

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

May 17, 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: Ms. Keady Rawson, City of Cambridge Personnel Director, representing the City Manager for Contract Negotiations

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

Also Present: Student School Committee Members Griffin Andres and Ben Austin

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Mary Elizabeth Cranton, Ellworth Ave., parent and math teacher at CSUS, opposed to raising the cap on charter schools

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, 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. The Affinity Group was allowed to speak on educators of color.

- Archy de LeSalle, Broadway, re retaining educators of color (letters from students and parents on file in the School Committee office)
- Dr. Wambui Githoria-Updike, Hamilton Street, re retaining educators of color (statement read on file in the School Committee office)
- Michelle Li, Norfolk Street, re faculty of color affinity group at CRLS (statement read on file in the School Committee office)
- Dr. Kimberly Parker, Wells Ave., Dorchester, re retaining educators of color, stated she has been scolded by her evaluator for bringing up issues of racial inequity, other teachers don't feel empowered to speak up because of fear of the same, she began to recite a list of demands which included the following: A. A comprehensive external evaluation of the procedures used by all CRLS evaluators by the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights and Economic Justice, B. Leveled-up classrooms that ensure ALL students receive the same high-level education, C. Bringing the current faculty of color percentage to 30%-exclusive of the administration-and maintaining that number annually (statement read on file in the School Committee office)
- Francisco Hernandez, Line Street, Somerville, teacher and CRLS alum, spoke in support of affinity group re retaining educators of color (statement read on file in the School Committee office)
- Rose Levine, Larch Road, re supporting joint motion #16-82 by Mr. Fantini and Ms. Kelly against charter school cap (statement read on file in the School Committee office)

- Nekita LaMour, Cross Street, Somerville, re past Cambridge educator of color for 27 years, apologized for anything that happened in the past and asks that her dismissal be overturned. She explained the accusations regarding her dismissal. Ms. Bowman asked that the speaker be mindful when using individual names in her statement (statement read on file in the School Committee office)
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave., re supports joint motion #16-82 by Mr. Fantini and Ms. Kelly against raising the cap on charter schools
- Robin Towner, Comondants Way, Chelsea, re opposed to raising the ban on charter schools-no accountability on finances, attrition rates, etc.,
- Kate Frank, Crescent Street, re teachers of color advocate
- Donna Peruzzi, Cutter Ave., Somerville, re opposed to charter schools cap opposition (email on file in the School Committee office)
- Mary Gashaw, Rindge Ave., student, re educators of color, stressed the importance of having teachers of color in classrooms, stated she feels safer when there are teachers of color present especially during fearful incidents
- Julia Lowfleury, Aberdeen Ave., re teachers of color, stated that as a student she feels more supported when she sees someone that looks like her and from her same background and with similar religious views, asks that since part of our motto is diversity, we showcase diversity with teachers
- Emanuela Fede, Columbia Terrace, student, re educators of color, spoke of the importance of having teachers of color, stated that she benefited from having teachers of color in the lower grades and misses that connection here at the high school
- Kavya Crasta, Putnam Ave, student, re educators of color, spoke about being comfortable speaking of color issues in certain relevant classes.
- Lorraine Davis, Q St., Hull, re teachers of color, continued reading the written demands that Dr. Parker previously stated: D. Support for educational professionals to pursue certification at least 2 educators of color should be a part of the hiring process, E. District-wide cultural competency training that makes all educators and administrators proficient. F. All hiring committees must include at least two faculty members of color in addition to any administrators on the committee. G. A focus and urgency on training faculty of color that closes the revolving door. Having finished stating all of the demands, Ms. Davis reflected back to her childhood as a Cuban American in Miami in recognizing the need for students to see themselves in places of power in classrooms.

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

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, to suspend the Rules to allow the Mayor to explain the Agenda protocol. It was voted to suspend the rules for the reason stated. Mayor Simmons explained that because the educators of color were not on the agenda, the issue will not come up for discussion tonight. She indicated her appreciation for their attendance at the meeting and that they came forward. The Mayor stated she does not want to close off discussion; rather wants to allow for maximum participation before it is considered for discussion before the Committee.

The Mayor returned to the Regular Order of Business.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mr. Andres spoke on the following:

- Supports a diverse faculty, teachers of our school need to reflect the student body of our school; cultural proficiency training for teachers may help address the issues
- Senior prom is this Saturday at the Long Wharf Marriott
- City of Cambridge Scholarship Award Ceremony was last night at City Hall; he was a lucky recipient of a scholarship
- Boys Volleyball team is having Senior Night this upcoming Monday night at 6:00 PM
- Our Truths play is happening on Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:00 PM

- Math MCAS is still happening for the sophomores

Mr. Austin reported on the following:

- Supports hiring teachers of color. He stated he had mostly white teachers in core classes, teachers of color in arts and extracurricular. He asked that time be set aside for the full Committee to discuss this issue in the future
- Thursday is scholarship night
- June 9th is graduation
- NestFest is doing the school barbeque on Friday
- Senior night for baseball is next Friday at 6:00 PM

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the May 3, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented.

4. Reconsiderations:

Having filed the proper notice as required by the rules, Ms. Nolan moved reconsideration of the vote taken at the Regular Meeting of May 3, 2016 that adopted the following as amended: that **#16-78, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Fantini**, whereas the CRLS Club 1 led a well-attended walkout to highlight issues of sexual harassment and whereas the club presented a letter to CRLS administration with requests for strengthening policies, training, and practice related to creating a safe environment for students, that the School Committee go on record as supporting the students and asks for an update on the administration's response to the student letter by June 30, 2016. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, a roll call was requested. On the following roll call, the motion for reconsideration of item **#16-78, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Fantini** failed of adoption: Mr. Harding NAY; Ms. Kelly NAY; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman NAY; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini NAY; Mayor Simmons NAY.

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

Ms. Nolan moved **#16-79** and **#16-82** for discussion. Mr. Fantini moved **#16-76** for discussion.

#16-76, Motion by Ms. Dexter, whereas the School Committee values ongoing communication with the CPS administration, strives to support district-level staff in doing their best work, and is aware of the rapidly changing needs of CPS students, teachers, and other school-based educators; and whereas staff vacancies or reductions in work hours are an opportunity to reevaluate staffing and district priorities; and whereas the Committee needs to be ever mindful of efficiently budgeting public dollars for greatest impact on student achievement; the Committee requests that when a district-level professional, managerial, or administrative position become open through staff retirement, resignation, leave of absence, reduction of work hours, or for other reasons: 1) that the Administration inform the School Committee of the vacancy or reduction of hours, and 2) consult with the full Committee as to whether the position should be renewed and filled with another permanent CPS employee, filled via full- or part-time contract with an individual or agency, revised, or reallocated to meet other district needs. The same would apply for any advertised district-level position that remains unfilled for four months. (Nolan C16-101, 5/3/16)

Mr. Fantini asked Dr. Young to speak on this item. Dr. Young indicated that he does not support this motion. He would like Dr. Salim to have the chance to develop his managerial style. Mr. Harding stated the first part may be appropriate as it relates to notifications of vacancies and offered a Substitute amendment by eliminating the last part ending after 1). Ms. Nolan stated that she agreed with Mr. Harding. The Mayor stated there should be an opportunity to plan together with the new Superintendent rather than give directives. Ms. Kelly stated that she still feels School Committee needs to work through the process of creating goals for School Committee first, then this board can focus on the work of others. Ms. Bowman suggested this motion be referred to the Superintendent Transition Ad Hoc Sub-Committee. On the following roll call, **#16-76** was adopted as amended: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly NAY; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons NAY. On a unanimous voice

vote, **#16-76**, was referred to the Superintendent Transition Ad Hoc Sub-Committee as amended: Whereas the School Committee values ongoing communication with the CPS administration, strives to support district-level staff in doing their best work, and is aware of the rapidly changing needs of CPS students, teachers, and other school-based educators; and whereas staff vacancies or reductions in work hours are an opportunity to reevaluate staffing and district priorities; and whereas the Committee needs to be ever mindful of efficiently budgeting public dollars for greatest impact on student achievement; the Committee requests that when a district-level professional, managerial, or administrative position become open through staff retirement, resignation, leave of absence, or for other reasons, the Administration inform the School Committee of the vacancy or reduction of hours.

#16-79, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Dexter, whereas there has been ongoing discussion in the district on assessment and testing, with plans to review and revise assessment schedules, and whereas PARCC testing has started and whereas there is confusion on whether there are limits to the “hold harmless” promise by DESE, and whereas there have been questions on the rights of families and students to opt-out of testing, and whereas DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester issued a January 29, 2016, Weekly Update message on student refusals that stated, “We ask principals and test proctors to handle refusals with sensitivity. Students should not be pressured to take the test, nor should they be punished for not taking the test,” and whereas the School Committee supports the rights of families to do what they view as best for their families, the School Committee asks that the Superintendent, as soon as possible, send the text of Mitchell Chester’s instructions on “Refusals to Take an Assessment” to all CPS principals, vice-principals, heads of schools, teachers, and other staff who may proctor or be otherwise involved in PARCC and/or MCAS administration this year. Further, that the message be sent that the district agrees with the Commissioner’s instructions that refusals be handled with sensitivity. (Mr. Harding C16-103, 5/3/16) Ms. Nolan indicated that this motion may be moot. She updated the Members on her conversation with the DESE Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson who indicated that there was confusion on the issue of being “held harmless” should a district have 5% or more students opting out. Mr. Harding asked what is the impact on the student. Mayor Simmons wants to know the impact on the district. Dr. Young stated the administration anticipated these issues before this motion appeared and discussed that there would be no punishment for opting out. On a unanimous voice vote, **#16-79**, was withdrawn by Ms. Nolan.

#16-82, Joint Motion by Mr. Fantini and Ms. Kelly, WHEREAS: The creation of charter schools has created a two-tiered educational system that draws resources away from the broad group of public school students to serve a narrow select few; and
WHEREAS: A recent initiative is seeking to expand charter schools in the state by allowing the authorization of up to twelve new charters in a year; and
WHEREAS: Lifting the cap on charter schools would divert even more resources from the traditional public school system – resources such as qualified teachers and money that would improve district schools; and
WHEREAS: Many educational organizations, including teachers’ unions vocally oppose charter expansion; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record in opposition to raising the cap on charter schools, supporting the improvement of district public schools and the equitable division of educational resources; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary to the School Committee be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the elected Cambridge delegation in the House and Senate, and to Governor Baker on behalf of the entire School Committee. (Ms. Nolan C16-106, 5/3/16). Ms. Nolan stated although this is a hard one and she is torn; despite requests and phone calls, she cannot support this motion. She stated we can learn from the charter schools. She would rather see a respectful collaboration. Ms. Simmons asked Ms. Nolan to provide her documents at a Roundtable meeting on charter schools. Ms. Kelly stated we do not have a voice on what goes on in charter schools and that this is not a referendum on existing charter schools in Cambridge. Ms. Bowman stated some families do not have the same choices and options and she is in favor of lifting the cap. Mr. Fantini stated that this motion should be supported. Mr. Harding agreed with Ms. Nolan that some students do better in charter schools and we need to collaborate with them on that. He also agreed that having a different option for parents is also very important; parents need choices. His only issue is on the funding formula.

Mayor Simmons agreed with Mr. Harding about the funding formula. Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, on the following roll call, item **#16-82** was adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan NAY; Ms. Bowman NAY; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: None

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. Mr. Fantini pulled item **#16-85**. Mr. Harding pulled item **#16-84**. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to vote on the balance, on the following roll call, **items #16-86 and #16-87** were adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-86, Approval of Gifts/ Miscellaneous Receipts to Cambridge Public Schools, that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. \$56.30 to the Morse School from the Bais Yaakov Fax Settlement Fund as a rebate for a faulty fax machine. Funds will be use for the general support of the school.
2. \$3.50 to the Morse School made from Box Tops for Education in return for box tops collected on behalf of the school. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
3. An in-kind donation of 100 children's books made from the Hyatt Regency Cambridge to the Kennedy-Longfellow School and the Fletcher Maynard Academy. The books were collected through a Children's Book Drive held by the Hyatt Regency during the month of April in honor of One Boston Day.

#16-87, Contract Award, that the School Committee approve an increase to an existing contract for the following vendor for student transportation services, 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, 2015 to June 30, 2016, from the original amount of \$78,000.00 (increase of \$54,000.00), to the revised total amount of \$132,000.00.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#16-84, FY15-16 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers, that the School Committee approves the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund Budget for FY2015-2016.

	<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
51000	Salaries, Wages & Benefits (SW)	(585,219)
52000/55000	Other Ordinary Maintenance (OOM)	660,052
57000	Travel & Training (TT)	(69,911)

58000/59000	Extraordinary Expenditures (EE)	(4,922)
	Total	\$ 0

Mr. Harding asked why the school improvement funds transfer is happening at this time. Ms. Spinner answered that this statutory transfer generally happens twice a year; usually in January and in May. In particular, they are moving these funds to deal with the ongoing deficit in the areas of tuition, contracts for services, OSS and transportation. On the following roll call, **item #16-84** was adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-85, Approval of Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement for Cambridge Education Association Unit D September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2018, that the School Committee approve the attached agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Unit D for a collective bargaining agreement for the period of September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2018, which was ratified by their members. On the following roll call, **item #16-85** was adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA; Ms. Keady Rawson YEA (on behalf of the City Manager).

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, 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, a motion to reconsider the foregoing votes, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption. All votes taken tonight are final.

The Chair returned to the Regular Order of Business.

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notification/Requests for Information): (None)

10. Resolutions:

On a voice vote, it was voted to adopt the following:

#16-88, Motion by Ms. Kelly, that the School Committee acknowledges the passing of Louise M. Sette, grandmother of Vice-Mayor Marc McGovern, and that the Executive Secretary forwards a suitably engrossed copy of the resolution to the family of Louise M. Sette on behalf of the entire School Committee.

11. Announcements:

- Ms. Dexter announced a presentation on May 25th at CRLS from Sharon Lozada's class on the school-to-prison pipeline. (description on file in the School Committee office)
- Ms. Dexter announced on May 31st there will be a Cambridge Youth Council and School Climate Sub-Committee meeting co-sponsored by Mercedes Soto and her staff in the Division of Youth Services, Department of Human Services (description on file in the School Committee office)
- Mayor Simmons announced that she is appointing a special committee on Gender-based issues to address issues relating to sexual harassment, bullying and gender-based discrimination. She read a letter listing the specifics on the formation of this committee (on file in the School Committee office)

12. Late Orders:

It was voted to adopt the following:

Motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, on a voice vote it was voted that the School Committee send a letter of condolence to the family of Madhvi Patil, VLUS teacher that passed away over the weekend.

Motion by Ms. Dexter, seconded by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations to Charlotte Reuben for winning a culinary arts silver medal at the SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference.

Joint Motion by Mayor Simmons and Mr. Harding, CRLS Kimbrough Scholars Resolution,

WHEREAS: The CRLS Kimbrough Scholars Project, which was established to educate local high school students by the act of investigating racially-motivated cold cases, and it honors the legacy of former teacher and administrator Leslie Kimbrough; and

WHEREAS: This year, eight students worked with law students and faculty at Northeastern University School of Law's *Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project* in order to help investigate cold murder cases from the 1930s and 1940s; and

WHEREAS: Through a classroom seminar at CRLS, these students also explored the larger history of racial injustice in the United States; and

WHEREAS: This past April, the Kimbrough Scholars traveled to Louisiana to conduct fieldwork related to a 1940 murder, their research on this was extensive, and they shall be recounting their fieldwork experience and their reflections on this experience at a special event that will take place in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room at CRLS on June 2, 2016; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee formally go on record in congratulating Raina Williams, Queen-Cheyenne Wade, Allie Ngo, Sarah Davis-Daniels, Nuban Brooks, JaNoah Daley, Monique Reyes, and Iman Mouzinho for their exemplary work as the 2016 Kimbrough Scholars, and for honoring the spirit of this group's namesake.

Dr. Young stated it is a great resolution and asked the Committee to try their best to make it to the event.

Ms. Nolan noted that recognition should also go to the retired teachers who volunteer their time and have contributed to this event. On a voice vote it was voted to adopt the resolution as amended:

WHEREAS: The CRLS Kimbrough Scholars Project, which was established to educate local high school students by the act of investigating racially-motivated cold cases, and it honors the legacy of former teacher and administrator Leslie Kimbrough; and

WHEREAS: This year, eight students worked with law students and faculty at Northeastern University School of Law's *Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project* in order to help investigate cold murder cases from the 1930s and 1940s; and

WHEREAS: Through a classroom seminar at CRLS, these students also explored the larger history of racial injustice in the United States; and

WHEREAS: This past April, the Kimbrough Scholars traveled to Louisiana to conduct fieldwork related to a 1940 murder, their research on this was extensive, and they shall be recounting their fieldwork experience and their reflections on this experience at a special event that will take place in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room at CRLS on June 2, 2016; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee formally go on record in congratulating Raina Williams, Queen-Cheyenne Wade, Allie Ngo, Sarah Davis-Daniels, Nuban Brooks, JaNoah Daley, Monique Reyes, and Iman Mouzinho for their exemplary work as the 2016 Kimbrough Scholars; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee formally go on record in congratulating retired teachers Mr. Larry Aaronson, Ms. Poppy Milner, Ms. Janet Moses, Ms. Diane Tabor and current teacher Ms. Kathleen Fitzgerald as the 2016 Kimbrough Teachers, and for honoring the spirit of this group's namesake.

The Chair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and litigation strategy with respect to three Level III CEA Units A&B Grievances as part of collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigating positions of the School Committee. And, that the School Committee may also convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with CEA Units A&B as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee.

The Chair announced that a vote may be taken in Executive Session and if so, and the Committee would reconvene in Open Session to ratify that vote.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on the following roll call, it was voted to enter into Executive Session for the purpose stated: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA ; Mayor Simmons YEA.

The Chair recessed into Executive Session at (8:15 PM).

The time for recess having expired, the Mayor returned to the Regular Meeting at (9:55 PM).

The Mayor entertained a motion to extend the meeting to a time certain.

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to extend the meeting to 10:30 PM.

The Chair announced that a vote was taken in Executive Session.

On a motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Kelly, on the following roll call, it was voted: that the School Committee ratify and confirm the vote taken in Executive Session with respect to the CEA Grievance: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

The Chair announced that we will adjourn the Regular Meeting and reconvene back into Executive Session. The Chair announced that no votes will be taken in Executive Session and we will not return to Open Session. We will adjourn from the Executive Session.

Regular Meeting adjourned (10:05 PM)

Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee

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

- ✓ Hand-out from Mary Elizabeth Cranton read during public comment re Charter School Cap
- ✓ Hand out from Archy de LaSalle read during public comment and many letters from parents and students referred to during public comment re educators of color
- ✓ Hand-out from Dr. Wambui Githoria Updike read and referred to during public comment re educators of color
- ✓ Hand-out from Michelle Li read and referred to during public comment re educators of color
- ✓ Hand-out from Dr. Kimberly Parker read and referred to during public comment re educators of color
- ✓ Hand-out from Franciso Hernandez read and referred to during public comment re educators of color

- ✓ Hand-out from Rose Levine read and referred to during public comment re support of motion against raising the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Hand-out from Nekita Lamour read during public comment re educators of color, and to have her dismissal overturned
- ✓ Ms. Dexter's announcement of upcoming opportunities to hear from CPS students: presentation on May 25th at CRLS from Sharon Lozada's class on the school-to-prison pipeline and the May 31st Cambridge Youth Council and School Climate Sub-Committee meeting co-sponsored by Mercedes Soto and her staff in the Division of Youth Services, Department of Human Services
- ✓ Mayor Simmons' letter announcing her appointing a special committee on Gender-based issues to address issues relating to sexual harassment, bullying and gender-based discrimination.

E-mail communications received:

- ✓ Email from Donna Peruzzi, Cutter Ave., Somerville, re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Email from Shelley Irvin-Kent, Cambridge, re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Email from Judy Farr, re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Email from Jeffrey Hansell, Rindge Ave, re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Email from Betty McNeeley, Cambridge, re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Email from Nadia Colburn, re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Email from Patricia Goudvis, Cambridge, re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Email from Barbara Hayes-Harrison, Prospect Street, re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Email from Marianne Rezaei-Kamalabad, Rindge Ave., re oppose lifting the cap on charter schools
- ✓ Sherry Madden, re please vote on spending cap charter schools

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

