

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

**Organization Meeting
6:00 PM**

Monday, January 4, 2016

Called in accordance with Chapter 43, Section 32 of the General Laws, for the purpose of organization and held in the Cambridge Public Library, Lecture Hall, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mr. Ben Austin and Mr. Griffin Andres, Student School Committee Representatives, welcomed the audience and acknowledged special guests. The audience was invited to stand and join in saluting the flag. CRLS students Gabriela Chiriboga, Pascal Beckert-McGirr, and Smarika Suwal recited the pledge of allegiance in English and in multiple languages. The audience remained standing for an outstanding rendition of the National anthem sung by CRLS student, Kaecianna Cooper.

Mr. Austin and Mr. Andres also acknowledged the CRLS Cello Duo, Lukas Manning and Lucia Sakakibara, under the direction of Laura Umbro, for providing the wonderful chamber music as we entered the lecture hall tonight. CRLS students Jonathan Charles, Aida Muratoglu, Karalynn Olyvea-Pollard and Elmer Vivas Portillo were thanked for being ushers for this event.

Reverend Lorraine Thornhill, Pastor of the First Holiness Church, gave the Invocation.

The Peabody School Early Bird Singers, under the direction of Ms. Kathryn Bach, and accompanied by Elizabeth Higgins on the piano, performed *Good Night*, A Russian Song taught by Dmitri Kabalevsky, and arranged by Doreen Rao.

Imam Ismail Fenni, Islamic Society of Boston, who was scheduled to give a blessing, was unable to attend due to illness. Reverend Cheryl Harris, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Attleboro, graciously filled in at the last minute for Imam Fenni and gave a blessing.

The Peabody School Early Bird Singers performed another song, *Shine on Me*, traditional spiritual, arranged by Rollo A. Dilworth.

Mr. Andres read a bio poem written by Principal Robin Harris and introduced her as the guest speaker. Ms. Harris gave an inspirational speech using the Star Wars movie, "The Force Awakens", as an analogy.

Mr. Austin introduced City Clerk Donna Lopez, assisted by Deputy City Clerk, Paula Crane, to administer the oath of office to the Members-Elect.

Manikka L. Bowman
Emily R. Dexter
Alfred B. Fantini
Richard Harding, Jr.
Kathleen M. Kelly
Patricia M. Nolan

Mayor Simmons called the organizational meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

The Chair asked the pleasure of the Committee and entertained nominations for Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Nolan nominated Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding. Ms. Dexter nominated Mr. Harding, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Nolan. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Bowman, nominations were closed.

On the following roll call, it was voted to elect Mr. Fantini as Vice Chair of the Cambridge School Committee for the 2016-2017 term. Ms. Bowman PRESENT; Ms. Dexter MS. NOLAN; Mr. Fantini MR. FANTINI; Mr. Harding MR. FANTINI; Ms. Kelly MR. FANTINI; Ms. Nolan MS. NOLAN; Mayor Simmons MR. FANTINI. The Chair asked if anyone would like to change their vote. Ms. Nolan changed her vote to MR. FANTINI. Ms. Bowman changed her vote to MR. FANTINI. Ms. Dexter changed her vote to MR. FANTINI. It was voted to close the nomination and voting process. Mr. Fantini was elected as Vice Chair on a unanimous vote.

The Chair paused for a moment to allow the Members to introduce their families and friends who were there to support them this evening.

On a motion by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the 2016-2017 Rules of the School Committee as presented by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee, pending revisions and subject to amendments by the School Committee from time to time: Ms. Bowman YEA, Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted to amend the Rules of the School Committee to change the following sentence on page 12, Section 4.1. Starting and Ending Times of Regular Meetings from, "Regular meetings will begin promptly at 6:00 PM (assuming a quorum) and end at 10:00 PM." to "Regular meetings will begin promptly at 6:00 PM (assuming a quorum) and end by 10:00 PM.": Ms. Bowman YEA, Ms. Dexter YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding YEA; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA. Ms. Nolan recognized that the School Committee Norms which were added as an Addendum to the Rules of the School Committee could be passed now and revisited in 6 months when Dr. Salim begins.

Mayor Simmons extended her appreciation to Ms. Martin, Executive Secretary, and to Ms. Beard, Confidential Secretary, for their hard work in planning this successful inaugural event.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Dexter, it was voted to adjourn (7:20 PM).

The Chair invited everyone to enjoy refreshments in the main cafeteria at CRLS.

Adjourned
Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary to the School Committee