

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

February 2, 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

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 6:02 PM.

1. Public Comment:

- Jeff Howe, Aberdeen Ave., re out-of-district placements, spoke of his autistic son's disabilities and is profoundly grateful to CPS for providing public resources; his family took every possible step for their child to keep him in school but out-of-district was absolutely necessary for his son

Ms. Dexter moved, seconded by Ms. Kelly, 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. Ms. Gist, President of the Cambridge Education Association (CEA), was allowed to make public comment. Ms. Gist indicated that she was here with members of the CEA to support the CEA bargaining teams and urged the School Committee to quickly settle contracts with the paraprofessionals unit and the substitute teachers unit. She indicated that they have been negotiating for several months and the progress has been slow. She submitted a signed petition from members of the CEA supporting the bargaining teams and urging the School Committee to quickly settle fair and equitable contracts with the paraprofessionals and substitutes (on file in the School Committee office).

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

- Karen Dobak, Allston St, Julie Viens, Loomis St., and Pamela Blau, Sherman St., of the Cambridge Parent Advisory Committee (CPAC), re advising the School Committee not to cut funds for the programs that support our most vulnerable students; improve sub separate programs and improve education for all students in the general education classroom which includes students on IEP's; expand Dr. Greer's new curriculum called "Universal Design for Learning" in all upper schools and elementary schools; approve funds for professional development in special education for general educators; appreciate all of Dr. Greer's hard work (statement on file in the School Committee office).
- Lisa Downing, Clay St., told experience of her child where learning disability accommodations were not being met in the classroom, eventually pulled him out to home school; need the whole school on board to actively participate in the IEP process; please provide a safe and productive place for all students
- Ruth Allen, Fenno St., Dr. Greer's plan with Universal design should be implemented and funded through the budget; talked of her daughter's hearing issues; she is in cp classes at CRLS and students aren't motivated; her daughter has anxiety going to school; can't get her into the honors

classroom without support which needs to be worked on; some students need assistive technology to access classrooms remotely at home and work with tutor; take a look at why students are so anxious and don't want to attend school

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mr. Andres reported on the bottle up campaign which asks that administration not purchase single use water bottles for testing days but to purchase reusable bottles instead. He spoke about the issues with water pressure in some water fountains at CRLS. He suggested that new water fountains or water bottle filling stations be provided. Mr. Andres stated that the winter formal is this Friday at the Kendall Square Marriott. He shared that the Boys track team won the Dual County League Championship. He also mentioned that Briana Duncan won 3 events and that Girls track team won the 4x400 relay.

Mr. Austin reported that he is working with former School Committee Member, Fran Cronin, to create a voter registration drive at CRLS. He talked about the Model United Nations Clubs and shared that 44 students won Boston Globe Scholastic art awards. Mr. Austin explained that there had been an issue with the PSAT scores taken in October and that this year the College Board is only doing online score reports. He hoped that someone could influence the College Board to get those results from October out soon. He noted that the CRLS students are glad that the Public Hearing on the Budget is scheduled for February 9th at 3:30 p.m. so that more students can attend. Mr. Austin informed the Members that the the current email service, FirstClass, used by the Cambridge Public Schools is a flawed program and inquired about using Google email instead.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Office of Student Services Report Dr. Victoria Greer
Assistant Superintendent of
Student Services

Dr. Young welcomed Dr. Greer and Ms. Spera. Dr. Greer introduced her leadership team who will be joining her in the presentation: Jean Spera, Director of Student Services; Rebecca Altepeter, High School, Upper Schools and Out of District Coordinator; Shelagh Kelly-Walker, Preschool/Early Childhood Coordinator; Karyn Grace, Curriculum, Instruction and Inclusive Education Coordinator.

Dr. Greer and her Leadership Team walked the Members through the Office of Student Services Annual Report 2016 to the School Committee PowerPoint presentation (on file in the School Committee office):

- Executive Summary
- Vision
- Mission

- Core Value
- Major Goal Areas
- The Office of Student Services Organizational Structure
- Organization
- Overview of Programs & Services
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Program
- Basic Academics Program
- Functional Academics Program
- Learning Disabilities Program
- Structured Academics Program
- Pre-School/Special Start Program
- Inclusive Education
- Data Analysis
- Out-of-District
- Sub-Separate Program Comparison Out-of-District Programs
- Section 504
- Advanced Learning Support Program
- Conclusion/Next Steps

Mr. Fantini in the Chair 7:08 PM

Mayor Simmons returned to the Chair 7:20 PM

The Mayor expressed appreciation to Dr. Greer and her leadership team for such a comprehensive and informative presentation which helped them to understand the work that they do and the many successes they have achieved.

Dr. Greer and her leadership team responded to the questions, comments and concerns from the Committee:

- Appreciate seeing more equity of those accessing the services
- Excited to see the support of advanced learners
- We should never have a presentation from OSS without general education teachers present
- This is a cultural issue in our district and in our country
- The entire school community owns every child; we are providing an environment where too many kids cannot get what they need from our district; we are 2 ½ times the state average; why can't we service more in-district with services we develop. The biggest achievement gap we have is of students with disabilities. Teachers need professional development around executive function.
- Would love to see the racial breakdown of the SES
- There is a clear gap in the professional development; general ed teachers aren't getting the proper instruction in dealing with the special education students. Our classrooms would be a more thriving environment.
- Is there a clear difference in the skills between the social worker and the adjustment counselor
- Is RTI actually working
- What might be the budget implications as we move forward
- How are we assessing parent satisfaction on these services
- Do you do staff surveys; that is critical
- How do you measure service; what metrics do you use
- Why aren't our special ed students doing better on MCAS
- The achievement gap for students with disabilities is substantial throughout the country
- Partnerships outside of school are important
- We need to strengthen the continuum of services for social and emotional learning
- We need to do a much better job through our district on foundation work
- Make sure that we have stronger deeper relationships with the agencies in our communities and inform families of what our resources are
- Need to be concerned with students who internalize

- Do the paraprofessional and special ed teachers report to their principals
- Is there a regulation on the number of students with IEPs that can be assigned to a classroom
- How do advanced learners play into 60/40 ratio in classroom
- What are the benchmark districts out there

Mayor Simmons shared that she will plan another opportunity to have a conversation with the Office of Student Services. She noted that the work through the OSS Office has been incredible. The Chair requested that the Members send any additional questions to Dr. Greer through the Office of the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent.

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

7b. Innovation Agenda:

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion. Ms. Nolan removed **items #16-17 and #16-18**. Ms. Dexter removed item **#16-23**. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to move the balance of the items for adoption.

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

| | <u>Statutory Coding</u> | <u>Increase/Decrease</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 51000 | Salaries, Wages & Benefits (SW) | (571,441) |
| 52000/55000 | Other Ordinary Maintenance (OOM) | 661,272 |
| 57000 | Travel & Training (TT) | (89,234) |
| 58000/59000 | Extraordinary Expenditures (EE) | (597) |
| | Total | \$ 0 |

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

#16-19, Special Needs Contracts for Day & 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 the 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 | 4 | \$138,965.28 |
| Residential | 0 | N/A |
| 45 Day Program | 0 | N/A |
| Total | 4 | \$138,965.28 |

#16-20, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Services; funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Clinical Solutions, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 341-H, Beverly, for the period December 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$36,380.00.

#16-21, Approval of Gift of \$500.00, that the School Committee accept and approve a gift of \$500.00 to the Tobin School made from its neighborhood Exxon Mobil gas station, funds to be used in the areas of Math/Science.

#16-22, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

Massachusetts Cultural Council-STARRS Amigos, for the period February 2, 2016 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$5,000.00. Project/Grant SC16894.

Description: This grant will support the residency of the Meta Movements dance company at the Amigos School, providing bilingual dance and music classes to four kindergarten classrooms, culminating in a production.

#16-24, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

DSAC School Support, for the period January 22, 2016 to August 31, 2016 in the amount of \$11,874.00. SC16123.

Description: Like the other DSAC grant (Title 1; SC16120), this District and School Assistance Center grant will support the Accelerated Improvement plan at Kennedy Longfellow School, which recently exited Level 3 status. Funds will support the continuing leadership development work begun last year with Gene Thompson-Grove as well as part of the training in explicit phonics instruction at Kennedy-Longfellow supported by the Title 1 DSAC grant (SC16120).

On the following roll call, items **#16-19 through #16-22 and #16-24** were adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#16-17, Authorization for the Superintendent to submit a Statement of Interest Form to the Massachusetts School Building Authority dated no later than February 12, 2016, for the Fletcher Maynard Academy school building located at 225 Windsor Street. That in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the School Committee enter an order containing the following resolution:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 02, 2016, the School Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form that will be submitted to the MSBA no later than February 12, 2016 for the Fletcher Maynard Academy school building located at 225 Windsor Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

The funds are sought to be used for the replacement of the building's roof. The Windsor Street building's roof is more than 30 years old and has multiple failures. Excessive shrinkage is tearing the roof membrane, resulting in ongoing leaks. These problems are both a nuisance and a cost to the district. This project falls under priority category number 5, which is for the replacement, renovation, or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility, as determined in the judgment of the Authority.

The Cambridge School Committee hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Ms. Nolan asked if there are any other buildings that need repair and asked why this building was selected. Mr. Maloney responded regarding the work needed at the Fletcher/Maynard Academy (FMA)

based on the engineer's report. This would allow us to potentially access money to help with the work at the FMA. The Tobin building is also online and following that would be the Amigos program. The Kennedy/Longfellow building is in the design phase for the roof and the FMA for the boiler. Mr. Fantini asked about the FMA playground facility which is on the roof and in need of updating. Mr. Maloney indicated that an engineering firm has been hired to do a structural assessment of the roof and they are working with Principal Harris on her interest to put City Sprouts on the roof. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, **#16-17** was adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-18, SY2016/2017 Cambridge Public Schools Academic & School Committee Calendars, that the School Committee approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for the SY2016/2017 Cambridge Public Schools Academic & School Committee calendars. Ms. Nolan asked about the change in this year's CRLS graduation date to June 9th. She inquired if the Committee needs to vote to formally approve that change and should we check with legal counsel? Dr. Young responded that he is sure Principal Smith has communicated this to the students. Mr. Austin confirmed that and also mentioned a motion earlier in the year in which Mr. Fantini asked that the graduation be held outdoors. Ms. Kelly asked that the graduation not be held outside since she always enjoys the class pianist. Mr. Harding told of his experience sitting through an outside graduation in the rain. Ms. Nolan noted that it could be a disaster if it rains and there could be problems with an outside sound system. On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Dexter, on the following roll call, **#16-18** was adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-23, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated.

Title 1-DSAC School Support, for the period January 22, 2016 to August 31, 2016, in the amount of \$5,821.00. Project/Grant SC16120.

Description: This District and School Assistance Center (DSAC; Title 1) grant will support the ongoing improvement strategies at the Kennedy-Longfellow School, which this year exited from Level 3 status. With assistance from DSAC, District and Kennedy-Longfellow leadership has identified the need for explicit and systematic phonics instruction to support literacy acquisition in the early grades. This grant will support training and supplies to implement this program.

Ms. Dexter asked if the Putnam Ave. Upper School and King Open School were also getting a DSAC grant. Ms. MacDonald responded that DSAC grants are given to level 3 schools and this was continued this year for the 3 schools even though we have exited into level 2 status. They have allocated a specific amount to the Kennedy/Longfellow. We are considered a legacy district. Ms. MacDonald explained that being a legacy district allows for a grace period during transition. On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Dexter, on the following roll call, **#16-23** was adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

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

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to bring forward items **#16-25** through **#16-31** for discussion and adoption. Mayor Simmons removed items **#16-25** and **#16-26**. Mr. Harding removed item **#16-37**. On the following roll call, the balance of the items, **#16-28**, **#16-29**, **#16-30** and **#16-31** were adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA. Ms. Dexter asked for and was given unanimous consent to change her vote on item **#16-28** to PRESENT.

On the following roll call, items **#16-25** and **#16-26** were adopted: Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Ms. Bowman YEA; Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini ~~ABSENT~~ YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#16-25, Motion by Mayor Simmons, that the School Committee approve the negotiated memorandum of agreement for transition activities as presented for Dr. Kenneth Salim.

#16-26, Motion by Mayor Simmons, that the School Committee authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the Committee the negotiated memorandum of agreement for transition activities as presented for Dr. Kenneth Salim.

#16-27, Joint Motion by Mayor Simmons, Mr. Fantini and Ms. Bowman, that the School Committee create a Civic Unity Sub-Committee comprised of a committee of three Members – the quorum shall be two members.

Purposes:

- To promote civic unity
- To consider matters relating to the civil rights, human rights, race and class relations and other aspects of civic unity in the Cambridge Public Schools;
- To work with city and other agencies that deal with these issues;
- To respond to incidents or concerns that are brought to the attention of the School Committee relating to civil and human rights, race and class relations and other aspects of civic unity and to bring in the appropriate agencies, departments or legal services to assist in responding to such incidents; and
- To develop needed policies and legislation in this area.

Also, that the School Committee amend the Rules of the School Committee, Chapter 1, Section 7. Subcommittees, to reflect the creation of this Civic Unity Sub-Committee, if adopted.

Mr. Harding asked for clarification on the creation of this Civic Unity Sub-Committee. Mayor Simmons responded that this sub-committee would parallel a committee that is on the City Council side and that the School Committee could modify the mission of this sub-committee as it sees appropriate. She indicated that there is no context that existed to date that the School Committee could use to process or make policy directives or procedures related to civic unity. Ms. Kelly added that reflecting on a policy on transgender, this would be the sub-committee where those issues could be addressed instead of putting everything under the School Climate Sub-Committee. Mayor Simmons indicated that this would also be the standing committee to address the report submitted by Ed Byrne on bridging educational equity and excellence. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, on a voice vote, item **#16-27** was adopted.

#16-28, Joint Motion by Mr. Harding and Ms. Kelly, Co-Chairs of the Budget Sub-Committee, that the School Committee approve the FY2017 Budget Guidelines as outlined in the attached document.

On a motion by Ms. Dexter, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules. The Rules having been suspended, on a motion by Ms. Dexter, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on unanimous consent, it was voted to allow Ms. Dexter to speak on an item already passed.

Ms. Dexter noted that she was pleased with the guidelines and process used to incorporate their ideas. She gave reasons why she could not vote yes on **#16-28** because she didn't agree with the larger budget process involved. She noted that the budget is the most powerful governance document in terms of designing where our resources go. She added that it seems like we come into the process when it is 75% done and this limits our ability to govern the schools. She would like to be part of the process from the beginning in August or September with the City Manager, Superintendent and his administration. Mr. Harding shared that the public should know that the administration has done their best job keeping us in step as soon as they know anything. Projections come at different times. He indicated that the budget process was slowed down purposely this year with the anticipation of the new Committee and the Budget Co-Chairs keep the Committee abreast on everything they are doing. He wanted the public to know that the formula used for education is not created by us and the budget is not already 80% complete. Ms. Kelly stated that she feels there is a real need in this community to understand how a municipal budget is put together and the process it goes through. Ms. Dexter informed the chair that she would like to change her vote on item **#16-28** since she didn't realize she previously voted on it. The Chair apprised Ms. Dexter of her choice to reconsider her vote and directed her to speak to the Executive Secretary after the meeting on that process. Ms. Nolan asked if Ms. Dexter could ask for unanimous consent to change her vote on that one item which has been done as past practice. Mr. Fantini also asked for unanimous

consent to change his vote on items **#16-25 and #16-26**, since he was out of the room and maked as absent. The Chair called a 5 minute recess (9:25 PM) to discuss this matter with legal counsel and the Executive Secretary.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair returned to the regular order of business (9:32 PM).

The Chair announced that after consulting with our attorney and the Executive Secretary she will rule to allow for unanimous consent for a Member to change a vote on an item which was previously voted. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules. The Rules having been suspended, on a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to allow unanimous consent for a Member to be recorded on a vote previously taken and for a Member to change a vote previously taken. Mr. Fantini was recorded as (YEA) on items **#16-25 and #16-26**. Ms. Dexter's vote was changed from (YEA) to (PRESENT) on item **#16-28**.

#16-29, Joint Motion by Mr. Fantini and Ms. Kelly, that the Superintendent provide the School Committee with the reporting process that ensures all children's accommodation plans are being followed.

#16-30, Report of the January 12, 2016 meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the whole)

**Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole)
Budget Retreat
Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

**CRLS Attles Room
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Called for the purpose of a budget retreat to discuss the financial forecast, the FY2017 budget guidelines and the FY2017 budget calendar for the Cambridge Public Schools

Members Present: Mr. Harding and Ms. Kelly, Co-Chairs; Ms. Bowman, Ms. Dexter, Mr. Fantini, Ms. Nolan and Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Dr. Young, Superintendent, Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Greer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Huizenga, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Ms. MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, Ms. Allen, Executive Director of Human Resources

Mr. Harding and Ms. Kelly in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) being present, Ms. Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Dr. Young began speaking with an introduction of the presentation. He made three points. First, this is an ongoing process built on trust and a strong relationship with the City. Second, it may look like two different buckets, operating and capital, but they are both actually all in one pot with a substantial contribution from the City. Third, it is a tough budget year however, since it is no surprise, he feels we will be ready for it.

Ms. Spinner went through the FY2017 Preliminary Estimates and Enrollment Projections power point presentation.

- How is the Budget Developed?
- Enrollment Projections
- Enrollment by Grade Span

- CPS students demographics and staff impacts how we allocate our resources. Ms. Spinner explained how the State keeps track of special needs students and economically disadvantaged students.
- Projected Average class size looks favorable
- Preliminary Budget Estimates – the annual budget is made up of 3 pots of money: General, Grant and Revolving Funds \$164 million in general operating budget.
- General Fund Revenue is funded primarily by property taxes
- Revenue Projections about \$170 million is projected, we also look at the charter schools assessment because it is part of the city's education assessment. It may go up by about \$1 million dollars. We may need to reallocate our money over to their side.
- Expenditure Projections are at about \$175 million. We are at a shortfall of about \$5 million dollars. We will be balanced by March.
- Where Does the Money Go? 83% goes to salary and benefits to staff
- Summary of FY2017 cost increases
- Increases in Salary & Benefit costs – up about 5.4 %
Other Significant Increases next year are student transportation and special education costs. We need to add \$2.2 million to our general fund next year. Specialized services for students with disabilities concerns will be answered by Dr. Greer. Eastern Bus contract is much higher than estimated.
- Addressing the Budget Shortfall
- Capital Budget – there is an annual allocation for maintenance and system replacement projects and City bonds are issued for building reconstruction
- What Factors Drive Budget Decisions? Enrollment Growth is the first thing to look at. Student needs drive our decisions also. Defining and refining the upper schools has been focused on a great deal. Supporting social/emotional behavioral health has been looked at significantly.
- Budget Development Timeline. We have two more public hearings scheduled.

Ms. Spinner ended her presentation and opened the floor for questions. Mr. Harding thanked Ms. Spinner and Superintendent Young. The opportunity for two Members at a time to meet with staff was extended. The OSS department has big numbers; Dr. Greer will answer all questions on February 2, 2016. He asked the newer members if they had any particular questions.

Ms. Dexter asked if there is any plan to have a joint City Council meeting with School Committee. Mayor Simmons answered that she is trying to put a roundtable together with no specific topic in mind, so budget would be fine. This issue has been brought up before and it may be wise to let the Superintendent bring it up with Mr. Rossi first, then have School Committee join in.

Ms. Nolan asked to hear from Dr. Greer this evening instead of waiting until February regarding out of district placements. She would like to understand how to meet the needs of students without going higher. She also wants to know about the circuit breaker funding.

Dr. Young suggested Ms. Spinner respond to the circuit breaker issue. He cautioned Dr. Greer to not speak about anything she is not prepared to speak about since she is still gathering information.

Dr. Greer stated she would rather hold off on speaking tonight without the out of district and preschool coordinators present.

Mr. Harding stated people should be specific with their questions so Dr. Greer will be better prepared on the 2nd. Dr. Young stated emails should go to him and he will get the questions to Dr. Greer, they will work together to provide the answers.

Ms. Nolan agreed to email question on OSS to Dr. Young.

Ms. Spinner responded to the circuit breaker stating the state is reimbursing us fully. Once we spend \$40,000.00 over budget we get it back in the next year.

Ms. Nolan stated as it relates to enrollment and to keep class size favorable, we may need to add a couple more teachers at CRLS. Dr. Young responded it is premature to say what will be added, scheduling is the key.

Ms. Nolan asked what the status is on investment and coaching.

Dr. Turk stated the bulk of the work this year has been looking at the model we are using and the models used across the country for comparisons.

Ms. Dexter asked how Charter school tuitions are covered; are they taking away property tax increases?

Ms. Spinner stated we spend \$26 – 27,000.00 per pupil, which includes our charter school students. The total general fund education budget is going to be \$12.6 million dollars, part of which is for charter schools. Property taxes needs to cover it all.

Ms. Kelly asked the Superintendent about funds from the state on free and reduced lunch.

Ms. Spinner answered, stating economically disadvantaged and universal free lunch categories did not give us any numbers because no forms were collected. It is a federal problem on a national level. We have not seen an increase or a decrease.

Mr. Fantini asked for additional info from Mr. Maloney on whether or not we can get the separate debt and interest budget, related to the school department, from the City side. What are the long-term pension and liability budget and what is the free cash level? How many positions have we added? He also asked for more information on the revolving funds. Can we benchmark with other urban school systems? Mr. Fantini also stated that since our Chapter 70 money goes to pay for charter schools, we need to get the children back into our system.

Ms. Spinner stated we will know more after additional meetings with the City. Ms. Spinner was asked to describe the internal operations, to which she responded by saying Administration meets with all schools; elementary, upper, Amigos and CRLS by program to discuss their priorities. She has already met with Dr. Huizenga, focusing on a science curriculum rollout; and Dr. Greer regarding Special Education projections. Her plans are to share the budget guidelines and form a ledger.

Mr. Harding asked about Breakthrough and other external partners that we fund.

Ms. Spinner explained that we don't have a specific process to meet with them. She has met with Cambridge Housing, but typically, the various partners send their requests in writing.

Ms. Bowman asked Dr. Young how do we measure the impact of the budget we ask and are we clear on our investments in showing how we meet the gaps?

Dr. Young answered that we meet with principals and do assessments.

Mayor Simmons asked for clarification regarding 47% free and reduced lunch and 27% economically disadvantaged students. She voiced a concern over the low percentage number effecting our qualifications to receive funding.

Ms. Spinner answered the 27.7% economic disadvantaged students are part of the 47% free and reduced lunch students. She explained we have this new category because many more students qualify for universal free lunch: the federal government no longer collects the forms that show which is free and reduced. With the metric missing, there is no decision as to how distribution will happen. She has stated that our position has not changed in terms of qualifying for funds.

Mayor Simmons suggested we use the term unexpended fund balance as a better term than free cash.

Ms. Nolan asked when does Administration and School Committee talk about the priorities for next years' budget as it relates to family liaisons?

Mr. Harding answered the School Committee needs to have the conversation among themselves at a retreat first. He believes it will happen before the Superintendent comes back with his recommendations.

Dr. Young stated it does not help for the Members to have a wish list of individual favorites. What is helpful is to collectively agree to point out one or two things to bring forward.

Ms. Kelly opened the discussion on the Budget Guidelines.

Mayor Simmons thanked Ms. Spinner for her presentation and asked what money goes into authentic family engagement? How do we measure whether what we are doing is having an impact on the students that do well.

Ms. Kelly will make sure the Mayor gets a copy of the background information and a report of the presentation that was done on family engagement in December.

Mayor Simmons stated she wants to make sure all staff is adequately trained to meet the needs of school climate and the various biases that may jeopardize fairness.

The Superintendent mentioned socio/emotional learning awareness components need to be strengthened in the budget guidelines to the Mayors point of cultural proficiency.

Ms. Nolan clarified that student achievement measures are not only based on the results of standardized tests. Ms. Nolan asked when world languages in the elementary schools will be provided, and stated the phrase from Mr. Osborne that “mono-lingualism is illiteracy of the 21st century” is very relevant in this case.

Mr. Harding suggested she forward language to the Superintendent on this issue.

Mr. Harding stated her concerns on world language should be in the initiatives instead of the guidelines.

Ms. Dexter asked about the words initiatives and priorities being interchanged.

Ms. Spinner clarified the language noting strategic priorities focus on *what*. Initiatives focus on *how*. She admits they are fairly broad and explained that the Superintendent’s cabinet works closely with the School Committee Members to develop the guidelines.

Ms. Dexter added a number of items to cultural proficiency including anti bias, discrimination and anti racism to the guidelines, along with adequate staffing for RTI. World Language K-12 and the Arts are also guidelines to be added.

Ms. Dexter was asked to forward the language to Dr. Young.

Mr. Fantini asked that data driven needs be explained as outcomes.

Ms. Bowman asked on the timeframe for feedback. Mr. Harding answered within two weeks.

Ms. Bowman stated School Committee needs to examine our goals, then have the conversation on our guidelines based on School Committee goals.

It was also stated Technology needs to be looked at in our goals.

Mr. Harding agreed that technology and data need to be incorporated into the guidelines. Mr. Harding asked where professional development fits in the guidelines. Dr. Young said it is in student achievement. He suggests it can go into many categories, but primarily it is in school climate and student achievement because they are both connected to the classrooms.

The timeframe was brought up again and Mr. Harding explained that past practice has been to endorse the guidelines through a vote so the Superintendent and the cabinet can use them to frame and develop the budget.

Calendar: The first 3 months of the calendar year are devoted to the budget. It was mentioned that we should not take our snow dates lightly.

Ms. Bowman motioned, Ms. Dexter seconded, to adjourn at 8:01 PM.

Dosha Beard
Confidential Secretary

Distributed Documents: (Available in the School Committee office)

- Agenda
- Cambridge Public Schools Financial Forecast & Enrollment Projections Fiscal years 2017-2021
- CPS FY 2017 Preliminary Estimates &* Enrollment Projections power point presentation
- Cambridge School Committee FY2016 Budget Guidelines

- FY2017 Budget Development Calendar Meeting Dates

#16-31, Report of the January 23, 2016 meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the whole)

Budget Sub-Committee Meeting (Committee of the Whole)
Saturday, January 23, 2016
Sullivan Chamber
Cambridge City Hall
11:00 AM

Called for the purpose of a public hearing for discussion on the FY2017 School Department Budget.

Members Present: Mr. Harding, Co-Chair; Ms. Kelly, Co-Chair; Ms. Bowman, Ms. Dexter, Mr. Fantini, Ms. Nolan, Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Dr. Young, Superintendent; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer

A quorum of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) being present, Mr. Harding called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Mr. Harding recognized State Representative Marjorie Decker and Vice-Mayor Marc McGovern who were in attendance.

Mr. Harding and Ms. Kelly, Co-Chairs

Ms. Harding welcomed everyone to the Budget Sub-Committee meeting and opened the hearing on the FY16-17 school department budget

Public Hearing on Budget FY17 Budget:

- Leslie Brunetta, Roberts Rd., need to reach out to those families having difficulties; more adults in the classrooms; cultural competency; rethink approach to close the achievement gap (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Mike Putnam, Hilliard St., Haggerty School parent; there is a safety/cohort issue in grade 1 at the Haggerty with behavioral and emotional problems and children have needed to be evacuated from the classroom; please support adding more resources to first grade classroom; all children need equal access to education
- Karen Dobak, Allston St., Co-Chair, C-Pac team, real inclusion still lacking in Cambridge; every teacher must own all of our children; professional development for all teachers and principals mandatory in areas of best practices in working with children with disabilities
- Julie Viens, Loomis St., Co-Chair, C-Pac team, many children with language learning disabilities and executive functioning deficits are not able to access curriculum in many areas; many CRLS students in honors classes having horrible experiences and experiencing trauma; unacceptable that some teachers are still treating children with disabilities with disdain; general educators need to understand inclusion and need to be educated in this; we need a culture of inclusion
- Pamela Blau, Sherman St., Co-Chair, C-Pac team, need school-wide understanding of what children with disabilities need; mindset change
- Rebecca Lavine, Harvard St., parent of 3rd grader, lack of having experienced extra professionals on staff; concern of not having a trained teaching assistant in a first or second grade classroom; see a culture of disengagement; students are distressed about having to face the school day; would like to see a cap on classroom size; lack of adequate supervision on the playground; request world language into our classrooms
- Ari Lavine, Harvard St., Cambridgeport student, lack of adequate supervision during recess; recess is being held in a small parking lot since the playground is under renovation; would like world language; teachers and students face challenges and need help

- Lisa Downing, Clay St., concern for the achievement gap for children with special needs; change the culture of low expectations for our special needs students; many students are not receiving the accommodations that are written into their IEPs; support general ed teachers to create a system where inclusion is valued in all schools; support the best practices at schools like Fletcher/Maynard Academy where her son attends and spread throughout the district (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Rhea Dunn, Sacramento St., advocating for the TRRACCT program which she previously submitted to the School Committee for teacher recruitment, retention and cultural competency training; shared anonymous experiences from individuals regarding teacher inappropriate behavior and inappropriate comments and the system's failure to address these issues; failure of system to respond to requests for remediation and meetings; parents are choosing to take their students outside the public school system; address issues head-on regarding equity, diversity and discrimination
- Sharon Dunn, Van Norden St., students and teachers need help in inclusion and multi-culturalism; see many students of color giving up; lack of students of color in honors classes; there is a segregated atmosphere at the high school; there is a fear of dialogue to deal with difficult contemporary cultural issues
- Theresa-Marie Brown, Huron Ave., parent of 2 children at the Haggerty School and also a teacher at the Kennedy/Longfellow School; concern regarding the systemic behavioral issues in the early grade classrooms which is due to increased testing, developmentally inappropriate practices, lack of recess and lunch time, more direct instruction and less hands on developmental appropriate education practices; encourage full inclusion, require a co-teaching model; make sure there is a highly qualified special educator in every K and 1st grade classroom
- Andrea Koschwanez, Freedom Baird, Jacob Barandes and Mary Ellen Doran, CALA. Andrea Koschwanez, Cambridge Advanced Learning Association (CALA) Coordinator, read a statement on behalf of the other CALA members (statement on file in the School Committee office) – help meet the needs of underserved and underrepresented advanced learners; extend Cambridge's commitment to social justice to all children with advanced learning needs; identify and support advanced learners who are disadvantaged and who do not receive this identification and support at home; CALA proposes: Leaky Pipeline Support, Enrichment Intervention Modules, Adaptive Test and Expansion of Interventionists' Scope
- Kathy Dalton, Arlington St., more funds needed for resources to teach to mixed ability classrooms; hearing that the advanced math students are getting more homework; how will her child and grade level students catch up; school systems should not use ability grouping or tracking practices that result in discrimination of race, culture and national origin; add more resources for differentiated education in classrooms in the earlier grades and the upper grades; stop separating children into 2 tracks which begins at grade 6; tracking is undoing the integration of our schools
- Ruth Economon, Cottage Ct., parent of 3rd and 5th grader at the King Open school, asking for discretionary funding for a Mindful Schools program if individual teachers are interested; teachers would participate in the program themselves; students would learn ways to control themselves and understand and slow their reactions with teachers learning along with them; gave direct quotes from students and teachers who participated in this program; more information is available at mindfulschools.org and the CHA Center for Mindfulness and Compassion (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Pia Cisternino, Holworthy St., speaking on behalf of the Cambridge Recess Working Group, asking for additional recess time during the day for K-5 students; research shows increasing recess time helps students focus better on tests and self-regulation; requesting 15-20 additional minutes of unstructured playtime each day; play is learning for young children; children have basic needs which need to be met and when their needs are not met, they communicate this through their behavior; providing more recess would be providing a more equitable system (statement on file in the School Committee office)
- Antonia Foster, look at the budget as a moral document; look closely at every item and think twice before giving contracts to international companies; encourage the School Committee to shop locally and to support increasing minimum wage to \$15/hour; pass a budget that supports whole child development

- Margot Kelsey, Upland Rd., 3rd grade student at Graham & Parks, tests are causing more stress than they should; she dreads school because of tests; if tests took up the time in every school day, there wouldn't be time to learning anything new; an independent paper would be better than a test
- Jason Liss, Murdock St., children are best prepared for learning when they are healthy and closely attended to; free breakfast and free lunch for all students with no qualifying criteria; increased physical education, recess time or a morning move program; smaller class sizes; health education on a weekly basis; would like a full time art teacher at the Cambridgeport School since it is a project-based school
- Representative Marjorie Decker, parent of a JK and 1st grader at King Open, has profound respect for the School Committee; being a School Committee member is one of the hardest and most important jobs; don't lose sight of what is happening in the grades in between the early grades and the middle school grades since many resources are focused on early education and on the upper schools; assess how we use homework in our schools; need more continuity on homework across the schools; define the role of homework; need more adults in the classroom; it's almost impossible for one teacher to handle all 23 students with various behavioral needs and also have the ability to teach the curriculum
- Ruth Allen, Fenno St., parent of 5th grader at Graham & Parks in a language based learning classroom which is a great program; was unable to access CPS services for her child when she was in a private school prior to public school; CPS needs to publicize its successful programs
- Kelly Dolan, Upland Rd., parent of a 5th grader at Graham & Parks, continue with last year's budget priority on social and emotional program; have better accountability for use of school improvement funds; empower principals with more money; need world language now, no excuses; expand Pre-K to all Cambridge eligible 4 year olds; after school/community programs need to be streamlined and strengthened as an extension of the regular school day; less administrators, more teachers; analyze the results of professional development
- Natasha Warikoo, Park Ave., parent of 3 Haggerty School students, concern over 1st grade class with frequent outbursts necessitating four classroom evacuations since October; everyone is different, everyone belongs; concern over children's physical safety, emotional well being, and instruction time; this cohort will continue to have difficulties; find resources to split this cohort into 3 classes going forward; balance the number of special education students in general education classes across the district; district should pay for outside consultant not use SIP funds; more time in day for recess and lunch
- Tawna Lewis, Middlesex St., parent of 2 boys at RAUS, middle schools need family liaisons; elementary and upper schools have 900 hours of school and the high school has 990 hours (extra half hour per day); other middle schools in the State have 990 hours; structure our middle schools with that extra half hour per day

Mr. Harding called a brief recess at 12:45 pm.

The time for recess having expired, the public hearing resumed (12:55 p.m.)

- Kim Kaufman, Hampshire St., need family liaisons at the middle schools; family engagement; middle school community is not finding out about events in a timely manner; survey the middle school families to ask them if they think they are missing anything, since they don't have a family liaison

Mr. Harding called a brief recess at 12:58 pm.

The time for recess having expired, the public hearing was adjourned (1:00 p.m.)

Adjourned
Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Documents/Statements referred to during public comment: (copies on file in the School Committee office)

- Statement from Leslie Brunetta
- Statement from Lisa Downing
- Statement from CALA (Cambridge Advanced Learning Association)
- Statement from Ruth Economon
- Statement from Cambridge Recess Working Group

10. Resolutions:

It was voted to adopt the following:

Motion by Mr. Harding, that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations to Roy Howard, CRLS Wrestling Coach, on his 100th win and to wish him and the wrestling team a healthy and productive season.

Motion by Ms. Nolan, that the School Committee send a letters of congratulations to the CRLS Boys Track team for winning the Dual County League championship and to the individual winners. Also, that the School Committee send letters of congratulations to the CRLS 2016 Massachusetts Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award winners and any teachers who may have mentored these students.

The Chair advised Ms. Nolan that if she chose to send letters to individual participants in addition to the teams that she provide the Executive Secretary within 48 hours a list of the individual names with the appropriate address to send the letters.

11. Announcements:

Mr. Harding noted that they are working with the CEA and asking to reach out to the educators in our community to encourage them to come to a public hearing on the budget to voice their concerns on February 9th, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room.

12. Late Orders: None

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Dexter, it was voted to adjourn (9:38 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

- ✓ The Office of Student Services Annual Report to the School Committee PowerPoint presentation
- ✓ Office of Student Services Annual Report 2016
- ✓ Signed petition from members of the CEA supporting the bargaining teams and urging the School Committee to quickly settle fair and equitable contracts with the paraprofessionals and substitutes
- ✓ Statement from Cambridge Parent Advisory Committee (CPAC)