

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

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

Student Representatives: Littane Bien-Aimie, James Conway, Krishana House, Spenser Skates

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 meeting be accepted as presented:

- Regular Meeting - September 7, 2004 - Amended
- Regular Meeting - September 21, 2004

Public Comment on School Committee Agenda

There being no one signed up, on a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to close public comment.

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting

Having filed the proper notice as required by the Rules, Mr. Grassi moved reconsideration of the vote taken at the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2004, that adopted the following motion: That the Committee adopt Superintendent's Recommendation #04-129: That the School Committee approve the recommendation of the School Committee Calendar of Meetings 2004/2005.

On a voice vote, the motion for reconsideration prevailed and the matter was again before the Committee.

Mr. Grassi moved an amendment that the date for the summer meeting be changed to accommodate all Members, and that the meeting be held in the evening to allow the public to attend. Mayor Sullivan moved an amendment that the December meetings be combined and held on the 14th. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Walser, **Recommendation #04-129** was adopted, as amended: That the School Committee approve the recommendation of the School Committee Calendar of Meetings 2004/2005.

Unfinished Business

The Superintendent was heard regarding revisions to Recommendation #04-111, Anti-Bullying Policy. On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward Recommendation #04-136, Anti-Bullying Policy, as well as Tabled item #04-111, Anti-Bullying Policy. On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Lummis, it was voted to substitute #04-111 with #04-136. The Superintendent was asked to be pro-active, especially at the high school, and to monitor the situation throughout the year. The Superintendent was heard and said that he is committed to having an expert

come before the Committee regarding bullying. On the following roll call, **#04-136, Anti-Bullying Policy** was adopted as detailed in the document: Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

On a motion by Mayor Sullivan, it was voted to suspend the Rules to recognize Mr. McGovern who wished his son William a happy 4th birthday, and to introduce Student School Committee members James Conway, SLC "R" ; Krishana House, SLC "L"; Littane Bien Aimie, SLC " C"; and Spenser Skates, SLC "S".

At this time, the Chair returned to Unfinished Business. On a motion by Mr. Lummis, it was voted to take from the Table "Revisions to the Rules of the School Committee 2004-2005". On motion by Mr. Lummis, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt Revisions to the Rules of the School Committee 2004-2005, as follows:

1. That the last sentence of Section 3.1. "Hearings" of Chapter I of the *Rules of the School Committee 2004-2005* be deleted in its entirety and that the following be inserted in its place:

If necessary, the Chair shall have the option of calling a roundtable as provided for below in Chapter I, Section 3.2. Roundtables.

2. That Section 3.2. "Workshops" of Chapter I of the *Rules of the School Committee 2004-2005* be deleted in its entirety and that the following Section 3.2. "Roundtables" be inserted in its place:

Section 3.2. Roundtables. Up to a total of six (6) meetings per year may be used for roundtable meetings as the Superintendent and School Committee jointly deem advisable. The date for a particular roundtable shall be set in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1, Section 3. Special Meetings. At a roundtable meeting, no votes shall be taken except upon a motion to adjourn. The meeting shall not be broadcast on cable television. The Chair of the School Committee and the Superintendent shall jointly determine the agenda for a roundtable meeting in consultation with the other members of the School Committee.

3. That Chapter I, Section 3 of the *Rules of the School Committee 2004-2005* be amended by adding the following new Section 3.5. "Retreats":

Section 3.5. Public Retreats. Up to a total of four (4) retreats per year may be held as the Superintendent and School Committee jointly deem advisable. The date for a particular retreat shall be set in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1, Section 3. Special Meetings. At a retreat, no votes shall be taken except upon a motion to adjourn. The meeting shall not be broadcast on cable television. The Chair of the School Committee and the Superintendent shall jointly determine the agenda for a retreat in consultation with the other members of the School Committee.

4. That Section 4.2. "Public Comment" of Chapter II of the *Rules of the School Committee 2004-2005* be amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end of the current section:

Public comment shall not take place at roundtable meetings or at public retreats of the School Committee, where no matter being discussed may be finally considered, in that no votes may be taken. Written comments will be accepted and made part of the record of the meeting. The opportunity for the public to make oral comments on items discussed at roundtable meetings or at public retreats shall be at the regular or special meeting at which the item may be considered for action by the School Committee.

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

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Lummis, it was voted to remove the following item from Awaiting Reports and place it on file: 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. (Walser)(C04-195)

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

New Business

Mr. Lummis Moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, for adoption of items #04-134 through #04-142. Mayor Sullivan removed #04-134. Mr. Harding removed #04-135. Mr. Grassi removed #04-141. Mr. McGovern removed #04-139 and #04-142. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted as follows:

#04-136, Approval of Anti-Bullying Policy, as detailed in the document.

#04-137, School Committee Reports: that the School Committee approve the document containing a List of Reports to be submitted to the Committee every year by specified dates.

#04-138, 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.

#04-140, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Sped 94-142, project/grant SC05605, for the period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005, in the amount of \$1,042,124.00. These federal PL 94-142 entitlement funds support staff positions for Project Welcome/Monitor in all schools. 29.31 FTE professional positions and 10 FTE paraprofessional positions provide a variety of direct special education services. Consultant services from behavioral and speech interns are also funded by this grant. This award is 45% of the entitlement amount of \$2,318,830.00, in accordance with the letter from the State DOE. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded in October.
2. Sped Early Childhood Allocation, project/grant SC05607, for the period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005, in the amount of \$58,633.00. The SPED Early Childhood Allocation grant funds paraprofessional services in inclusionary classrooms, plus contracted specialist services and instructional materials. This award is for the full amount of the entitlement.
3. Kindergarten Enhancement Program, project/grant SC05663, for the period July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, in the amount of \$291,408.00. 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.
4. Sped Program Improvement, project/grant SC05674, for the period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005, in the amount of \$15,410.00. The SPED Program Improvement grant provides funding for training of special educators and classroom teachers in the Wilson Reading System developed for children with reading and language issues; a "train the trainers" program to support professional development of teachers serving "at risk" students; training in Dynamic Assessment Techniques for self-contained classroom teachers, focused on math instruction and assessment. This award is 45% of the

- entitlement amount of \$34,245.00, in accordance with the letter from the State DOE. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded in October.
5. Reading First Program, project/grant SC05764, for the period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005, in the amount of \$142,334.00. The Reading First grant is a continuation grant to provide assistance to the Haggerty School K-3 reading program, based on scientific reading research. Teachers and paraprofessionals will receive intensive training, and reading materials will be purchased from the grant. This award is \$80% of the entitlement amount of \$179,992.00, in accordance with the letter from the State DOE. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded in October.
 6. Harvard University, project/grant SC05790, for the period September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005, in the amount of \$10,000.00. These funds will support student and family-centered programs aimed at narrowing the achievement gap including the Student Leadership Academy, Student Achievement Awards, the Man-to-Man and Woman-to-Woman programs and the Parent/Community Involvement Program

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

That Superintendent's Recommendation #04-111, Approval of Anti-Bullying Policy, be placed on file.

Non-Consent Business

#04-134, Approval of Eighth Grade Graduation Policy. Mayor Sullivan moved an amendment to the last sentence, as follows: Consistent with this policy, eighth grade graduation exercises that are scheduled by an elementary school, **in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools and the Office of the School Committee**, must be scheduled no earlier than the 178th day of school and be scheduled in such a manner to ensure that eighth grade students return to school on the 179th and 180th days of their eighth grade year. On a motion by Ms. Walser, on a voice vote, **#04-134, Approval of Eighth Grade Graduation Policy**, as amended, is referred for a second reading.

#04-135, Approval of Policy on Participation in MCAS. Mr. Harding raised a question on the need for this policy. The Superintendent responded to Members' questions and comments. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on a voice vote, **#04-135, Approval of Policy on Participation in MCAS**, is referred for a second reading.

Members raised questions on the number and cost of tuitioned-out students. The Superintendent and Mr. Conry were heard. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#04-139, Special Needs: Contracts for Day 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	Boston Higashi School, 800 N. Main St., Randolph, MA	\$ 38,411.13
5 students	Farr Academy, 71 Pearl St., Cambridge, MA	308,634.61
1 student	The Kolburne School, 343 NM Southfield Rd., New Marlborough, MA	115,488.35
8 students	LABB Collaborative, 123 Cambridge St., Burlington, MA	335,580.00
1 student	SEEM Collaborative, 55 Walkers Brook Dr., Ste. 260, Reading, MA	63,000.00
4 students	Learning Center for Deaf Children, 848 Central St., Framingham, MA	158,757.87

4 students	Italian Home for Children, Inc., 1125 Center St., Jamaica Plain, MA	164,612.70
1 student	The Forman School, Inc., 12 Norfolk Rd., PO Box 80, Litchfield, CT	43,000.00
<u>25</u> students	Total	<u>\$1,227,484.66</u>

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

A question was raised whether the following contract is for students expelled from CRLS. Mr. Maloney was heard in the affirmative. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, **#04-141, Consultant Agreement**, was adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a consultant agreement with the company or individual on the list, in the amount set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Action for Boston Community Development, Boston, in the amount of \$30,000.00, account 53201, fund, 15000, org. 830250, prog. 250.

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

#04-142, Joint motion by Mr. McGovern and Mr. Harding that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee regarding how many buses in Cambridge are equipped with seat belts and, if not 100%, what the cost would be to have seat belts added to all school buses. Mr. McGovern moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, the following friendly amendment: That the Superintendent report back to the School Committee relative to the current status and knowledge as it relates to seat belts and school buses. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. McGovern, on a voice vote, the foregoing motion was adopted as amended.

At this time, the Chair moved to the Presentations on MCAS and AYP Results. Ms. Maryann MacDonald, Executive Director, Student Achievement & Accountability, walked Members through the presentation "MCAS & AYP Results, Overview of School Improvement Planning". The Superintendent and Ms. McDonald responded to Members' questions/comments/concerns.

The Superintendent introduced Dr. Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent, who walked Members through the presentation "Promotion Policy Support Services Fall, 2004" in response to School Committee Order #C04-046 (report on what services are in place to support the Promotion/Retention Policy). The Superintendent and Dr. Turk responded to Members' questions/comments/concerns.

Mr. Harding in the Chair.

Mr. James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, walked Members through the presentation "Update of Plant Maintenance Projects". The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney responded to Members' questions/comments/concerns.

Members thanked the Superintendent and his staff for the presentations.

Late Orders

Mr. Fantini asked the Superintendent to work with the School Committee Secretary to have a summary of the Agenda put on the website.

Mr. Harding announced that he will be appointing Mr. McGovern and Mr. Grassi, 2005-2006 Budget Co-Chairs.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, it was voted that the School Committee send a letter to Dr. Knight and staff and Coleen Gillard, congratulating them for their work on getting a very favorable response from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) to have CRLS off probation by next September.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn (9:15 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee