

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 2, 2007

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. Harding, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Schuster, Ms. Walser, Mayor Reeves

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings

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

- Regular Meeting – October 3, 2006
- Special Meeting – October 10, 2006

Public Testimony on School Committee Agenda

There being nobody signed up, the Chair closed public testimony.

Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members: None

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

Unfinished Business

Calendar

#06-159, Ms. Nolan asked when the Special Education report will be presented. The Superintendent was heard.

New Business

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Superintendent. The Superintendent was heard and announced that Dr. Christopher Saheed was named Principal of CRLS. The Chair welcomed and congratulated Chris Saheed on behalf of the Members. Dr. Saheed was heard and thanked the Superintendent and the School Committee for his appointment.

Mr. Harding requested and received unanimous consent to return to Unfinished Business and asked that a copy of the report on obesity rates of children attending Cambridge Public Schools be sent to the City Council for discussion at the upcoming joint meeting.

Presentation

The Superintendent introduced Deputy Superintendent Turk who gave Members a summary update on the following Intervention Programs:

- The Bridge
- High School Extension Program (HSEP)

- Cambridge Harvard Summer Academy
- JumpStart

The Superintendent, Dr. Turk and Dr. Dolan, HSEP Principal, responded to some of the following questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- Why isn't enrichment part of the JumpStart mission
- Post summer teaching positions earlier to attract more Harvard students
- Are teachers getting paid during the summer or later
- Why isn't JumpStart longer than three weeks
- What is the plan to get the HSEP attendance improved
- Do we know what a good percentage is for attendance in a program like HSEP
- Are there programs with similar populations that have success in raising attendance
- Do we have a plan of action for getting HSEP students to enroll in and graduate from college
- Why was the Novanet program chosen and how does it fit with HSEP programs
- How does JumpStart compare to other programs and what are the expectations for it
- Have we looked outside the district at comparable programs to see how JumpStart compares
- Nice message to send to expelled students that we have these programs
- Hope the goal is that some of these programs go out of business
- How is the continuity of staff at HSEP working
- How do the numbers compare to last years numbers
- What assistance does Richard Milburn still provide
- Does HSEP have parents night
- Invite parents to HSEP on Saturday morning to discuss different topics
- How many HSEP students have participated in extracurricular activities
- Would like to see 11th and 12th grade students connected to CRLS students
- How do Guidance Counselors insure that every senior has a plan
- Are all 352 Cambridge-Harvard Summer Academy students Cambridge students
- Are AVID students being encouraged to participate in the Summer Academy
- How is it decided what courses to offer
- What is the possibility of getting students to participate in an internship
- Can a special education student who did not pass MCAS apply for a GED
- How are intervention programs defined
- Students need to be middle-grades ready
- Would like to see technical courses integrated into summer programs
- Calling parents proactively with good news helps to establish a relationship
- What is the reality of parental involvement at HSEP
- Have the wait list issues at HSEP been resolved
- Will the Richard Milburn financial commitment end this year
- With such inconsistent attendance at HSEP, how do we insure students are getting what they need in the classroom
- What was the actual cost of the BRIDGE program last year
- What do three people do with six students in the BRIDGE program
- How many students were served in the BRIDGE program during 05-06
- Insure that children are not suspended at home
- Is the success of JumpStart being evaluated
- Are all struggling students eligible for JumpStart and what is the program's objective
- Would like more narrative on the number of students served in summer programs
- How do summer programs connect to the rest of the school year
- Person who runs the Cambridge-Harvard summer program should be here to answer questions
- Do we have a way to evaluate the effectiveness of our summer programs
- Are Summerbridge students referred to the program and do they perform better

- Has there been an ability for faculty from HSEP, BRIDGE, and CRLS to get together for professional development
- BRIDGE program effectiveness should be evaluated objectively
- Is a program that has two students to two teachers the most effective way to support students
- Science needs to be included in JumpStart sooner rather than later
- Look at how programs can be coordinated to be pro-active in providing interventions to support struggling students
- How does extended day align with shorter summer
- As students get better, discussion needs to shift from one of deficits to one of strengths

The Chair thanked the Superintendent and staff for the presentation and returned to the Agenda.

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Mr. Schuster, for adoption of #07-01 through #07-06. Ms. Nolan removed #07-06. Mr. Grassi removed #07-04. Mayor Reeves removed #07-01 and #07-05. Mr. Fantini removed #07-02. On the following roll call, the remaining item was adopted:

#07-03, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Agricultural High School tuition, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Norfolk County Agricultural High School, 400 Main Street, Walpole, for the period August 15, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$38,759.40. This is a 1-year amount.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

Non-Consent Business

Mayor Reeves asked how many students are covered by the amount of the contract. The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney were heard. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#07-01, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Vocational High School tuition, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Minuteman Regional High School, 758 Marrett Road, Lexington, for the period August 15, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$339,722.00. This is a one year amount.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

Mr. Fantini asked whether the following contract is an opportunity for revenue. The Superintendent and Mr. McCormack were heard. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#07-02, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education IEP tracking and Medicaid Collection Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Public Consulting Group, Inc., 148 State Street, Tenth Floor, Boston, for the period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007, in the amount of \$100,000.00. This is a 1- year amount with two 1-year options to renew.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Schuster, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#07-04, 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. Action for Boston Community Development, Boston, in the amount of \$25,000.00, account 53201, fund 15000, org. 830250, prog. 250.
2. All Star Staffing, Boston, in the amount of \$49,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852360, prog. 360.
3. Lesley University, Cambridge, in the amount of \$26,700.00, account 57202, fund 15000, org. 840148, prog. 148.
4. Lesley University, Cambridge, in the amount of \$28,600.00, account 53101, fund 24000, org. 859651, prog. 651, proj./grant SC00416, and in the amount of 27,600.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 859138, prog. 138, proj./grant SC07632.
5. Summerbridge-Cambridge, Cambridge, in the amount of \$37,200.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 893410, prog. 410.
6. Wheelock College, Boston, in the amount of \$10,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 813155, prog. 155, and in the amount of \$20,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852340, prog. 340.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi PRESENT, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

Mayor Reeves raised a question on the Hasty Pudding Award. The Superintendent was heard. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#07-05, Grant Awards**: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Hasty Pudding Theatricals, for the period December 8, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$12,000.00, proj./grant SC07775. 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.
CPS Target Population: Approximately 1800 students in grades K-12 will attend cultural field trips to museums, concerts, theatre and other art events.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Students will develop appreciation for the arts and learn appropriate audience behavior; they will also hone their skills of discrimination and ability to analyze cultural events. Measures of effectiveness include the fact that students and teachers continue to request funds from year to year, making cultural field trips an essential part of their educational experience, and also that students exhibit an improved ability to speak and write about cultural events.
2. Cambridge Agassiz-Harvard Community, Culture and Recreation Fund for the period December 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$23,642.00, proj./grant SC07834. This private grant will complement the DOE funded After-School and Out-of-School Time Quality Grant to improve the availability and quality of after-school program by supporting joint projects between school teachers and after-school providers to promote academic support and learning and inclusion of children with special needs. Experiential, project-based curriculum that spans both school and after-school settings will be developed.

CPS Target Population: Approximately 100-160 students enrolled in 8 after-school programs in the City.

Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Students who participate in the new projects will benefit academically and socially from the increased communication and collaboration between their school day and after-school teachers. A formative evaluation will be conducted and best practices will be reported to the MA DOE and the Cambridge-Agassiz-Harvard CCR Fund.

3. Cambridge Community Foundation Science Festival, for the period January 15, 2007 to August 30, 2007, in the amount of \$2,000.00, proj./grant SC07835. This private grant will provide support for the participation of CPS students in the City's first Science Festival to be held in April of 2007. Presented by the MIT Museum in partnership with universities and City and community organizations, the CSF will be a celebration showcasing Cambridge as an internationally-recognized leader in science and technology. The grant will support the involvement of Cambridge teachers, students, and parents in festival activities, both as presenters and attendees.

CPS Target Population: Approximately 10-12 CPS teachers and potentially all CPS students in grades K-12 will be involved in various aspects of the Festival. Activities are being planned for all schools.

Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Through participation in exciting, multi-venue cultural and educational events revolving around four sub-themes, students will gain a deeper understanding of the impact of science in our lives and become more familiar with the many facets of scientific work.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

Members discussed technology and web-based communications systems. The Superintendent was heard. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to adopt **#07-06, Motion by Mr. Grassi** that the Superintendent of Schools bring forth a presentation to the School Committee on recommendations for a web-based communication system. Further, that the presentation take place no later than the first School Committee Meeting in March.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn (9:05 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee