

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

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

Councillor Reeves, Acting Chair, in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. He introduced new Members Marc McGovern and Nancy Tauber and explained that he is here in an acting capacity until the City Council has chosen a new Mayor.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings: None

Public Comment

- Elie Yarden, Pleasant St., re education reform in Cambridge

The Chair closed public comment.

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

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

Mr. Grassi raised a question on the status of the update on the security study. The Superintendent was heard. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to pass over Unfinished Business.

New Business

A. Presentation – Update on Intervention Programs

The Chair turned the meeting over to Superintendent Fowler-Finn who gave an introduction to the presentation and turned it over to Dr. Turk. Dr. Turk introduced the Administrators of district-wide support programs: **Transition**, Dr. Christopher Saheed, Mr. Robert Tynes; **High School Extension (HSEP)**, Dr. Joseph Dolan; **Cambridge Harvard Summer Academy (CHSA)**, Mr. Jamal Prince; **JumpStart**, Kennedy/Longfellow site, Mr. Daniel Fusco; **JumpStart**, Baldwin site, Mr. Eugene Mosqueda; **JumpStart**, CRLS site, Mr. Philip Harrington. Dr. Turk gave an overview of district-wide: Read 180, Making Reading Comprehension, Title I, Reading Recovery, FASST Math, Study Island, AVID; and school-based programs: Transition, HSEP, CHSA and JumpStart. The Superintendent, Dr. Turk, and staff responded to questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- How are parents involved in programs and what is the response
- Other than academic support what other support is offered to help students get through
- Hope is that what we are doing in schools we will not have to offer these four programs
- What benchmarks are being used to measure the success of these programs
- Do we have the capability to access the data warehouse

- Would like to see programs laid out side by side to see what is working and what is not
- Do we know how many students could be eligible for JumpStart but who do not enroll
- Use the summer to make learning fun
- Is the hiring process for summer jobs different from the past
- Do program directors have control over their budget
- Do these programs have discretionary funds so teachers do not have to use their own money
- List how many students are involved and use controls in the next report
- A budget is needed for all of these programs
- How is the development of student/teacher relationships built into programs
- Have our programs been impacted by the report on loss of student learning over the summer
- CHSAs numbers seem high compared to our graduation rate
- It would be helpful if information for all summer programs were listed in one place
- Is JumpStart available to everyone
- How do the summer programs communicate with schools
- Insure that students who need help take advantage of summer programs
- What are some things that might be changed, i.e., length, time
- Would like CHSA staff to come before the Committee in February or March to discuss goals
- Would like to have programs like Summerbridge, City Step, etc. come before the Committee to hear some of their concerns
- Has there been any thought given to special education programs during the summer
- Would like to see each child have an individual education plan that is monitored
- If the data warehouse isn't working to prevent students from falling through the cracks, we should find something else
- How has staff stability changed in the last year at HSEP
- Is ABCD still utilized for out-placement
- How many students are enrolled in University School
- Forward elementary information on suspension, what the numbers are and how they compare to last year
- Can Connect-ed be used to advertise summer programs
- Is HSEP diverse socio-economically
- This presentation points out the need for some kind of information clearinghouse – who is minding the details of programs

The Chair thanked the Superintendent and staff for the presentation.

B. Action Items

Mr. Schuster moved, seconded by Mr. Grassi, for adoption of items #08-01 through #08-34. Ms. Nolan removed #08-04, #08-05, #08-07, #08-21 and #08-28. Ms. Tauber removed #08-26 and #08-31. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#08-01, Approval of Revisions to the Service Agreement Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Service Agreement Policy as detailed in the document (Second Reading).

#08-02, Approval of the Revisions to the Vendor Relations Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Vendor Relations Policy as detailed in the document (Second Reading).

#08-03, Approval of Revisions to Home Schooling Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Home Schooling Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-06, Approval of Revisions to the Bus Driver Examination, Training, Evaluation, and Responsibilities Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Bus Driver Examination, Training, Evaluation, and Responsibilities Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-08, Approval of Revisions to the Bus Safety Program – Monitors Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Bus Safety Program – Monitors Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-09, Approval of Revision to the Food Service Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Food Service Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-10, Approval of Revisions to the Free and Reduced Price Food Services Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Free and Reduced Price Food Services Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-11, Approval of Revisions to the Food Services Records and Reports Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Food Services Records and Reports Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-12, Approval of Revisions to the Computerized Data Systems Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Computerized Data Systems Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-13, Approval of Revisions to the Computer Management and Control Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Computer Management and Control Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-14, Approval of Revisions to the Insurance Management/Liability Insurance Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Insurance Management/Liability Insurance Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-15, Approval of Revisions to the Safety Program Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Safety Program Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-16, Approval of Revisions to the Accident Reports Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Accident Reports Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-17, Approval of Revisions to the Emergency Plans Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Emergency Plans Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-18, Approval of Revisions to the Emergency Closings Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Emergency Closings Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-19, Approval of Revisions to the Buildings and Grounds Management Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Buildings and Grounds Management Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-20, Approval of Revisions to the Buildings and Grounds Security Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Buildings and Grounds Security Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-22, Approval of Revisions to the Custodial Services Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Custodial Services Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-23, Approval of Revisions to the Parking Controls Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Parking Controls Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-24, Approval of Revisions to the Material Resources Management Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Material Resources Management Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-25, Approval of Revisions to the Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Authorized use of School-Owned Materials Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-27, Approval of Revisions to the Student Transportation in Private Vehicles Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Transportation in Private Vehicles Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-29, Approval of Revisions to the Public Information Program Policy (Policy in Communications), be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Public Information Program (Policy in Communications) Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-30, Approval of Revisions to the News Media Relations/News Releases Policy, be referred to a second reading: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the News Media Relations/News Releases Policy as detailed in the document.

#08-32, Consultant Agreement: that the School Committee approve the Consultant Agreement with the company on the list, in the amount set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Lesley University, Cambridge, in the amount of \$30,200.00, for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, account 53101, fund 15000, org 852360, prog. 360.

#08-33, Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Award in the amount and for the period indicated:

1. Academic Support Services, for the period January 15, 2008 to June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$35,000.00.

Description: 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 & Measurers of Effectiveness: The required annual program evaluation reviews the effectiveness of programs by examining attendance and pass rates.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Councillor Reeves YEA.

Non-Consent Agenda

Ms. Nolan raised a question on the deletion of the Organization Plan. The superintendent was heard. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to refer to a second reading: **#08-04, Approval of Revisions of Administrative Organization Plan**, that the School Committee approve the deletion of the Administrative Organization Plan as this document is merely an organizational chart and not a policy as is detailed in the document.

Ms. Nolan raised questions on the elimination of the Sherman Street tracks and why we are providing transportation to private school children. Attorney MacFarlane was heard. Ms. Tauber raised a question on transportation being provided to after-school activities for special education students who are out-placed. Attorney MacFarlane was heard. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to refer to a second reading **#08-05, Approval of Revisions to the Student Transportation**

Eligibility (Walkers and Riders) and Student Transportation Services-Special Education Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Transportation Eligibility (Walkers and Riders) and Student Transportation Services-Special Education Policy as detailed in the document.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to refer to a second reading **#08-07, Approval of Revisions to the Bus Scheduling and Routing Policy:** that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Bus Scheduling and Routing Policy as detailed in the document.

Ms. Nolan moved an amendment that language regarding high-performance sustainable building practices be included in this policy. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to refer to a second reading **#08-21, Approval of Revisions to the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Policy,** as amended: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Policy as detailed in the document.

Ms. Tauber moved an amendment to page 68 that "he/she" be made consistent. On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to refer to a second reading **#08-26, Approval of Revisions to the Student Transportation Services Policy,** as amended: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Transportation Services Policy as detailed in the document.

Ms. Nolan asked that the use of tap water be encouraged in this policy. Discussion took place around the policy. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to refer to a second reading **#08-28, Approval of Revisions to the Availability of Food Other Than Through Food Services Programs Policy:** that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Availability of Food Other Than Through Food Services Programs Policy as detailed in the document.

Ms. Tauber raised a question on the amount of the contracts. The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney were heard. On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#08-31, 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	Boston College Campus School, Campion Hall, Room 197, Chestnut Hill	\$201,624.90
1 student	Compass, Inc. (45 day Program), 26 Sunnyside St., Jamaica Plain	40,907.25
1 student	Compass, Inc., 26 Sunnyside St., Jamaica Plain	25,453.40
1 student	Justice Resource Institute, 545 Boylston Street, Boston	47,342.40
5 students	Kennedy Day School, 30 Warren St., Brighton	231,523.20
1 student	LABBB Collaborative, 281 Winter St., Suite 100, Waltham	32,969.22
5 students	Lighthouse School, 25 Wellman Ave., N. Chelmsford	249,921.15
1 student	Shore Collaborative, 100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea	27,914.90
<u>1</u> student	Schools for Children (Seaport Campus), 20 Academy St., Arlington	<u>32,118.30</u>
19 students		\$889,774.72

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Councillor Reeves YEA.

Mr. Schuster moved for suspension of the Rules to bring in a motion to name Marc McGovern and Patricia Nolan as Budget Co-Chairs. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, ~~suspension of the Rules failed~~ the Rules are suspended: Mr. Fantini NAY, YEA, Mr. Grassi NAY, YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Councillor Reeves ABSTAIN. Discussion took place around there being no Co-Chairs for next week's budget meeting. Mr. Grassi requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the previous roll call vote. Mr. Fantini requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the previous roll call vote. On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted that Ms. Nolan and Mr. McGovern be named Budget Co-chairs for 2008-2009.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#08-34**: that the School Committee convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiation with non-union personnel: Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Councillor Reeves YEA. The Chair announced that some votes may be taken in Executive Session and that the Committee will reconvene in Open Session.

Executive Session

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Schuster, Ms. Tauber, Councillor Reeves

Councillor Reeves, Acting Chair in the Chair.

Also Present: Maureen MacFarlane, Esq., Legal Counsel

Councillor Reeves gave a brief history to the new Members of previous contract negotiations. Counsel advised that whatever decision is reached that a next-steps meeting should be scheduled.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend the meeting past 10:00.

Members discussed with Counsel, strategy for contract negotiations with the Superintendent. The Chair adjourned the Executive Session and returned to Open Session.

Councillor Reeves, Acting Chair in the Chair.

The Chair reconvened the meeting and announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session except a procedural vote to extend the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn (10:07 p.m.)

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee