

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

March 17, 2015

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. Cronin, Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Osborne,
Mayor Maher

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also Present: Student School Committee Members Liz Kubicek and Lucy Sternbach

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Dawn Baxter, Kinnaird St., budget
- Melissa Burns, Franklin St., budget
- Ben Clark, Exec. Dir., Cambridge Community Services, Centre St., budget, City Links
- Reia Beguum, Prospect St., budget
- Irma Exil, Windsor St., budget
- Jinyu Chen, Harvey St., budget
- Diane Beck, Church St., participatory budget process, youth voting
- Emily Dexter, Fenno St., budget

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Ms. Kubicek and Ms. Sternbach reported on the following:

- ✓ Parent teacher conferences are being held this week
- ✓ The CRLS Drama Company's production of "The Elephant Man" has progressed to the final round of competition
- ✓ Spring sports officially started with tryouts this week
- ✓ During one of the final home games played by the CRLS basketball team, there was an incident involving students from the opposing school making inappropriate chants towards our student athletes. A workshop and conversation is being planned with students, teachers and administrators to process this situation. Principal Smith has reached out to the principal of the opposing school.
- ✓ The boys basketball team is the Division 1 North champion and went on to play at the TD Garden
- ✓ Pennies for patients is still going strong; students have collected \$500 so far for patients with lymphoma and leukemia
- ✓ JAM'N 94.5 is sponsoring a dance this Friday

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Osborne, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meetings as presented:

- Regular Meeting – February 24, 2015
- Regular Meeting – March 3, 2015

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports:

- ✓ Report by fall 2013 on AP program at CRLS (C13-133) (June 4, 2013)

Ms. Nolan and Mr. Harding thanked the high school and the administration for the final installment on the CRLS AP program report. Ms. Nolan asked the Members to send any feedback on this final section of the report to the high school. She noted that the next step may be a Roundtable Meeting for the Committee to consider changing policy to increase the diversity of the students taking the AP exam. It was voted to remove this item from the Awaiting Reports section of the Agenda and place it on file.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

FY 16 Proposed Budget..... Jeffrey M. Young
Superintendent of Schools

The Chair turned the meeting over to Dr. Young for his presentation to the School Committee of the CPS Fiscal Year 2016 Superintendent's Proposed General Fund Budget. The Superintendent acknowledged the City Manager for his concern for the education and welfare of our students, his response to our needs and an increase of \$7.3 Million (4.6%) to our budget. He also thanked the Committee and the Budget Co-Chairs for establishing the helpful budget guidelines and having the public hearing process in the fall for parents, staff and the community. Dr. Young acknowledged Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer, and her team, as well as the cabinet members, principals, and coordinators. Dr. Young and Ms. Spinner walked the Members through the following PowerPoint presentation explaining the decision-making that went into creating the proposed budget (copy on file in the School Committee Office):

FY2016 Proposed Budget: \$164 Million, Overall increase of \$7.3 Million (4.6%)

- Revenues
 - Property Taxes
 - State Education Aid
 - Other State & Federal Aid
 - Miscellaneous Revenue
- Expenditures by Category
 - Salaries & Benefits
 - Out of District Tuition
 - Student Transportation
 - Facilities-Maintenance
 - Energy Utilities
 - Instructional Materials
 - Professional/Technical Services
 - Technology

- Other Expenses
- Staff Allocations by Program
- Budget Priorities
 - Takes direction from School Committee Budget Guidelines
 - Responds to enrollment growth and changes in student population
 - Continues work already underway
 - Focuses on direct services for students
- School Committee Budget Guidelines
 - Student Achievement
 - Elementary Schools/Upper Schools/High School
 - Program & Curriculum Evaluation
 - Family Engagement
 - School Climate
 - Operations & Long Range Planning
- Enrollment
- Class size
- Student Demographics
- Enrollment-based Staff Increases
- Other Budget Adjustments
- Ongoing Work
 - Response to Intervention
 - Math in Focus Implementation
 - Curriculum Development and Implementation
 - Early Childhood Taskforce Recommendations
 - HET Taskforce
 - Educator Development
 - OSS Strategic Plan and program improvements
- Areas of Increased Focus
 - Upper School Program
 - Social/Emotional Learning
 - Reading Proficiency by Grade 3
- Upper School Program Improvements
- Social Emotional Learning
- Reading Proficiency by Third Grade
- FY2016 Budget Approval Process
- Next steps:
 - March 25, 2015 Public Hearing
 - April 7, 2015 SC vote to adopt FY 2016 Budget
 - May 13, 2015 City Council Hearing on School Budget

The Chair moved from the regular order of business to invite Mr. Rossi, City Manager; Ms. Peterson, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Depasquale, Assistant City Manager for Fiscal Affairs; and Mr. Black, Construction Project Manager, to give a brief update on the construction timeline of King Open/Cambridge Street Upper School complex construction.

Mr. Rossi gave an update on the King Open/Cambridge Street Upper School construction project which will include the redesign of the Valente Branch Library, the Gold Star Pool and the possible relocation of CPS administrative offices. The school programming will include pre-school and Community Schools. The City has selected William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc., to prepare a Feasibility Study for this project. This architectural firm also designed the Cambridge Public Library building. He noted that this construction is necessary for the future of the schools and he believes in and will support this project. This building will be of the highest quality and will give teachers, students and families experiences they may not have in other communities. This is a building that needs to fit into the community and is not a simple project as other communities may have. Ms. Peterson recapped the anticipated project schedule and indicated that the design of this building will be a Net Zero project. She noted that Donnelly Field and that open space is critical to the neighborhood and they have committed to not decreasing that open space

but to enhance it. This building will be 25% larger than the King School on Putnam Avenue. Mr. Black listed comparisons between the King Open/CSUS project with the construction of the ML King School and the Hingham and Quincy school projects which had shorter completion timelines. He noted that every project is unique; we have a building which is twice as expensive because we have many more components. It will need to take 4 full years because of its complexity, the need for demolition and abatement of possible health risks and the commitment to the neighborhood not to have 16 hour workdays. Mr. Depasquale explained the financial commitment to this project and the projected property tax levy increases. Mayor Maher noted that we are the only city in the Commonwealth currently building schools without any assistance from the State.

The City Manager and his team responded to the questions and concerns of the Members. The Members expressed their gratitude to Mr. Rossi and his team for coming tonight and appreciated the knowledge and expertise shown in this project as well as the concern for the neighborhood and the school community.

On a motion by Ms. Cronin, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to take a 2 minute recess.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting and returned to the discussion on the budget.

The Mayor reminded the Committee that there will be a public hearing on the budget on March 25th and an opportunity for further discussion at that time. The Chair encouraged the Members to send additional questions or issues to the Superintendent and Ms. Spinner with copies to the Budget Co-Chairs.

The Superintendent asked Ms. Spinner, Dr. Greer, Dr. Huizenga and Ms. MacDonald to join him in answering the Members questions and concerns.

- What do you envision the responsibilities of a district social worker and a school-based social worker and what outcomes are we looking for
- The real challenge is to connect with external services
- What is a typical size of a caseload for our social workers
- Average case load is 25; some caseloads are less than 10 some are up to 40. This is a comparable caseload for a district this size.
- Who do we partner with and where do the resources come from
- Are we distributing our faculty to the best advantage to meet the needs of our students
- What will the cultural proficiency training look like
- Why not partner with outside mental health providers
- Would like approach on task forces and teams; why have a task force for middle schools and invest in all this before task force has ever met
- Next year, stipends will be paid to teachers to serve on these tasks forces; findings from this will influence subsequent budgets
- Have good reason to believe that Math in Focus curriculum along with training that goes along with this will reduce the number of children falling 2 years behind in math

Dr. Turk distributed the 4th draft of: Positive Classroom Management: A CPS System of Support for Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health JK-12 (on file in School Committee office).

Mr. Fantini requested that the Superintendent provide the Members with a one page document on the reasoning behind adding full time equivalents as opposed to other strategies specifically in the positions of math interventionists, school counselors, social workers, and literacy interventionists.

Ms. Likis, Chief Planning Officer, responded to the questions regarding need for more funding for a strategic plan for the entire district. The Ad hoc Sub-Committee/Task Force on Norms and Goals recently met and the agreement was to create a shorter-term district action plan for the next 15 months to focus on advancing the planning of what is currently in process and setting some process and impact

benchmarks for outcomes. A summary of the Norms and Goals Sub-Committee Task force Meeting Notes, March 12, 2015 were distributed (copy on file in the School Committee office).

Dr. Huizenga gave an explanation of the Highly Effective Teaching (HET) task force.

Mr. Harding exited the meeting (9:30 p.m.).

7c. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Osborne moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to bring forward the Superintendent's Consent Agenda for discussion and adoption. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt all items:

#15-59, Revision to Policy and Procedures for Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and Concussions in Athletic Activities, that the School Committee approve the revision to the Policy and Procedures for Prevention and Management of Head Injuries and Concussions in Athletic Activities as detailed in the document (first reading).

#15-60, Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts, that the School Committee accept and approve the below receipts as described.

1. \$442.44 to the Kennedy-Longfellow School made from O'Connor Portraiture, Inc., as commission for student portraits. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
2. \$262.05 to the Kennedy-Longfellow School made from Recycle That, LLC, in return for items collected in the school's clothing/book collection box. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
3. \$117.94 to the Kennedy-Longfellow School made from Target through its Take Charge of Education program. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.

#15-61, Special Needs Contracts for Day and Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department, that the School Committee award a contract to the institution on the attached sheet in amount not to exceed the shown rate, 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.

Day Program Tuition Contracts	1		\$32,798.52
Residential Program Tuition Contracts	0		N/A
45 Day Program Contracts	0		N/A
Total	1	Total	\$32,798.52

#15-62, Grant Awards, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Title 1-DSAC School Support, for the period January 23, 2015 to August 31, 2015, in the amount of \$13,809.00. Project/Grant SC15120.
Description: This District and School Assistance Center (DSAC; Title 1) grant will support the development of improvement strategies at the Kennedy-Longfellow School, which is currently in Level 3 status. District leadership and an independent consultant will work with the Kennedy-Longfellow School to expand the capacity of the school's Instructional Leadership Teams (ILTs) to implement an accelerated action plan and engage in effective review and analysis of data to inform instruction.
2. DSAC School Support, for the period January 23, 2015 to June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$5,401.00. Project/Grant SC15123.
Description: This District and School Assistance Center (DSAC; non-Title 1) grant will support the Accelerated Improvement plan at Putnam Ave Upper School, currently in level 3 status. District leadership and an independent consultant will work with the math teachers to

implement the Galileo Assessment System in mathematics, including data analysis of results and the use of this data to inform instruction.

3. Biogen Idec Foundation/RSTA Biotech, for the period March 17, 2015 to August 30, 2015, in the amount of \$5,000.00 Project/Grant SC15100.

Description: This grant will provide professional development for CRLS Biotech (RSTA) and biology teachers in conjunction with a separate biotech grant (SC16101, approved at the January 20, 2015 Meeting) funded by the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. In this student-focused research project jointly undertaken by the biotech company IOMICS, the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science (MAMS), the CRLS Biology Department, and the RSTA Biotech Program, students will participate in a real-world, comprehensive research project aimed at mapping genetic networks in yeast, which may be relevant in treating human disease.

In 2014, the Biogen Idec Foundation gave smaller grants to four CPS schools; this year the program is investing in larger projects that provide more intensive STEM education.

Mr. Osborne YEA; Ms. Cronin YEA; Mr. Fantini YEA; Mr. Harding ABSENT; Ms. Kelly YEA; Ms. Nolan YEA; Mayor Maher YEA.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to bring forward the School Committee Agenda for discussion and adoption. Ms. Nolan noted that she and Ms. Kelly made a substitution to their joint motion **#15-65**. Ms. Nolan and Dr. Huizenga clarified the issue of attendance in the AMP summer program.

On a voice vote, **#15-63, #15-65 as substituted, #15-66 through #15-68** were adopted.

#15-63, Motion by Mr. Fantini, whereas the City of Cambridge has developed a "Participatory Budget Process" that allows citizens 12 years and older to participate by voting, that we encourage the School Department to work with the City to ensure maximum student participation in this creative and dynamic process.

On a motion by Mayor Maher, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to place on file, **#15-64, Motion by Ms. Nolan**, whereas the school department seeks to have school projects move as rapidly as possible, and

Whereas the initial timeline for the school building projects was two years, and the construction phase for Putnam Avenue project including unknown elements which should not be the case for Cambridge Street complex project was a little over two years, yet the Cambridge Street complex project is estimated to require emptying the site for four years, and

Whereas several comparable projects in other Massachusetts school districts have taken two years of construction or less, including Hingham Middle School - a new 176,000 SF building – completed in about two years - groundbreaking was June 2012 and school opened in September of 2014 and Quincy Middle School - which involved buying 4 different plots of land - took less than two years of construction - the bids opened in May of 2012 and the school opened in October of 2013, and

Whereas Cambridge seeks to disrupt students and staff for as short a time as possible, and

Whereas there are other capital projects waiting to be started after this project, and

Whereas the swing space for King Open is extremely tight, and potentially compromising the quality of education due to space constraints, and

Now, therefore the school district is asked to review comparable Massachusetts school building projects – using the summary comprehensive information available from all MSBA projects involving new construction over the last five years, especially those in urban areas - and review timelines for the design phase, the site preparation phase, construction phase and consult with MSBA and others on how to ensure a project that is timely, and

Further, that consideration be given to having all design work done while some students occupy the current building, with only the CSUS move, since that swing space is adequate, while the KO remain in the building during design work, since the cost of staying in the building would add only about 1% to the total project budget, and

Further, that the school department work with the city to explore all avenues for accelerating the project timeline and minimizing disruption.

Substitution for: #15-65, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Kelly, that whereas the school district seeks to encourage all students to excel and to support students seeking to achieve at high levels, and endorses a growth mindset model, that students from all backgrounds be encouraged to enroll in the AMP summer program and that the School Committee asks the district to encourage all students to apply especially those from underrepresented groups and those who are hesitant and further that flexibility be used in the registration of students. Further that this policy of openness and flexible criteria be used for the summer program for entering eighth graders and that it is recognized that the criteria to be in the AMP school year program will be the same for all students, irrespective of attendance in a summer program.

#15-65, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Ms. Kelly, that, whereas the school district seeks to encourage all students to excel and to support students seeking to achieve at high levels, and endorses a growth mindset model, and whereas the summer math program was under enrolled last year, that students from all backgrounds be encouraged to enroll in the Accelerated Math Pathway summer program and the criteria for the program allow any student access to the program regardless of test scores, and that any parent can enroll a student, provided that the student promises to attend every day.

10. Resolutions:

#15-66, Motion by Mayor Maher, that the School Committee go on record recognizing the Cambridge Athletic Hall of Fame for their efforts and wish them continued success in achieving their goals. Further, that the School Committee direct the Executive Secretary to prepare a formal copy of the attached Resolution to be presented to the Cambridge Athletic Hall of Fame.

#15-67, Motion by Mayor Maher, that the School Committee go on record as congratulating 8th grader Archisha Maurya for winning the logo design contest for this year's Student Science and Engineering Showcase at Harvard University. The Student Science and Engineering Showcase is an opportunity for all 8th graders across our system to present some of their science learning while engaging in tours and demonstration activities facilitated by students and professors of Harvard University. Ms. Maurya's design will grace the T-shirts, programs, formal invitations and PR materials for the event on Friday May, 22, 2015.

#15-68, Motion by Mayor Maher, that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations to Principal Tony Byers at the Graham and Parks School on the birth of his baby boy Joseph, born on February 17th.

11. Announcements:

The Mayor announced that tomorrow night, March 18th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fitzgerald Theatre, there will be a community forum focused on the 2024 Olympics bid. The public is invited to attend.

12. Late Orders:

Mr. Osborne asked Ms. Cronin for clarification on her motion and asked that this item be placed on the Calendar for a future discussion.

Motion by Ms. Cronin, whereas the proposed CPS FY 2016 budget presents an initiative to support social and emotional learning for all students, the School Committee recommends that relevant and current in-school and district-wide mental health supports be mapped to create a baseline for available interventions and service options.

Mapping would include wrap-around service providers and mental health providers as well as crisis intervention teams and other intervention options. In particular, the mapping should detail fees, timelines and insurance requirements for working with The Guidance Center, The Riverside Trauma Center and the MassHealth BEST team as well as other frequently called upon providers. When working with these providers, it is critical the district understands all built-in operational and logistical constraints to best anticipate and overcome barriers to timely interventions.

Whereas CPS is responsible for the city's public education system, the above services exceed the normal boundaries of public education and move into the realm of mental health services. Therefore, the School Committee also recommends the provider mapping include other city agencies that currently support CPS students as well other city-based agencies that could potentially provide aligned expertise and support.

In order to maximize efficiencies and use of available high quality expertise, the School Committee considers the above recommendations central to forming a viable network of social and emotional support for all students and families within the Cambridge public school system.

It was voted to adopt the following:

Motion by Mr. Fantini, whereas Boston College High School is planning on developing a crew program on the Cambridge side of the Charles River, that the Superintendent meet with Boston College High School representatives to ensure that Cambridge becomes an active partner in this process. Further, that the Superintendent keeps all local and state legislators representing Cambridge informed and ensure the participation of parents involved with crew is a priority.

Motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by the entire Committee, that the School Committee send a letter of condolence to Kathy Reddick on the passing of her father, William E. Pearson.

On a motion by Ms. Cronin, seconded by Ms. Kelly, it was voted to adjourn (9:56 PM).

Judith T. Martin
Executive Secretary

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

- FY16 Proposed Budget
- Fiscal Year 2016 Superintendent's Proposed General Fund Budget PowerPoint presentation
- Cambridge Community Services Budget Request: City Links program (presented at public comment)
- Summary of Norms and Goals Sub-Committee Task force Meeting Notes, March 12, 2015
- Positive Classroom Management: A CPS System of Support for Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Health JK-12 (4th Draft)