

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

**Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 21, 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 Ms. Walser, it was voted to Calendar the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2004.

### **Public Comment on School Committee Agenda**

The following individual was heard:

- Daniel DeGug, re: "Sunshine Around the World", a program proposed for Cambridge schools.

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

The Chair thanked Millennium Pharmaceuticals for its generous donation of supplies and equipment to RSTA's Biotech program.

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

### **Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting**

### **Unfinished Business**

Members passed over all Unfinished Business.

### **New Business**

Mr. Lummis Moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, for adoption of items #04-123 through #04-133.

Mr. McGovern recused himself from #04-125, being recorded as Present, not voting. Mr. Lummis recused himself from #04-127, being recorded as Present, not voting. Mr. Grassi recused himself from #04-128, being recorded as Present, not voting. Mr. Fantini removed #04-130. Mr. Harding removed #04-131. Mr. McGovern removed #04-132. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted with the above notations:

**#04-123, Contract for Legal Services, Seyfarth Shaw:** that the School Committee approve a contract for fiscal year 2004-2005 to the following firm for providing legal services, as needed, by the Cambridge Public Schools at the hourly rates shown and for the period indicated:

1. Seyfarth Shaw, Boston, MA, for the period August 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

**#04-124, Approval of Home School Applications for School Year 2004-2005:** that the School Committee approve the home school applications for the 2004-2005 school year as detailed in the document.

**#04-125, Special Needs Contracts for Day Program Services** not available from the Cambridge School Department: 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:

1 student	Camp Huntington, PO Box 368, Woodstock, NY	\$8,100.00
1 student	Lake Grove at Maple Valley, 6 Farley Rd., Wendell, MA	60,130.10
3 students	Holden School, 8 Pearl St., Charlestown, MA	106,791.24
1 student	Willow Hill School, 98 Haynes Rd., Sudbury, MA	40,108.40
1 student	NE Pediatric Care, 78 Boston Rd., N. Billerica, MA	45,527.76
2 students	Dr. Franklin Perkins School, 971 Main St., Lancaster, MA	117,345.53
3 students	The Walker Home & School, 1968 Central Ave., Needham, MA	224,213.74
1 student	Melmark Home, Inc., 2600 Wayland Rd., Berwyn, PA	20,295.20
5 students	Landmark School, PO Box 227, Prides Crossing, MA	162,782.35
1 student	Latham School, PO Box 1879, 1646 Rte. 6A, Brewster, MA	68,860.90
2 students	Clearway School, 61 Chestnut St., W. Newton, MA	58,954.82
5 students	Learning Prep School, PO Box 650205, W. Newton, MA	119,156.40
4 students	Gifford School, 177 Boston Post Rd., Weston, MA	175,421.00
2 students	COMPASS, Inc., 26 Sunnyside St., Jamaica Plain, MA	74,201.78
9 students	Schools for Children (High School), 20 Academy St., Arlington, MA	370,206.90
3 students	Schools for Children (Middle School), 20 Academy St., Arlington, MA	123,402.30
3 students	Schools for Children (Seaport Campus), 20 Academy St., Arlington	118,046.16
3 students	Corwin Russell School, @ Broccoli Hall, 142 North Rd., Sudbury, MA	85,402.44
10 students	Judge Baker Children's Center, 3 Blackfan Circle, Boston, MA	586,824.42
1 student	Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc., (Braintree St. Coletta), 400 Washington St., Hanover, MA	\$50,965.84
1 student	YOU, Inc., (Cottage Hill Academy), 83 Hospital Rd., PO Box 38 Baldwinville, MA	71,072.80
<u>1</u> student	EDCO Collaborative, 20 Kent St., Brookline, MA	<u>32,871.00</u>
63 students		\$2,720,681.08

**#04-126, Special Needs Contracts for Residential Program Services** not available from the Cambridge School Department: that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions on the list 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:

1 student	Melmark Home, Inc., 2600 Wayland Rd., Berwyn, PA	\$161,159.94
1 student	Camphill Special School, 1784 Fairview Rd., Glenmoore, PA	57,861.20
<u>2</u> students	Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc., 400 Washington St., Hanover, MA	<u>205,591.14</u>
4 students		\$424,612.28

**#04-127, Consultant Agreements:** that the School Committee approve consultant agreements with the companies or individuals on the list, in the amounts set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Cambridge Affordable Housing, Cambridge, in the amount of \$21,316.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 869650, prog. 650; and in the amount of \$5,509.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 869665, prog. 665.

2. Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, in the amount of \$75,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org 852360, prog. 360; and in the amount of \$71,050.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org 852375, prog. 375.

3. Behavioral Education Asses. & Con., Milford, in the amount of \$30,000.00, account 53201, fund 15000, org. 852372, prog., 372.

**#04-128, Grant Awards:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards shown in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Community Partnerships, Project/Grant SC05602, in the amount of \$1,111,792.00, for the period July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. The Community Partnerships for Children grant program provides comprehensive, high-quality programs for preschool-aged children and their families with the planning and oversight of a Community Partnerships for Children Council. Working together, agencies and families in a community build a network of programs and services that increases the availability, affordability, and quality of programs that are responsive to the needs of working parents and that enhance children's healthy learning environment.

2. Occ. Ed-Vocational Skills, Project/Grant SC05606, in the amount of \$37,607.00, for the period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005. 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. This award is 34% of the entitlement of \$110,609, in accordance with the letter from the State DOE. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded in October.

3. Early Literacy Intervention Program, Project/Grant SC05632, in the amount of \$134,413.00, for the period July 30, 2004 to June 30, 2005. These funds will support Reading Recovery training of early literacy intervention teachers who will provide individual tutorial assistance to at-risk first grade students, and instructional materials.

4. Comprehensive School Reform-Morse School, Project/Grant SC05645, in the amount of \$50,000.00, for the period July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. These funds will continue to support the involvement of the Morse School in the Literacy Collaboration efforts as well as the middle school Turning Points initiative. The middle school staff developer works with the school's principal and middle school team, to refine and improve their middle school initiative according to the Turning Points model.

5. Science Club for Girls, Project/Grant SC05788, in the amount of \$5,672.00, for the period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005. The Science Club for girls was established to provide science and math curriculum for at-risk girls throughout Cambridge, and now specifically at the Fletcher-Maynard. The organizers of this program have applied for non-profit status, and while awaiting approval have asked the School Department to act as fiscal agent to receive grants and donations.

6. Massachusetts Cultural Council, Project/Grant SC05789, in the amount of \$18,000.00, for the period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005. This grant will support development of a strategic plan and curriculum for the newly formed Visual & Performing Arts department.

**#04-129**, School Committee Calendar of Meetings 2004/2005.

**#04-133, Motion by Ms. Walser** that the Superintendent forward to the School Committee a recommendation on how the additional school revenues from the Legislature's supplemental funding bill (reflecting new charter formula and additional Chapter 70 funds) will be spent this fiscal year.

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

### **Non-Consent Business**

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to refer the following to the Superintendent: **#04-130, Proposal re: "Sunshine All Around the World"** from Danny DeGug, Founder, Sunshine Foundation of Cambridge.

Mr. Harding raised a question on how the students in Challenge Prep can be moved into the High School Extension Program (HSEP). Mr. McGovern moved a friendly amendment that, in addition to Challenge Prep, we look at how tuitioned out high school aged children can fit into the HSEP.

Mr. Harding did not accept Mr. McGovern's friendly amendment but said he would support a separate motion. Members raised the following questions and comments:

- How will the AVID Program fit with the HSEP
- How do we evaluate and learn from programs that are doing well
- Accept tuitioned out students voluntarily

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to adopt **#04-131, Motion by Mr. Harding** that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee on the status of the Challenge Prep Program. Further, that this report include a description of the program, who the program serves, as well as the overall purpose of the program.

**#04-132, Motion by Mr. McGovern** that, given the importance of community input and the value placed on School Councils by the Cambridge School Committee, the School Committee hereby welcomes and encourages School Councils to come before the School Committee at any time, in order to express concerns, support, questions or other issues raised at School Council meetings. Mr. McGovern offered the following substitute motion: that, given the importance of community input and the value placed on School Councils by the Cambridge School Committee, the School Committee hereby welcomes School Councils to come before the School Committee with concerns or support pertaining to educational policy, with the exception of personnel and collective bargaining issues. Mr. Grassi asked the Superintendent to speak to the substitute motion. The Superintendent was heard in support of the substitution, described the duties of School Councils, and responded to Members' questions/comments/concerns:

- Need to do a better job of reaching out to parents and the public
- Use caution when reacting to School Councils during budget process
- Encourage School Council input and involvement
- Insure that School Improvement Councils have a quorum, take and publish minutes, be more representative and more transparent

- Applaud Superintendent for starting training for School Council members

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adopt the substitution as follows: that, given the importance of community input and the value placed on School Councils by the Cambridge School Committee, the School Committee hereby welcomes School Councils to come before the School Committee with concerns or support pertaining to educational policy, with the exception of personnel and collective bargaining issues.

Mr. Lummis moved suspension of the Rules, seconded by Ms. Walser, for the purpose of returning to Tabled Matters. The Rules having been suspended, Mr. Lummis moved that the Proposed Revisions to the Rules of the School Committee 2004-2005 be adopted. On a motion by Mayor Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adopt, as amended, the red-lined version of the Proposed Revisions and place them back on the Table until the next meeting. Mr. Fantini asked that the detail on the Rules changes be put on the website.

#### **Late Orders**

On a motion by Mayor Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted that the School Committee send a letter to Millennium Pharmaceuticals thanking them for the generous donation of equipment and supplies to the RSTA Biotech program.

Mr. Harding asked what the final amount was that we received from the State. Ms. Walser explained that, as a result of the charter formula change, we are getting \$200,000 in addition to \$154,000 in Chapter 70 funds. The Superintendent was heard and explained that approximately \$349,264 goes to reduce the City's obligation for holding us harmless from the changing cost of charter schools. Further, the City is making approximately \$400,000 in circuit breaker money available to us for school building improvements. The Superintendent will bring forward at the next meeting some suggestions for areas that warrant attention. Mr. Harding asked the Superintendent to provide a brief written detail on how the money gets offset. The Superintendent was heard.

Mr. Fantini thanked State Representative Tim Toomey for his hard work in getting \$18,000 for the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to send a letter to our delegation in the House and Senate thanking them for their support of the charter moratorium.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn (6:50 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

