty steadily over the past year

Community Outreach to School Councils:

It has been suggested that 6 School Committee Members, not including the Mayor, be assigned to 3 schools as liaisons and attend at least one School Council meeting at each of their three schools.

- ✓ Provide a template with questions for each school council.
- ✓ The schools can send representatives to Community Relations sub-committee meetings.
- ✓ A roundtable was also suggested.

Mr. Cosulich, parent, informed the committee that as a member of MA Consortium for Innovative Assessment he sees a possibility of bridging the gap between the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee and the Community Relations Sub-Committee as it relates to exit surveys. Their goal is to create a holistic assessment and accessible community feedback. All councils support the Citywide School Advisory Group (CSAG). They hope to be able to reach out to all community leaders in September.

Emily Dexter suggested the following motion as a recommendation from the Community Relations Sub-Committee to the Committee of the Whole:

Whereas the School Committee wishes to have community relations with every school, each SC member will be responsible for attending one school council meeting for 3 schools/programs per Committee Member, giving that council advanced notice.

Both parents agreed this is a good idea, as long as they have advance notice. Ms. Nolan will reach out to Members and ask which schools they prefer to visit.

On a motion by Emily Dexter, seconded by Ms. Nolan, the meeting adjourned at (10:30 AM)

Adjourned
Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee

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

- ✓ Agenda
- ✓ CPS JK-5 Demographic Data From October 1 Reports – 5 Years
- ✓ CPS Grade 5 Demographic Data from October 1 Reports – 5 Years
- ✓ Aspen snapshot
- ✓ JK and K lottery students – outcome by SES
- ✓ Spring 2016 Leavers Survey Summary
- ✓ Students Leaving CPS May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to adopt the following report as presented:

#16-211, Report of the June 20, 2016 Meeting of the Civic Unity Sub-Committee

Meeting of the Civic Unity Sub-Committee
Monday, June 20, 2016

School Committee Conference Room
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Called for the purpose of consideration of naming the second Monday in October Indigenous People's Day on the Cambridge Public School Department Calendar. It is anticipated this meeting will end by 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Ms. Kelly, Chair; Ms. Bowman, Mr. Harding (ABSENT)

Also Present: Ms. Nolan

Ms. Kelly in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, Ms. Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. After reading the Notice of the meeting, Ms. Kelly stated that she would like to consider bringing this issue up at an early meeting in September so other Members and the public may comment on it. Ms. Kelly stated she will try to meet with people over the summer to know what they are prepared to contribute at a Regular Meeting.

Ms. Nolan was recognized to speak.

Discussions followed around the following issues, comments, questions and concerns:

- Community concerns that SC is trying to re-write history by eliminating Columbus Day
- Concerns about combining Indigenous People's Day with other ethnic groups

- Possibility of adding other ethnicities to this day and being historically accurate
- Sticking to unpopular and uncomfortable decisions
- Assimilation
- Acceptance
- After the Eid Al-Adha process ended, it took an additional eight months to become effective
- Legal Counsel will confirm whether or not we are limited to a certain number of holidays
- Find out the exact language of what was passed by City Council

Ms. Bowman moved, Ms. Kelly seconded, to adjourn at 6:30 PM.

Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee Office

10. Resolutions:

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Emily Dexter, it was voted to adopt **item #16-212**.

#16-212, Motion by Emily Dexter, that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations to recent CPS parent Greg Jobin-Leeds for the publication and success of his 2016 book, *WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN! Twenty-First Century Social Movements and The Activists That Are Transforming our World*, written in collaboration with members of the AgitArts artists collective. As one reviewer described, "In addition to public education, the book highlights gay, prison, immigration, economic, and environmental activism, but one of its main lessons is that issues and answers are never confined to such neat categorical boxes." (*Kirkus Review*) Jobin-Leeds is also co-founder of the Schott Foundation for Public Education.

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend rules to discuss information on the Superintendent's Weekly Report. Ms. Bowman wanted to discuss the information on lead levels in the schools. Dr. Salim shared that they are working closely with Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, on testing lead levels at the various schools. Mr. Maloney added they are doing a comprehensive testing with cooperation from the water department and public health department of all the faucets and taps in the districts. He indicated that they are replacing any taps or faucets in the district where levels are above the EPA level requiring action. They will work on this throughout the summer and hopefully be retested and completed by the beginning of school. Ms. Bowman added that as Chair of the Building and Grounds Sub-Committee, Mr. Maloney reached out to her when the results came forward and discussed steps to inform the public. Ms. Bowman stated that she will work with Dr. Salim and Mr. Maloney and coordinate with the water department and the public health department to schedule meetings to inform the public of our work and to deal with any concerns parents may have.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Emily Dexter, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the Chair to speak on an item already adopted. The Rules having been suspended for the purpose stated, Mayor Simmons discussed **item #16-206** and noted that the School Committee cannot direct the Police Department or the Community Development Department to do work. This has to be done through the City Manager. The Chair will prepare a letter to accompany this Order following the proper format in asking the City Manager to direct the Police and Community Development Departments.

11. Announcements

Emily Dexter announced that the Schott Foundation for Public Education is starting to produce info graphics. Emily Dexter shared the following info-graphics with the Committee: *lifting all children up, obstacles that black girls face in school and how to empower trans students with super powers* (on file in the School Committee office).

Mr. Harding announced that the First Holiness Church and the Black Pastor Association are having their backpack giveaway on September 3rd, from 12-4 p.m. at Sennott Park.

Mr. Fantini announced that last week he attended a program at the Boston Children's Museum on the power of playfulness and whales and hopes we are partners with the Children's Museum. He also reported that the Upward Bound program is doing an excellent job working with 45 of our students.

Ms. Nolan announced that the East End House is also doing a backpack giveaway on August 17th, 6-8 p.m. They are also looking for donations.

Mayor Simmons reminded everyone that the annual senior luncheon is August 10th at Harvard Yard at 11 a.m.

Mayor Simmons announced that she has been meeting regularly with the sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying, and dress code special committee. She asked anyone to please see Tony Clark, Mayor's Education Liaison, for more information.

Mayor Simmons announced that the House just passed the pay equity bill and that we have a pay equity committee to make sure that the City of Cambridge is in compliance. Mr. Clark has more information on this committee.

12. Late Orders: None

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to adjourn (6:44 PM)

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- ✓ PowerPoint presentation overview of Superintendent's Entry Plan
- ✓ Statement from Lauren Gibbs read during public comment
- ✓ Statement from Sarah Block read during public comment
- ✓ Schott Foundation for Public Education info-graphics distributed by Emily Dexter

E-mail communications received:

- ✓ Email from Sarah Block re proposed CPSD dress code policy– please revise
- ✓ Email from David Alpert re proposed CPSD dress code policy
- ✓ Email from Judy Weiss re comments on updated dress code policy

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