

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 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
Mayor Maher

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also Present: Student Representatives Ariane Berelowitch and Josiah Bonsey

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

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings

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

- Regular Meeting – February 2, 2010
- Special Informal Meeting – January 26, 2010

Public Comment

The following individuals were heard:

- Sharon Douglas, Carlisle St., re Middle School K-8, Fletcher-Maynard (FMA)
- Ryan Hammond, Audrey St., re Olá
- Desmond McDonnell, Fifth St., re Middle School and Response To Intervention, FMA
- Lisandra Santiago, Bristol St., FMA

The Chair recognized and welcomed Councillor Reeves.

- Emma Hernandez, Hampshire St., Middle School K-8, FMA
- Nicole Kanode, Harvard St., FMA, K-8
- Mary Beth Pero, Prospect St., FMA, K-8
- Banke Oluwole, Bolton St., FMA, K-8
- Aden Farah, Rindge Ave., Haggerty and FMA, K-8
- Cynthia Coleman, Putnam Gardens, FMA, K-8

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

Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members

Mr. Bonsey and Ms. Berelowitch reported that there is a wide range of experiences regarding a K-8 or a K-5 model so having both options is desirable. There is support for the proposal put forth for Option 3 (hybrid). Concerns were expressed over the social experience for some students in high school.

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

Members passed over Unfinished Business.

New Business

A. Presentation

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Superintendent who walked Members through the following presentation "Fiscal Year 2011 Proposed Budget" (copy on-line and in the School Committee Office):

FY 2010 Current Budget:	\$ 133.6 M
FY 2011 Budget Proposed:	\$ 137.5 M
Net Increase:	\$ 3.9 M
Percentage Increase:	2.9%

FY 2011 Budget Summary

Budget Allocation:	\$ 137.5 M
Cost of Maintaining Existing Program:	<u>\$ 141.2 M</u>
Projected Gap:	(\$ 3.7 M)

THE CHALLENGE:

Strengthening the Educational Program and Balancing the Budget

The Proposed Budget of \$137.5 M

- ❖ Includes \$1 million in new program initiatives
- ❖ Reduces existing programs by \$4.7 million
- ❖ Takes its direction from the School Committee Budget Guidelines

School Committee's FY 2011 Budget Guidelines

1. Student Achievement
2. Special Education
3. Middle Grades
4. Program Evaluation
5. School Climate/Healthy Children
6. Technology
7. Administration and Operations

Initiatives and cost saving proposals developed through:

- ❖ Working groups of Principals and Cabinet members established for each School Committee Budget Guideline
- ❖ Individual meetings with each Principal and department director to discuss individual school/department budgets.

Elementary Schools

- ❖ Favorable class size
- ❖ Professional development in differentiated instruction
- ❖ Response to Intervention (RTI)

- ❖ Instructional coaching
- ❖ Anti-bullying initiative
- ❖ Middle grades planning
- ❖ Reduction of instructional aide positions
- ❖ Olá Program
- ❖ After-School collaboration at Kennedy-Longfellow
- ❖ JumpStart Program
- ❖ Other reductions in travel & materials

High School

- ❖ Continuation of strong academic core, elective programs and extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Consolidation of non-traditional programs
- ❖ Support for English Language Learners
- ❖ RSTA reductions

Special Education

- ❖ Integrated kindergarten classroom
- ❖ Substantially separate programs
- ❖ Outside study of CPS Special Education Program
- ❖ Funding challenges in Special Education

System-wide

- ❖ Curriculum review cycle
- ❖ Technology coordination
- ❖ Administrative re-organization
- ❖ Energy efficiency
- ❖ Operations staffing reductions
- ❖ School Improvement Plan budgets, professional development

FY 11 Budget Changes By Program

		<u>FTEs</u>
Salary & Benefits	\$4.4 M	
Elementary Schools	(\$763K)	-15.2
High School Programs	(\$445K)	-4.5
Special Education	\$2.3 M	16.9
Curriculum Support	(\$409K)	-.4
Central Admin/Operations	<u>(\$216K)</u>	<u>-11.0</u>
Total Increase	\$3.9 M	-14.2

Budget Allocation By Program Area

Expenditures in Schools	\$86.3 M	63%
SPED (Tuitions & Central Services)	\$13.8 M	10%
Curriculum Support	\$ 8.5 M	6%
Operations (Trans, Maint, Security)	\$18.4 M	13%
Leadership & Central Admin	\$ 4.9 M	4%
Debt Service & System-wide Accts	<u>\$ 5.5 M</u>	<u>4%</u>
Total FY 2011	\$137.5 M	

Next Steps

March 2, 2010	Superintendent's Budget Presentation
March 9, 2010	Public Hearing
March 23, 2010	Further School Committee Discussion Regarding FY11 Budget
April 6, 2010	School Committee Vote on FY11 Budget

The Superintendent said he is taking Olá out of the budget discussion and thanked the School Committee, Principals and his Cabinet for their part in preparing the budget.

The following questions, comments and concerns were raised:

- What we offer families is unlike any other community in the State
- Anti-bullying program is the right way to go focusing on prevention
- Happy to see special education classes in one place
- The budget process was thoughtful, open and inclusive
- Look at the effectiveness of all of our programs
- Many initiatives that were proposed have come together in this budget
- Budget book continues to provide detailed information without over-whelming
- Would like to see more evidence on the effectiveness of coaching
- How do we insure that we have the most effective coaches
- Happy that the Olá discussion is going to happen
- Need to clarify the High School Extension Program (HSEP) – it is different from the way it was formed
- Hope that the integrated classroom will be increased if it is successful
- Differentiated instruction is a good model
- Energy Manager is a good addition
- With the elimination of JumpStart can the same number of children be served in the summer
- What is being reduced in administration
- Believes this budget can be supported by the community
- Budget book was an interesting read
- What programs will be reviewed and what happens to programs that need changing but are not up for review
- Who participates in planning program changes
- Would like a report on how schools spend improvement funds (SIPs)
- How are coaches being evaluated
- What is being done to promote coach/teacher trust
- Is the Cambridge Leadership Network (CLN) involved in the coaching model
- Would like an update on the work of CLN
- What is the first curriculum audit
- There should be more opportunities for students in RSTA
- Why is there a \$2.3 million increase in out-of-district placements
- Why is there a \$450,000 increase in the Food Services budget
- Need to create a sense of urgency to close achievement gaps
- Insure that Principals understand that all students should have a wonderful academic experience
- Concerned about the perception of putting the autism class at Fletcher-Maynard
- What are the alternatives for students during the summer with the elimination of JumpStart
- Need to have a larger conversation about HSEP – SES balance is skewed
- Happy that kindergarten and special education aides will be safe
- Applaud the Superintendent for taking Olá out of the budget
- Transparency and explanations were very helpful

Members thanked the Superintendent and staff for a thoughtful, thorough and transparent presentation.

B. Action Items

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Ms. Tauber, for adoption of items #10-28 through #10-38. Mr. Harding removed #10-28. Ms. Turkel removed #10-35. Ms. Nolan removed #10-34 and #10-36. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted: Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Maher YEA. Mr. McGovern requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the previous roll call.

#10-29, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Student Tuition, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Minuteman Regional High School, 758 Marrett Road, Lexington, for the period September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$91,500.00.

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

C & M Educational Connections & Consulting, 1700 Dorchester Ave., Suite 2, Dorchester, for the period December 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$36,600.00.

#10-31, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Services, funds to be provided from the Grant Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Boston Learning, 208 Ashmont St., Dorchester, for the period December 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$36,600.00.

#10-32, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Services, funds to be provided from the Grant Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Achieve Tutoring, 47 Winter St., Boston, for the period December 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$27,450.00.

#10-33, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Services, funds to be provided from the Grant Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Club Z!, 15310 Amerly Dr., Suite 185, Tampa, FL, for the period December 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$45,750.00.

#10-37, Report of the November 16, 2009 meeting of the Buildings & Grounds & Long Range Planning Subcommittee:

Called for the purpose of discussing Boston Public Schools' Energy Efficiency Program, Cambridge Public Schools' Energy Efficiency Program and any other business that may properly come before the Committee.

Members Present: Ms. Nolan, Chair; Mr. Schuster

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

Also Present: James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Dana Ham, Plant Maintenance Manager, Brian Chambers, BPS Energy Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and turned it over to Mr. Chambers. Mr. Chambers shared the following on Boston Public Schools' concerted effort in the mid-1980s to save energy dollars:

- Hired energy manager
- Built program from scratch
- One of the most important things they did was to hire fresh minds from outside
- Designed an energy managing accounting system
- Point person was the building custodian with the energy manager and four staff responsible for 40-50 buildings
- Switched all school buildings to natural gas
- Saved \$1 million dollars in the first year
- Developed a program that gave 10% of savings back to schools
- Made substantial capital investment in an energy management system
- Savings over 20 years is approximately \$30,000,000
- Success is to have somebody dedicated to the program
- Currently involved in large solar energy project
- Investment became part of the overall capital budget
- Funds were raised from utility company rebate programs
- Scheduling outside use of buildings is extremely important
- Energy fee is charged separate from rental fee
- Recycling funds go back to schools
- Rental fees go back to infrastructure
- It makes sense to do this in difficult times

Mr. Chambers responded to some of the following questions, comments and concerns:

Q. Where does funding come from

A. The City

Q. How do older buildings compare to newer ones

A. Newer buildings use more energy and are following LEED certification. Savings in older buildings occur by re-lamping, temperature control, building set backs at night, energy reports and meetings with school staff, moving to digital systems in classrooms

Q. How did co-gen happen and what is the savings

A. System has to be properly sized

Q. What is the relationship of savings to spending

A. 8 or 9 million dollars

Q. Who runs the energy management systems

A. Four staff members

Q. What experience should the energy manager have

A. Grant writing, energy auditing, designing state of the art programs

Q. Who should the energy manager report to

A. Someone in authority

The Chair thanked Mr. Chambers for sharing his expertise.

Next steps:

- Ask Budget Co-chairs to talk to the Superintendent re stimulus funds
- Schedule a facilities meeting in December

On a motion by Mr. Schuster, the meeting adjourned (3:28 p.m.).

Respectfully Submitted
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

#10-38, Report of the February 9, 2010 Meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Budget (Committee of the Whole):

Called for the purpose of a retreat for discussion of the FY2010-2011 Budget.

Members Present: Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Co-Chairs; Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Ms. Tauber, Ms. Turkel, Councillor Reeves

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

Also Present: Superintendent Jeffrey Young, Deputy Superintendent Carolyn Turk, Chief Operating Officer James Maloney, Chief Financial Officer Claire Spinner, Educational Liaison John Clifford

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Ms. Spinner.

Ms. Spinner distributed a "Summary of Potential Initiatives and Cost Saving Proposals" that correspond to the Budget Guidelines. She reported that there is a projected \$3,667,760 budget gap with \$500,000 still needed to close it. Elementary school staffing and Classroom staffing charts were also distributed.

Members raised the following questions, comments and concerns around the proposals:

- Will there be district coaches or just school based coaches
- Will all schools get the same resources in coaches
- Having a part-time coach is not ideal
- Are remaining coaches K-8 and what will they be doing
- How will district coach be different from curriculum coordinator
- Will staff need to re-apply for this position
- What do curriculum coordinators do
- Does a larger school need more than one coach
- What date was school census data compiled
- Who hires the coach
- Will this position be a school based employee
- Will there ever be Science coaches
- Concerned about apparent inequity between small schools and larger schools
- Would like rationale for this change
- It is not clear why one position is based on enrollment and another is not
- Does the addition of a 1.9 ESL teacher and ELL tutor bring us into compliance

- Why does compliance come under Student Achievement
- Would like to see a proposal merging the Transition Program with the High School Extension Program (HSEP)
- If Transition and HSEP are merging, why is an Adjustment Counselor being cut
- Perception is that if certain students are removed from the high school the high school will be enhanced
- It will be interesting to see how Transition and HSEP works
- Is it necessary to say the Transition program is being merged since there are so few students
- Need to have conversation regarding the HSEP
- Is training on differentiated instruction done in-house
- There has been no conversation saying what is the matter with middle grades
- If \$100,000 is being used to work on middle grades, what is being worked on – need more information on “what” is the “what”
- Response to Intervention (RTI) is exactly the intervention we need and we should cut somewhere else to continue it
- Does any of this RTI tie into co-teaching model
- Are differentiating classes being looked at
- Why is more money being allocated for professional development - what account does \$40 an hour come from
- If Olá 5/6 grades are merged will 6th grade students get Portuguese or Spanish
- Has there been any conversation in the community re Olá
- It is uncomfortable to say Olá is being cut in the budget
- involve the community around the need for Olá
- Olá demographics have changed - we should get rid of it instead of stopping at grade 5
- How can Olá be ended and Amigos kept intact
- This shouldn't be a budget decision – look at needs of those students
- How do typical peers get chosen for the special education integrated classroom
- Do integrated kindergarten students go into integrated first grade – strive to keep students in the same school
- What will happen to the Fletcher/Maynard extended day program if the autism class is moved there
- Think about how data is reported so as to not stigmatize schools
- Put autism program in a school that is doing well
- Think about the difference between what someone wants and what makes sense
- If we move the autism program to Fletcher/Maynard and the school changes, we will be moving children again
- How many students are in the Kennedy-Longfellow after-school program
- Need to justify why one school gets \$45,000 for after-school students

On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend the meeting to 9:00. Mr. Fantini is recorded as voting NAY.

- Is an outside person part of the program and curriculum review
- Is the anti-bullying initiative for all schools
- Does the Manager of Sustainable practices need to be a full time position
- Insure that we are not handicapping ourselves by reducing advertising budget
- Remove un-needed classrooms
- Has the high school teacher load been looked at
- Insure that high school classes are manageable
- Are there enrollment issues in RSTA
- Remove Biotech from RSTA and include it in regular program

- Uncomfortable reducing School Improvement (SIP) funding
- Are there some schools who use their SIP funds consistently
- Are we involved in the transportation collaborative
- Is out-of-district transportation a giveaway
- SEI students should be in a building where they can be mainstreamed
- How can the Home-Based program service more families that need it
- Consider whether or not we have too many buildings

The Chair thanked the Superintendent and staff for the presentation.

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Fantini, the meeting was adjourned (9:00 p.m.)

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Non-Consent Agenda

Mr. Harding asked to be recorded as present, not voting, on **#10-28, Contract Award**: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for a Hearing and Vision Nurse, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Cambridge Public Health Department, 119 Windsor St., Cambridge, for the period
September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$62,994.00.

Ms. Tauber asked if the above contract is a change and if the increase can be sustained. Dr. Ramos and Mr. Maloney were heard. On a motion by Ms. Tauber, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#10-28**: Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding, PRESENT, NOT VOTING, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

Ms. Nolan raised a question on how these contracts fit into the current budget. Ms. Spinner was heard. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Tauber, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#10-34, Contracts 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	Bay Cove Human Services, 66 Canal St., Boston	\$30,925.80
1 student	Gifford School, 177 Boston Post Road, Weston	33,487.36
<u>1</u> student	Lighthouse School, 25 Wellman Avenue, N. Chelmsford	<u>33,292.35</u>
3 students		\$97,705.51

Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding ~~ABSENT~~ YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

Ms. Turkel asked why the March 16 meeting is being changed. The Chair asked that the change be considered so that he can attend the National League of Cities Conference. Discussion took place around meeting dates and locations. The Superintendent was asked to do a Connect-Ed call regarding upcoming meeting dates. On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to adopt **#10-35, Motion by Mr. McGovern** that the School Committee reschedule the March 16, 2010 Regular Meeting to March 23, 2010.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules to grant Mr. Harding and Mr. Fantini unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the previous roll call votes.

Ms. Nolan was heard in support of her motion. Discussion took place around the intent of the motion. Mr. Fantini moved to calendar **#10-36, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that whereas last year's mid-year State budget changes led to lower funding for the circuit breaker, necessitating a mid-year budget correction, and whereas in prior years the School Department experienced surpluses of several million dollars, that the School Committee direct the Superintendent, in conjunction with the Budget Sub-Committee of the Whole, to develop a contingency plan for dealing with large unexpected changes in economic circumstances.

Late Orders/Announcements: none

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Turkel, it was voted to adjourn (8:48 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee