

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Mr. Price, Ms. Turkel, 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 6:25 p.m.

Presentation of the Records: None

The Chair announced that the members of the public may speak to both the budget and to items on the Agenda. The meeting will recess to go into the budget sub-committee meeting and then return to the Regular meeting to adopt the budget.

Public Comment on School Committee Agenda

The following individuals were heard:

- Norma Wassel, Richdale Avenue, re rescind decision to fire CRLS Deans
- Clare MacDonald, Cambridge Street, re Vocational Ed
- Dennis Friedler, Cpl. McTernan Street, re Budget; Superintendent interview process
- Mark MacDonald, Cambridge Street, re Minuteman
- Angelica Brisk, Walden Street, re Amigos/Budget
- Benadette Manning, Rindge Avenue, Dean of Curriculum, School 5 re make a decision on CRLS

On a motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend Ms. Manning's time to speak.

- Jay Yesselman, Vassal Lane, re CRLS
- Bruce Silverman, Larch Road, re PASTE; Budget

Mr. Price moved suspension of the Rules to extend Mr. Silverman's time. Mr. Price's motion failed for lack of a second.

- Manny Stefanakis, Sherman Street, re PASTE; return administration to '97 levels
- Cheryl Kennedy, Lopez Street, re Broadcast School Committee meetings on weekends
- Sarah Carleton, Antrim Street, re Budget

On a motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend Ms. Carleton's time to speak.

- Allysa Guzman, Berkshire Street, 9th grade student, re Minuteman
- Yanira Bonilla, Hampshire Street, 8th grade student, re Minuteman
- Katie Rodriguez, York Street, 8th grade student, re Minuteman
- Josh Wiesner, Eustis Street, re participation of non-MCAS students in graduation
- Paul Toner, CTA President, re Budget cuts
- Les Kimbrough, Dean of Students, School 4, re CRLS cuts

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend Mr. Kimbrough's time to speak.

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

Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members

Emma Lang was heard regarding cuts at CRLS and invited Members to the dance concert on Friday.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda

Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Ms. Walser, for adoption of Superintendent's Recommendations #03-057 through #03-062. Ms. Turkel removed #03-061. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#03-057, 2003-2004, State School Choice Program: that the School Committee vote not to participate in the Statewide School Choice Program for school year 2003-2004, for the following reasons: 1) the need to maintain the quality and integrity of the Cambridge Program of Controlled Choice, and 2) the school system has initiated an Elementary School Consolidation Plan that will downsize the district seating capacity.

#03-058, Consultant Agreements: that the School Committee approve consultant agreements with the following companies as indicated, in the amounts set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Cross Cultural Communications Systems, Inc., Winchester, in the amount of \$9,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 858626, prog. 626, project/grant SC02391;
2. Education, Inc., Plymouth, in the amount of \$10,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852310, prog. 310.

#03-059, Service Agreement: that the School Committee approve the agreement with the following individual as indicated, in the amount set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Brooke Humm, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$7,920.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852335, prog. 335.

#03-060, Grant Award, FY02-03: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award named below in the amount, and for the period, indicated:

1. CEOC-ISSN, project/grant SC03753, in the amount of \$5,800.00, for the period of March 13, 2003 to June 30, 2003. These funds will support an Inclusionary Specialist/Special Needs Integrated Preschool Teacher's salary at the Department of Human Services, King Preschool and other community preschool settings.

#03-062, Special Needs Contracts for Special Education Tuition-Day Program, services not available from the Cambridge School Department: that the School Committee award a contract to the institutions named below in the amount not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the State Rate Setting Commission, funds to be provided from the general fund budget.

1 contract	Hillside School, Robin Hill Road, Marlboro;	\$32,651.45
1 contract	Holden School, 8 Pearl Street, Charlestown;	27,488.64

1 contract	Lighthouse School, 25 Wellman Avenue, N. Chelmsford;	23,108.96
6 contracts	McLean Hospital, 115 Mill Street, Belmont;	350,187.20
1 contract	Shore Educational Collaborative, 99 Fourth Street, Chelsea;	20,048.59
<u>1 contract</u>	<u>Willow Hill School, 98 Haynes Road, Sudbury;</u>	<u>40,903.92</u>
11 contracts		\$494,388.76

Ms. Turkel YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Price ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

Unfinished Business

On a motion by Ms. Walser, it was voted to bring forward Recommendation #03-052. Ms. Walser asked the Superintendent to speak to this recommendation and why it would be good for our district. The Superintendent was heard. Joe Ciccolo, Interim Executive Director of RSTA, presented background information on the Shore Educational Collaborative saying membership in the Collaborative will help support our 9th grade exploratory program. The Superintendent, Mr. Conry and Mr. Ciccolo responded to Members' questions and comments:

- Would students be accompanied to other programs
- What is the timetable for details to be worked out
- What is the quality of programs being offered
- What will this mean in terms of our agreement with Minuteman
- Will transportation costs be significantly lower
- What happens with current 10th graders at Minuteman now
- How many hours would be spent in exploratory
- What happens with classes at CRLS while student is in exploratory
- If a student decides to stay in chosen discipline, what happens in year two
- Who chooses what program the student goes to
- This is a move that supports our having a strong vocational program at CRLS
- When will the details be received
- What supports will be in place for students attending other schools
- Need to build in supports for children who are traveling and need extra time at the end of the day
- Will there be an evaluation component built into the proposal
- Are drivers going to be teachers
- Is this program exclusively for 9th graders
- If a student is in HVAC at Minuteman now, where will he be next year
- If this is adopted, will students be forced out of Minuteman
- Will students currently at Minuteman stay at Minuteman
- Do any of the schools in the Collaborative have any deficiencies
- How do graduation requirements compare to ours
- Look at total experience of students in other schools in the Collaborative
- Does Collaborative have a web site
- Are N.E. Regional and Waltham part of the Collaborative
- What is our exposure in joining
- What is the annual budget
- Does the Collaborative own buildings
- Have any Minutes of Collaborative been reviewed

- What is a tuition exchange program
- How many days will students spend in Exploratory
- A child should stay in one high school for four years
- Children should not be pressured into choosing a profession
- What is a technical specialist
- Is the driver supposed to be expert in all disciplines
- Do site visits of other schools in the fall
- How many children from other districts might want to come to Cambridge
- Will SC get details before the end of the school year
- What are the alternatives and budget implications if we decide not to go forward with the Collaborative
- If we go this route, will there be funds to support RSTA programs

The Members thanked the Superintendent and her staff.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, **#03-052** was adopted: Request to approve and accept the invitation and grant of the Board of Directors of the Shore Educational Collaborative for the CPS to become an adjunct member of the Collaborative. Ms. Turkel YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi NAY, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Price ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Superintendent Consent Agenda

At Ms. Turkel's request, the Superintendent presented Recommendation **#03-061, 2002-2003 End of Year Activities for Grade 12 Students Attending CRLS**. The Superintendent read School Committee Order #C03-075, as follows: "that all Cambridge Rindge and Latin seniors who have completed every local Cambridge high school graduation requirement will be included in all graduation activities, including the graduation ceremony, without any differing treatment based upon their Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) scores." The Superintendent, her administrators and instructional division agreed that students should be allowed to participate in all activities, however, the law will be followed regarding the MCAS competency determination.

Ms. Turkel raised a question on why the recommendation refers specifically to the 2002-2003 year. The Superintendent was heard. Ms. Turkel moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. Fantini, that reference to a particular year be deleted. On a voice vote, **#03-061, End of Year Activities for Grade 12 Students Attending CRLS**, was adopted, as amended, as follows: that the School Committee approve the following protocol with respect to end of year activities for grade 12 students attending the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School:

- (1) All Cambridge Rindge and Latin seniors who have met the Commonwealth's Competency Determination standard and have met all local graduation requirements will be included in all graduation activities including the Commencement ceremony. As a result of meeting the stated requirements, these students will receive a Cambridge Public Schools Diploma;
- (2) All Cambridge Rindge and Latin seniors who have not met the Commonwealth's Competency Determination standard but have met all local graduation requirements will be included in all graduation activities including the Commencement ceremony. As a result of meeting the stated requirements, these students will receive a Cambridge Public Schools Certificate of Attainment;
- (3) During the Cambridge Rindge and Latin Commencement ceremony, all grade 12 students who are eligible to participate in end of year activities will be called to the podium with their respective small learning community; and

- (4) Cambridge Public Schools Diplomas and Certificates of Attainment will be distributed in enclosed folders and thus there will be no differing treatment between and among the students during the course of the Commencement ceremony.

School Committee Consent Agenda

Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Ms. Walser, for adoption of items #1 through #5. Ms. Walser withdrew #4, Ms. Turkel removed #2. On the following roll call the remaining items were adopted:

- #1, Email from Mia Gittlen** re presentation of the CRLS Mock Trial Team.
- #3, Email from Mr. Jay Yesselman** re follow up on vote to restructure the high school.
- #5, Motion by Ms. Turkel** that Alan Price be designated the official delegate to the 2003 annual business meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees; further, that Nancy Walser be designated an alternate.

Ms. Turkel YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Price YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Mr. Price requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on all roll call votes taken this evening.

Superintendent Non-Consent Agenda

School Committee Non-Consent Agenda

- #2, Letter from Shante Harvey** dated April 2, 2003, requesting a waiver on the MCAS exam. On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted unanimously that the Executive Secretary respond to the request in Ms. Harvey's letter letting her know that the School Committee does not have the power to grant a waiver and explaining the vote taken tonight on end of year activities that will allow her to participate with her classmates.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Turkel, it was voted unanimously that a letter be sent to all students who are eligible to participate in end of year activities.

On a motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend the meeting beyond 10:00 p.m. for the purpose of completing the budget.

On a motion by Ms. Turkel, it was voted to recess to the Budget Subcommittee meeting. The Chair announced that the Regular Meeting will reconvene immediately following the Budget Subcommittee meeting.

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

At the request of the Chair, the Secretary read the following Report from the Budget Sub-Committee: That the Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools be promulgated as hereby determined by the School Committee in the sum of **\$ 117,872,457.00** as the general operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004, in the following statutory categories:

Salaries and Wages	\$ 82,590,736.00
Other Ordinary Maintenance	\$ 26,342,715.00

Travel and Training	\$ 537,962.00
Equipment/Fixed Assets	\$ 8,401,044.00

TOTAL BUDGET \$117,872,457.00

On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Mr. Price, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the budget and refer it to the City Council and City Manager: Ms. Turkel YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Price YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Ms. Turkel, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of moving reconsideration of the foregoing vote. The Rules having been suspended, a motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption.

Late Orders

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Turkel, it was voted that the Secretary prepare Resolutions for three teachers who are retiring.

It was moved unanimously that the School Committee send a letter of thanks to Ms. Lois Sullivan, retiring Director of Public Information.

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Price, that all items on Awaiting Report be eliminated unless a Member asks the Secretary to leave them on. The Chair asked the Secretary to circulate a list of Awaiting Reports and ask Members to respond within two weeks.

Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Ms. Turkel, that the Superintendent insure that a written presentation on the high school be given to Members on the Monday prior to the presentation.

On a motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Ms. Turkel, it was voted to adjourn (10:05 p.m.)

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee