

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Mr. Lummis, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Walser,
Mayor Sullivan

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Presentation of the Records

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Lummis, it was voted that the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as presented:

- Inauguration/Organization Meeting - January 5, 2004
- Regular Meeting - December 2, 2003
- Special Meeting - August 25, 2003 - 4:00 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of allowing the introduction of newly-elected Student Government Members. The Rules having been suspended, Mr. Jamalh Prince, Student Government Advisor, explained that, in addition to State-mandated positions, CRLS has implemented a Student Activities Committee and a Parent/Principal Advisory Council, to more effectively and efficiently represent the CRLS community as a whole. Mr. Prince announced the names of the students and introduced those present:

Student Council

Annery Miranda, President
Rodela Khan, Vice-President
Melisa Lee, Treasurer
Gabrielle Bellitti, Secretary
Tina Groeger
Venessa Clifford
Dan Sanoff
Rebecca Richardson

Student School Committee

Adrienne Leslie
James Conway
Krishana House
Ruth Thompson

Massachusetts Representatives to the Board of Education

George Krebs
Kathryn Himmelstein

Parent/Principal Advisory Council

Emile Heffernan
Julia Reynolds

Student Activities Committee

Melissa Oliveira
Sylmaris Colon

The Members welcomed the Student School Committee Members and congratulated all of the newly-elected students.

Public Comment on School Committee Agenda

The following individuals were heard:

- Sara Mae Berman, Fayette Street, re disposal of Longfellow and G&P Schools
- Carolyn Shipley, Laurel Street, re vacant school buildings
- Dennis Friedler, Corp McTernan, re strategic plan on use of vacant school buildings
- John Pitkin
- Claire Koen, King School, re Heating
- Bill Willard, King School, "
- Yao, King School "
- Jim Kaufman, Perry Street, re Upton Street building
- Bob Binstock, Hamilton Street, re vacant school buildings

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to close Public Comment.

Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members: None

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

Unfinished Business

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, **#03-155, Approval of Local 1611 Custodial Unit Contract, July 1, 2003- June 30, 2006**, was adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the Memorandum of Agreement for a collective bargaining agreement between the Council 93, Local 1611 AFSCME Custodial Unit and the Cambridge School Committee for the period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2006, subject to ratification of such agreement by the members of the bargaining unit. The agreement was reached by the negotiating teams and is pending ratification by the unit membership. The agreement includes the following:

- Three-year agreement: - 7/1/03 – 6/30/06
- Salary Schedule Increases:
 - Year 1 (FY2003-04) – 3% increase effective April 1, 2004
 - Year 2 (FY2004-05) – 3% increase effective October 1, 2004
 - Year 3 (FY2005-06) – 4¼% Increase effective July 1, 2005
- Clothing Allowance – increase annual amount by \$50, (From \$600 to \$650 annually), beginning in Year 2 of contract.
- Outside User Paid Detail Rates – increase by \$1.00 per hour (to \$28/hour for regular overtime, and \$38 for Sundays and Holidays), effective Year 2 of contract
- Transfer to Vacancies – change of language to provide more flexibility for Principals in selecting staff;
"The School Committee and the Union agree that the language of Article 6 of the collective bargaining agreement between the parties does not prohibit the school department from interviewing more than the top three applicants for a position when one or more of the initial top three applicants withdraws the application from consideration either by formal withdrawal of his/her application, acceptance of another position within the unit or declining to accept an offer for the particular position."
- Other changes to effective dates, and updated job titles and school names

The Financial Costs of this settlement are as follows:

<u>Salary Increases:</u>	<u>Budget Cost</u>
FY03-04 – 3% salary increase effective 4/1/04	\$24,413
FY04-05 – Carryover cost of full 12 months of 4/1/04 3% salary increase	\$73,239
- 3% salary increase effective 10/1/04	<u>75,436</u>
Total:	\$148,674
FY05-06 – Carryover cost of full 12 months of 10/1/04 3% salary increase	\$25,145
- 4¼% salary increase effective 7/1/05	<u>146,764</u>
Total	\$171,910
<u>Other:</u>	
FY04-05 - Clothing Allowance increase of \$50	\$3,750
- Outside user detail fees – (no cost to School	0
- Department Budget)	

Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini ABSENT YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Mr. Price, for adoption of items #04-001 through #04-019. Mayor Sullivan removed #04-001 and 04-018. Mr. Grassi removed #04-012 and 04-013. Mr. Lummis removed #04-009. Mr. McGovern removed #04-011, and #04-014. Ms. Walser removed #04-012, #04-013, #04-018 and #04-019. Mr. Harding removed #04-015. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#04-002, Fletcher/Maynard Academy Request to Increase Class Size: that the School Committee approve the request by the Fletcher/Maynard Academy’s Leadership Team, Faculty Advisory Council and staff to change the class size order for the Fletcher/Maynard Academy to read as follows: All kindergartens will be limited to no more than 20 students (**change from 15**) and in grades one through eight the class size will be limited to no more than 22 students (**change from 17**) to enable an increase in enrollment.

#04-003, Scheduling of School Committee Meetings January - June, 2004: that the School Committee approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to meet on the first and the third Tuesdays, January through December, 2004, with one summer meeting and with the following exceptions:

- Tuesday, February 17, 2004 (Winter Vacation Week)
- Tuesday, April 20, 2004 (Spring Vacation Week)
- Tuesday, November 2, 2004 (Election Day)

#04-004, Graduation Dates, that School Committee receive, review, and approve graduation dates that are being proposed for June, 2004:

Thursday	June 3, 2004	C.R.L.S.	6:00 P.M.
Thursday	June 3, 2004	Peabody School	1:00 P.M.
		Fletcher-Maynard Academy	3:00 P.M.
Friday	June 4, 2004	King Open School	1:00 P.M.
		Tobin School	3:00 P.M.

Monday	June 7, 2004	Morse School Graham & Parks School	1:00 P.M. 3:00 P.M.
Tuesday	June 8, 2004	Baldwin School Kennedy/Longfellow School	1:00 P.M. 3:00 P.M.
Wednesday	June 9, 2004	King School Amigos School	1:00 P.M. 3:00 P.M.
Thursday	June 10, 2004	Cambridgeport School	3:00 P.M.

#04-005, Approval of Home Schooling Applications for School Year 2003/2004: that the School Committee approve the home school applications for the 2003/2004 school year. The report includes information pertaining to the students whose families are seeking approval to educate their children at home. Approval of the manner of instruction in each of the home school applications is required in order for each of the children to be exempt from the compulsory attendance requirements of state law.

#04-006, Special Needs Contracts for Educational Services not available in the Cambridge Public Schools: that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions named below in 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.

3 contracts	Home for Little Wanderers, 271 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA;	\$199,843.20
9 contracts	Schools for Children, Inc., 20 Academy Street, Arlington, MA;	409,826.16
1 contract	Cardinal Cushing, Braintree-St. Coletta, 400 Washington Street, Hanover, MA;	37,614.16
1 contract	Hillside School, Robin Hill Road, Marlboro, MA;	21,285.33
1 contract	Deveraux Foundation, P.O. Box 219, 60 Miles Road, Rutland, MA;	62,679.87
<u>3 contracts</u>	Boston Public Schools, 26 Court Street, Boston, MA.	<u>64,249.20</u>
18 contracts		\$795,497.92

#04-007, Special Needs Contracts for Educational Services not available in the Cambridge Public Schools: that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions named below in 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.

2 contracts	Cardinal Cushing Centers, Braintree-St. Coletta, 400 Washington Street, Hanover, MA;	\$206,156.84
1 contract	Mount Prospect Academy, P.O. Box 58, Plymouth, NH;	108,129.00
1 contract	Hillside School, Robin Hill Road, Marlboro, MA;	37,696.00
<u>1 contract</u>	Protestant Guild for Human Services, 411 Waverly Oaks, Waltham, MA.	<u>135,624.96</u>
5 contracts		\$487,606.80

#04-008, Consultant Agreements: that the School Committee approve consultant agreements with the following individual, in the amounts set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Project Adventure, Inc., Beverly, MA., in the amount of \$27,600.00, account 53101, fund 25000,

org. 849126, prog. 126, project/grant SC04767; and in the amount of \$10,000.00, account 53103.

#04-010, Grant Awards, FY03-04: that the School Committee accept and approve the following grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. C.A.S.IT. Inc., project/grant SC04727, for the period of September 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, in the amount of \$20,000.00. This grant will support the salary for an Italian instructor for grades K-5 at the Haggerty School.
2. Harvard GK-12 Graduate Fellows, project/grant SC04729, for the period of April 1, 2003 to May 31, 2004, in the amount of \$11,004.00. This grant is an amendment to the original grant that was approved by School Committee on July 29, 2003 (#C03-178) in the amount of \$38,996.00. This grant amendment is for \$11,004.00, which brings the total grant award to \$50,000.00 for FY03-04. This grant will support the collaboration between science teachers, Harvard University engineering students, and the faculty of Harvard to enable engineering students to become teaching fellows for CPS science students and enable CPS science teachers to participate in professional development opportunities at the Engineering School at Harvard.
3. LEP Support, project/grant SC04737, for the period of September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004, in the amount of \$111,271.00. This grant will provide funds to improve the educational performance of limited English proficient students in grades K-12 by assisting these students to learn English and meet State academic content standards.
4. Cambridge Community Foundation, project/grant SC04745, for the period of December 15, 2003 to June 30, 2004, in the amount of \$3,000.00. The CRLS Stars (Students Teaching and Advocating Respect), is an exemplary peer leadership program at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. This grant will support the STARS sixth annual, week-long conference, entitled Seeking Solutions, which will be held March 2004.
5. Academic Support Services, project/grant SC04757, for the period of November 17, 2003 to June 30, 2004, in the amount of \$84,100.00. This program is to enhance Academic Support Services for students in grades 11 and 12 (Classes of 2004-2005) and students in the Class of 2003 who have taken and not yet passed the English Language Arts and or Mathematics 10th grade MCAS and subsequent re-test needed to complete the competency determination required for high school graduation. These services are to supplement currently funded local, state, and federal programs.
6. Reading First Program, project/grant SC04764, for the period of September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004, in the amount of \$20,600.00. This grant is an amendment to the original grant that was approved by School Committee on October 7, 2003 (#C03-237) in the amount of \$190,000.00. This amendment is for \$20,600.00 designated funds to our private school partner St. Peter School.
7. Draper Laboratory, project/grant SC04778, for the period of December 31, 2003 to June 30, 2004, in the amount of \$2,000.00. This grant will help expand two museum-based programs that serve students at the Kennedy/Longfellow School. The programs enable school children to learn about art through museum visits and experience art in an environment beyond the normal school curriculum.

#04-016, Motion by Mr. Harding that Joseph Grassi and Marc McGovern be appointed the 2005-2006 Co-Chairs of the Sub-Committee on the Budget (Committee of the Whole).

#04-017, Motion by Mr. Harding that the School Committee send a congratulatory letter to CRLS Coach Kwame Dixon on being named Division I Football Coach of the Year.

Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Mr. Fantini requested, and received, unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on Unfinished Business item #03-155, Approval of Local 1611 Custodial Unit Contract, July 1, 2003-June 30, 2006.

Non-Consent Business

Mr. Lummis removed himself from the following vote. On the following roll call, **#04-009, Grant Awards, FY03-04**, is adopted: that the School Committee accept and approve the following grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated.

1. Vocational Skills, project/grant SC04606, for the period of September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004, in the amount of \$120,039.00. These funds are to raise student achievement of academic, vocational, and technical competencies in career and technical programs; to update and develop new career and technical programs in high-skill, high-wage occupations leading from secondary to post secondary education; and provide students with opportunities to earn industry certification or state and national licenses.
2. School Reform, Kennedy/Longfellow, Morse Schools, project/grant SC04645, for the period of July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, in the amount of \$100,877.00. These funds will continue to support the involvement of each school in the literacy collaboration efforts as well as the middle school Turning Points initiative. This is effected slightly differently in each of the CSR schools based on their need and on their development. The Middle School staff developer works with each school's principal and middle school team, to refine and improve their middle school initiative according to the Turning Points model.

Mr. Grassi ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis ABSENT, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA. Mr. Grassi requested, and received, unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the foregoing vote.

Mr. McGovern congratulated Mr. Harrington on being named "Omega Man of the Year". On a voice vote, the following was adopted: **#04-011, Motion by Mr. McGovern** that the School Committee send a letter to Phillip Harrington, Teacher at the Baldwin School, congratulating him on being selected as the "2003 Omega Man of the Year".

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Walser, on a voice vote, the following item is referred to the Superintendent for a response: **#04-012, Letter from Ms. Spinosa** dated January 9, 2004, re: reimbursement for courses.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Walser, on a voice vote, the following item is referred to the Superintendent: **#04-013, Letter from Mr. E. Berggren, Secretary, AFSCME Local 1611**, dated January 12, 2004, requesting a grievance hearing re: parking restriction at Haggerty School.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Harding, on a voice vote, the following is adopted: **#04-014, Motion by Mr. Harding** that Benjamin Lummis and Nancy Walser be named Co-Chairs of the Sub-Committee on Contract Negotiations (Committee of the Whole).

Mr. Harding spoke to the needs for consistency in naming the Co-Chairs. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on a voice vote, the following is adopted: **#04-015, Motion by Mr. Harding** that Alfred Fantini and Nancy Walser be appointed the 2004-2005 Co-Chairs of the Sub-Committee on the Budget (Committee of the Whole).

Mayor Sullivan pointed out that it is the custom to allow the Budget Co-Chairs to schedule public forums and moved, seconded by Ms. Walser, a friendly amendment that the motion be referred to the Budget Co-chairs. Mr. McGovern accepted the friendly amendment. On a voice vote, the following was adopted, as amended: **#04-018, Motion by Mr. McGovern** that the Superintendent schedule public forums on the FY04-05 budget as soon as possible.

Ms. Walser thanked her colleagues, the Superintendent and staff for the great turnout last Wednesday before the Board of Education. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Walser, on a voice vote, the following was adopted: **#04-019, Motion by Ms. Walser** that the School Committee approve the following letter in response to a request for input, due on January 23, from the Department of Education, concerning the Community Charter School of Cambridge:

January 20, 2004

Commissioner David Driscoll & Massachusetts Board of Education
Massachusetts Department of Education
350 Main St.
Malden, MA 02148
Charterschools@doe.mass.edu

Re: Opposition to the Community Charter School of Cambridge

Dear Commissioner Driscoll and Board Members:

Thank you for inviting our response to the application of the Community Charter School of Cambridge (CCSC) proposed to open in Cambridge in the fall of 2004.

The Cambridge School Committee unanimously opposes the approval of this charter school for the following reasons:

- * The proposed charter school is not innovative and offers nothing new beyond the many curricular, pedagogical approaches, community connections and partnerships available in our 12 K-8 schools and in the five Small Learning Communities (SLCs) at our high school. This has been well documented in material presented by our Superintendent and in the many, many testimonials by Cambridge citizens and educators submitted as part of the public comment process.
- * We find no support for this charter school among the residents of Cambridge. In addition, at least seven of the original founding group has withdrawn their support since the initial application was submitted.
- * The Cambridge community is united in its opposition to this proposal including the entire Cambridge legislative delegation, the City Council, School Committee, the Cambridge Teachers Association and CRLS students. Many Cambridge institutions and community organizations -- including Harvard, MIT, Lesley University, Cambridge College, the Cambridge Community Foundation, the Housing Authority, the NAACP, and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council are opposed to this proposal because they wish to focus on their current partnerships with the Cambridge Public Schools.
- * To our knowledge, the founders of this charter have not held any community meetings to solicit input for creating a new school in Cambridge.
- * The applicants do not have the necessary experience to support promises made by this proposal. Indeed, two of the lead founders, when employed by the Cambridge school district,

have demonstrated they are unable to execute plans and fulfill promises made -- to the great disappointment of many in our community.

- * Finally, approval of this proposal would cause Cambridge to exceed the legal cap of nine percent of net school spending on charter tuitions, due to the enrollment authorization previously given to two other charter schools in Cambridge.

We strongly urge you to reject the charter application for CCSC at your February board meeting.

Respectfully,
The Cambridge School Committee

Late Orders

On a motion by Mayor Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted that Superintendent's Recommendation #03-173, dated December 16, 2003, Use of Vacant School Buildings, be returned to the Calendar.

On a motion by Mayor Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted that Superintendent's Recommendation #03-173, dated December 16, 2003, Use of Vacant School Buildings, be Tabled.

On a motion by Mayor Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee with an initial recommendation on the King & Amigos Schools building report received this evening.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted that the Mayor and Vice Chair of the School Committee, in conjunction with the Superintendent, develop a retreat with the School Committee to discuss goals, communication and any other pertinent issues.

At this time, the Chair turned the meeting over to the Superintendent and Mr. Conry. Mr. Conry walked Members through a brief presentation, "History of Prominent Budget Expenditures – Fiscal Years 2000-01 – 2003-04", including the following:

- Comparison of Selected CPS General Fund Expenditures in State Department of Education (DOE) Cost Categories – FY00-01 – FY03-04
- Description of What Costs are Included in DOE Categories
- Comparison of Major CPS Object Account Expenditures with Significant Increases from FY01- FY04
- Appendices

The Superintendent and Mr. Conry responded to Members questions and comments.

Members thanked the Superintendent and Mr. Conry for the presentation.

The Chair reminded the Members that the Committee will convene in Executive Session after the workshop on the Promotion/Retention Policy immediately following this meeting and entertained the following motion: **#04-001, Executive Session:** that the School Committee go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy for collective bargaining, for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy and for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining, litigation and negotiation positions of the School Committee. The Chair announced that the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session and that no votes will be taken. On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purpose stated: Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Executive Session

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Mr. Lummis, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Walser, Mayor Sullivan

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

Also Present: Thomas Fowler-Finn, Superintendent
Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources
James Conry, Chief Financial Officer
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer

Members discussed the following with staff and Legal Counsel: potential litigation; strategy for contract negotiation; potential use of vacant school buildings; and Department of Education Charter School litigation.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adjourn (8:58 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee