

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, 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 6:10 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Walser, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of conducting a Level III grievance and for the purpose of discussing strategy for collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation and bargaining positions of the School Committee: Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding ABSENT, Mayor Reeves YEA. The Chair announced that no votes will be taken in Executive Session and that the Committee will reconvene in Open Session.

Executive Session

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

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

Also Present: Thomas Fowler-Finn, Superintendent
Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources
James Conry, Chief Financial Officer
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Jack Haverty, CTA President
Christine Colbath-Hess, CTA Grievance Chair
Caroline Hunter, Grievant

Mr. Haverty presented a grievance on behalf of Ms. Hunter. Ms. Hunter was heard in support of her grievance. Mayor Reeves recused himself from the hearing. At this time Mr. Haverty, Ms. Hunter and Ms. Colbath-Hess exited the meeting. Members discussed the grievance with staff and Legal Counsel.

Members discussed with Legal Counsel strategy for collective bargaining with the custodial union. The meeting adjourned to Open Session.

Mayor Reeves in the Chair.

The Chair reconvened the meeting, announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session and returned to the Agenda.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings

Ms. Nolan moved that the Minutes of the following meetings be placed on the Calendar:

- Special Meeting – November 3, 2006
- Special Informal Meeting – May 30, 2006
- Special Meeting – May 23, 2006

- Regular Meeting – May 16, 2006
- Regular Meeting – May 2, 2006
- Regular Meeting – April 4, 2006
- Special Meeting – April 4, 2006

Public Testimony on School Committee Agenda

There being no one signed in, 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

Ms. Nolan spoke to Calendar item **#06-119**, Joint motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Schuster, regarding green buildings.

New Business

Presentation

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Superintendent and Mr. Conry, Chief Financial Officer, who gave Members a brief history of the advent of debt stabilization fund and walked them through a chart including, "School Department Debt Service and SBA Reimbursements – FY05-06 thru FY11-12" and "School Debt Stabilization Fund".

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

- This chart does not show the full extent of our debt situation
- Will debt stabilization fund cover charter school costs
- This is the first five-year projection where charter school costs have been left out
- We have had the good fortune to have a debt stabilization fund
- Do we need permission from the City Manager and City Council to use this money
- We should schedule a roundtable with the City Council for an update on budget and academics some time in January or February
- We are probably the only school system in the nation to have a debt stabilization policy
- Did the \$450,000 allocation start in FY04-05 or FY05-06

The Members thanked the Superintendent and Mr. Conry for the presentation.

Action Items

Ms. Walser moved, seconded by Mr. Schuster, for adoption of #06-173 through #06-186. Mr. Schuster removed #06-175 and #06-176. Ms. Walser removed #06-181 and #06-183. Ms. Nolan removed #06-180. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#06-173, Special Needs Contracts for Day Program Services not available from the Cambridge School Department: that the School Committee award contracts to the institution 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	The Carroll School, 25 Baker Bridge Rd., Lincoln	\$31,006.45
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2 students	Corwin-Russell School at Broccoli Hall, 142 North Rd., Sudbury	62,394.90
1 student	McLean Hospital, Arlington School, 115 Mill St., Belmont	57,938.34
1 student	SHORE Collaborative, 100 Revere Beach Pkwy., Owen Center, Chelsea	38,651.40
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5 students		\$189,991.09

#06-174, Special Needs Contract for Residential Program Services not available from the Cambridge School Department: that the School Committee award a contract to the institution below in an amount not to exceed the shown rate, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget:

<u>1</u> contract	Justice Resource Institute, 545 Boylston St., Boston	<u>\$119,344.92</u>
1 contract		\$119,344.92

#06-177, Statutory Transfer for Costs of Unanticipated/Emergency Facilities Projects: that the School Committee approve the following transfers of funds in the Statutory Categories specified to provide funding for Unanticipated/Emergency Facilities Repairs/Projects, funds to be provided from FY06-07 Estimated Unexpended Balances:

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	0	0
Other Ordinary Maintenance	0	(68,000)
Travel and Training	0	0
Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>\$68,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	\$68,000	(\$68,000)

#06-178, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Occ. Ed., Vocational Skills Project/Grant SC07606, for the period September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007, in the amount of \$107,455.00. Perkins funds will be used to provide direct Career and Technical Educational instruction and supportive services to CRLS students who are enrolled in Chapter 74-approved programs at RSTA, to purchase necessary industry-specific technology and equipment, and to provide professional development for RSTA staff.
CPS Target Population: Approximately 450 students in grades 9 through 12 enrolled in Chapter 74 programs.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Students successfully complete RSTA programs and attain competency certificate.

2. Academic Support Services, Project Grant SC07757, for the period October 30, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$22,600.00. These funds will provide individual or small group tutoring to students who have yet to meet the Competency Determination in math or ELA at the high school level. Programs will be held both during the school day and on Saturday mornings.
CPS Target Population: Approximately 80 students; 11th and 12th graders who have yet to pass the MCAS, as well as 9th and 10th graders deemed eligible by DOE specifications.

Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: The required annual program evaluation reviews the effectiveness of programs by examining attendance and pass rates.

3. Carol M. White Physical Education Program, Project/Grant SC07767, for the period October 1, 2006, to September 30, 2007, in the amount of \$499,337.00. These funds will continue to support the health, Physical Education, and Athletics Department by expanding and improving physical education programs including extended day programs for students K-12. The project aims to progress toward meeting and exceeding the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and learning standards. The grant funds a project manager, physical education equipment for school-based data collection, training consultants for obesity prevention programs, and training and materials for staff development and curriculum development.
CPS Target Population: Cambridge students in grades K-12.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Program will be evaluated according to progress made in attaining health outcomes.
4. Jump Up & Go!, Project/Grant SC07806, for the period September 14, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$18,500.00. This is the second year of the Jump Up & Go! Grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Funds are used to promote healthy eating and physical activity for students. Activities include garden programs with CitySprouts and physical activities such as cycling, yoga, walking clubs, as well as promotional events such as field days and mural painting.
CPS Target Population: Students in grades K-8 in the King Open, Peabody, Morse, Cambridgeport, Haggerty, and Maria Baldwin Schools.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Students will gain a greater awareness of how to promote good health; they will make healthier choices in food selection as a result of their work with CitySprouts and engage more frequently in a greater variety of physical activities.
5. Massachusetts Early Literacy Intervention Program, Project/Grant SC07820, for the period November 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$12,197.00. These funds will support .25 of salary for a Reading Recovery teacher at the Kennedy/Longfellow School.
CPS Target Population: At-risk 1st graders at the Kennedy/Longfellow School.
Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: Students will successfully complete the Reading Recovery program.
6. Lowe's Foundation, Outdoor Classroom, Project/Grant SC07833, for the period November 6, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in the amount of \$20,000.00. These funds will support the development of the courtyard shared by the M. L. King and Amigos Schools into an outdoor learning area. The space will feature raised beds, fruit trees, and a science area that includes a compost station, weather station, dry river bed, and pollinator's gardens. The learning environment will include multicultural components and lessons about life in Colonial America. The schools will partner with CitySprouts, a non-profit organization that works with the CPS on integrating gardens in the curriculum.
CPS Target Population: Students in grades K-8 in the Amigos and M. L. King Schools.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: The project will be measured by the success of the construction of the outdoor learning environment and by its frequency of use by teachers and students.

#06-179, Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Award in the amount and for the period indicated:

1. Friends of the Amigos School, Project/Grant SC07787, for the period November 9, 2006 to July 15, 2007, in the amount of \$50,000.00. This grant is an anonymous donation in the amount of \$50,000.00. \$25,000.00 is allocated toward reimbursing 29 teachers and specialists in the Amigos School for discretionary expenditures to support their teaching. All expenditures will be in support of the goals as described in the Amigos School Improvement Plan for 2006-07. \$25,000.00 shall be allocated towards supporting the work of the Amigos School which includes collaborative activities with the King School and school-wide projects of the Amigos School.
CPS Target Population: Amigos School grades K-8 students.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: End-of-year report to Grantor detailing project achievements and progress.

#06-182, Joint motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Grassi that whereas Cambridge seeks to be a model city for healthy living, and school bus exhaust adversely affects the quality of air for all residents, exposes all school children riding buses to potentially harmful exhaust, aggravates asthma, and exposes all school bus drivers to workplace emissions, therefore, the School Committee directs the Superintendent to report back to the School Committee on the status of the use of low emissions equipment on all school buses in use by the district, owned and leased. Further, that the Superintendent's report include a cost estimate for all such buses to meet the 2007 EPA standards for heavy duty vehicles immediately, and/or for retrofitting all buses with particulate filters which reduce emissions by approximately 90%. Further, that the potential for using biodiesel in school buses be assessed.

#06-184, Motion by Ms. Nolan that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations and appreciation to Amigos School teacher Diane Goodwin on being selected as one of four honorees in the Boston Globe's teacher honor roll.

#06-185, Motion by Mr. Schuster that Dr. Richard Elmore be invited to an up-coming School Committee meeting to discuss the on-going work of the Cambridge Leadership Network.

#06-186, Report of the April 4, 2006, Budget Subcommittee Meeting (Committee of the Whole).

Called for the purpose of a decision on the proposed FY2006-2007 Budget.

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 7:26 p.m.

Ms. Walser introduced the Superintendent's recommended FY06-07 budget. Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Grassi, to waive the reading of the statutory categories and move adoption of the budget.

Mr. Schuster moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, the following substitution for Ms. Nolan's motion that was placed on the Calendar at the March 21 meeting: that WHEREAS: the Cambridge Public Schools have extraordinary budget resources; and WHEREAS: elementary Principals already supervise large staffs; and WHEREAS: elementary Principals have taken groundbreaking strides to focus their energy on better utilizing their existing staff people so that instruction in the Cambridge Public School system will continue to become more effective; and WHEREAS: meaningful school reform requires strong school-based curriculum support; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED: that the School Committee directs the Superintendent to increase the budget for each elementary school by \$50,000 for Principals to meet the goals of their individual School Improvement Plans. This increased funding is designed to help Principals

invigorate the work of existing staff; for example, a Principal could use these funds to free up an existing highly skilled full-time teacher, by hiring a part-time teacher, to work half-time as a math coach, upper grades literacy specialist or literacy coach, or half-time mentor teacher; and BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: that this increased funding will not be tied to increased expectations for student academic achievement beyond the existing high expectations for improvement in the District Benchmarks; and BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: that the Superintendent be provided flexibility in finding resources to do the above and be encouraged to look at all possible sources of funding with the exception of school-based staff accounts. Mr. Schuster was heard in support of his motion. Mr. Harding said that, after talking to Principals, there needs to be a larger conversation regarding gaps in schools and use resources to address those gaps. Ms. Nolan presented several documents and charts in support of the motion and asked why there are resources in the budget if we are not using them. Mayor Reeves said that he is not in support of going against the Principals and the Superintendent since money going into a building is not the solution. The Mayor said that the process did not allow time for input into the budget. Mr. Harding said that even though we have come to a different place in the budget from the past, weaknesses in the process need to be addressed in the next budget. Ms. Walser suggested that the administration work with Principals on the budget beginning in November or December. Ms. Walser read the following from the Principals' letter and pointed out that they want to be part of the process: "We all want the best for children. The idea of having separate small initiatives coming out of the blue or at any given time is hard to digest. This would put us right back to doing business the old way never knowing which new idea to pick over the other. We really don't want to be put in this position". Mr. Grassi moved the question and withdrew the motion to allow Mr. Fantini to speak. Mr. Fantini was heard in support of Mr. Schuster's and Ms. Nolan's motion and expressed hope that he will see improvements that the Superintendent's educational plan should produce. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, Mr. Schuster's substitute motion **failed of adoption**: Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi NAY, Mr. Harding NAY, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Mayor Reeves NAY, Ms. Walser NAY.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#06-50, Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Recommended Budget Revised Statutory Categories**, as follows: that the School Committee receive and approve FY2006-2007 General Fund Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools in the following Statutory Categories:

Salaries, Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$92,565,965.00
Other Ordinary Maintenance	25,199,350.00
Travel and Training	1,614,715.00
Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>5,982,175.00</u>
Total	\$125,362,205.00

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

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to refer item **#06-50, Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Recommended Budget Revised Statutory Categories** to the Regular Meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to adjourn and return to the Regular Meeting (7:45 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mr. Harding ABSENT, Mayor Reeves YEA. Mr. Grassi requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the roll call vote.

Non-Consent Business

#06-175, Reallocation and Use of FY06-07 Estimated Unexpended Balances. Discussion took place around items on the list for proposed uses of \$854,107. Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Mr. Schuster, to separate items #2, Computer Upgrades; #3, Special education assistive technology software; and #7, Smartboards, totaling \$438,357. The Superintendent was heard. On the following roll call, the motion to separate items #2, Computer Upgrades related to MCAS support as requested by schools; #3, Special education assistive technology software; and #7, Smartboards for Middle School/High School classrooms, pending receipt of a technology strategic plan, **failed of adoption:** Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser NAY, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi NAY, Mr. Harding ABSENT, Mayor Reeves NAY. Mr. Schuster moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan to separate items #9, Consultant for SPED Strategic Plan and #10, SPED Parent Ombudsman Pilot Program. The Superintendent was heard. On the following roll call, the motion to separate items #9 and #10, **failed of adoption:** Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Walser NAY, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi NAY, Mr. Harding ABSENT, Mayor Reeves NAY. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#06-175, Reallocation and Use of FY06-07 Estimated Unexpended Balances:** that the School Committee approve the reallocation and use of FY06-07 estimated unexpended balances, in accordance with the list of proposed uses in the amount of \$854,107: Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster NAY, Ms. Walser YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. Harding ABSENT, Mayor Reeves YEA. Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Walser, for suspension of 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 Ms. Walser, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call it was voted to adopt **#06-176, Statutory Transfer for Use of FY06-07 Estimated Unexpended Balances:** that the School Committee approve the following transfers of funds in the Statutory Categories specified to provide funding for the use of FY06-07 Estimated Unexpended Balances, in accordance with the list of proposed uses previously approved by the School Committee;

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	0	(\$125,884)
Other Ordinary Maintenance	0	(334,000)
Travel and Training	\$127,684	0
Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>\$332,200</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	\$459,884	(\$459,884)

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

Ms. Nolan raised a question on the grant to the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC). The Superintendent and Dr. Turk were heard. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Schuster, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#06-180, 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. Advances Learning Center, Watertown, in the amount of \$32,400.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852335, prog. 335.

2. Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Cambridge, in the amount of \$52,000.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 849137, prog. 137.
3. Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, in the amount of \$121,050.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852360, prog. 360.
4. Cambridge Public Health Department, Cambridge, in the amount of \$40,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 849622, prog 622, proj./grant SC07767.
5. Cambridge School Health Department, Cambridge, in the amount of \$115,000.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 849622, prog. 622, proj/grant SC07767.
6. Institute for Community Health, Cambridge, in the amount of \$55,500.00, account 53101, fund 25000, org. 849622, prog. 622, proj/grant SC07767.
7. Lesley University, Cambridge, in the amount of \$85,200.00, account 57202, fund 15000, org. 840148, prog 148.
8. Lesley University, Cambridge, in the amount of \$36,880.00, account 53101, fund 15000, org. 852360, prog. 360.

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

Ms. Walser moved that only sub-committees that have three Members be formed. Ms. Walser's motion failed for lack of a second. Discussion took place regarding subcommittees and their composition. Mr. Fantini moved an amendment to add ad hoc committees on the achievement gap, buildings and grounds, and technology. The Secretary pointed out that if the amendment is adopted, the motion will be placed on the Calendar as amended. Mr. Fantini withdrew his amendment and will bring it in for a first reading. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to adopt **#06-181, Motion by Mr. Fantini** that the Rules of the Cambridge School Committee be amended to include the following sections (second reading):

Section 7-Subcommittees: Subcommittees, except the Subcommittee on the Budget, which shall be a Committee of the Whole, shall be comprised of three Members. The Vice Chair shall appoint the subcommittees and designate the Chair of each subcommittee. The current subcommittees of the School Committee are as follows:

1. Budget - Committee of the Whole
2. Policy and Procedures
3. Governance
4. Community Relations
5. Building and Grounds and Long Range Planning
6. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

A quorum for subcommittees, in order to conduct business, shall be two, but no binding action shall be taken, only recommendations made to the full School Committee.

Subcommittees may take up all business that may properly come before it and matters that get referred by the entire School Committee. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be assigned to each subcommittee established. The Superintendent's ability to communicate to the School Committee about educational or curriculum issues through the Superintendent's Agenda remains.

The School Committee, by a vote of a majority of the total membership of the School Committee, shall reserve the right to recall any matter from subcommittee. A matter so recalled shall not again be eligible for referral to subcommittee without a vote by a majority of the total membership of the School Committee.

Section 8 - Special Subcommittees and Ad Hoc Subcommittees: Special subcommittees and ad hoc subcommittees may be established as proposed by the Vice Chair and confirmed by vote of the School Committee with such membership and duties and for such duration as the School Committee deems fit. The Vice Chair shall appoint members of any such special subcommittee and/or ad hoc subcommittee.

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

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Schuster, on the following roll call, it was voted that the Rules of the Cambridge School Committee be amended to add the following (first reading):

- Ad Hoc Committee on the Achievement Gap
- Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Buildings and Grounds
- Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Technology

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

Mr. Grassi requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded as PRESENT on **#06-178, Grant Awards.**

Ms. Walser and Ms. Nolan were heard regarding an article in Pediatrics Magazine on seat belts in school buses. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adopt **#06-183, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. Grassi** that while school buses are the safest form of transport to schools, and our record as a district is excellent, seat belts on school buses might be a good option for the District. Therefore, the School Committee directs the Superintendent to report to the School Committee on current standards and national research regarding use of seat belts on public school buses, and rationales for not using them.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Walser, it was voted to adjourn (9:45 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee