

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**(Official Report)**

**Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 5, 2006**

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 6:12 p.m.

The Chair recognized and welcomed Councillors Simmons and Davis.

The Chair turned the meeting over to Superintendent Fowler-Finn who introduced new school administrators: Chandra Banks, K-12 Conflict Mediator; Wendell Bourne, K-12 Social Studies Coordinator; Barbara Van Sickle, Director of K-12 Curriculum and Student Achievement; Nancy McLaughlin, K-12 Math Coordinator; Chris Saheed, CRLS Acting Principal; Linda Mason, Dean of Curriculum LC C; Jamalh Prince, Acting Dean of Students, LC S; Robert Tynes, CRLS Assistant Principal; Kate Conway, Kennedy-Longfellow Principal; Deb Sercombe, Amigos Acting Principal; and Jennifer Ford, Peabody Assistant Principal. Mayor Reeves welcomed new and not so new staff members on behalf of the School Committee.

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

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meetings as presented:

- Regular Meeting - March 7, 2006
- Special Informal Meeting - March 9, 2006
- Special Informal Meeting - March 10, 2006

### **Public Testimony on School Committee Agenda**

The following individuals were heard:

- Bumi Fatoye-Matory, Blake St. re making excellence the mission for all students
- Henrietta Davis, City Councillor, Chestnut St. re digital divide

The Chair closed public testimony.

### **Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members**

#### **Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting:**

By Kenneth E. Reeves of the vote taken in Executive Session at the Special Meeting on August 30, 2006 that adopted the following motion: VOTED: That the School Committee authorize a 23-month \$185,500 contract with the Superintendent of Schools with a termination clause of \$100,000.

Members discussed whether the vote taken in Executive Session should be reconsidered publicly or in Executive Session. Special Counsel Moschos explained that a vote taken in Executive Session should be reconsidered in Executive Session but that it is the will of the Committee whether the vote is reconsidered. Ms. Nolan's motion that the vote be reconsidered in Open Session failed for lack of a

second. In response to a question whether there will be public discussion on the contract, Counsel said that the Committee's Rules state that votes taken in Executive Session have to be ratified in Open Session. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Walser, on the following roll call, it was voted that the School Committee convene in Executive Session for the purpose of reconsidering the vote taken in Executive Session on August 30, 2006 regarding the Superintendent's contract: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan NAY, Mayor Reeves YEA. The Chair announced that the Committee will reconvene in Open Session.

### **Executive Session**

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

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

Also Present: Demitrios Moschos, Esq., Mirick, O'Connell, Special Counsel

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted that the School Committee reconsider the vote to authorize a 23-month \$185,500 contract with the Superintendent of Schools with a termination clause of \$100,000: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser NAY, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi NAY, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Schuster, on the following roll call, it was voted to adjourn the Executive Session and refer the matter of the Superintendent's contract for 2006-2008 to the public session for a vote: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser NAY, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi NAY, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA.

The Committee adjourned and returned to Open Session.

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

The Chair reconvened the meeting and announced that there will be a public vote on the Superintendent's contract. The Members were all heard regarding their vote on the contract.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted that the School Committee enter into a new contract with the Superintendent of Schools in the years 2006-2008 according to the terms in the attached document: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding NAY, Ms. Nolan NAY, Mayor Reeves NAY.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted that the Vice Chair of the Cambridge School Committee be authorized to execute a contract with the Superintendent of Schools.

The Chair asked the Secretary to present the other votes taken in Executive Session. The Secretary read the following votes:

### **July 25, 2006**

That the School Committee authorizes the Mayor to notify the Superintendent, in writing, that it is not renewing the contract dated May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

That the School Committee authorizes the Mayor and the Vice Chair with the assistance of Special Counsel to negotiate a new two-year contract that shall address the issues identified by the School Committee.

**August 17, 2006**

That the School Committee adjust the Superintendent's salary.

To adjust the amount of the Superintendent's salary consistent with what non-union management receives each year for FY06-07 and FY07-08.

**August 24, 2006**

That a vote of termination for good cause be subject to a two-consecutive meetings majority vote. To reconsider the vote taken on August 17, 2006, to adjust the amount of the Superintendent's salary consistent with what non-union management receives each year for FY06-07 and 07-08.

To have the Superintendent's salary start at \$185,500 on August 21, 2006, and to be silent as to any further increases.

On the following roll call, it was voted that the School Committee ratify and affirm votes taken in Executive Session: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan PRESENT, Mayor Reeves YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted that the School Committee authorize the release of the Minutes of the Executive Sessions at the conclusion of the negotiating process.

The Chair recognized Mr. Moschos who complimented the Mayor and the Members for their commitment to improving achievement for all students to meet proficiency in Cambridge Public Schools and for their commitment to bring about diversity to a greater extent in Cambridge. Mr. Moschos thanked Maureen MacFarlane and Marilyn Bradshaw for their cooperation, and he wished the Superintendent and the District well.

The Members thanked Mr. Moschos for the guidance and perspective he brought to the table.

The Superintendent thanked the Members for the opportunity to move forward and said he is looking forward to the next two years.

The Chair asked the Members to consider the suggestion made by Mr. Moschos that he and the Superintendent's counsel get together in six months to check in.

The Chair declared a two-minute recess.

Mr. Fantini, Vice Chair, in the Chair.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting and returned to the Agenda.

**Unfinished Business**

**A. Calendar**

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted that the following items be removed and placed on file:

**#05-147**, Motion by Ms. Walser that the Superintendent's salary be adjusted retroactively to July 1, 2005, consistent with all other senior management personnel of the Cambridge Public Schools, for the current fiscal year.

**#06-100**, Superintendent's Recommendation: City Council Order: 0-12.

**#06-101**, Superintendent's Recommendation: City Council Order: 0-36

## B. Tabled Matters

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding it was voted to remove and place on file item **#06-112**, Letter dated June 13, 2006, from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, forwarding three orders adopted by the Cambridge City Council. Mayor Reeves raised a question on what response he should give to the Council. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, it was voted that item **#06-112** be referred to item **#06-133** for the Chair and Vice Chair to review the Orders as a group prior to a response to the City Council.

## New Business

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Mr. Grassi, for adoption of items #06-125 through #06-143. Mr. Harding removed #06-136 and #06-137. Ms. Nolan removed #06-130. Mr. Grassi removed #06-132, 06-133 and 06-143. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

**#06-126, Approval of Home School Applications** for School Year 2006-07: that the School Committee approve the home school applications for the 2006-2007 school year as detailed in the documents.

**#06-127, Contract 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          | Amego, Inc., 115 Plymouth St., Mansfield                       | \$ 192,535.80         |
| 1 student          | Boston Higashi School, 800 N. Main St., Randolph               | 137,253.57            |
| 1 student          | Castle School, 298 Harvard St., Cambridge                      | 59,266.66             |
| 1 student          | Camphill Special School, 1784 Fairview Rd., Glenmoore, PA      | 64,982.00             |
| 1 student          | Evergreen Center, 345 Fortune Blvd., Milford                   | 141,609.13            |
| 2 students         | Justice Resource Institute, 545 Boylston St., Boston           | 299,389.30            |
| 1 student          | Learning Center for Deaf Children, 848 Central St., Framingham | 74,563.89             |
| 1 student          | Melmark New England, 50 Tower Office Pk., Woburn               | 197,259.23            |
| 1 student          | The Pathway School, 162 Egypt Rd., Norristown, PA              | 149,800.00            |
| 2 students         | New England Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Rd., Southboro    | 232,182.62            |
| <u>12</u> students |                                                                | <u>\$1,548,842.20</u> |

**#06-128, 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:

|            |                                                                |              |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 3 students | Learning Center for Deaf Children, 848 Central St., Framingham | \$183,052.21 |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|

|                    |                                                                    |                       |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 student          | Brandon Residential Treatment Center, 27 Winter St., Natick        | 42,980.89             |
| 1 student          | Cotting School, 453 Concord Ave., Lexington                        | 53,727.13             |
| 2 students         | Harbor Schools, Inc., 26 Rolfes Lane, Newbury                      | 54,385.22             |
| 1 student          | St. Ann's Home, 100 Haverhill St., Methuen                         | 34,682.30             |
| 2 students         | The May Institute, PO Box 847240, Boston                           | 173,687.68            |
| 7 students         | Judge Baker Children's Ctr., 53 Parker Hill Ave., Roxbury Crossing | 453,506.62            |
| 8 students         | SHORE Collaborative, 100 Revere Beach Pkwy., Owen Center, Chelsea  | 310,647.60            |
| 2 students         | Clearway School, Inc., 61 Chestnut St., W. Newton                  | 75,926.50             |
| 1 student          | COMPASS, 26 Sunnyside St., Jamaica Plain                           | 38,101.04             |
| 1 student          | The Home for Little Wanderers, 271 Huntington Ave., Boston         | 64,207.33             |
| 2 students         | Landmark School, PO Box 227, Prides Crossing                       | 74,662.58             |
| 3 students         | Dr. Franklin Perkins School, 971 Main St., Lancaster               | 156,617.85            |
| 8 students         | Schools for Children, 20 Academy St., Arlington                    | 396,753.28            |
| 2 students         | Schools for Children (Seaport Campus), 20 Academy St., Arlington   | 97,164.40             |
| 1 student          | Schools for Children (STEP Program), 20 Academy St., Arlington     | 108,000.00            |
| 1 student          | Bay Cove Human Services, 66 Canal St., Boston                      | 51,701.27             |
| 4 students         | Farr Academy, 71 Pearl St., Cambridge                              | 249,969.04            |
| 1 student          | League School, 300 Boston-Providence Tpke., Walpole                | 55,234.62             |
| 2 students         | Learning Prep School, PO Box 650205, W. Newton                     | 52,233.30             |
| 2 students         | Tufts Educational Day Care Center, 165 Holland St., Somerville     | 74,655.46             |
| 2 students         | SEEM Collaborative, 92 Montvale Ave., Stoneham                     | 159,003.37            |
| 2 students         | NE Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Rd., Southboro                 | 136,915.10            |
| <u>59</u> students |                                                                    | <u>\$3,097,814.79</u> |

**#06-129, Approval of Settlement of Petition Pending Before Labor Relations Commission:** that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the settlement of a pending matter before the Labor Relations Commission in accordance with WR06-141-CN (D).

**#06-131, Grant Award:** that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Award in the amount and for the period indicated:

1. Community Partnerships for Children, project/grant SC07602, for the period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$1,001,151.00. The Community Partnerships for Children grant program provides comprehensive, high-quality programs for preschool-aged children and their families with the planning and oversight of a Community Partnerships for Children Council. Working together, agencies and families in a community build a network of programs and services that increases the availability, affordability, and quality of programs that are responsive to the needs of working parents and that enhance children's healthy learning development.

**#06-134, Thank you letter** dated July 10, 2006 regarding science Earthwatch Expedition to Churchill, Manitoba.

**#06-135, Motion by Mr. Fantini** that Luc Schuster and Patty Nolan be designated Official Delegate and Alternate, respectively, to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Annual Meeting November 8, 2006.

**#06-138, Invoice** for \$5,722.00 for Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Annual Membership.

**#06-139, Invoice** for \$3,450.00 for National School Board Association's (NSBA) Annual Affiliate Membership fee.

**#06-140, Report of the March 7, 2006 Meeting** of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole).

Called for the purpose of a Retreat to discuss the proposed FY06-07 Budget (immediately following the Regular Meeting) in the Pearl K. Wise Library.

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

Ms. Walser in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m.

The Chair turned the meeting over to Superintendent Fowler-Finn. The Superintendent walked Members through a slide presentation "CPS FY06-07 Superintendent's Proposed Budget", including:

- A Focus on Rigor and Comprehensive Implementation
- FY2006-07 Budget — Overview
- Elementary School Program Improvements
- Middle School Program Improvements
- High School Program Improvements
- District-wide Improvements
- Summary of Proposed Budget
- Major Cost Increases/Decreases
- Percentage Increase for Selected Items
- Multi-Year Budget Comparison
- FY03-04 Budget Allocation by Area
- FY06-07 Budget Allocation by Area
- Budget Allocation by Area — Fiscal Years 03-04 and 06-07 Compared
- FY06-07 Budget Allocation Formulas
- Discretionary Non-Salary Per Pupil Allocations to Schools Compared over Five Years
- Elementary School Staffing — Comparison of FY05-06 Actual to FY06-07 budget
- FY06-07 — Adjusting Priorities Within the Base Budget

- FY06-07 Budget — Restructuring/Reductions
- FY06-07 Program Initiatives and Improvements
- Comparing Proposed Initiatives & Improvements with Restructuring/Reductions

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

- What is “realized” budget increase
- What does it mean to have an ISP class at the Peabody
- Could the School Committee contingency be used to pay a work study student
- Is there a report on the science initiative – would like to see a written description
- How many teacher reserve positions have been filled in the last three years
- Reserve teacher cut looks like it’s in administration but it’s in teaching
- Because of class size, we are actually adding teachers – explain
- Is there another \$4,000 for science teachers
- Is bussing going to continue for home games
- What is the middle school extracurricular for – will funds be equally divided between the four sites
- Need to coordinate middle school activities with the city’s youth services department
- Will children be able to take a bus home, eat a snack and go back to the zoned youth center
- Nervous about going down a path in which we do not have expertise

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to suspend the Rules to continue the meeting past 10:00.

- There should not be an effort to get youth centers more populated
- Would we have an interest in paying Kaplan \$10,000 to have students pay \$250
- There should be an effort to forge a relationship with Phillips Brooks House
- How does the middle school extracurricular activity coordinate with community schools
- Invite the company who followed the class of 2004 in for a report on what they found

The Chair suggested a 3-5 minute round robin format for the rest of the meeting. Members raised the following questions, comments and concerns:

- Wants educational rationale first and foremost
- Do not go down the extracurricular path – keep focus on K-8 academics
- Provide an executive summary explaining rationale for what we are doing
- Concerned about enrollment projections and budget surplus
- Look at what services are not being provided by youth centers
- What’s new about minority recruitment
- Vision for schools statement was well-written
- What’s the hope for improving achievement
- How will the major deficit be dealt with in the coming years
- Would like to see an evaluation of Reading Recovery and what we are spending
- Invite Lesley College to come in and talk about Literacy Collaborative
- Is there a five-year plan for RSTA and Special Education
- Put some money into musical instruments
- Are schools being put in a position to go to a single strand
- Look at teacher/mentor program
- Misses the colored paper
- How do we connect us to the Broad Institute in terms of resources and personnel – need to send a proposal

- There is a disconnect between us and outside organizations – use Superintendency to forge relationships we can use
- Grant information was a great addition
- How does this tie into goals – what do we expect
- How will this affect declining enrollment
- Get professional development for paraprofessionals and teachers
- Need a policy on environmental matters
- Where does MCAS funding come from
- Provide evidence that poor students do better in K-8 schools
- Provide a summary of how many literacy and math coaches are in our system
- Be clear about what the 18:1 and 20:1 policy means in terms of a wait list
- Concerned about out-of-class time for teachers
- Need to find more creative ways to insure regular teachers are in the classroom
- This should not be a controversial budget
- Need a contingency plan if parents cannot get into certain schools
- It is important for middle school students to have extracurricular activities
- Look at after-school activities to see how they differ from what we have
- People do not understand what hybrid means
- Concerned with the amount of time teachers spend away from the classroom – what % of in-service will be done
- Unsure of what the Literacy Collaborative is

Ms. Walser thanked everyone for his/her participation and announced that the Superintendent will present the proposed budget on March 14 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

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

**#06-141, Report of the March 14, 2006 Meeting** of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole):

Called for the purpose of the Superintendent's presentation of the FY2006-2007 Budget.

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

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Ms. Nolan, Budget Co-Chair.

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

Ms. Nolan announced that there will be a public hearing on the Budget at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, 2006. The next meeting of the budget sub-committee is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, if necessary, and anticipated adoption of the budget at the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 4, at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Nolan announced the process for the evening and turned the meeting over to Superintendent Fowler-Finn.

The Superintendent gave an overview of his vision for the schools, and asked Peabody School Principal Joellen Scannell to speak to the proposed Intensive Studies Program (ISP) at Peabody. Ms. Scannell

was heard and is happy for the opportunity to be in a K-8 district. Ms. Scannell said she sees AVID and ISP as programs to attract students to improve academics and increase enrollment. The Superintendent thanked Ms. Scannell and walked Members through a slide presentation "CPS FY2006-07 Superintendent's Proposed Budget", including:

- Executive Summary
- A Focus on Rigor and Comprehensive Implementation
- FY2006-07 Budget – Overview
  - Elementary School Program Improvements
  - Middle School Program Improvements
  - High School Program Improvements
  - District-wide Improvements
- Summary of Proposed Budget
  - Major Cost Increases/Decreases
  - Percentage Increase for Selected Items
- Multi-Year Budget Comparison
  - FY03-04 Budget Allocation by Area
  - FY06-07 Budget Allocation by Area
  - Fiscal Years 03-04 and 06-07 Compared
- FY06-07 Budget Allocation Formulas
- Discretionary Non-Salary Per Pupil Allocations to Schools Compared over Five Years
- Elementary School Staffing – Comparison of FY05-06 Actual to FY06-07 budget
- FY06-07 – Enrollment Summary
- Children Attending Public Schools
- 5-Year Projected Revenues vs. Projected Expenditures – General Fund Budget
- FY06-07 General Fund Budget – Staffing Summary
- FY06-07 – Adjusting Priorities Within the Base Budget
- FY06-07 Budget – Restructuring/Reductions
- FY06-07 Program Initiatives and Improvements
- Comparing Proposed Initiatives & Improvements with Restructuring/Reductions
- FY05-06 Grants – Staffing Summary
  - A-1 Funding Source: State Grants
  - A-2 Funding Source: Other State Grants
  - B. Funding Source: Federal (through State) Grants
  - C. Funding Source: Direct Federal Grants
  - D. Funding Source: Private Grants
  - E. Funding Source: Revolving Funds
- FY06-07 – All Funds Budget Summary
- Class of 2004 Survey

The Chair thanked the Superintendent for the presentation and entertained public testimony.

The following individuals were heard regarding the budget:

- Jeff Walker, Harvard St., Chair, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Commission (GLBT) re increase hours for GLBT Project 10E coordinator
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, Middle grades science mentor teacher, re Middle Schools
- Bob Parlin, Kelly Rd., re Project 10E coordinator
- Bruce Silverman, Larch Rd., re drop in % of Cambridge children attending public school (p. 37)
- Lois Stanley, Vassal Lane, in support of ISP at Peabody
- Kim Ugorji, Clarendon Ave, in support of ISP at Peabody
- Ron Slager, Shay Rd., in support of ISP at Peabody

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to close public testimony.

The Superintendent was asked to respond to the Project 10E testimony. The Superintendent was heard and said that if student needs are not being addressed he is not aware of it. It was asked that, if the position is valued, it be restructured so that the person would stay.

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

- Why isn't the \$4.8 million surplus shown on page 38
- Where is the surplus shown in next year's budget
- Are we getting circuit breaker money next year
- How does this budget compare to last year's - does it represent a complete "stay the course" or a dramatic change
- Concerned that ISP is a form of tracking – why not make all upper level classes at Peabody ISP
- Who will assume the duties for the AVID program
- Is it the perception that there are measured transitions at CRLS
- How many Montessori classes would start at Tobin
- How does pre-K 1 and 2 relate to the 3-6 year old classroom
- Can Tobin become a K-5 Montessori
- What is the early childhood services center at Tobin
- Are small middle schools bad or is this a solution for the problems we have between Tobin and Peabody
- Is having 22 students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade bad
- It doesn't compute to make changes to two schools and leave other schools the same – what money is in the budget to fix other schools
- Do we have enough experience with AVID that it is in fact a curative
- Would like to have more information on AVID and Montessori before making a decision
- Is Montessori still in Ft. Wayne
- What is the pedagogy of ISP and can it get shaped by parents
- We should know what implications are for students who are not in ISP
- Before the budget is passed we should look at other under-performing schools to see how we can fix them
- Would like to see a study on what really happened at Tobin
- Project 10E issue should be addressed in terms of continuity and parent satisfaction
- Pleased that this budget is finally focusing on the middle school level
- We are not only focusing on three schools, there is a part that addresses all middle schools
- ISP does present an issue for debate
- We should not get involved in a debate around middle schools
- Hybrid sounds like we are changing our K-8 system – we should drop the label – it's confusing
- Adding ISP at Peabody is an enhancement to leverage academic achievement
- Buying new K-8 textbooks is significant
- There are a lot of little things in this budget that will make a lot of people happy and boost morale
- Superintendent did a good job with the executive summary
- Hybrid terminology is confusing
- ISP is seen by parents and students who feel they should have more rigor
- The School Committee has been unified in stressing rigor across the board
- How can we have a middle school program and an ISP and not feel that one is better than the other
- How can we through the budget help all middle school student see how they will be enhanced
- What can \$2500 do to help students who are suspended
- If parents don't want to send their children to an out-of-school program do we send a tutor to their home

- What do we do with high school students who are suspended
- Pay attention to the cohort of students who do not respond to our programs
- Need to find something different to do with middle school students
- Has the Superintendent pulled back from three to five hybrids
- What does the 18:1 ratio mean in terms of our wait list
- Will capital needs be discussed prior to budget adoption
- Looking forward to the fruition of faithfully implemented programs
- Biggest thing that could happen to ISP is that it die a natural death because all programs are adequate
- Hope that every child who graduates can play a musical instrument
- School improvement plans should spell out five-year visions
- Systems need to be creative in dealing with budget busters
- Like the idea of having ISP on two sides of the City
- Is the plan to have special education classes at Graham & Parks transferred to the Peabody
- Will the vision be amended to have Tobin grow to K-8 – how many years will it take
- Concerned about Peabody taking in so many children from across the city
- How will best practice be used to take us to the next level across the system
- It would be helpful to have a summary to understand where our district is
- Cannot answer questions on where positions are
- Disappointed that math coach is not funded by a grant
- Would like to see a greater percentage of the budget directed into schools
- High school Principal does not need an additional \$25,000 of discrepancy funds
- A roundtable on enrollment decline is needed
- Need a discussion on what programs fit our community better – need to match spending with results
- Issue with first proposal re after school programs in middle schools
- This is a great time to think through what we are going to provide to our students to develop them as leaders
- A vote for this budget is not necessarily a vote to move forward on the Montessori school - there will be a recommendation forthcoming.

The Superintendent was asked to provide the Members with achievement success rates of Montessori schools in Springfield. The Superintendent was heard.

Ms. Nolan thanked the Superintendent and his staff for the presentation.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to adjourn (9:55 p.m.)

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

**#06-142, Motion by Mr. Schuster** that the Cambridge Public Schools and the City of Cambridge create a joint committee on the digital divide between CPS students who have and do not have internet access at home. The goal of this committee will be to explore the feasibility of providing wireless-ready computers for entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders who do not have internet access at home by September 1, 2007.

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

**Non-Consent Business**

**#06-125, Approval of the Every Nation Academy Application to Function as a Private School.**

Members raised questions and concerns on the Every Nation Academy application. The Superintendent was heard and asked Maureen MacFarlane to speak to the statute regarding private schools.

Ms. MacFarlane was heard. Dr. Turk gave a brief history of the school and introduced Robert Lee, Headmaster and teacher Sharon Mitchell. The Chair asked Mr. Lee to speak to the proposal. Mr. Lee was heard in support of his application. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#06-125, Approval of the Every Nation Academy Application to Function as a Private School:** that the School Committee approve the application of Every Nation Academy, located at 5 Magazine Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to function as a private school in accordance with the requirements of M.G.L Chapter 76, Section 1.

Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding PRESENT, Ms. Nolan PRESENT, Mr. Fantini YEA. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of reconsidering the foregoing vote. The Rules having been suspended, the motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, **failed of adoption.**

Ms. Nolan asked the Superintendent for more background information and a summary on grant awards. The Superintendent was heard. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#06-130, 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 Housing Authority, Cambridge, in the amount of \$29,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 869415, prog. 415.
2. Cambridge School Volunteers, Inc., Cambridge, in the amount of \$78,843.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 893640, prog. 640.
3. Institute for Community Health, Cambridge, in the amount of \$40,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org., 841642, prog. 642, proj./grant SC06736.
4. TERC, Cambridge, in the amount of \$25,000.00, account 57202, fund 15000, org. 893660, prog. 660.

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

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to adopt **#06-132, Grant Awards:** that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Even Start Family Literacy Program, project/grant SC07610, for the period September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007, in the amount of \$66,800.00. This is a continuation grant that integrates and coordinates home-based early childhood education and parenting education services for 20 high-risk Cambridge families. The project is a partnership between the Community Learning Center and Cambridge Public Schools.
2. Early Intervention Literacy, project/grant SC07632, for the period July 24, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$211,664.00. These funds support Reading Recovery training of early literacy intervention teachers who will provide individual tutorial assistance to at-risk first grade students. Funding also includes instructional materials.
3. Kindergarten Enhancement program, project/grant SC07663, for the period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$300,000.00. Cambridge continues, through the Kindergarten grant, to provide support for kindergarten and first grade teachers in the

areas of literacy and inclusion. The workshops provide teachers with an opportunity to enhance their skills in specific areas, including guided and enhanced reading by Kindergarten teachers, support staff, and Early Childhood Resource Specialists.

4. Comprehensive School Reform, project/grant SC07804, for the period September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007, in the amount of \$196,800.00. These funds will provide a weeklong math workshop over the summer for teachers in K-8. This training will be designed and provided by the district's math team, which includes the math coordinator and three coaches. It will be organized on the basis of K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 with a focus on the Investigations and CMP curriculum. The purpose of this activity is to strengthen the teachers' content knowledge in an area where the data indicates the need for improvement, and also improve their ability to fully implement the curriculum.
5. King School-Llewellyn Foundation, project/grant SC07811, for the period August 31, 2006 to September 30, 2007, in the amount of \$25,000.00. 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 workshop meetings about the importance of regular attendance, literacy, and homework completion.
6. Expanded Learning Time, Fletcher/Maynard and King Schools, project/grant SC07829, for the period September 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$604,500.00. This grant is for the Expanded Learning Time program at the Fletcher/Maynard and King Schools. This proposal was previously approved by the School Committee on June 27, 2006, and has now been approved by the State.

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

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to refer item **#06-133**, letter dated July 5, 2006 from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, forwarding four orders adopted by the City Council, to item #06-112, letter dated June 13, 2006, from D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, forwarding three orders adopted by the Cambridge City Council, for a response by an ad-hoc committee comprised of Mayor Reeves and Vice Chair Fantini.

Mr. Harding spoke to the following motion. Mr. Grassi amended his motion to include a report on participation in high school athletics, also by zip code. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt as amended **#06-136, Joint motion by Mr. Grassi and Mr. Harding** that the Superintendent provide the School Committee with data on obesity rates of children attending Cambridge Public Schools broken down by zip codes. Further that a report be provided on student participation in high school athletics by zip codes: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mayor Reeves YEA, Mr. Grassi PRESENT, Mr. Harding YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA

**#06-137, Joint motion by Mr. Grassi and Mr. Fantini** that the Superintendent work with elementary schools to develop a policy for minimal grade requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade participation in elementary school athletic programs. Members had a lengthy discussion regarding the foregoing motion and raised the following questions and concerns:

- There has been some concern by some coaches
- This policy will change the way students accept responsibility of challenging classes and what will be done at the elementary level
- What supports will be put in place to help students academically
- Parents asked for minimal benchmark requirements
- Mayor's educational liaison is very interested in youth athletics and has spoken with Principal Saheed
- Is this about intramural sports

- Coaches need to be consulted
- Need to be consistent with understanding MIA rules
- Give a survey to find out if student intends to play sports
- It's good that the School committee wants to move beyond the MIA standards
- Guidance Counselors need to be connected to athletes
- Involve FOCA parents and Mr. Clifford

The Superintendent responded to some of the above questions, comments and concerns. On a voice vote, **#06-137** was adopted as follows: Joint motion by Mr. Grassi and Mr. Fantini that the Superintendent work with elementary schools to develop a policy for minimal grade requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade participation in elementary school athletic programs.

**#06-143, Motion by Mr. Schuster** that the Superintendent draft a report and presentation to the School Committee on the ways in which civic participation at the local, state and federal levels is encouraged and taught in the Cambridge Public Schools. It was suggested that this is a good opportunity to develop something different regarding clubs and internships. The Superintendent said that he would get input from Principals and get back to the Committee. Mayor Reeves offered a friendly amendment to include national level. On a voice vote, **#06-143**, Motion by Mr. Schuster, was adopted as amended: that the Superintendent draft a report and presentation to the School Committee on the ways in which civic participation at the local, state, federal and national levels is encouraged and taught in the Cambridge Public Schools.

#### **Late Orders**

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to schedule a roundtable forum on closing the achievement gap on Tuesday, September 26, 2006.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to schedule a presentation on TERC at an October School Committee meeting.

On a motion by Mayor Reeves, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to send a letter to Mr. Moschos to thank him for helping us through a difficult negotiating process.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adjourn (9:38 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee