

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

Also Present: Student School Committee Member Emma Shreefter

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings:

On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2008, be accepted as presented.

Public Comment

The following individuals were heard:

- Lawrence Adkins, Hayes St., re: student data and website privacy policy
- Craig Kelley, St. Gerard Terrace re: budget

The Chair acknowledged and welcomed Councillor Kelley.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Schuster, 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

A. Calendar

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to remove and refer to a second reading item **#08-119**, Approval of Revisions to the School Choice Policy (First Reading), and item **#08-121**, Approval of Revisions to the Student Policies Goals Policy (First Reading).

B. Tabled Matters

C. Awaiting Report

New Business

A. Presentation

B. Action Items

Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, for adoption of items #08-149 through #08-164. Mr. Grassi removed #08-154. Ms. Nolan removed #08-150. Mr. Fantini removed #08-160 and #08-161. Mr. McGovern removed #08-158. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#08-149, Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Recommended Budget: that the School Committee receive and approve the FY2008-09 General Fund Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools in the following Statutory Categories:

Salaries, Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$100,306,920
Other Ordinary Maintenance	24,825,910
Travel & Training	1,656,100
Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>3,915,240</u>
Total	\$130,704,170

#08-151, City Council Order #O-2: that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Police Commissioner, the Commissioner of Public Works and other relevant City and School Department staff to determine and implement appropriate short-term security measures at the Russell Field Athletic Complex.

#08-152, City Council Order - Calendar Item #2 - Amended Order - April 7, 2008: that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Superintendent of Schools to determine if Cambridge Public Schools has any mode split data for students and staff and, if needed, to pay to assist Cambridge Public Schools in developing that data.

#08-153, Approval of Revisions to the following Policies (Second Reading):

- Equal Educational Opportunities Policy
- Released Time Policy
- Damage to School Property Policy
- Hazing Policy
- Entrance Age Policy
- Deletion of the Attendance Areas, Assignment of Students to Schools, Intra-District-Open Enrollment, Desegregation Plan and School Districts Redistricting Procedures Policies
- Deletion of the Student Absences, Tardiness and Excuses Policy - Secondary Schools
- Leaves of Absence Policy
- Deletion of the Admissions Policy for Rindge School of Technical Arts Program

#08-155, Motion by Mayor Simmons that the School Committee send condolences to the Toledano family in the sudden and tragic death of 19 year-old Maria Toledano, recent graduate of CRLS.

#08-156, Motion by Mayor Simmons that the School Committee send condolences to the Olivier family in the sudden and tragic death of 22 year-old Jean Marc Olivier, graduate of CRLS.

#08-157, Motion by Mayor Simmons that the School Committee direct Legal Counsel to draft a Privacy Policy for the School Committee website.

#08-159, Motion by Mr. Grassi that the Superintendent coordinate with schools and appropriate staff to have bike racks installed in close proximity to all elementary schools. Further, that the Superintendent also include bike racks in the renovations plans for CRLS.

#08-162, Motion by Ms. Nolan that the School Committee send a congratulatory letter to the CRLS members of the Cambridge FIRST Robotics team for their inspiring second place finish in the Regional competition. Further that the School Committee send a letter of appreciation to MIT and all team sponsors thanking them for their work on behalf of CRLS students.

#08-163, Joint Motion by Mr. Grassi and Ms. Nolan that the Superintendent provide to the School Committee a copy of all Principal contracts upon signing. Further that the Superintendent provide a list of all Principals, their tenure, contract length and salary by the last meeting in June of each year.

#08-164, Report of the April 1, 2008, Governance Sub-Committee Meeting:

Called for the purpose of discussing procedures with the Cambridge City Council and two policies relating to staff involvement referred from the whole Committee.

Members Present: Mr. Schuster, Chair, Mr. Fantini, Ms. Tauber

Mr. Schuster in the Chair

Also Present: Ms. Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources
Dr. Aida Ramos, Executive Director, Special Education

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

The following questions, comments and concerns were raised around the Staff Involvement in the Decision-Making Policy:

- Is there a technical distinction between nominating committee and search committee
- How is staff involved in hiring process
- What is the applicant screening process
- Need fluidity in hiring process
- School Committee encourages staff to participate in hiring policies
- Are there other policies that deal with hiring process
- Union President is comfortable with what is being done

It was moved by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Tauber, to refer back to the whole Committee a request for language to include staff involvement in hiring process.

Ms. Allen and Dr. Ramos exited the meeting.

A brief discussion took place around School Committee Members' visits to schools

- Should Members call ahead or just show up
- Good policy for Members to visit schools

It was moved by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Tauber, to refer back to the whole Committee a revision in the first sentence of the last paragraph of the School Committee-Staff Communications Policy to read: Individual School Committee Members are encouraged to visit schools and classrooms.

Communications with the City Council was discussed:

- City Council goes through the School Committee to the Superintendent
- Department heads should go through the Superintendent to meet with City Council
- How are matters best handled

- Address issue at joint roundtable
- How to communicate with each other
- Mayor is liaison between School Committee and City Council
- Raise issues at joint meeting so everyone knows how each side feels
- Possibility of joint sub-committee

Discussion took place on the up-coming Retreat and the *Brainstorm for Operating Principles* list suggested by facilitator Jack Wofford.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia A. Berry
Secretary

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

Non-Consent Agenda

Ms. Nolan moved to Calendar **#08-150, 2008-2009 State School Choice Program**. To allow discussion, Ms. Nolan withdrew her motion. Discussion took place regarding the lack of publicity of this meeting as a public hearing. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow a motion to be brought in. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted that the School Committee will hold a public hearing on the 2008-2009 State School Choice Program on May 6. This meeting will be advertised to schools, families and all other interested parties and voted by the Committee at the May 6 meeting.. The Superintendent withdrew **#08-150, 2008-2009 State School Choice Program - Recommendation for Non-Participation**, to be resubmitted at the May 6 meeting.

Ms. Nolan raised a question on the criteria by which students and providers are selected for services from Club Z. The Superintendent and Dr. Turk were heard. Ms. Nolan raised a question on what is included in the contract for Lesley University teachers in three schools. Dr. Turk was heard and will get the hours for the Members. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Tauber, on the following roll call, it was voted to accept **#08-154, 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. Club Z, Waltham, in the amount of \$42,140.00, Account 53101, Fund 25000, Org. 859651, Program 651, Project/Grant SC07604.
2. Lesley University, Cambridge, in the amount of \$76,075.00, Account 53101, Fund 15000, Org. 862650, Program 650.

Mr. Grassi ABSENT, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mayor Simmons PRESENT, not voting. Mr. Grassi requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded as not voting and not in the room during discussion or during the vote.

#08-158, Joint Motion by Ms. Tauber and Ms. Nolan that the Superintendent review with the Principals the current policy of Public Solicitation in the Schools to determine what adjustments, if any, would be appropriate and acceptable to Principals. Mr. McGovern asked the Superintendent to work with Principals to make the policy work. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adopt **#08-158**.

#08-160 and #08-161. Discussion took place around the Controlled Choice Policy, funding for its review and the process by which polices should be brought forward. The Superintendent was heard. On a

motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Schuster, it was voted to refer to the Community Relations Sub-Committee **#08-160, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan and Mr. McGovern** that the School Committee direct the Superintendent to assign any currently enrolled kindergartener, whose educational needs (based on teacher or parent decision) would best be met by repeating kindergarten, into a kindergarten classroom at the child's current school for the next year, provided there is an empty seat. This placement would be regardless of SES status, even if such placement would result in SES ratios outside the target. Further, if there is not an empty seat, then the student be given the first available seat, irrespective of SES status. That is, the student is effectively at the top of both waitlists; and **#08-161, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that the question of how to treat students enrolled in the Tobin Montessori who want to register for the kindergarten lottery when age-eligible be included in the review of the Controlled Choice Policy.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to suspend the Rules to return to **#08-149, Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Recommended Budget**. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopted and refer to the City Council **#08-149, Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Recommended Budget** as follows: that the School Committee receive and approve the FY2008-09 General Fund Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools in the following Statutory Categories:

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

The Chair entertained a motion to convene in Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Tauber, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purpose stated: Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA. The Chair announced that the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session.

Executive Session

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

Also Present: Attorney Demitrios Moschos, Special Counsel; Lenora Jennings, Education Liaison

Members discussed strategy for contract negotiations with Special Counsel; the website statement; and the request for reconsideration.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to adjourn (9:12 p.m.): Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee