S C H O O L C O M M I T T E E

(Official Report)

Special Meeting (Roundtable) **April 24, 2012**

Called for 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the School Committee Meeting Room, CRLS, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of a roundtable discussion on school climate and advisory program.

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Osborne, Ms. Turkel, Mayor Davis

Also Present: Jeff Young, Superintendent; Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Maryann MacDonald, Executive Director, Student Achievement and Curriculum; Kim DeAndrade, Program Leader for Health Education; Melody Brazzo, Coordinator of Welcoming Families to the City of Cambridge

Mayor Davis in the Chair.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM and turned the meeting over to Dr. Young. The Superintendent spoke about the need for a strong school climate where people are respectful of each other. Dr. Young asked Dr. Turk to say a few words before turning the meeting over to the School Climate and Advisory team.

The Members were walked through a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file in the School Committee office) including the following:

School Climate & Advisory – CPS Middle Grade Program

- A positive school climate
- Dimensions of School Climate
- CPS Components
- Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports
- Developmental Designs
- Advisory
- Advisory Supports – Academic Achievement
- Welcoming Schools Cambridge
- CPS Bullying – Prevention and Intervention Plan
- Trauma Informed Practice
- Health Education
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
- How is our School Climate?
- Positive school climate promotes…

The 12 Dimensions of School Climate Measured (copy on file in the School Committee office):

- Safety
- Teaching and Learning
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Institutional Environment
- Staff Only

The team responded to the following questions and concerns:

- Is there a chance of bringing back peer mediation
- Are there any workshops that would help parents understand what we are doing
- What is the role of the guidance councilor
- The term "advisory" may be confusing to some
- Are children in trauma being identified to ensure that staff is aware
- Work through family liaisons to connect with families
- What is the one-on-one educational process to ensure all kids are getting the same message
- How will the new schools build on what we are doing
- There is a need to connect kids and families with needed services
- Keep the parents in the picture.
- How does the Safety Net Collaborative fit in
- I am concerned about what is going on now and what will be going on at the start of schools in terms of community-building
- Who does the school climate surveys, are parents involved

The Chair thanked everyone for participating.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adjourn (8:23 PM).

Respectfully Submitted
Patricia A. Berry
Executive Secretary to the School Committee