

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, 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 6:05 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of hearing grievance complaints and/or grievance charges and for purposes of collective bargaining. Mayor Sullivan announced that no votes will be taken during the Executive Session and the Committee will reconvene in open session: Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Executive Session

Members present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Mr. Price, Ms. Turkel, Ms. Walser, Mayor Sullivan

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair

Also Present: Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
Paul Toner, President, CTA
Susan Noonan-Forster, Mass Teachers Association
Joseph X. Sullivan, Vice President, CTA
Ms. Berry, Grievant

Ms. Noonan-Forster presented the Level III grievance. Members of the Teachers Association and Ms. Berry exited the meeting at this time. The Chair called a recess until the end of the Regular Meeting and returned to Open Session.

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair

Members present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Mr. Price, Ms. Turkel, Ms. Walser, Mayor Sullivan

The Chair reconvened the meeting (6:30 p.m.). The Chair announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session and it is in recess until the conclusion of the Regular Meeting.

At this time the Chair recognized Ms. Turkel who announced that she will not be running for reelection to a 5th term for School Committee. The Members congratulated Ms. Turkel and thanked her for her years of dedicated service.

The Chair recognized and welcomed Councilor Simmons who congratulated Ms. Turkel and thanked her for her honesty and years of service to the children of Cambridge.

At this time, the Chair introduced Ms. Charlene Greene and Mr. Roy Carter (who have worked with Massachusetts Pre-Engineering Program (MassPEP) students for eight and five years, respectively. Ms. Greene presented the Members of the award winning team who competed in MassPEP's 14th Annual Engineering Design competition. The team won three third places for "Math and Black History", the "Strongest Link Challenge", and the "Tower Challenge"; one second place for the "Airplane Challenge";

and two first places for "Mousetrap Car" and "Electronics". MassPEP provided two full scholarships - one to Wentworth Institute and one to Boston University School of Engineering. Ms. Greene and the Members congratulated the students for their awards and hard work. Ms. Hunter thanked Ms. Greene and Mr. Carter for bringing us winners every time.

Public Comment on the School Committee Agenda

The following individuals were heard:

- Paul Toner, CTA President, re teacher reassignment

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Price, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow Mr. Toner additional time to speak.

- Martin Blatt, 11 Valentine Street, re Graham & Parks consolidation
- Bridgett Rodriquez, Principal, Morse School, re Graham & Parks consolidation; Morse Kindergarten
- Terry Regan, Pearl Street,
- Elaine Soohoo, Regent Street, re Kennedy/Longfellow start time
- Rumel Mahmood, Clifton Street, re firing concerns at CRLS
- Katie Ray, Auburn Street, re Morse kindergarten
- Brad Harkavy, Pearl Street, re Morse kindergarten
- Thomas Rawson, Clay Street, Amigos parent, re staffing
- Jennifer Bump, Magnolia Avenue, King Open School Council re consolidation
- Dennis Friedler, Cpl. McTernan Street, re utilization of schools
- Brenda C. O'Connor, Fitzgerald Square, Teacher, Fitzgerald School, re involuntary transfers

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Price and Mr. Fantini, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow Ms. O'Connor additional time to speak.

- Ross Miller, Perry Street, re reconsider consolidation plan
- Patty Nolan, Huron Ave, re Longfellow start time; after school programs

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Price, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow Ms. Nolan additional time to speak.

- Peter L. Cohen, Donnell Street, re staffing
- Marie Haggerty, Creighton Street, re teacher respect
- Angela Hofmann, Buena Vista Park, re staffing
- Sarah Carleton, Antrim Street, re MCAS
- Stuart Gedal, Montgomery Street, re school consolidation
- Angelica Brisk, Walden Street, re hiring practice

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

Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members

On behalf of the Members, Mayor Sullivan presented a plaque to Emma Lang, Jennah Epsteinkraus and Ketna Julmeus and thanked them for their insight and service on the Committee. The Chair pointed out that Curt Perry had a previous engagement and would be presented with his plaque at a later date. Ms. Lang, Ms. Epsteinkraus and Ms. Julmeus were heard and thanked the Members for allowing them to serve.

Presentation of the Records

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

- Regular Meeting - January 7, 2003
- Special Informal Meeting - January 7, 2003
- Special Informal Meeting - January 14, 2003

On a motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward School Committee Consent Agenda **item #6, Motion by Mr. Price** that the Superintendent provide the School Committee with an update on the implementation of the Elementary Consolidation Plan. The Members were all heard in support of a process that is professional and respectful of all employees, particularly veteran teachers. Members thanked Ms. O'Connor for her testimony on displaced teachers and agreed that disrespect will not be tolerated. The Superintendent and Legal Counsel were asked to speak to the contradictions in State law on hiring. The Superintendent was heard and will investigate and take appropriate action on the process used in placing teachers. In response to a question, the Superintendent responded that the Principal of Graham & Parks is the Principal until the end of her contract. The Members thanked Barbara Allen, Executive Director of Human Resources, for her hard work during the reassignment process. On a voice vote, the following was adopted: **#6, Motion by Mr. Price** that the Superintendent provide the School Committee with an update on the implementation of the Elementary Consolidation Plan.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Turkel, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward School Committee Consent Agenda items **#7** and **#10**. Mr. Fantini spoke to the motion saying that there is a demand for a third kindergarten at the Morse School. The Superintendent was heard regarding not looking at one item in isolation. Mr. Fantini asked if the Superintendent will be ready to respond to requests within a week to 10 days. The Superintendent was heard in the affirmative. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on a voice vote, the following was adopted: **#7, Motion by Mr. Fantini** that the kindergarten class at the Morse School be reinstated. **#10**, Members raised questions and comments, including the following, regarding:

- families receiving one of their first three choices;
- choice of schools in Cambridgeport neighborhood and adding Core Knowledge programs
- are too many ELL classrooms being created and where will they be
- how many parents ended up with mandatory assignment
- how will people know if there is a third kindergarten being added or not
- notify families of choices immediately
- support for third kindergarten

The Superintendent responded to Members questions and comments. Mr. Fantini requested and received unanimous consent to withdraw item #7 above in support of the joint motion by him and Ms. Turkel. On the following roll call, **#10, Joint motion by Ms. Turkel and Mr. Fantini**, was adopted: that whereas funding for four classrooms has been set aside in the 2003-2004 budget to open additional classrooms to accommodate families' choices for their children; and whereas there will be an increased number of children in kindergarten system-wide because more students will repeat kindergarten as the school system implements the policy change in first grade starting age; and whereas over the past few years 50 kindergarten seats have been removed from the Cambridgeport neighborhood; and whereas the Morse School has requested maintaining three kindergarten classes in addition to an ELL kindergarten; therefore, if there is sufficient demand to keep the third kindergarten class at the Morse School, such classroom should be reinstated for September 2003: Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Price YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Mayor Sullivan presented a plaque to Student School Committee Member Curt Perry and thanked him for his year of service. Mr. Perry was heard.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda

Ms. Walser moved, seconded by Ms. Turkel, for adoption of Superintendent's Recommendations #03-074 through #03-081. Mr. Price removed #03-078 and #03-080. Ms. Turkel removed #03-074. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#03-075, May 15, 2003 Financial Report. Ms. Turkel asked the Superintendent to explain end-of-year transactions. The Superintendent and Mr. Conry were heard. FY2002-2003 End-of-Year Transfers, and Request for Supplemental Appropriation of FY02-03 Excess Medicaid Revenues to Cover Special Education Tuition Costs: that the School Committee approve the following transfers of appropriation within the General Fund budget for FY2002-03 to reallocate funds among the various statutory appropriation categories:

<u>Statutory Category</u>	<u>Projected EOY Balance</u>	<u>Increase Amount</u>	<u>Decrease Amount</u>	<u>Remaining Balance</u>
1000 Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ (321,947)	321,947	0	0
52000-55000 Supplies, Services & Materials	333,729*	0	(333,729)	0
57000 Travel & Training	196,340	0	(196,120)	220
58000/59000 Debt Service and Equipment	<u>(207,902)</u>	<u>207,902</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total: General Fund	\$220	\$529,849	(\$529,849)	\$220

*Not including special education tuition costs related to requested supplemental appropriation of \$504,198 described below

And further, that the Committee approve a request to the City Manager and the City Council for a supplemental appropriation of \$504,198 funded from excess Medicaid revenues, to cover the cost of Special Education outside tuition costs in excess of the budget.

The General Fund financial report as of May 15, 2003 includes a projected end-of-year deficit of (\$503,978). This projected deficit is primarily the result of special education tuition costs substantially in excess of the budget (\$1.8 Million). While we have been able to cover approximately \$1.3 million of these costs through savings and expenditure reductions elsewhere, including implementing expenditure control measures in January 2003, we are requesting this supplemental appropriation to cover the balance of the shortfall.

\$267,561 of the excess Medicaid revenues have already been received (budget - \$900,000, receipts to-date \$1,167,561) and we have been advised by the state Comptroller's office that an additional claim of \$236,637 will be processed prior to June 30, 2003.

The statutory transfers requested above, in combination with the supplemental appropriation, summarize the needed transfers of funds within the above statutory category accounts to balance our budget as of the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2003.

These statutory transfers in the operation budget are required for the following reason:

Salaries and Wages: This projected shortfall of (\$321,947) results primarily from over-expenditures in administrative salaries (medical leaves with back-fills and other), overtime, workers' compensation payments, food services subsidies, and the Medicare insurance employer share.

Supplies, Services & Materials: The projected statutory deficit in this category consists of the aforementioned projected excess special education tuition costs offset by savings in a number of accounts as the result of the expenditure controls put in place in January. Also, fuel oil and natural gas costs are projected to exceed budget estimates, by \$51,000 and \$120,000 respectively, due to extended cold weather and energy costs increases. This is partially offset by electrical costs projected lower than budgeted, by \$86,000.

The statutory transfer request of \$333,729 (\$504,198 minus \$170,469 projected deficit) does not include the special education tuition costs included in the \$504,198 supplemental appropriation request, since those funds require a separate approval by the City Manager and City Council. However, the May 15, 2003 Financial Report does reflect those projected costs.

Travel & Training: This estimated balance of \$196,340 is primarily the result of the expenditure controls implemented in January, and the use of grant funds for a variety of training activities. Also, seminars, conferences and out-of-state travel were discontinued unless funded from grants.

Equipment & Fixed Assets: The transfer of \$207,902 is primarily to cover internal reallocations that were made within the RSTA budget to purchase equipment for the new shops. Funds were reallocated from the other salary and non-salary accounts to purchase equipment that enabled us to be certified by the state. We typically submit the statutory transfers for such internal reallocations at the end-of-year. These statutory category transfers and the supplemental budget request will need to be transmitted to the City Manager for approval by the City Council for the current fiscal year.

This confirmation is being submitted on the advice of Legal Counsel to correct a technical oversight on the adoption of the FY03-04 Budget. The vote on adoption at the regular meeting on May 6, 2003 was the result of the Budget Sub-Committee approval of the budget at the earlier Sub-Committee meeting that same evening, which was not on the agenda of the regular meeting. This confirmation will correct that technical error.

#03-076, Special Needs Contracts for Special Education Tuitions - Day Program: that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions named below in amounts 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	Arlington School, 115 Mill Street, Belmont;	\$32,410.19
2	contracts	Bay Cove Human Services, 55 Canal Street, Boston BD/JO/PD/LD;	22,730.64
1	contract	Cambridge Head Start, 432 Columbia Street, Cambridge PRESCHOOL;	44,100.00
1	contract	Concord Family & Youth Serv., 380 Massachusetts Ave., Acton	41,659.92
1	contract	EDCO Collaborative, 20 Kent Street, Brookline, ED/BE/LD/ ADD/LJ;	18,666.24
1	contract	Germaine Lawrence School, 18 Claremont Avenue, Arlington, ED/BD/SO/JO;	19,038.81

1	contract	Gifford School, 177 Boston Post Road, Weston;	18,250.05
1	contract	Holden School, 8 Pearl Street, Charlestown, BD/ADD/ED/LD/ N-VLD/MI/JO;	5,932.80
1	contract	Home for Little Wanderers, 271 Huntington Avenue, Boston, ED/BD/ LD;	20,599.81
1	contract	Italian Home for Children, Inc., 1125 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, ED/ADD/LD/BD;	10,204.71
1	contract	Kennedy Day School, 30 Warren Street, Brighton, MCH/PHYMC/ RR/LD;	37,808.00
1	contract	Lakeside School, 629 Lowell Street, Peabody, ED/BD/ADD/LD/TS;	15,503.80
1	contract	Landmark School, P.O. Box 227, Prides Crossing, LBLD;	32,556.60
1	contact	Latham School, P.O. Box 1879, 1646 Route 6A Brewster; M/ MMR/ED/MI/BD/ADD/LD/P-WS;	26,033.70
4	contracts	Lighthouse School, 25 Wellman Avenue, N. Chelmsford, LD/ED/ MHC;	71,151.68
5	contracts	Schools for Children, Inc., 20 Academy Street, Arlington, ED/BD/ LD/ADD/LI/RD/AD	122,778.33
2	contracts	Walker Home and School, 1968 Central Avenue, Needham, SED/ BD/LD/MI/ADD/PDD;	119,357.28
<u>1</u>	<u>contract</u>	Wreath School of New Hampshire, 350 Main Street, P.O. Box 58,	<u>77,502.50</u>
27	contracts	Plymouth, New Hampshire.	\$736,285.06

#03-077, Consultant Agreements: that the School Committee approve consultant agreements with the following individuals as indicated in the amounts set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Frank McCarthy, Lexington, in the amount of \$6,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 869871, prog. 871, project/grant SC03744;
2. Keith Miller, Cambridge, in the amount of \$5,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 814335, prog. 335, project/grant SC03607;
3. Joseph Pagliaro, Watertown, in the amount of \$6,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 869871, prog. 871, project/grant SC03744;
4. Yvonne Ruiz, Chestnut Hill, in the amount of \$5,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 868670, prog. 670, project/grant SC03610; and in the amount of \$5,000.00, project/Grant SC03699.

#03-079, Grant Awards, FY02-03: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards named below in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Academic Support Services, project/grant SC03757, in the amount of \$66,500.00, for the period of September 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. The Cambridge Public Schools has created an intensive

academic acceleration program for the students in the class of 2003 and 2004 who have not achieved a score above 216 on the MCAS 2001 or MCAS re-tests administered in the Spring of 2002, and December of 2002. There will be three components to this program of intensive skills development. In the After School component Cambridge will provide expert teachers in their MCAS Preparation Program to teach strategies and content on the MCAS, using locally developed materials. Simultaneously, the Cambridge Public Schools will provide trained and certified subject matter specialists to work in each class alongside the teacher.

2. Cambridge Community Foundation, project/grant SC03758, in the amount of \$1,000.00, for the period of May 7, 2003 to June 30, 2003. This grant will be used to purchase books to be used in the Cambridge reading program for children.

#03-081, Grant Award, FY02-03: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award for Special Education Residential School Tuition Reimbursement (50/50 Program), project/grant SC03759, in the amount of \$358,390.63, for the period of April 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003. This grant is for the reimbursement of special education residential tuition costs for the 4th quarter of FY02-03. The state normally pays a 50% share of residential tuition costs directly to the private schools, but earlier this year the Department of Education notified local school districts the funding was reduced as part of statewide budget cuts, and local districts would be required to pay for the full share for the 4th quarter of FY02-03. Subsequently, the DOE notified local districts they would be able to fund 60% of the cost through a reimbursement grant in the current fiscal year, and the remaining 40% in August 2003, subject to funding availability. The total amount, certified by the state, is \$358,390.63. The 60% reimbursement to be received within the next week is \$215,034.38. We discussed the process for handling these funds with City financial staff and the City Manager and they suggested we accept the full amount of the grant this year, pay the tuition bill directly from the grant, and credit the August reimbursement against the grant when received: Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Price YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to remove **#03-075, May 15, 2003 Financial Report**, for clarification.

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

Unfinished Business

Ms. Turkel removed her motion from the Calendar: that the School Committee schedule its Summer Meeting on Tuesday, July 29, 2003. On a voice vote, the foregoing motion was adopted.

School Committee's Consent Agenda

Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, for adoption of items #1 through #11. Mr. Grassi removed #3, #8 and #9. Ms. Turkel removed #4. Mr. Price removed #5 and #11. #6 and #10 were voted earlier in the meeting. #7 was withdrawn. On a voice vote, the remaining items were adopted:

- 1, **Letter dated May 29, 2003 from Paul Toner**, President, CTA, requesting a Level III grievance hearing.
- 2, **Report of the Sub-Committee on the Elementary Schools Consolidation Process**, January 11, 2003.

Superintendent's Non-Consent Agenda

#03-074, Home Schooling: that the School Committee receive the report for information, consideration and the record. The report includes information pertaining to the following students: Benjamin McArthur,

age 16, and Zachary McArthur, age 12, whose family is seeking approval to educate them at home for the remainder of this academic year and for the 2003-2004 academic year. Ms. Turkel moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. Fantini, that all sections pertaining to Cambridge Rindge and Latin School credit be referred back to the Superintendent. Mr. Harding raised a question on part time home schooling. The Superintendent was heard. On a voice vote, **#03-074, Home Schooling**, was adopted as amended: that the School Committee receive the report for information, consideration and the record. The report includes information pertaining to the following students: Benjamin McArthur, age 16, and Zachary McArthur, age 12, whose family is seeking approval to educate them at home for the remainder of this academic year and for the 2003-2004 academic year. Further, that all sections pertaining to Cambridge Rindge and Latin School credit be referred back to the Superintendent.

#03-075, May 15, 2003 Financial Report. Ms. Turkel asked the Superintendent to explain end-of-year transactions. The Superintendent and Mr. Conry were heard. Mr. Fantini thanked the Superintendent, Mr. Conry and Mr. Maloney for their efforts in making up the deficit and to use those resources to support special needs children.

Mr. Price thanked Cambridge Community Foundation for their wonderful gift to our Literacy Program. On a motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, **#03-078, Grant Awards, FY02-03**, was adopted: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award for Harvard University, project/grant SC03729, in the amount of \$24,000.00, for the period of May 31, 2002 to June 30, 2003. These funds are to reimburse Cambridge Public Schools for salary of K-12 Science Teacher. Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Price YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

#03-080, Cambridge Public Schools Promotion Policy. Mayor Sullivan and the Members thanked the Superintendent and her staff for their hard work on this policy. Ms. Turkel respectfully requested that the typographical error on page 56, #2D, be corrected and a copy be sent to the new Superintendent. At the request of Ms. Turkel, **#03-080, Cambridge Public Schools Promotion Policy** is placed on the Calendar: That the School Committee approve the following Promotion Policy. The information includes a revised district wide Promotion Policy. Key recommendations are as follows:

1. Each student's progress in relation to achievement standards will be measured, monitored and regularly communicated to parents. Data on progress will include standardized and classroom based assessments. These standards include certain benchmark assessments at each grade level that will be included in a performance profile of each student.
2. Schools, using their Teacher Assistance Teams (T.A.T.), will use the following protocol for making promotion/retention decisions:
 - A. When students are at risk for not meeting grade level standards/benchmarks, data (classroom and performance assessments, attendance, age, social-emotional development) will be gathered and student progress will be reviewed through the T.A.T. process. An individual student success plan will be developed to support the student. In the case of a student with disabilities, the student's individual Education Program (I.E.P.) team will be the decision-making group.
 - B. Teacher/T.A.T. member meet with the parent/guardian to share the plan and identify specific ways that the home and school can work together to support the student. This could include supports during the school day, after school and during the summer.
 - C. Student progress is reviewed and the T.A.T. and the parent/guardian are updated on the student's progress.

- D. By no later than May, the building Principal, in consultation with the student's family and/or T.A.T. and I.E.P. team, makes the final decision in determining the promotion of any student.
3. If a parent/guardian disagrees with the promotion decision of the Principal, the parent/guardian may appeal the decision by filing a written appeal with the Superintendent or his/her designee within two (2) weeks of the parent/guardian's receipt of the decision. The Superintendent or his/her designee will review the written appeal and may request additional information from the parent/guardian, Principal and/or other school department personnel. Within two (2) weeks of receipt of the written appeal, the Superintendent will issue a final decision regarding grade level placement for the next school year. A copy of the decision will be placed in the student's cumulative folder.

School Committee Non-Consent Agenda

- 3, **Motion by Mr. Grassi, Ms. Walser, and Mr. Fantini** that whereas the King Open School will have one of the largest school populations in September of 2003; further, that the tot lot behind the school is an important component of school activities before, during and after school; further, that the School Committee extends its appreciation to the City Council for the plans to renovate Donnelly Field in the coming months; further, we would like to express our concern that the scope of the project does not include the redesign and renovation of the tot lot; and further, that the School Committee requests the City Council to include a completely renovated tot lot in the scope of the Donnelly Field project and to include the King Open School and neighborhood in the process. Mayor Sullivan said there will be sufficient funds available for the Donnelly Field project. Mr. Grassi thanked Mayor Sullivan on behalf of the Committee and families of the King Open and for his advocacy. On a voice vote, the above motion was adopted.
- 4, **Motion by Mr. Grassi** that the School Committee adopt a policy that naming rights within public school buildings originate and be approved by the Committee. Ms. Turkel offered a friendly amendment to strike the word "originate". Mr. Grassi accepted the amendment. On a voice vote, the motion was adopted as amended.
- 5, **Motion by Mr. Grassi** that the School Committee adopt a policy that the Vice-Chair and the Executive Secretary conduct a lottery for the selection of graduation speaking assignments each year. Mr. Price asked for clarification on the motion. Mr. Grassi was heard. Mr. Fantini moved a friendly amendment that the Vice Chair use discretion to accommodate special circumstances of Members. On a voice vote, the motion was adopted as amended.

Mr. Grassi asked the Superintendent to speak to items **#8** and **#9** in terms of the affect of these changes to the school system. The Superintendent was heard and asked that start times remain the same for this year so that staff time can be better spent on academic needs and placement of teachers. Members asked that a careful review of the entire system be conducted. Mr. Fantini requested and received unanimous consent to **withdraw item #8, Motion by Mr. Fantini** that the Longfellow/Kennedy start time be changed if an agreement can be reached with both School Councils.

- 9, **Joint motion by Ms. Turkel and Mr. Fantini** that whereas the Principals of both the Amigos School and the King School agree that a school start time of 8:25 a.m., being a change and a compromise for both schools, is the best solution. Therefore, the start time for both schools in the Martin Luther King, Jr. building will be 8:25 a.m. beginning in September 2003. Further, that the school department will work with every school community to review all school start times, with particular attention to schools affected by the consolidation plan, for possible changes for the school year beginning in September 2004.

Ms. Turkel moved to strike the first two sentences and offered a friendly amendment: that the School Department will work with every school community to review all school start times, with particular attention to schools affected by the consolidation plan, for possible changes for the school year beginning in September 2004. Further, that some creative bussing be looked into for schools that request it; and further, that every attempt is made to accommodate students with early bussing to their schools. Mr. Fantini accepted the amendment. On a voice vote, item #9 was adopted as amended.

11, Motion by Ms. Turkel that the Superintendent develop a policy for inventorying, safely storing and disposing of potentially dangerous substances (those that are toxic, carcinogenic, flammable, etc.). This should include, but not be limited to, products used in cleaning, pest control, heating and instruction (such as materials used in science, art and vocational classes). Further that such policy be presented to the School Committee for approval no later than September 2003. Mr. Price asked the Superintendent what would be a reasonable timeline for presenting the above policy. The Superintendent was heard. Mayor Sullivan offered a friendly amendment that September 2003 be removed. Ms. Turkel accepted the amendment. On a voice vote, item #11 was adopted as amended.

Late Orders

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted unanimously to send a letter of congratulations to a staff member at the Robert F. Kennedy School on her retirement.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted unanimously to send a letter of appreciation to Chris Aufiero, Director of Athletics, who is leaving to take a position in the town of Bedford.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to send a letter to the Cambridge Police Department requesting that they look at not only the existing details for the Harrington School that are required but also be cognizant of school when it is opened.

Mr. Fantini and Ms. Turkel raised questions on the lack of clarity regarding after-school programs. The Superintendent was heard. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was requested that the City provide a written response regarding after-school programs.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend the meeting until the completion of the Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Price, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, it was voted to reconvene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a response to the Level III grievance heard earlier this evening: Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Price YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA. The Chair announced that no votes will be taken and the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session.

Executive Session

Members present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Mr. Price, Ms. Turkel, Ms. Walser

Ms. Turkel in the Chair.

Also Present: Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer

A quorum being present, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

The Members discussed a response to the Level III grievance with Legal Counsel. At this time, Mayor Sullivan joined the meeting.

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

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

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee