

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

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

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

Also Present: Student School Committee Member James Conway.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Mayor Sullivan announced that the meeting of October 18 was not posted in a timely manner so this meeting will take up the matters that were taken up at that meeting.

Ms. MacFarlane introduced two of the partners from the law firm of Collins, Loughran & Peloquin. Attorneys Philip Collins, Founder, and Mike Loughran, Partner, gave brief descriptions of the firm and of their backgrounds.

The Attorneys responded to the questions, comments and concerns raised by Members.

Members thanked the attorneys for returning for this meeting tonight.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Lummis, 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. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis 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

The Members discussed strategies for collective bargaining with Legal Counsel (issues that were discussed in Executive Session on October 18).

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. The Chair introduced and welcomed School Committee Members-elect Patricia Nolan and Luc Schuster.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings

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

- Regular Meeting - November 1, 2005
- Special Joint Meeting - October 21, 2005
- Special Meeting - October 11, 2005, 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment on School Committee Agenda

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

Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members:

James Conway was heard in support of the motion on military recruitment. Mr. Conway pointed out that several students were suspended recently for protesting military recruitment and requested that the School Committee reconsider the policy on suspension of students for expressing freedom of speech.

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

Unfinished Business

B. Tabled Matters

Mr. Harding removed **#05-156, Joint Motion by Mr. Harding, Mr. McGovern and Mayor Sullivan**, regarding military recruitment. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to amend the motion by striking the following paragraph: "WHEREAS: It is clear that military recruiters are actively using incomplete and inaccurate information, are using pressure tactics in their delivery of information to students, and are contacting students at home, school and in the community". On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to amend the motion by incorporating Mr. Grassi's friendly amendment after the 8th WHEREAS: "The School Committee understands the need to support and guide students who may be interested in pursuing career options in the military, request that the Superintendent review the intent of the November 17, 1998, policy and recommend the possible inclusion of any of these provisions in any recommended policy changes." Members were heard in support of the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was adopted, as amended, as follows: **#05-156, Joint Motion by Mr. Harding, Mr. McGovern and Mayor Sullivan:** That WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee is charged with the stewardship of the Cambridge Public Schools system and its delivery of quality education that reaches the highest standards; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee recognizes that young people in Cambridge have the right to information that helps them plan, prepare and make decisions about their vocational and educational futures; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee recognizes that military service is honorable, that a career in the military is an opportunity for students, and that military service is an option students have the right to consider; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee is committed to providing students with bias-free, non-pressure- driven, and accurate information about career and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The No Child Left Behind Act mandates that student information be made available to military recruiters unless the student or parent designates that such information should not be forwarded; and

WHEREAS: The school department and/or high school requires the current "opt-out" be completed in the first three months of the year in order to deliver such information to military recruiters; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee understands the need to support and guide students who may be interested in pursuing career options in the military; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Committee requests the Superintendent to review the intent of the November 17, 1998, policy and recommend the possible inclusion of any of these provisions in any recommended policy changes; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee directs the Superintendent and the high school Principal, and their designees, to work with the required legal entities to explore and craft a viable "opt-in" policy that meets the guidelines of the No Child Left Behind Act; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent and the high school Principal, and their designees, report on such a policy within the current school year; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the high school Principal report on the use and/or viability of the use at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School of the following strategies to address the issue of military recruitment:

- Prominently display the "opt-out" on the required Student Emergency Cards (Santa Cruz City High School District, CA)
- Allow students to "opt-out" themselves (San Francisco Unified School District and Santa Cruz)
- Limit all institutional (including military) recruiter access to a few times a year (limited to 3 days a year by the Madison Metropolitan School District, WI)
- Do not mix "opt-out" information to military recruiters with any other institution
- Make military recruiter visit information public (Santa Cruz)
- Allow students and parents to "opt-out" at any time (Santa Cruz)
- Have one "opt-out" cover the rest of a student's time at the high school
- Provide contacts for alternatives to military service on the "opt-out" forms
- Charge all institutional recruiters for access to student directory information to make up for administrative costs (Los Angeles Unified School District)
- Make all institutional recruiters sign an affidavit declaring compliance with local, state, and national discrimination laws (LAUSD).

New Business

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, on the following roll call, items #05-157 through #05-163 were adopted:

#05-157, Approval to go into Executive Session: that the School Committee go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and collective bargaining strategy as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation and collective bargaining positions of the School Committee and to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

#05-158, Approval of Policy on Education of Homeless Children: that the School Committee approve the policy on education of homeless children as detailed in the document. This policy is being presented for its first reading at the November 15, 2005 School Committee meeting.

#05-159, 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	Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc., 405 Washington St., Hanover	\$109,001.86
<u>1</u> student	Evergreen Center, 345 Fortune Blvd., Milford	<u>137,018.99</u>
2 students		\$246,020.85

#05-160, 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:

2 students	SEEM Collaborative, 55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 260, Reading	\$120,194.00
1 student	McLean Hospital, (CNS Pathways Academy), 115 Mill Street, Belmont	81,429.18
6 students	Learning Prep School, PO Box 650205, West Newton	138,986.50
<u>1</u> student	The Home for Little Wanderers, 217 Huntington Ave., Boston	<u>62,126.11</u>
10 students		\$402,735.79

#05-161, 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 Economic Opportunity Committee, Cambridge, in the amount of \$52,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 849137, prog. 137.
2. Lesley University, Cambridge, in the amount of \$27,480.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852360, prog. 360.

#05-162, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Friends of the King School, Project/Grant SC05792, for the period October 7, 2005 to September 30, 2006, in the amount of \$1,139.00. These funds are various donations and will be used for the school beautification and special events.
2. Early Literacy Intervention Program, SC06632, for the period October 26, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$12,500.00. This grant is a supplemental to the original grant which was approved by the School Committee on September 6, 2005 (Order #C05-158). The total of this grant is now \$125,097.00.
3. Jump Up & Go!, SC06785, for the period October 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$3,000.00. These funds will support teacher training for the Fletcher/Maynard Academy. Teachers will attend a Planet Health Curriculum.
4. King School, SC06811, for the period October 7, 2005 to September 30, 2006, in the amount of \$20,000.00. These funds will support an Outreach Counselor position at the King School.

This person will counsel children and their families, make home visits to meet with parents who we have not been able to contact, educate families through workshops and meetings about the importance of regular attendance, literacy, homework completion.

5. Expanding Learning Time, SC06812, for the period October 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, in the amount of \$25,000.00. These funds will support a planning process to study the viability of expanding learning time by 30% in the Amigos, King and Fletcher/Maynard Academy. The grant provides resources for schools to plan the innovative redesign of the selected schools to offer challenging research-based and varied learning experiences focused on raising student achievement.
6. Vocational Technical Education Embedded Academics, SC06813, for the period October 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$10,000.00. These funds will provide pilot innovative applied academic instruction within a technical environment as well as applicable assessment models and analysis.
7. Vocational Technical Education Cooperative Education, SC06814, for the period October 26, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the amount of \$5,000.00. These funds will support the design curricula as well as instructional and student assessment strategies for the implementation of the Vocational Technical Education Curriculum Frameworks in cooperative education components of Chapter 74-approved vocational technical education programs.

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

Mr. Grassi requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded as Present, not voting on item #05-162.

Non-Consent Business

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, on the following roll call, it was voted that the Committee convene in Executive Session for the purpose of conducting 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: Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis 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
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel

The Members discussed contract negotiations with non-union personnel and evaluation instruments.

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

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

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.

Late Orders

On a motion by Vice Chair Harding, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted that Joseph Grassi and Members-Elect Patricia Nolan and Luc Schuster be appointed to work with the Executive Secretary on an Ad Hoc Committee to plan the inauguration ceremony on January 2, 2006.

The Chair announced that the November 29 roundtable is scheduled for curriculum as well as Richard Elmore.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Lummis, it was voted to adjourn (6:55 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee