

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

**Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2004**

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

Student Representatives: 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. Grassi, it was voted that the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as presented:

- Regular Meeting - October 5, 2004
- Special Meeting - October 6, 2004
- Regular Meeting - October 19, 2004

## **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:**

Ms. House reported that Cambridge will host the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Conference next year.

Mr. Conway reported that he is a semi-finalist for a youth delegate seat to the U.S. Senate in March. The Superintendent responded to a question raised by Mr. Conway on how block scheduling will affect AP courses.

## **Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None**

## **Unfinished Business**

The Members passed over all Unfinished Business.

## **New Business**

Mr. Lummis moved for adoption of items #04-153 through #04-165. Mayor Sullivan removed #04-165. Mr. Grassi removed #04-163. Ms. Walser removed # 04-160. Mr. Fantini removed #04-157. Mr. McGovern removed #04-156, #04-159, #04-161 and #04-164. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted as follows:

**#04-153, Settlement of Threatened Litigation with the Business Software Alliance:** that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the settlement of threatened litigation with the Business Software Alliance in accordance with WR04-58.

**#04-154, Approval of Settlement of Petition Pending Before American Arbitration Association:** that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the settlement of a pending matter before the American Arbitration Association in accordance with WR04-58.

**#04-155, Approval of Home School Applicants** 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.

**#04-158, Approval of Superintendent's Goals Statements 2003-2005:** that the School Committee approve the Goals Statements 2003-2005 as detailed in the document.

**#04-162, Motion by Mr. Grassi** that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee on the status of the contract with Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) for expelled students, including a description of the program, who the program serves, as well as the overall purpose of the program. This report should be in conjunction with the awaiting report on Challenge Prep, including an explanation/recommendation of how these programs work in conjunction with the High School Extension Program.

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

#### Non-Consent Business

Mr. McGovern raised a question on whether the drop in tuitioned-out costs is because students graduated and/or moved out of the system. The Superintendent was heard. Mr. Fantini suggested that the school system look at doing something about the high cost of tuitioning out students. On the following roll call, **#04-156, Special Needs Contracts for Residential Program Services** not available from the Cambridge School Department, was adopted as follows: 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 contracts       | Judge Rotenburg Educational Center, 240 Turnpike St., Canton   | \$405,507.98      |
| 1 contract        | Evergreen Center, 345 Fortune Blvd., Milford, MA               | 133,468.72        |
| <u>1 contract</u> | <u>League School, 300 Boston-Providence Tpke., Walpole, MA</u> | <u>122,934.99</u> |
| 4 contracts       |  | \$661,911.69      |

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

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, **#04-157, Special Needs Contracts for Day Program Services** not available from the Cambridge School Department, was adopted as follows: 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 contracts  | St. Vincent's Home, 2425 Highland Ave., Fall River, MA | \$ 94,290.46 |
| 1 contract   | The Carroll School, 25 Baker Bridge Rd., Lincoln, MA   | 21,498.09    |
| 11 contracts | Lighthouse School, 25 Wellman Ave., Chelmsford, MA     | 486,769.58   |
| 1 contract   | Project Spoke, 64 West Main St., PO Box Z, Norton, MA  | 50,333.75    |
| 8 contracts  | Kennedy Day School, 30 Warren St., Brighton, MA        | 320,456.48   |

|                     |  |                       |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 contract          | Schools for Children, Inc., (STEP Program) Dearborn Academy, 20 Academy St., Arlington, MA | 72,000.00             |
| 1 contract          | Judge Rotenberg Educational Center, 240 Turnpike St., Canton, MA                           | 101,378.75            |
| 7 contracts         | The May Institute, PO Box 847240, Boston, MA   | 395,238.07            |
| 3 contracts         | McLean Hospital, Arlington School, 115 Mill St., Belmont, MA                               | 141,787.71            |
| 5 contracts         | McLean Hospital, CNS Pathways Academy, 115 Mill St. Belmont, MA                            | 345,567.64            |
| <u>40 contracts</u> |  | <u>\$2,029,320.53</u> |

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

Mr. McGovern asked the Superintendent to speak to the transfer of funds for the High School Extension Program. The Superintendent and Mr. Conry were heard. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, on the following roll call, **#04-159, FY04-05 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers**, was adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund Budget for FY2004-05:

|             | <u>Statutory Coding</u>    | <u>Increase Amount</u> | <u>Decrease Amount</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 51000       | Salaries, Wages & Benefits | \$1,089,472.29         | 0                      |
| 52000/55000 | Other Ordinary Maintenance | 0                      | (1,334,294.98)         |
| 57000       | Travel & Training          | 88,319.57              | 0                      |
| 58000/59000 | Extraordinary Expenditures | <u>156,503.12</u>      | <u>0</u>               |
|             | Total                      | \$1,334,294.98         | (\$1,334,294.98)       |

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

Ms. Walser raised a question on whether the contract with CEOC will allow boys and girls to be separated in the "Know Your Body" classes. The Superintendent was heard in the affirmative. Mr. McGovern asked if CPS cannot provide the special tutoring services that we are contracting with Lesley University to provide. Dr. Turk was heard in the affirmative. On the following roll call, **#04-160, 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 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 \$31,500.00, account 55107, fund 15000, org. 852340, prog. 340.
3. Lesley University, Cambridge, in the amount of \$10,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 859138, prog. 138, project/grant SC05632; and in the amount of \$40,000.00, account 53101, fund 24000, org. 859651, prog. 651, SC00416.

4. Summerbridge Cambridge, Cambridge, in the amount of \$28,997.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 893410, prog. 410.

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 page 43.

Mr. McGovern raised a question on why Cambridgeport is paying for a school climate study. The Superintendent was heard. On the following roll call, **#04-161, 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. Academic Support Services, SC05757, in the amount of \$66,089.00, for the period October 25, 2004 to June 30, 2005. This program is to enhance Academic Support Services for students in grades 11 and 12 (Class of 2005-2006) and students in the Class of 2004 who have taken and not yet passed the English language arts and or mathematics 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS and subsequent re-test needed to complete the competency determination required for high school graduation. These services are to supplement currently funded local, state, and federal programs.
2. Friends of the Cambridgeport School, SC05791, in the amount of \$15,000.00, for the period October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005. This grant will provide partial funding for the Technology Resource teacher, the Library Aide and a consultant for a school climate study at the Cambridgeport School.
3. Friends of the King School, SC05792, in the amount of \$6,074.53, for the period October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005. This grant will provide funding for a Library assistant salary.
4. The Llewellyn Foundation, SC05793, in the amount of \$13,700.00, for the period October 27, 2004 to September 30, 2005. These funds will provide a PA system and school uniforms for the Fletcher-Maynard Academy, Peabody School Wilderness Fund; and for instruments, lighting console for Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.
5. Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, SC05794, in the amount of \$5,000.00, for the period October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005. School libraries or school districts that have completed a school library long-range plan will carry out one or more of the objectives in their plan. This grant is directed towards implementing activities outlined in the plan, including purchase of grade 3-6 Language Arts materials, training of staff, curriculum development, and visiting authors.

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

**#04-163, Motion by Mr. Grassi** that the City Council ask the Department of Traffic and Parking to investigate traffic calming measures on Cushing Street in front of the Haggerty School and report back to the School Committee. Mr. Grassi moved an amendment to his motion to strike "report back to the School Committee" and add "that a representative of that department meet with Dr. Petner". On a voice vote, the foregoing motion was adopted as amended.

Mr. McGovern raised a question on the status of the Parent/Teacher/Student School Climate Survey. The Superintendent was heard. On a voice vote, the following was adopted: **#04-164, Motion by Mr. McGovern** that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee at the next meeting on the progress being made in each elementary school regarding the Parent/Teacher/Student School Climate Survey.

**#04-165, Joint motion by Mr. Harding and Mayor Sullivan** that the School Committee approve a 3% raise for the Superintendent of Schools which is equal to, and consistent with, the budgeted percentage increase granted to senior management personnel of the Cambridge Public Schools for the current fiscal year. Mayor Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Grassi, an amendment to the foregoing motion that after "with", "including delayed provisions" be inserted. On the following roll call, **#04-165**, was adopted as amended as follows: that the School Committee approve a 3% raise for the Superintendent of Schools which is equal to, and consistent with (including delayed provisions), the budgeted percentage increase granted to senior management personnel of the Cambridge Public Schools for the current fiscal year: Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Lummis YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA.

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

#### **Late Orders**

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Grassi, that the Director of Guidance provide the School Committee with a list of Cambridge colleges that CRLS students have been admitted to over the past five years. Mr. Grassi offered a friendly amendment to include how many enrolled and completed their freshman year. Ms. Walser offered a friendly amendment to include students admitted to all colleges. Friendly amendments were accepted by Mr. Fantini. On a voice vote, the motion was accepted as amended.

Mr. Fantini moved that the School Committee develop an agenda item called "hot issues" to allow the Superintendent five minutes to provide an update on issues that are critical to our school system. It was voted that the foregoing motion be referred to Legal Counsel for a response.

In response to a question from Mr. Harding on the results of the votes taken at the MASC Conference, Ms. Walser will send Members the results.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, it was voted to send the CRLS Crew Team a letter of congratulations for participating in the Head of the Charles Regatta.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to adjourn (6:45 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee