

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Grassi, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Mr. Schuster, Ms. Tauber,
Mayor Simmons

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings:

On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of January 7, 2008.

Public Comment

- Elie Yarden, Pleasant St., re FY08-09 budget

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to close 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

New Business

A. Presentation

B. Action Items

Mr. Schuster moved for adoption of items #08-35 through #08-40. Mr. Grassi removed #08-35, #08-36 and #08-40. Ms. Nolan removed #08-38. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#08-37, 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	Harbor Schools, 26 Rolfes Lane, Newbury	\$32,568.12
-----------	---	-------------

#08-39, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Cambridge Community Foundation Science Festival, for the period December 7, 2007 to August 30, 2008, in the amount of \$3,000.00. Project/Grant SC08835.
Description: This private grant will provide support for the participation of CPS students in the city's second annual Cambridge Science Festival 2008 presented by MIT Museum.

This festival integrates science and technology with the wider culture by illuminating the richness of scientific inquiry and the excitement of discovery. The festival seeks to increase youth engagement in science and foster a better public understanding of the contributions of the science and technology community and all it has to offer Cambridge residents.

CPS Target Population: Approximately 10-12 CPS teachers and potentially all CPS students in grades K-12 will be involved in various aspects of the festival.

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

2. Cambridge Community Foundation-Crew, for the period December 3, 2007 to August 30, 2008, in the amount of \$6,427.00, Project/Grant SC08836.

Description: A grant to support increasing the crew program in the Physical Education Department at CRLS; the funds are from the Regatta and will be used to purchase additional crew equipment so that more students will be able to participate in the program.

CPS Target Population: Approximately 30-40 students, both girls and boys, at CRLS, who participate in the crew program at CRLS.

Outcomes & Measurers of Effectiveness: Additional students will be able to participate in crew, a sport which has health benefits and which can also serve to increase student involvement in school.

3. Fletcher-Maynard Academy, for the period December 18, 2007 to August 30, 2008, in the amount of \$1,300, Project/Grant SC08844.

Description: This grant will be used to purchase a new projection screen for the Fletcher-Maynard auditorium.

CPS Target Population: All students in grades K-8 at the Fletcher-Maynard Academy.

Outcomes & Measurers of Effectiveness: Improved quality of projection capability will improve the learning experiences in the auditorium for all FMA students.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

Non-Consent Agenda

Mr. Grassi asked Attorney MacFarlane to speak to the revisions made to the following policies. Ms. MacFarlane was heard regarding the inadvertent omission of a revision to the Building & Grounds Management Policy. Ms. Nolan asked that page 34, Buildings and Grounds Management Policy, be removed pending revision. Mr. McGovern raised a question regarding using union employees. Mr. Maloney was heard. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to adopt **#08-35, Revisions of the following Policies (Second Reading):**

- Bus Driver Examination, Training, Evaluation, and Responsibilities Policy
- School Bus Safety Program - Monitors Policy
- Food Service Policy
- Free and Reduced Price Food Services Policy
- Food Services Records and Reports Policy
- Computerized Data Systems Policy
- Computer Management and Control Policy
- Insurance Management/Liability Insurance Policy
- Safety Program Policy
- Accident Reports Policy

- Emergency Plans Policy
- Emergency Closings Policy
- Buildings and Grounds Security Policy
- Custodial Services Policy
- Parking Controls Policy
- Material Resources Management Policy
- Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials Policy
- Student Transportation in Private Vehicles Policy
- Availability of Food Other Than Through Food Services Programs Policy
- Public Information Program Policy (Policy in Communications)
- News Media Relations/News Releases Policy
- Home Schooling Policy
- Administrative Organization Plan; and

#08-36, Approval of Revisions to the Student Transportation Services Policy and 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 Services Policy and revisions to the Student Transportation Eligibility (Walkers and Riders) and Student Transportation Services-Special Education Policy (Second Reading).

Discussion took place around the Cambridge Affordable Housing contract, how many students are served over what period of time, and what are the outcomes. Dr. Turk was heard. Ms. Nolan moved to Calendar **#08-38, Consultant Agreements.** To allow discussion, Ms. Nolan withdrew her motion. Further discussion took place. It was suggested that the contract be approved and that an evaluation of all supplemental programs be provided to the School Committee. It was asked whether a summary can be included with grant requests. Dr. Turk was heard. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#08-38, 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 53201, Fund 15000, Org. 852372, Prog. 372.
2. Cambridge Affordable Housing, Cambridge, in the amount of \$26,825.00, Account 53101, Fund 15000, Org. 869665, Prog. 665.

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

Members raised questions whether this request coincides with any curriculum in 5th and 6th grade, and it was suggested that the high school class that will be voting in four years be selected, that ballots be selected for all three parties, and that elected officials go into classrooms to explain the voting process. The Superintendent and Dr. Turk were heard. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to refer back to the Superintendent **#08-40, Supplemental Recommendation: City Council Order #O-5,** dated January 14, 2008, that the City Manager instructs the Election Commission to work with the School Department to set up extra polling booths in schools so that 5th and 6th graders can hold a mock election on Tuesday, February 5.

Late Orders

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted that the Superintendent provide the School Committee by the end of February with an update on the CPS Security Study, including a description and timeline for hardware upgrades for the CRLS renovation as well as future hardware upgrades to elementary schools.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted that the following items be returned to Unfinished Business:

- Report on the number and status of all computer equipment disposed of in the last year and no longer in use by the district. Further, that in light of the need to bridge the digital divide, the report should include progress towards donating computers to a non-profit for distribution in the community. Further, that in light of the toxic nature of E-waste, that the report include the policy and practice of current means of disposal to ensure responsible handling **(C07-268)**; and
- Report on programs and curriculum enhancements in support of academically advanced students in elementary school **(C07-339)**.

Ms. Tauber moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini, that the School Committee accept for the record the booklet, "2007 Achievement Gap Forums," summarizing the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Achievement Gap this year. It was pointed out that the booklet is in draft form. Ms. Tauber withdrew her motion.

Ms. Nolan announced that on January 29 there will be a meeting of the Budget Subcommittee with input from the public.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adjourn (6:50 p.m.)

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee