

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

**Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 20, 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 Members James Conway and Spenser Skates

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

### **Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings**

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Lummis, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting - December 6, 2005

### **Public Comment on School Committee Agenda**

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow a member of the public to speak to an item not on the Agenda.

The following individual was heard:

- Carl Pilgrim, Jay Street re residential zoning

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Lummis, 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**

The Members postponed scheduled presentations on the SAT Score Report and Benchmarks for a future meeting.

Ms. Walser moved, seconded by Mr. McGovern, for adoption of items #05-176 through #05-184. Ms. Walser removed #05-176. Mr. Grassi removed #05-177. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

**#05-178, 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 WR05-109.(A).

**#05-179, Settlement of Matter Pending before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination:** that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the settlement of a pending matter before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination in accordance with WR05-109.(C).

**#05-180, Approval of Response to Level III Grievance filed by AFSCME, Local 1611, Council 93:** that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the response to the Level III grievance filed by AFSCME, Local 1611, Council 93 in accordance with WR05-106.(B).

**#05-181, 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	McLean Hospital (Arlington School), 115 Mill St., Belmont	\$ 48,519.75
1 student	The Forman School, 12 Norfolk Rd., PO Box 80, Litchfield, CT	45,000.00
1 student	Harbor Schools, Inc., 26 Rolfe Lane, Newbury	26,311.19
1 student	St. Ann's Home, 100A Haverhill St., Methuen	58,027.70
1 student	Judge Rotenberg Educational Center, 240 Turnpike St., Canton	104,074.28
1 student	Germaine Lawrence, Inc., 18 Claremont Ave., Arlington	61,922.25
1 student	Farr Academy, 71 Pearl St., Cambridge	54,076.36
1 student	Justice Resource Institute, 545 Boylston St., Boston	72,421.22
<u>1 student</u>	<u>The Walker Home &amp; School, 1968 Central Ave., Needham</u>	<u>87,233.18</u>
9 students		\$557,585.93

**#05-182, Approval of Home School Application for School Year 2005-2006:** that the School Committee approve the home school application for the 2005-2006 school year as detailed in the document.

**#05-183, Consultant Agreements:** that the School Committee approve consultant agreements with the companies, on the list, in the amounts set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Cambridge Public Health, Cambridge, in the amount of \$40,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 849622, prog. 622, proj./grant SC06767
2. Cambridge Public Health, Cambridge, in the amount of \$110,400.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 849622, prog. 622, proj./grant SC06767
3. Institute for Community Health, Cambridge, in the amount of \$47,500.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 849622, prog. 622, proj./grant SC06767

**#05-184, Revised School Committee Reports:** that the School Committee amend and approve the Revised School Committee Reports for SY2005/2006 submitted at the December 6<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting to include the following reports:

- Annual City Auditor's Report to the Department of Education

- Final Independent Audit of the School Committee

Further, that Appendix A of the Rules of the School Committee be separated from the Rules.

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

### Non-Consent Business

**#05-176, Resolution on Legislative Changes to Net School Spending Requirements.** Ms. Walser raised a question on the language in Section 1 and moved an amendment to strike Section 1. Ms. Walser's amendment failed for lack of a second. The Chair asked the Superintendent to speak to the resolution and the difference between a net school spending amount that exceeds 150% or 200% of its foundation budget. The Superintendent and Mr. Conry were heard. Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, an amendment to Section 1 that "no district shall be penalized if they...". On the following roll call, **#05-176, Resolution on Legislative Changes to Net School Spending Requirements**, was adopted as amended: that the School Committee approve the following resolution in support of legislative changes to the Net School Spending component of the state Chapter 70 education funding law, and forward this resolution to Commissioner David Driscoll of the Massachusetts Department of Education, City Manager Robert Healy, and our state legislative delegation:

"The Cambridge School Committee hereby endorses the following legislative language to change the Chapter 70 sections that deal with Net School Spending requirements, in order to eliminate inequitable treatment of districts that spend far in excess of their foundation budget in support of education:

Section 1. Section 6 of Chapter 70 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence of the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:

Beginning after June 30, 2006, no district shall be penalized if they have a required net school spending amount that exceeds 150 percent of its foundation budget.

Section 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6 of Chapter 70 of the General laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the Commissioner of Education may reduce the fiscal year 2006 net school spending requirement for any school district whose requirement would otherwise exceed 150 percent of its foundation budget."

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

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

**#05-177, Chapter 74 Program Advisory Committees and General Advisory Committee for RSTA:** that the School Committee approve the recommendations for the various advisory committees: Program Advisory Committee and General Advisory Committee. Mr. Grassi requested that the individuals and businesses recommended for various Advisory Committees be used for internships for our students. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adopt the foregoing Recommendation **#05-077, Chapter 74 Program Advisory Committees and General Advisory Committee for RSTA.**

On a motion by Mayor Sullivan, it was voted to adopt substitute language for **#05-179, Settlement of Matter Pending before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.** On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt, as substituted, **#05-179, Settlement of Matter Pending before the**

**Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination:** that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the settlement of a pending matter before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination in accordance with WR05-109 (C).

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

#### **Late Orders**

On a motion by Mayor Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted that the School Department establish a relationship with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard to organize a large collaborative effort to make the Cambridge Public Schools a national model for science and math education.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, 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**.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted that Mr. Harding and Ms. Walser be appointed Co-Chairs of the Sub-Committee on Collective Bargaining (Committee of the Whole).

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted that the Superintendent respond to the request by Mr. Pilgrim regarding kindergarten for his daughter.

On behalf of the Members, the Chair congratulated Maureen MacFarlane on being appointed to the Executive Committee for the Council of School Attorneys for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

At this time, the Chair recognized Ms. Bradshaw who, on behalf of the School Committee, presented recognition chairs to the outgoing Members. Mayor Sullivan, Marc McGovern and Ben Lummis were commended by their colleagues and Superintendent Fowler-Finn for their dedication and commitment during their tenure on the Committee. Student School Committee Members James Conway and Spenser Skates thanked the outgoing members for listening to student concerns. Mayor Sullivan, Ben Lummis, and Marc McGovern were heard.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn (7:10 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee