

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue.

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Ms. Tauber, Ms. Turkel,
Councillor Reeves

Councillor Reeves, Acting Chair, in the Chair.

Also Present: Student Representative Ariane Berelowitch

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

On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward Recommendation #10-12. On behalf of City Manager Healy, Michael Gardner, Personnel Director, thanked Collective Bargaining Co-Chairs McGovern and Tauber, the CTA and Administration for their work on Units A & B Collective Bargaining Agreement. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#10-12, Approval of Cambridge Teachers Association Units A & B Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012**: that the School Committee approve the agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Teachers Association Units A&B for a collective bargaining agreement for the period of September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012, which was ratified by the members of the bargaining unit: Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. Gardner for City Manager Healy YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Councillor Reeves YEA.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of January 4, 2010. Ms. Nolan moved to calendar the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2010.

Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members

Ms. Berelowitch reported that the Student Government, Haitian Starz, the High School and Freshman Academy are all working together on the Haiti relief effort and \$600 was raised in two days.

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting

Mr. Fantini requested, and received, unanimous consent to withdraw the following Reconsideration: By Alfred B. Fantini of the vote taken at the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2010, that adopted the motion: **VOTED**: That the School Committee direct the Superintendent to immediately begin discussions with all collective bargaining units regarding the addition of one of the Eid holidays to the 2010 calendar and beyond, in recognition of our growing Muslim student and staff populations. Further, that the School Committee adopt the proposed 2010-2011 school calendar which does not include Eid, with the understanding that this calendar may be amended to include Eid pending collective bargaining negotiations. Further, that the Eid holidays be immediately added to the School District's list of Important Dates/Holidays.

Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

Members passed over Unfinished Business.

New Business

A. Presentation

Public Forum on Middle Grades – Opportunity for Public Comment on Middle Grades.

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Superintendent who said that input was a key component in the middle grades process as he heard from many students, parents and teachers. He will bring forward a recommendation at the February 2 meeting, a public hearing will be held in March and the School Committee will vote in April.

Public Comment

The following individuals were heard regarding Middle Grades:

- Adam Mitchell, Stearns St., Graham & Parks Steering Committee
- Betty Bardige, Raymond St., Kids Council
- Sarah Ruiz, Lee St., Amigos
- Dan Penrice, Ridgefield St., Graham & Parks Steering Committee
- Zach Bohart, McTernan St., Amigos
- Lisa Downing, Hayes St., Amigos
- Laurie Rothstein, Hancock St., Amigos
- Monica Velgos, Harvard St., Cambridgeport
- Carol Stout, Columbus St., Peabody
- Shane Keats, Cushing St., Graham & Parks
- Sarah Hogan, Cushing St., Tobin Montessori
- Mary Ciampa, Huron Ave. Amigos
- Daniel Maldonado, Donnel St., Amigos graduate
- Byron Cohen, Donnel St., Amigos graduate
- Elena Stone, Clay St., Amigos
- Vionette Matos, Florence St., Amigos
- Penn Loh, Perry St., Amigos
- Marla Erlie, Greenough Ave., parent of Amigos graduate
- Joseph Grassi, Cambridge St., Morse, Blue Ribbon Commission Co-chair
- Heidi Sokol, Suffolk St., CRLS, Peabody ISP
- Kate Ginnis, Hamilton St., Haggerty
- Caitlin McCormick, East End House
- Joel Nogie, Clifton St., Amigos
- Suzanne Shaw, Clarendon Ave., Amigos
- Michael Nakogean, Madison Ave., Haggerty and Baldwin
- Bertha Pantoja, Amigos
- Andrew Farrar, Lawrence St., Graham & Parks
- David Wise, Bellis Cir., Graham & Parks
- Catalina Rojas, Franklin St., Amigos
- Helen Bryant, Columbia St., Amigos
- Jennifer Kay-Goodman, Pemberton St., Amigos
- Tim Plenk, Berkley St., King Open
- Tim Cutler, Vineyard St., Haggerty
- Michele Ferrari, Larch Rd., Haggerty
- Nancy Hays, Larch Rd., Haggerty and Baldwin
- Victoria Mills, Newell St., M.L. King and private middle school
- Richard Aichelmann, Huron Ave., Amigos

- Lillian Rater, Fifth St., Amigos Family Liaison
- Nina Gerassi-Navarro, Amigos
- Craig Kelley, St. Gerard Terrace
- Rafael Clemente, Therault Ct., Amigos
- Heather Hoffman, Hurley St., Amigos

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Turkel, it was voted to close public comment.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, the Chair declared a five minute recess.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

Councillor Reeves in the Chair

Discussion took place around communication, particularly with school communities that were not represented tonight. Members asked families to think beyond their own school and help with system-wide solutions to avoid mistakes made during consolidation.

B. Action Items

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Ms. Turkel, for adoption of items #10-11 through #10-20 with the exception of #10-12 that was adopted earlier in the meeting. Ms. Turkel removed #10-11 and #10-18. Mr. McGovern removed #10-19. Ms. Tauber removed #10-20. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted: Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Councillor Reeves YEA:

#10-13, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Teacher Training and Professional Development, funds to be provided from the Grant Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Lesley University, 29 Everett St., Cambridge, for the period November 1, 2009 through June 1, 2010, in the amount of \$41,340.00.

#10-14, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Elementary Kids Ballroom Dancing, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Kids Ballroom Dancing, 14 Myrtle St., Somersworth, NH, for the period January 11, 2010 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$25,000.00.

#10-15, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Food Supplies, funds to be provided from the Revolving Account Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Costa Fruit and Produce, 18 Bunker Hill Industrial Park, Charlestown, for the period February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$96,702.27.

#10-16, Contract for Day Program Services not Available in the Cambridge Public Schools: 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	Brandon Residential Treatment Center, 27 Winter St., Natick	\$24,798.88
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1 student	Dr. Franklin Perkins School, 971 Main St., Lancaster	31,210.71
1 student	Justice Resource Institute, 545 Boylston St., Boston	48,772.32
1 student	Learning Prep School, PO Box 650205, West Newton	27,583.32
1 student	Schools for Children, 20 Academy St., Arlington	28,764.54
<u>2</u> students	Shore Collaborative, 100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea	<u>55,866.95</u>
7 students		\$216,996.72

#10-17, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Academic Support Services, for the period January 20, 2010 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$25,000.00, Project/Grant SC10757.
Description: These funds will provide individual or small group tutoring to students in grades 9-12 who have scored at level 1 or 2 in the math, ELA or science section of the MCAS. Programs will be held during the school day, before and after school and on Saturday mornings.
CPS Target Population: Approximately 45 students, including 11th and 12th graders who have yet to achieve competency determination in MCAS, as well as 10th graders deemed eligible for services by MA DESE specifications.
Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: The required annual program evaluation reviews the effectiveness of programs by examining attendance and pass rates.
2. The Big Yellow School Bus Grant - Supplemental, for the period September 15, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$200.00, Project/Grant SC10856.
Description: This is a supplemental to School Committee Order #C09-557, December 1, 2009. This grant will provide \$200.00 to the Tobin School to support field trips to art and science museums, historic sites, and music and theater performances.
CPS Target Population: The students in the above-named school.
Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: These visits help foster creativity and innovation in students and provide critical exposure to cultural institutions; students will become more engaged and better informed about their cultural environment.
3. Nellie Mae Education Foundation (NMEF), for the period December 22, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$117,000.00, Project/Grant SC10871.
Description: To support the implementation of the *Shared Youth, Shared Strategies* plan. Developed in Spring 2009 by a Blue Ribbon Commission appointed by Mayor E. Denise Simmons and supported by funding from NMEF, this plan outlines a comprehensive, system-level approach for greatly enhancing out-of-school-time (OST) programs for middle school students across the city.
CPS Target Population: 6, 7, 8 grade CPS students.
Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: Will enlist an academic partner to complete an independent assessment and documentation of both process and outcome measures related to this initiative.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules to hear from the CTA President. Ms. Colbath-Hess thanked the members of the bargaining team for a creative and collaborative process.

Non-Consent Agenda

Ms. Turkel raised a question on how the School Committee will be kept informed during the RTTT grant. The Superintendent was heard and a plan will be developed once the State approves the grant. On a motion by Ms. Turkel, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#10-11, Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between and among the Cambridge School Committee, Cambridge Teachers Association and Superintendent of Schools regarding Federal Race to the Top Grant**: that the School Committee approve the agreement between and among the Cambridge School Committee, the Cambridge Teachers Association and the Superintendent of Schools regarding the Federal Race to the Top Grant: Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Councillor Reeves YEA.

Ms. Turkel was heard in support of her motion and moved an amendment to change “a district wide K-12 policy” to “a district wide K-12 philosophy”. Members expressed concern about adopting this motion and losing focus since the Committee’s plate is very full. Mr. McGovern placed the motion on the Calendar, as amended. **#10-18, Motion by Ms. Turkel** that the School Committee schedule a roundtable on student grouping practices K-12. Further, that the roundtable review practices such as leveled and unleveled math and reading groups in elementary school classrooms, inclusion, the Intensive Studies Program (ISP), the co-teaching model, high school honors, college prep and advanced placement classes; and, further, that these and other grouping practices be looked at with the goal of understanding which students are and which students are not benefiting from the practices in our district; and, further, that following this roundtable the Superintendent bring the School Committee a recommendation for a district wide K-12 policy on grouping practices.

#10-19, Motion by Ms. Tauber that the School Committee elect Mr. Fantini, Senior Member, as Temporary Vice Chair until a Mayor is elected. Mr. McGovern moved a friendly amendment to strike “until a Mayor is elected” and add “until at least the next School Committee meeting at which time a permanent Vice chair may be elected. Further, that no sub-committee appointments be made until a permanent Vice Chair is elected.” Mr. Fantini requested unanimous consent to substitute Mr. McGovern’s name for his. Mr. Harding moved a substitute motion that Mr. McGovern be elected as Vice Chair. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted to elect Mr. McGovern Vice Chair for the 2010-2011 term: Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Councillor Reeves YEA.

#10-20, Motion by Ms. Tauber that the School Committee schedule a retreat to discuss goals and communication. Ms. Tauber moved an amendment to add “on Tuesday, January 26, 2010”. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to adopt, as amended, **#10-20, Motion by Ms. Tauber** that the School Committee schedule a retreat to discuss goals and communication on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

Late Orders/Announcements

Ms. Nolan announced that there will be a CRLS Open House for 8th grade parents tomorrow night at the 9th grade campus. The RSTA Open House will be held next week at the Main campus.

Mr. Harding asked the Superintendent to speak to what is being done for Haiti. The Superintendent said he is still collecting data and it will be posted on line and also sent in The Weekly. Councillor Reeves added that this would be a good time to teach history of Haiti.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to adjourn (9:43 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee