

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

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 5:40 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#05-164**, that the School Committee go into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting a Level III grievance hearing as part of collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation positions of the School Committee. Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mr. Lummis ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mayor Sullivan YEA. The Chair announced that no votes will be taken during Executive Session and the Committee will reconvene in Open Session.

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
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Dana Ham, Facilities Director
Stephen Edmonds, President, AFSCME Local 1611
Robert Smith, Vice President, Local 1611
W. DiBiasi, Local 1611

The individuals from Local 1611 presented their grievance and exited the meeting. The Members discussed the grievance with staff and Legal Counsel.

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 asked for a moment of silence for Lois Casassa, a long-time, dedicated School Department employee. The Chair asked the Secretary to send a letter of condolence to the Casassa family on behalf of the Members.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting - November 15, 2005
- Special Informal Meeting - November 29, 2005

Public Comment on School Committee Agenda

There being no one signed up, on a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Fantini, 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

The Members passed over all unfinished business.

New Business

Mr. Lummis moved, seconded by Ms. Walser, for the adoption of items #05-165 through #05-175. Mr. Grassi removed #05-165. Ms. Walser removed #05-171 through #05-173. Mr. Fantini removed #05-167. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#05-166, Approval of Home School Applications for School Year 2005-2006: that the School Committee approve the home school applications for the 2005-2006 school year as detailed in the document.

#05-168, 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. Jayne Bamford Lynch, Melrose, in the amount of \$41,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 862845, prog. 845, proj./grant SC06804.
2. Cambridge Affordable Housing, Cambridge, in the amount of \$26,825.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 869665, prog. 665.
3. Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, in the amount of \$120,773.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 841642, prog. 642, proj./grant SC06736.
4. Center for Child and Adolescent Development, Cambridge, in the amount of \$25,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852360, prog. 360.
5. Center for Families, Cambridge, in the amount of \$138,967.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 841642, prog. 642, proj./grant SC06736.
6. Child Care Resource Center, Cambridge, in the amount of \$139,802.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 841642, prog. 642, proj./grant SC06736.
7. Community Learning Center, Cambridge, in the amount of \$169,710.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 841642, prog. 642, proj./grant SC06736.
8. North Shore Arc, Inc., Danvers, in the amount of \$37,775.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852335, prog. 335.

9. Wheelock College, Boston, in the amount of \$30,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852335, prog. 335.

#05-169, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. SPED Early Childhood Allocation, in the amount of \$578.00, for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, project/grant SC06607. This grant is a supplemental to the original grant which was approved by the School Committee on October 18, 2005 (Order #C05-195). The total of this grant is now \$58,421.00.
2. SPED Program Improvement, in the amount of \$10,400.00, for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, project/grant SC06674. This award is for the remaining balance of the entitlement amount. (School Committee approved on September 6, 2005 meeting, Order #C05-158.)
3. Hasty Pudding Theatricals, in the amount of \$11,000.00, for the period November 10, 2005 to June 30, 2006, project/grant SC06775. These funds will be used to subsidize the purchase of tickets for K-12 students to attend cultural performance events and exhibits. This money will supplement funding allocated to the schools through the Performing Arts Students Series (PASS) program.

#05-170, Contract for Legal Services: that the School Committee approve a contract for fiscal year 2005-2006 to the following firm for providing legal services, as needed, by the Cambridge Public Schools at the hourly rate and for the period indicated: Collins, Loughran & Peloquin, P.C., 320 Norwood Park South, Norwood, for the period December 12, 2005 to June 30, 2006, at the hourly rate of \$160.00. Total not to exceed \$25,000.00.

#05-174, Motion by Mr. McGovern that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee, in writing, what each elementary school is doing to implement the Olweus anti-bullying program, and to comment on how each school feels this program is working thus far.

#05-175, Report of the November 24, 2005, Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Inauguration.

Called for 1:00 p.m. in the School Committee Meeting Room for the purpose of planning for the Inauguration of the 2006-2007 School Committee.

Members present: Mr. Grassi, Chair, Members-Elect Ms. Nolan and Mr. Schuster

Mr. Grassi in the Chair.

A quorum of the Committee being present, Mr. Grassi called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

The Committee discussed plans and ideas for the School Committee Inauguration on Monday, January 2, 2006, as follows:

1. That the time for the Organization/Inauguration be 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 2, 2006, in the Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway.
2. That former School Committee Member Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, be invited to emcee or, backups, former State Rep. Sandra Graham and former School Committee Member Frances Cooper.

3. That Rev. Irv Cummings, Pastor, Old Cambridge Baptist Church and Father Tackney, Sacred Heart, be asked to participate in the ceremony. Ms. Nolan will identify a Rabbi to participate.
4. That Ms. Contrucci, Coordinator of Performing & Visual Arts provide music for the ceremony, e.g., a chorus from the Amigos School, the CRLS jazz ensemble, etc.
5. That a collation for guests be served in the Main Cafeteria at C.R.L.S. immediately following the ceremony, and that the Manager of Food Services be asked to provide the collation. It was suggested that American, Chinese, Mexican cuisines be served.
6. That Members be provided an opportunity to introduce family members during the ceremony.
7. That the Executive Secretary be authorized to proceed with the arrangements (including remembrances for outgoing Members, invitations, program, music, flowers, collation, etc.).

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Nolan, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

Mr. Harding and Mr. Lummis requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the earlier roll call.

Non-Consent Business

Mr. Grassi asked the Superintendent to speak to the Homeless Education Liaison position. The Superintendent was heard. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adopt **#05-165, 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.

#05-167, Special Needs Contracts for Day Program Services, was removed in error. Mr. Fantini instead asked the Superintendent to speak to the nine contracts in **#05-168, Consultant Agreements**, that were adopted earlier. The Superintendent, Dr. Sullivan and Ms. MacDonald were heard. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#05-167, 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:

8 students	Edco Collaborative, 30 Common St., Watertown	\$ 72,000.00
2 students	McLean Hospital (CNS Pathways Academy) 115 Mill St., Belmont	162,858.36
3 students	SHORE Collaborative, Owen Center, 100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea	128,381.40
8 students	SHORE Collaborative, Owen Center, 100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea	43,066.80

7 students	Kennedy Day School, 30 Warren St., Brighton,	258,537.96
3 students	Boston College Campus, Campion Hall, Room 197, Chestnut Hill	144,324.12
1 student	Tufts Educational Day Care Center, 165 Holland St., Somerville	50,271.46
1 student	Schools for Children, Dearborn Academy STEP Program, 20 Academy St., #201, Arlington	75,600.00
<u>33 students</u>		<u>\$935,040.10</u>

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

Members raised questions on what items will be looked at during the assessment and when it will be available. The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney were heard. On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Lummis, on the following roll call, **#05-171, Capital Needs Assessment Proposal**, was adopted: that the School Committee accept and approve the proposal for a Building Capital Needs Assessment to the named firm for Capital Needs Assessment and Electronic Floor Plans.

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

Members raised questions on whether the weight training equipment will be available to athletes other than football players and who will maintain it. The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney were heard. On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, **#05-172, Cardio/Weight Training Equipment for Russell Field House**, was adopted: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Cardio/Weight Training Equipment; funds to be provided from the General Fund budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Gym Source, Inc., 1 Sylvan St., Peabody, for the period of December 15, 2005 to December 15, 2006, in the amount of \$108,915.20.

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

#05-173, Revised School Committee Reports for SY2005/2006. Ms. Walser raised a question on the list of reports being part of the Rules. The Secretary was heard. On a motion by Ms. Walser, it was voted to separate Appendix A from the Rules. On a motion by Ms. Walser, it was voted to add the following reports to the list: the Annual City Auditor's Report to the Department of Education due in October, and the Final Independent Audit of the School Committee due in January. On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted that Recommendation **#05-173, Revised School Committee Reports for SY2005/2006**, be referred for a second reading, as amended.

The Chair declared a five-minute recess to set up for presentations.

Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting. The Superintendent made a brief statement and turned the meeting over to Mr. McCormack who walked Members through a presentation on "Out-of-District Placements FY '05 End of Year Report".

Members raised the following questions, comments and concerns:

- Are students in class being monitored

- What are we doing to insure students are getting what they need
- Hold outside agencies responsible for what we are being held responsible for
- What do we have to do to enforce corrective action
- How many professionals are in a class with six children
- What is the process to bring children back into the system once they are out-placed
- Is it typical that 151 males are out-placed and only 51 females
- Classrooms need to be more boy-friendly
- Are there categories where we can do in-district programs better
- Do we have programs in schools for children with behavioral problems and are parents leaving those programs and requesting out-placements
- Why would students be in general education for part of the day
- Are there any parents lobbying for more in-district classrooms
- There needs to be a program for out-of-district children to come back to
- Be as supportive as we can to parents during meetings
- If we do in-house programs we need to put our money and support into them
- Start programs at an earlier age – the earlier we get IEPs done the better
- Compare our out-of-district numbers to surrounding communities
- What are some of the challenges we need to be aware of as we move forward
- Should we look at converting one of our buildings into a special education facility to provide an opportunity for Cambridge to be ahead of the curve in this area
- What placements are made by legal agreements
- Legal agreements should come before the School Committee and the process needs to be communicated to all parents
- Would like to see redacted agreements to be aware of what is happening
- Are parents informed on how to get educational advocates
- Parents need to be satisfied that their child is succeeding
- We need to do a survey of the special education community
- How reluctant are we to return a child to out-placement when he/she comes back
- Do not judge our success on how many children come back

The Superintendent, Mr. McCormack and Legal Counsel responded to some of the above. The Members thanked the Superintendent and Mr. McCormack for the presentation.

The Chair introduced Mr. Maloney for the next presentation.

Mr. Harding in the Chair.

Mr. Maloney walked the Members through the CPS “FY06-07 Budget Five-Year Financial Estimates”, “Net School Spending’ Formula Impact on Cambridge” and CPS “Five-Year Financial Plan for Fiscal Years FY2006-07 - FY2010-11”.

The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney responded to some of the following questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- What are some of the things Members need to look at in the five-year plan
- The charter school shortfall is of great concern
- A charter school fund needs to be established to head off the 2010 shortfall
- Ask the Superintendent to send the Committee legislative strategy

The Chair thanked the Superintendent and Mr. Maloney for the presentation.

Late Orders

It was requested that the Discipline Detail Report not be submitted as a confidential attachment; further that it be revised and codes added. The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney were heard.

Ms. Walser was congratulated on being named Treasurer of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

Congratulations and thanks were extended to Mr. Fantini for his steadfast support and to everyone who was involved in creating the Media Center.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adjourn (9:25 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee