

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

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

Mr. Fantini 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 Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Lummis, it was voted to suspend the Rules to interview members of the Collins, Loughran & Peloquin law firm.

Attorneys Philip Collins, Founder, and Mike Loughran, Partner, gave brief descriptions of the firm and of their backgrounds.

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

The Attorneys responded to some of the questions and comments raised by Members:

Mayor Sullivan thanked the attorneys for interrupting their schedules and coming tonight.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the following purposes: (i) to discuss litigation and collective bargaining strategy as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation positions of the School Committee; and (ii) to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel. The Chair announced that no votes will be taken during Executive Session and the Committee will reconvene in Open Session at 6:00 p.m. for its Regular Meeting. Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi ABSENT, 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
Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources
James Conry, Chief Financial Officer
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Michael Gardner, Personnel Director, City of Cambridge

The Members discussed strategies for collective bargaining with Legal Counsel, staff and Mr. Gardner.

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 and returned to the Agenda.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings

Mr. McGovern moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini, for adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2005. Ms. Walser moved that the Minutes be placed on the Calendar.

Public Comment on School Committee Agenda

There being no one signed up, on a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Walser, 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) was substituted with the September 6, 2005 Draft of "Proposed Changes to Rules of School Committee".

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, it was voted that the following be removed and referred to item #05-149: **Motion by Mr. McGovern** that the School Committee retain an accountant to review the Cambridge Public School accounting system which generates the reports of Budget and Actual used by the School Committee for their budget review. Further, that an allowance of \$30,000 be authorized for such a contract to be written as part of an RFP by the Budget Sub-Committee (C05-184).

New Business

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. McGovern, for the adoption of items #05-138 through #05-149. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to remove #05-138 because it is a duplicate of #05-140 and place it on file. Mr. Fantini removed #05-139, #05-140, and #05-147. Mr. McGovern removed #05-141, #05-143 and #05-149. Mr. Grassi removed #05-144. Ms. Walser removed #05-148. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#05-142, 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	Camphill Special School, 1784 Fairview Rd., Glenmore, PA	\$ 61,584.00
1 student	Castle School, 298 Harvard Street, Cambridge, MA	57,345.59
1 student	Boston Hagashi School, 800 N. Main St., Randolph, MA	132,804.62
1 student	New England Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Rd., Southboro, MA	154,344.09
1 student	The Pathway School, 162 Egypt Rd., Norristown, PA	144,000.00
1 student	Amego, Inc., 115 Plymouth St., Mansfield, MA	186,294.92
1 student	Judge Rotenberg Center, 240 Turnpike St., Canton, MA	208,147.25

1 student	Protestant Guild for Human Services, 411 Waverly Oaks, Waltham, MA	139,705.50
1 student	Perkins School for the Blind, 175 N. Beacon St., Watertown, MA	225,399.47
1 student	Melmark Home, Inc., 2600 Wayland Rd., Berwyn, PA	170,889.99
1 student	Justice Resource Inst., 545 Boylston St., Boston, MA	144,842.43
1 student	Learning Center for Deaf Children, 848 Central St., Framingham, MA	204,507.96
<hr/> 12		<hr/> \$1,829,865.82

#05-145, Motion by Ms. Walser that the School Committee review the slate of Resolutions 1-12 (see attached) to be voted at the Delegate Assembly of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees on October 26, 2005.

#05-146, Motion by Ms. Walser that the School Committee schedule a workshop on the elementary school curriculum with an update from the Superintendent on how it aligns with the State frameworks and the periodic assessments, how teachers can meet the needs of students working below, at and above grade level within the classroom. Mr. Harding NAY, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

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

Non-Consent Business

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Lummis, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#05-139, Approval of Level III Response Cambridge Teachers Association Unit C Grievance C4-04-05**: that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's Recommendation relative to Level III response to the Cambridge Teachers Association Unit C Grievance number C4-04-05 in accordance with WR05-95(A). Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi NAY, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#05-140, Response to Cambridge Teachers Association Unit A Level III Grievance**: that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's Recommendation relative to the Unit A Level III Grievance response to the Cambridge Teachers Association in accordance with WR05-101. Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Mr. McGovern asked to be recorded as present, not voting, because he is on the Board of Directors of Cambridge School Volunteers. On the following roll call, **#05-141, Consultant Agreements**, was adopted as follows: 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 Health Alliance, Cambridge, in the amount of \$121,050.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852360, prog. 360.
2. Cambridge School Volunteers, Cambridge, in the amount of \$78,843.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 893640, prog. 640.
3. Princeton Review, New York, in the amount of \$32,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 830250, prog. 250.

4. Summerbridge Cambridge, Cambridge, in the amount of \$37,200.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 893410, prog.410. Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern PRESENT, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

Mr. McGovern asked to be recorded as present, not voting, because he is employed by Judge Baker Children's Center. On the following roll call, **#05-143, Special Needs Contracts for Day Program Services** not available from the Cambridge School Department, was adopted as follows: that the School Committee award contracts 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:

11 students	Judge Baker Children's Center, 53 Parker Hill Ave., Roxbury Crossing, MA	\$ 687,247.00
7 students	Bay Cove Human Services, Inc., 66 Canal St., Boston, MA	350,177.94
3 students	Learning Center for Deaf Children, 848 Central St., Framingham, MA	108,792.79
6 students	LABB Collaborative, 123 Cambridge St., Burlington, MA	278,795.00
2 students	Cotting School, 453 Concord Ave., Lexington, MA	106,641.50
3 students	Landmark School, PO Box 227, Prides Crossing, MA	103,566.21
3 Students	Corwin-Russell School at Broccoli Hall, 142 North Rd., Sudbury, MA	90,558.63
2 students	Schools for Children (Seaport Campus), 20 Academy St., Arlington, MA	94,012.90
6 students	The May Institute, PO Box 847240, Boston, MA	378,705.94
1 student	Harbor Schools, Inc., 26 Rolfe Lane, Newbury, MA	7,132.72
2 students	Community Therapeutic Day School, 187 Spring St., Lexington, MA	97,742.64
6 students	Lighthouse School, 25 Wellman Ave., N. Chelmsford, MA	281,540.88
3 students	New England Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Rd., Southboro, MA	198,715.68
2 students	Perkins School for the Blind, 175 N. Beacon St., Watertown, MA	184,468.32
12 students	Schools for Children, 20 Academy St., Arlington, MA	523,410.96
1 student	Latham School, PO Box 1879, 1646 Route 6A, Brewster, MA	74,931.09
3 students	The Gifford School, 177 Boston Post Rd., Weston, MA	123,061.35
3 students	Farr Academy, 71 Pearl St., Cambridge, MA	175,009.62
2 students	COMPASS, 26 Sunnyside St., Jamaica Plain, MA	73,732.06

2 students	Holden School, 8 Pearl St., Charlestown, MA	75,492.50
1 student	Justice Resource Institute, 545 Boylston St., Boston, MA	72,421.22
3 students	Clearway School, 61 Chestnut St., West Newton, MA	93,771.36
1 student	Hillcrest Educational Centers, PO Box 4699, Pittsfield, MA	72,961.65
<u>4</u> 89	<u>4</u> students Beacon High School, 74 Green St., Brookline, MA	<u>163,548.04</u> \$4,416,438.00

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

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, **#05-144, Grant Awards**, was adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Title I Distribution, Project/Grant SC06604, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$697,192.00. These funds will provide academic instructional and support services for eligible students, professional development activities for staff, support for parents involvement activities, and also includes the purchase of supplies and materials. This award is 36% of the entitlement amount of \$1,936,645.00, 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 SC06607, for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$57,843.00. 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. Title V, Project/Grant SC06608, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$29,497.00. This grant is a federal entitlement grant that will fund professional development for New Teacher Induction Program summer training, stipends for Cambridge Licensure in District Program (CLIP) for mentors/coaches for new administrators, Research for Better Teaching workshops for supervision/evaluation training, and related activities.
4. Even Start, Project/Grant SC06610, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$82,900.00. Correction to original School Committee Order #C05-158 dated September 6, 2005 School Committee Meeting. Original amount was \$83,200.00 and it should have been \$82,900.00. The amount was posted to DOE website in error.
5. McKinney Homeless, SC06707, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$40,000.00. This grant will provide support for approximately 240 homeless families living in Cambridge with children attending our schools. This includes assistance with medical and mental health support agencies, and bus and train passes, clothing and school supplies.
6. Teacher Quality, SC06731, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$234,917.00. This grant program is to increase student achievement through a comprehensive district initiative that focuses on the preparation, training, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified educators, to help meet NCLB goals. Consultant services for training, and mandated private school allotment are funded in this grant. This award is 49% of the entitlement amount of \$479,423.00 in accordance with the letter from the State DOE. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded in October.

7. LEP Support, SC06737, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$127,085.00. This grant will provide funds to improve the educational performance of limited English proficient students in grades K-12 by assisting these students to learn English and meet State academic content standards.
8. Enhanced Education Through Technology, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$36,022.00. This grant is a continuation grant that will be used to expand a K-12 professional development model using Collaborative Design Teams designed to effectively use technology to promote teaching for understanding.
9. 21st Century Community Learning, SC06743, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$247,500.00. This grant, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program, is to establish and expand community learning centers that operate during out-of-school hours and will provide students with academic enrichment opportunities along with other activities designed to complement the students' regular academic program.
10. Reading First Program, SC06764, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$92,450.00. 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 \$115,563.00, in accordance with the letter from the State DOE. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded in October.
11. Carol M. White Physical Education Program, SC06767, for the period October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006, in the amount of \$499,127.00. These funds will continue to support the Health Physical Education and Athletics department expanding and improving physical education programs including extended day programs for students K-12. The project aims to progress toward meeting and exceeding the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and learning standards. The grant funds a project manager, physical education equipment for school-based data collection, training consultants for obesity prevention programs, and training and materials for staff development and curriculum development.
12. Content Institute, SC06802, for the period September 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, in the amount of \$9,575.00. This grant is a sub-contract between Bridgewater State College and New England Conservatory. Funds will support two all day follow-up meetings for teachers enrolled in Content Institute entitled New Technologies in the Visual Arts, and for individual mentoring program for teachers enrolled in Content Institute entitled Kodaly Music Institute.
13. Comprehensive School Reform, SC06804, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$240,840.00. These funds will provide a weeklong math workshop over the summer for teachers in K-8. This training will be designed and provided by the District's math team, which includes the math coordinator and three coaches. It will be organized on the basis of K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, with a focus on the Investigations and CMP curriculum. The purpose of this activity is to strengthen the teachers' content knowledge in an area where the data indicates the need for improvement, and also improve their ability to fully implement the curriculum.
14. Cambridge Community Foundation MSAN Conference, SC06809, for the period September 1, 2005 to October 31, 2006, in the amount of \$7,500.00. This is a supplemental to original grant approved by the School Committee on September 20, 2005 meeting. School Committee order #C05-275 to increase amount by \$7,500.00 brings the total amount of the grant to \$25,000.00.
15. 21st Century Community Learning, SC06810, for the period August 15, 2005 to October 31, 2005, in the amount of \$4,912.00. This program will support learning goals to include more

specific connections to the math frameworks, development of extension activities that build in additional practice with the concepts, further development of the music teaching elements, and specific group management and peer leadership elements based on the Algebra Project's Young People's Project Model. Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi PRESENT, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

#05-147, Motion by Ms. Walser that the Superintendent's salary be adjusted retroactively to July 1, 2005, consistent with all other senior management personnel of the Cambridge Public Schools, for the current fiscal year. Mr. Fantini asked Ms. Walser to speak to her motion. Ms. Walser said that all non-union employees received a 4-1/4% increase. It was pointed out that both union and non-union employees in the City of Cambridge with the exception of one employee received the increase. Mr. Grassi moved that the motion be placed on the Calendar.

Ms. Walser was heard in support of her motion. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adopt **#05-148, Motion by Ms. Walser:** that the Superintendent, high school and elementary Principals consider implementing an annual orientation day at CRLS for 7th and 8th graders to begin this fall and that invitations be extended to Cambridge students attending private, parochial and charter schools as well.

Mr. McGovern moved that the following be substituted for the motion that was removed from the Calendar earlier (Order #C05-184): **#05-149, Motion by Mr. McGovern** that the School Committee submit written questions to the City Auditor pertaining to the way the Cambridge Public School's accounting system gathers, tracks, analyzes, and reports information. Further, that a meeting be scheduled with the City Auditor and the Budget Subcommittee after receiving answers to these questions in writing. Further, that the School Committee authorizes an allowance of no more than \$30,000 to retain an outside accounting firm through an RFP written by the Budget Subcommittee for further review if deemed appropriate. If an outside accounting firm is retained and their findings necessitate further review, no additional funds will be allocated until a new vote by the School Committee is taken. Members had a lengthy discussion about the substitution. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to substitute #05-149 for #C05-184. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to divide the motion.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, on the following roll call, **#05-149A** was adopted as follows: that the School Committee submit written questions to the City Auditor pertaining to the way the Cambridge Public School's accounting system gathers, tracks, analyzes, and reports information. Further, that a meeting be scheduled with the City Auditor and the Budget Subcommittee after receiving answers to these questions in writing: 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 Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. McGovern, on the following roll call **#05-149B failed of adoption:** that the School Committee authorizes an allowance of no more than \$30,000 to retain an outside accounting firm through an RFP written by the Budget Subcommittee for further review if deemed appropriate. If an outside accounting firm is retained and their findings necessitate further review, no additional funds will be allocated until a new vote by the School Committee is taken. Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis NAY, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser NAY, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi NAY, Mayor Sullivan NAY.

Late Orders

Mr. Harding submitted a motion regarding military recruitment to be placed on the Calendar for the next Regular meeting Agenda.

The Chair acknowledged Superintendent Fowler-Finn for presentation on MCAS Results. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to postpone the presentation until the next meeting: Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis NAY, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser NAY, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adjourn (7:35 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee