

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

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 5:15 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adopt items #05-110 and #05-119, as follows: that the School Committee go into executive session for the following purposes: (i) to conduct Level III grievance hearings as part of collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee; (ii) to discuss litigation strategy as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation positions of the School Committee; (iii) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel; and (iv) to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

On the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purposes stated:
Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA,
Mr. McGovern ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Executive Session

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
James Conry, Chief Financial Officer
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources
Paul Toner, CTA President
Jack Haverty, CTA Vice President
Ms. Kuropatkin, Grievant
Ms. Farinato (support for Ms. Kuropatkin)
Ms. Daley Harris, Grievant

Attorney MacFarlane asked Mr. Toner to present the Association's grievances. Mr. Toner presented the grievance on behalf of Ms. Kuropatkin. At this time, Ms. Farinato and Ms. Kuropatkin were excused.

Ms. Harris entered the meeting at this time and Mr. Toner presented her grievance. At this time, Ms. Harris was excused. Mr. Harding and Mr. McGovern joined the meeting.

Mr. Toner presented a grievance on behalf of part-time Unit C members.

Mr. Toner presented a grievance on behalf of Ms. DePalo who could not be present. Mr. Toner and Mr. Haverty exited the meeting.

The Members discussed the grievances with Legal Counsel and staff.

The Superintendent and his Cabinet, with the exception of Legal Counsel, exited the meeting at this time. The Members discussed amendments to the contract of the Executive Secretary. The contract was referred to Legal Counsel for review.

The Members and Legal Counsel discussed strategy for contract negotiations with the Cambridge Teachers Association and with non-union personnel.

The Chair concluded the Executive Session and the Committee reconvened in Open Session.

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

The Chair announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Mr. McGovern requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the previous roll call. At this time, the Chair returned to the Regular Agenda.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted that the Minutes of the following meeting be accepted as presented:

- Regular Meeting - July 26, 2005

Public Comment on School Committee Agenda

There being no one signed up, on a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Lummis, 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

#05-104, Revision to Recommendation on Changes to the Rules of School Committee (Second Reading). The Chair asked Members to review the draft developed by himself, the Vice Chair, Legal Counsel, and the Executive Secretary, dated September 6, 2005, "Proposed Changes to Rules of School Committee", to be substituted for the above Recommendation #05-104. The matter was tabled.

The Chair recognized the Superintendent who made the following introductions:

- Casimer Badynee, Cambridgeport School Principal, former Assistant Principal, Birmingham-Covington Middle School in Michigan
- Janelle Bradshaw, Cambridgeport Assistant Principal, former Teacher, Boston Public Schools
- Joellen Scannell, Peabody School Principal, former Duxbury Middle School Principal
- Deborah Hood Brown, Peabody School Administrative Intern, former CPS Music Teacher
- Daniel Fusco, Kennedy-Longfellow School Administrative Intern, former King-Open Phys-Ed Teacher
- Lawrence Blondin, K-12 Curriculum Chair, English Language Arts, former Curriculum Coordinator and 8th grade Teacher at the Shanghai American School in China
- Diane Paradis, RSTA Vocational Coordinator, former Academic Technical Curriculum Director, Nashoba Valley Technical School District

- Dana Hamm, Facilities Director, former Lexington Public Schools Facilities Director and former Lexington Police Officer

On behalf of the Members, Mayor Sullivan welcomed the staff and wished everybody well.

New Business

Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, for the adoption of items #05-110 through #05-126 with the exception of #05-110 and #05-119 which were adopted earlier in the meeting. Mr. Fantini removed #05-111 and #05-117. Mr. Grassi removed #05-118. Mr. Harding removed #05-120. Mr. Lummis removed #121. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#05-112, Approval of Home School Applications for School Year 2005-2006: that the School Committee approve the home school applications for the 2005-2006 school year as detailed in the documents.

#05-113, FY05-06 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers: that the School Committee approve the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund budget for FY2005-06:

	<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase Amount</u>	<u>Decrease Amount</u>
51000	Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$56,585.00	\$ 0
52000/55000	Other Ordinary Maintenance	0	(37,385.00)
57000	Travel & Training	(59,645.00)	0
58000/59000	Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>40,445.00</u>
	Total	\$ 3,060.00	(\$ 3,060.00)

#05-114, Hot Pizza: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Hot Pizza, funds to be provided from the Food Service revolving fund budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Papa Gino's, Inc., 14 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA, for the period September 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$43,225.00. This contract is for Hot Pizza for the School Department.

#05-115, Groceries: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for groceries, funds to be provided from the Food Service revolving fund budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Costa Fruit & Produce, PO Box 290574, for the period August 22, 2005 to August 21, 2006, in the amount of \$272,620.00. This contract is for groceries for the School Department.

#05-116, Fresh Chilled Pizza: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Fresh Chilled Pizza, funds to be provided from the Food Service revolving fund budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Sal's Pizza, 29 N. Broadway, Salem, NH, for the period of September 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$78,750.00. This contract is for Fresh Chilled Pizza for the School Department.

#05-122, Motion by Mr. Grassi that the School Committee send a letter of condolence to the family of Mr. Robert Alleyne, a dedicated supporter and fan of Cambridge Athletics. Referred to by many as "Mr. Rindge", he will be sorely missed.

#05-123, Motion by Mr. Grassi that the Superintendent organize an event at CRLS for the distribution of yearbooks for the class of 2005, to be coordinated around the first break in the college calendar.

#05-124, Invoice for \$5,687.00 from MASC for Annual Membership dues.

#05-125, Motion by Mr. Grassi that the Superintendent develop and implement a workplace safety program for custodians and facility maintenance employees.

#05-126, Motion by Ms. Walser that the Superintendent bring a recommendation to the School Committee on how gender imbalances in classrooms can be corrected.

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

Mr. Harding requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the previous roll call.

Non-Consent Business

#05-111, City Council Order #O-13. Mr. Fantini asked the Superintendent to speak to the Order regarding asbestos at the King Open. The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney were heard. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to place the matter on file.

Mr. Fantini asked the Superintendent to invite a representative from the CEOC to come to the next School Committee meeting for some dialogue and discussion regarding their contract. The Superintendent was heard. It was voted to Calendar the following item: **#05-117, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC)**: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for support services under the Community Partnerships for Children Grant FY06, funds to be provided from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education Early Learning Services Division budget. This is a continuing contract under the grant: CEOC, 11 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA, for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$786,040.00.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the following: **#05-118, Grant Awards**: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Sped 94-142 Allocation, SC06605, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$1,155,532.00. These federal PL 94-142 entitlement funds support staff positions for Project Welcome/Monitor in all Schools. 27.7 FTE professional positions and 10 FTE paraprofessional positions provide a variety of direct special education services. This award is 48% of the entitlement amount of \$2,410,359.00, in accordance with the letter from the State DOE. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded in October.
2. Even Start, SC06610, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$83,200.00. This is a continuation grant that integrates and coordinates home-based early childhood education and parenting education services for 20 high-risk Cambridge families. The project is a partnership between the Community Learning Center and Cambridge Public Schools.
3. Early Literacy Intervention Program, SC06632, for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$112,597.00. These funds will support Reading Recovery training of Early Literacy Intervention teachers who will provide individual tutorial assistance to at-risk first grade students. Funding also includes instructional materials.

4. Kindergarten Enhancement Program, SC06663, for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$273,000.00. Cambridge continues, through the Kindergarten grant, to provide support for kindergarten and first grade teachers in the areas of literacy and inclusion. The workshops provide teachers with an opportunity to enhance their skills in specific areas, including guided and enhanced reading by kindergarten teachers, support staff and Early Childhood Resource Specialists.
5. Sped Program Improvement, SC05674, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$9,600.00. The Office of Special Education will contract with a consultant to conduct a series of trainings for Special Education staff members focusing on the recent changes in both federal and state Special Education regulations. Trainings are necessary to ensure that new regulations are implemented across the district. Staff will be divided into training groups according to their disciplines, i.e. Psychologists/Chairpersons, Special Education Teachers and Related Service Providers. This award is 48% of the entitlement amount of \$20,000.00, in accordance with the letter from the State DOE. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded in October.

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

Mr. Harding was heard and asked the Superintendent to meet with the Police Commissioner sooner rather than later. On a voice vote, the following was adopted: **#05-120, Motion by Mr. Harding** that the Superintendent of Schools meet with the Police Commissioner to develop a plan to disseminate information to Principals on the whereabouts and addresses of Level III sex offenders who live in close proximity to school buildings. Further, that the Superintendent contact the Criminal Systems History Board for any information that pertains to Level III sex offenders living in Cambridge.

Mr. Lummis asked the Superintendent to speak to the following motion. Mr. McGovern was heard in support of his motion. The Superintendent was heard. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was vote to adopt the following: **#05-121, Motion by Mr. McGovern** that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee regarding how many staff members in each school are trained in non-violent crisis intervention and restraint training and the cost of increasing this number.

Late Orders

Mayor Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, to wish the football team good luck in their Friday night game at the new Russell Field. On a voice vote, the motion was adopted.

Mr. Harding asked the Secretary to read the following: Joint Motion by Mr. Harding and Mr. McGovern that the School Committee requests the Superintendent to make all efforts to open and expedite placements in the Cambridge Public Schools for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Further, that the Superintendent be in touch with all local efforts to assist in helping these children and families during their re-location with regard to their school placements. On a voice vote, the motion was adopted.

Ms. Walser raised a question on the timeline for the Superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Harding and Mayor Sullivan were heard. The Superintendent was heard.

Members raised questions on the availability of academic indicators and MCAS results. The Superintendent was heard.

Mr. Grassi raised a question on page 72 of the CRLS Student Handbook whether parents are still receiving a telephone call each time a student cuts a class. The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney were heard.

Mayor Sullivan asked Members to review the draft of the "Proposed Changes to Rules of the School Committee" to be discussed at the next meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to adjourn (7:48 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee