

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

**Regular Meeting**

**May 17, 2011**

Called for 6:00 PM in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue.

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Ms. Tauber, Ms. Turkel,  
Mayor Maher

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also Present:

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

## **1. Public Comment**

The following individuals were heard:

- Judy Weiss, Orchard Street, re Implementation of the Innovation Agenda
- Max Moore, re Upton Street/Amigos

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

The Chair opened the public hearing on the 2011/2012 State School Choice Program, Recommendation for Non-Participation. There being no one signed up to speak, on a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Tauber, the public hearing was closed.

On the following roll call, Superintendent's Recommendation #11-52, the 2011/2012 State School Choice Program, Recommendation for Non-Participation, was removed from the Calendar and adopted as follows: that the School Committee vote not to participate in the Statewide School Choice Program for school year 2011-2012 for the following reasons: 1. the need to maintain the quality and integrity of the Cambridge Program of Controlled Choice and, 2. the need to maintain flexibility for appropriately sized classrooms in the public schools: Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

**2. Student School Committee Report:** None

**3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:** None

**4. Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meetings:** None

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar**

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Tauber, to remove all items from Unfinished Business, for discussion.

Mr. McGovern asked that his and Ms. Nolan's motion that #C10-117, Report on a plan to review the current 504 system prior to the start of the next school year, remain on the Calendar.

That the following be removed from the Calendar and referred to the Superintendent:

**#C10-274 Motion by Ms. Nolan** that the Superintendent report by March 1 on all injuries over the last year requiring any medical intervention, by team, and further that the report include comparative data from other districts and/or the State.

Miss Turkel requested that the Minutes of March 15, 2011 Regular Meeting remain on the Calendar.

The following was removed from the Calendar and referred to a second reading:

**#11-56, Approval of the Cambridge Public Schools Intellectual Property/Copyright Policy**, that the School Committee approve the Cambridge Public Schools Intellectual Property/Copyright Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

**#11-66, motion by Ms. Turkel** that in preparation for the Amigos School moving to the building on Upton Street that in addition to requested and necessary interior renovations, the exterior grounds also be improved. These improvements should include, but not be limited to, the creation of age appropriate recreation areas with appropriate equipment (i.e., playground and basketball court) improved fencing and signage. And, further the Amigos School community should be included in the planning and designing of both interior and exterior renovations. Ms. Turkel was heard in support of her motion. Mr. Fantini offered a substitute motion that the Superintendent meet with the leadership of the school community, and the Building and Ground Sub-committee of each school to determine what the school considers to be its priorities, and report back to the School Committee how these priorities will be met. Further, the School Department work with appropriate City departments to further the goals at each school. Ms. Turkel accepted Mr. Fantini's substitute. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Tauber it was voted to adopt the substitute motion.

The following was removed from the Calendar and placed on file: **#11-67, motion by Mr. McGovern and Ms. Tauber** that they provide an update of workshops attended at the NSBA conference.

The following was removed from the Calendar and referred to the Superintendent: **#11-68, motion by Mr. McGovern** that the Superintendent explain the District's policy on recess and whether or not recess is to be taken away as a consequence to children.

The following be removed from the Calendar: **#11-69, motion by Ms. Nolan** that whereas the School District has made a commitment to support bilingual immersion programs, and whereas enrollment in programs needs to be high enough to continue the programs and provide an educationally sound experience, and whereas the Olá program made a concerted effort to increase enrollment, and whereas the District policy on linguistic balance at the Olá program has led to a waitlist of students, now therefore be it ordered that the linguistic balance range be increased at Olá to enable students to enroll off the waitlist, and further that the socio-economic balance be taken into account. Mr. Fantini, Ms. Tauber, and Ms. Turkel offered a joint substitute motion that: That the Olá program be enrolled using the same language balance rules and percentages that are currently used for the Amigos School and the Mandarin Immersion Program for enrollment for Fall 2011. And further that the Superintendent review and revise the Controlled Choice Policy as it applies to language immersion schools and programs in time for the start of kindergarten registration for the Fall of 2012. And further that in revising the policy the District's dual goals of supporting bilingual education and having school populations balanced by free and reduced or paid meals status be incorporated into the policy. Ms. Nolan accepted the substitute. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Tauber, the substitute motion was adopted.

On the following roll call it was voted that the following items were placed on file. Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding NAY, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Nolan NAY, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

**#11-70, Joint motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Harding** that whereas taking advanced classes has been cited as a predictor of college readiness and whereas the District is consciously working to increase enrollment in AP classes especially for under-represented groups, and whereas taking an AP exam is important to assessing readiness, and whereas many AP students do not take the AP exam, now therefore the policy is that all students in AP classes be required to take the AP exam unless a compelling educational reason is made for not taking it and further that the district will cover the cost of all AP exams for all students, so that cost is not a deterrent for any student.

**#11-71, Joint motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Harding** that whereas summer learning loss is emerging as a key reason for the continuance and widening of the Achievement Gap and whereas the State's extended learning initiative has explicitly called for a re-examination of the school year and whereas some of the most promising initiatives in CPS have been effective summer programs, and whereas the Innovation Agenda calls for a re-examination of middle school programming, now therefore be it ordered that as part of the Innovation Agenda planning, the Superintendent be directed to explore extending the school year with a program of summer extended learning time for all students starting with the middle grades. Further, that the District work with the Harvard Summer Academy, the Crimson Academy, Breakthrough Cambridge, Compass and other partners engaged in summer learning to identify possible avenues for developing a model district-wide program of summer learning mandatory for all students.

**#11-72, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that Whereas physical activity is important to learning, and whereas sports are an important part of CPS educational offerings, and whereas Cambridge has been fortunate in supporting a policy of no fees for sports, and whereas some teams require more funding than others, now therefore the School Committee requests a report by the summer meeting on the budget for each sport at CRLS, including all district funding, and what is required to adequately fund each sport, and how each team meets the funding requirements if district funding is less than optimal. Further that the Friends of Cambridge Athletics be consulted in the review and the coaches of each team. Further that the report include information on other Massachusetts public school district expenditures.

**#11-73, Motion by Ms. Tauber** that given one of the Innovation Agenda six components includes expansion of out-of-school time opportunities and the City Council and School Committee endorsed the goal "*to ensure broad participation of Cambridge middle school youth in quality out-of-school-time experiences that foster both their present and future learning and life success*" based on the work of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Middle School Youth, the School Committee requests that the Superintendent work with the Assistant City Manager and appropriate staff within Human Services and other community partners to continue their collaboration in implementing the plans outlined in both the *Shared Youth Shared Strategies* report and the Innovation Agenda.

## **6. Superintendent's Report/Presentations/Consent Agenda**

The Superintendent walked Members through the following: The Innovation Agenda/Implementation Plan, Version 1.1 (copy on file in the School Committee Office).

- **Guiding Principles of the Innovation Agenda Planning Process**
- **Strategic Objectives**
- **Overall Timeline and Staging of Work**
- **Innovation Agenda Design Teams**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Stakeholder Participation Opportunities**
- **Communication Plan**
- **Decision Making & Progress Monitoring**
- **Implementation Benchmarks: May 17, 2011**

The Superintendent responded to the following questions and concerns:

- Clarify the upper school network
- Curriculum teams don't have Humanities as one of the best practices
- Make use of the knowledge of other educators to benefit from their expertise
- Align District Resources: School Committee needs to weigh in
- Helpful to have updates more frequently
- IA will be on each School Committee agenda as a bullet item
- Where do we stand with the CTA regarding the negotiations surrounding teacher assignment
- Is recertification on teachers part of discussions
- Parent groups at each school need to be heard
- There needs to be a way for parents unable to attend meetings are heard
- Members need to know if the Superintendent needs outside assistance
- It's important that we have clarity in our role as School Committee

- Balance issue is major concern
- Health and wellness is broad.
- What about pre-vocational fields
- There is a whole team working on STEM. We don't have the equivalent of humanities
- Don't let STEM make us forget the progress we've made with Humanities
- Will the Cambridge Wraparound Zone include current child care, day care, and nursery school providers
- Need for clarity on staffing plan dates
- Will the core teaching teams be identified by June
- Announcements in school newsletters need to be clear about the type of meeting being held
- Include Cambridge Housing Authority in creating the Wraparound zone
- How is the work being assessed
- How does ISP fit into the mix
- Give the community tools on professional development
- The Superintendent has been up to the task
- There has to be communication between design teams
- Involve families that are not already involved
- Who teaches Humanities could be an issue
- Concerned about what role parents are going to have
- Which of these things are policy and which are operations?
- Need to have discussions monthly or every meeting
- If it's possible put information in our Weekly
- Have a way to evaluate benchmarks as opposed to due dates
- We have to be very discriminating about best practices
- Use Media Arts as form of communication
- Clarify what is policy and what is decision
- Use Summer retreat to have a list of categories for meeting next Fall with key topics and address those topics once a month

## 7. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to bring forward Superintendent's recommendations #11-74 - #11-77

Ms. Turkel removed #11-75

On a roll call vote, the following items were adopted:

**#11-74, Approval of Cambridge Public Schools Policy on Admission of Transfer Students:** that the School Committee approve the Cambridge Public Schools Policy on Admission of Transfer Students as detailed in the document (Second Reading).

**#11-76, Contract Award:** Moving Services for Relocation of School Classrooms & Offices: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for moving 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 Corporation, 20 Industrial Ave., Chelmsford, for the period May 31, 2011 to September 5, 2011 in the amount of \$143,834.00.

**#11-77, Grant Award:** that the School Committee accept and approve the following grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Foreign Language Assistance Program FLAP-Supplemental, in the amount of \$176,612.00, for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

**Description:** S.C. Order #C10-148 dated August 3, 2010. These additional funds were awarded to the Ni Hao project to fund ongoing planning and preparation for the Chinese language program under development at the ML King School.

**CPS Target Population:** In this first year, the target population will be the staff at the ML King School who will engage in the planning. Funds will be carried over into future years to support program implementation.

**Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness:** Planning for a new Chinese immersion program to start in the lower grades will be completed and the program will be ready to start in the Fall of 2011.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

**8. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information):** None

Ms. Turkel was heard in support of her motion that in the development and design of the program and schedule of the upper schools the Cambridge Public School's Wellness Policy and the supporting guidelines will be adhered to. Adhering to the policy and guidelines would include: Insuring that students receive health education the equivalent of once a week taught by teachers assigned by the school Principal or Dean who have completed the Teaching Health Education professional development course; Insuring that students receive at least 20 minutes of supervised recess daily, preferably outdoors and are encouraged to engage in moderate to vigorous physical activity verbally and through the provision of space and equipment. The Physical Education Department will seek to ensure that all P.E. classes will have at least fifty percent (50%) or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity. School Principals and Deans will seek to provide opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class and to discourage extended periods of sitting (two (2) or more hours). The CPS meal program will provide high quality, appealing and nutritious foods. Meals served to students shall be attractively presented in a pleasant environment with sufficient time for eating. On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. McGovern, the matter was placed on file.

**9. Non-Consent Agenda**

Ms. Turkel was heard on **#11-75, Approval of Cambridge Public Schools Policy on Animals in School:** that the School Committee approve the Cambridge Public Schools Policy on Animals in School as detailed in the document (second reading). Her concern is about fur bearing animals in public schools, i.e. rabbits, guinea pigs, service animals. Is proof of rabies vaccination required? Ms. MacFarlane was heard. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt #11-75.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

**10. Resolutions**

**11. Announcements:**

Mr. McGovern announced that Kindergarten students from Haggerty will be displaying their art work at the West Cambridge Youth Center June 9-16. There is an Open Art show on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

**12. Late Orders:**

On a motion by Mr. Harding, it was voted to send a letter of congratulations to Stephen Allsopp, Chief Probation Officer of the Middlesex Juvenile Court.

On a motion Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Tauber, that the following motion be placed on the Calendar. Motion by Mr. Fantini that the Superintendent meet with the Athletic Director and Crew Coach to develop a multi-year plan replacement of equipment.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to adjourn at 9:18 PM.

Adjourned  
Anne McGillicuddy