

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## (Official Report)

### Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 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 6:05 p.m.

### Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings:

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted that the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as presented:

- Regular Meeting – April 15, 2008
- Special Meeting – February 12, 2008
- Special Meeting – January 29, 2008

### Public Comment

The following individuals were heard regarding International Baccalaureate:

- Ann O'Connor, Huron Ave.
- Catherine Sullivan, Notre Dame Avenue
- Colleen Gillard, Magazine Street

On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Ms. Tauber, 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

Members passed over all Unfinished Business.

### New Business

#### A. Presentation

The Chair turned the meeting over to Superintendent Fowler-Finn for a presentation. The Superintendent was heard. Mr. Maloney and Dr. Saheed gave Members an update on the CRLS phasing plan during construction. Members raised the following questions, comments and concerns:

- Appreciate the level of detail that has been provided
- It is important to continue to get feedback
- We are ahead of schedule in getting phasing plan out to the community
- Elementary schools will have to step up to cooperate around summer programs
- How much movement of CRLS students will there be

- Is the library on schedule
- Will transportation be provided for students who need to come back for athletics
- How many students and transitions will there be during the day
- Congratulations on coming up with the freshmen program - what unique opportunities will there be for staff
- How will unsupervised areas be secured
- We have the right team for a project of this magnitude
- It is very impressive to see the work of the committee
- When will the War memorial be finished
- When are parent meetings being planned
- How many 9<sup>th</sup> graders are currently taking upper level courses and how will that happen during phasing
- What will the impact be on the new administrative structure with only one Dean
- Did we hire a risk manager
- What is the teacher assignment at the Longfellow building and how will it affect program collaboration
- How will lunch happen
- How do we continue to keep parents in the loop
- Will the library continue to function at the Longfellow building
- Will it be easier for freshmen located at Longfellow to participate in extracurricular activities
- How much space will we be occupying at the Upton Street and Longfellow buildings
- Insure that neighbors on Upton Street know what is going on
- Will the School Committee office be moved during construction

The Superintendent and staff responded to questions, comments and concerns from Members. Mr. Maloney introduced HMFH Architects Vassilios Valaes and George Metzger who gave Members an overview of construction plans. Messrs. Maloney, Valaes and Metzger responded to questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- Insure that the project is a high-sustainable energy building
- What efforts are being made to mitigate noise, air quality, dust, etc. during the school day
- Insure that landscaping is part of this project
- Look at traffic calming on Broadway and Cambridge St. to insure pedestrian safety
- How will HVAC be mitigated given the height of our ceilings
- Will the building be ADA compliant

The Chair thanked the architects for a thorough presentation.

## **B. Action Items**

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Mr. McGovern, for adoption of items #08-165 through #08-185. Mr. Schuster removed #08-175 and #08-176. Ms. Nolan removed #08-166 through #08-168, #08-170 through #08-172 and #08-174. Mr. Grassi removed #08-169. Mr. Fantini removed #08-177 and #08-178. Mayor Simmons removed #08-179 and #08-180. Ms. Tauber removed #08-165. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

**#08-173, Grant Award:** that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Award in the amount and for the period indicated:

1. King School, for the period January 22, 2008 to June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$1,000.00, project/grant SC08799.  
**Description:** These funds will be used for field trips for grades 7 and 8.  
**CPS Target Population:** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at the King School.

**Outcomes & Measurers of Effectiveness:** Students will benefit from enriching activities outside of the school building.

**#08-181, Motion by Mayor Simmons** that the School Committee send condolences to Vice Mayor Brian Murphy and his wife, Katherine Champion Murphy, on the passing of his father-in-law, Hale Champion.

**#08-182, Report of the January 22, 2008, Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole):**

Called for the purpose of discussing the proposed FY2008-2009 Budget.

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

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

Also Present: Superintendent Fowler-Finn  
Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources  
Diane Johnson, Coordinator, Financial Operations  
Maryann MacDonald, Executive Director, Student Achievement & Accountability  
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel  
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer  
Justin Martin, Public Information Officer  
Aida Ramos, Executive Director, Special Education  
Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent  
Barbara Van Sickle, Deputy Director, Student Achievement & Accountability

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The Chair stated that the purpose of the meeting is for Members to voice what they would like to see in this budget. The Superintendent and staff responded to the Members' questions, comments and concerns:

- That class size be maintained at all levels
- No cuts in staff at school level
- If a class goes below 18 would there be a staff cut
- At what point will there be a third class
- In favor of increasing aide allocation formula
- Will enrollment increase require additional classrooms
- What available resources are working or not working
- Review individual programs to see what's working, i.e., intervention programs
- Need proof that certain programs need to be supported
- Look at more creative staffing
- Support programs that are effective, remove support from programs that are not effective
- Fund second language for students beginning in kindergarten
- Include different ways we can help struggling students directly
- Challenge is to increase level of math
- Make special effort to support special education – increasing positions might have a better impact on students
- Be aware of potential for new initiatives
- If we save money this year, will it help us next year
- Is there any way to measure the impact schools have versus a city
- If contingency funds are not used do we get them

- Get into growth models in terms of the achievement gap
- What are future plans for the Elmore project
- Are there plans for teachers to do an Elmore-like project
- Has the special education strategic plan been done
- How is the ombudsperson working
- Will there be any follow-up to the achievement gap forums
- How is the change to middle school music program working and what is the plan for it
- How is increase in math coaches working and will it increase
- Compile list of resources available to students and families
- Can Lesley/King Open program be extended to other schools
- How can schools maintain identities and still have high achievement levels
- Maintain summer support programs and collaborate better with the City
- Look at achievement gap from a positive side, not a deficit model
- Do we have excess funds from this fiscal year
- Are classroom supports equitable
- Watch new program models to insure they are effective
- Reallocate, reallocate, reallocate
- Find out how well our students are doing in out-of-district placements
- Does this budget have contingencies for the high school renovation
- How did we get to a \$2 million deficit/projected gap
- Expand extracurricular programs – music, second language, achievement gap, summer support, support for effective classroom teachers, class size
- Is it reasonable to ask for something that cannot be done in this budget cycle
- Wait for public input and meld suggestions
- Engage City Manager and Human Services Department to see how we can collaborate
- Look at 0-5 and after school programs regarding the achievement gap – move forward on next steps
- Do not change terminology re achievement gap – it is too hard to compare data
- Nervous that we are having budget discussion without talking about goals
- Review program models for consistency
- Look at start-up costs of programs
- Look at raising achievement gap for all children in a positive way
- As we move forward look at how we use language
- How do four over-arching principles fit into goals

Next steps: Public Input January 29, 6:00 p.m.

The Chair thanked the Superintendent and staff.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adjourn (8:25 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

**#08-183, Report of the January 29, 2008, Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole):**

Called for the purpose of discussing the proposed FY2008-2009 Budget.

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

Mr. McGovern in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

The Chair turned the meeting over to Mr. Maloney who walked Members through a slide presentation "FY08-09 Budget", including:

- FY2008-09 Financial Summary
- FY08-09 Revenue Estimates
- FY08-09 Expenditure Estimates
- Estimated FY2008-09 Cost Increases and Decreases

The Chair acknowledged and welcomed Councillors Henrietta Davis and Craig Kelley.

The Chair entertained public comment.

The following individuals were heard regarding the FY08-09 budget:

- Lolly Lincoln, Brookline Street
- Lawrence Adkins, Hayes Street
- Amy Nadel, Grove Street
- Kathy Reddick, Cambridge NAACP
- Elie Yarden, Pleasant Street
- Lois Brunet, Dudley Street
- Elaine Schear, Amory Street
- Jim Monteverde, Oak Street
- Craig Kelley, St. Gerard Terrace
- Hope Kelley, St. Gerard Terrace
- Laurie Leyshan, Maple Avenue

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

The Superintendent was asked to respond in the future to some of the issues raised during public comment. The Superintendent was heard.

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Schuster, it was voted to adjourn (6:54 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

**#08-184, Report of the February 12, 2008, Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole):**

Called for the purpose of a retreat for an update from the Superintendent on FY2008-2009 budget preparation.

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

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

Also Attending: Superintendent Fowler-Finn; Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent; James Conry, Chief Financial Officer; James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer; Barbara

Allen, Executive Director Human Resources; Maryann MacDonald, Executive Director Student Achievement & Accountability; Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel; Justin Martin, Public Information Officer

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Superintendent who shared that he is excited about what can be done to cut \$3 million from this budget while keeping students' interest first. The Superintendent walked Members through an "Update - FY08-09 Budget Status", including:

1. Five-Year Financial Plan – Estimated FY08-09 Budget
  2. Estimated Budget Reallocations Required to Fund Program Initiatives/Improvements:
  3. Equals: Gap Between Projected Budget Proposal and Projected Revenues
- I. Summary of FY08-09 Budget Restructuring & Reductions (Draft in Process)
    - A. Administrative/Non-Teaching Restructuring and Reductions
    - B. Classroom and School Support Positions & Programs
  - II. Summary of Program Initiatives and Improvements (Draft in Process)

The Superintendent and staff responded to some of the following questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- What does \$10,000 for crew cover
- Will we get staffing and detail report
- How many department heads are there at the high school
- Will Deans still be Dean of small learning communities
- In favor of grants for curriculum design
- How do we use competing grants for sports
- What about funds for gymnastics and ice hockey
- Priority should be participation by as many students as possible
- Are there sports that can be retired and others put in their place
- Is there a way to create a pot of money to pay for a student to go on a trip - there should be money to support our policy
- Teachers are talking very highly about the stability of our school system
- Provide leadership team with leadership opportunities
- Longitudinal data issue is very important
- Find fields for rugby
- Is the math coordinator position open
- Would like to see a written intervention plan showing success for schools that are in trouble
- Are Curriculum Coordinators becoming K-8 coordinators
- Would like to see a strong mission statement for curriculum coordinators
- Have conversation with City Council and Human Services re starting a baby college
- Need to be there for potential dropouts to steer them to Youthbuild, etc.
- Happy to see expansion of special education services
- Are there any drawbacks to having curriculum coordinators expand
- Will there be a disconnect between curriculum coordinators and principals
- Will curriculum coordinators look vertically as well as horizontally
- Concerned about looking at programs right now instead of next year
- What is being done for students who are not hitting benchmarks for graduation
- Interested in getting a comprehensive report going back a year
- Get freshmen involved in sports

- Insure what connections are there between elementary coordinators and high school
- Will teachers be involved in best practice opportunities
- Having interns will help cover classes
- Is there a way to get consistent data when programs are evaluated
- Look at how out-placed students are doing in the programs they are in
- Is \$71,000 reserve for one position
- Give severely disabled children opportunities to participate in sports
- What is the follow-up to the Cambridge Leadership Network
- If we are adding responsibility to Deans, insure that supports are in place
- In guiding principle #1, say that schools do not have to change their structure
- Guiding principles #3 and #4 seem more like goals than budgetary items
- Is system-wide academic program evaluation tied to budget
- We should do as much as possible with the City around early childhood development
- Insure that there is money for summer programming
- Can schools do any program they want to as long as they are within State frameworks
- Do not see how Principals can spend time developing curriculum – what does \$5000 buy
- There are no plans for foreign language across the district – think about it for next year
- Will the MCAS Center need more support to meet the State standard of proficiency
- Is more support needed for building management during construction
- There is a question of inequitable staffing at some schools
- Are we serving the students in our district well
- Maximize the flexibility that we give Principals
- What is the extra money we have over other districts being spent on
- Librarians are very resourceful in bringing in people to help
- Insure that the Healthy Children Initiative has enough money to go forward
- What led to increased money for groups that didn't get money last year to get money this year
- What is the Science Initiative budget for this year
- Did we cut out Earthwatch
- In favor of giving Principals more money
- Insure that student outcomes are measured in guiding principle #2
- Look at sub-groups to insure that students are making gains
- Some school improvement plans do not have measurable goals
- Does not want a zero balance budget – have discretionary funds for Principals to use
- Need to know what we want from town/gown meetings to see what they can give us
- How do we get more family/parent involvement
- Proficiency is too low – want to see a budget that gets our students to advanced
- Be more focused about where we want our students to be
- Would like to see data on 77% graduation rate
- Need to talk more about classroom aides and librarians

The Members thanked the Superintendent and staff for the presentation.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Schuster, it was voted to adjourn (8:28 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

**#08-185, Report of the March 4, 2008, Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole):**

Called for the purpose of the presentation of the Superintendent's proposed FY2008-2009 budget.

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

Ms. Nolan in the Chair.

A quorum of the Sub-Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

The Superintendent and staff responded to some of the following questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- What co-teaching models are we looking at
- Excited about the ABA position and changes to special ed
- Are both ombudsperson positions filled
- Will four special ed classrooms eliminate moving classes
- When will the Harvard and MIT projects begin
- Is there anything the Members can do to help Summerbridge
- Want to do everything possible to support those programs
- Like the direction we are moving in as a team
- Appreciate work of the Budget Co-Chairs in drafting the guiding principles
- Would like to see detail on the six administrative positions that were cut
- Be up front about identifying weaknesses and deal with them
- Are we saving money on new autism classes
- Is licensure requirement greater than for private school
- How is the co-teaching model at CRLS working with special education
- Clarify when there are items that have no budgetary implications
- Find someone who can supplement the work MIT is doing on controlled choice
- Can we add to the \$15,000 for a consultant on controlled choice
- Would it help to get work from MIT to identify the scope of the project
- How will we move forward with evaluating programs and starting others
- Is there a plan to deal with rising costs of health care, energy, transportation, special education, etc.
- What is the timeline to review transportation load and start times
- Is there professional development planned for parents re Edline
- What is the dollar amount that 5.8% represents in Central Administration
- What is the change for the coordinators for visual and performing arts, health and physical education, and world languages
- Is there any interest from teachers on the Horace Mann initiative

The Superintendent and Tim Groves, King Open Principal, were heard.

- Looking forward to seeing how the co-teaching pilot program works at Haggerty
- What happens when a class drops below a certain size
- Pleased to see how well the Leadership Team and Principals are working together
- Discuss issues in narrative form
- Talk about the achievement gap in School Improvement Plans
- Create more diversity in schools
- Measure six-year rate of graduates

- Transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade is critical
- There is a huge correlation between GPAs and college success
- Interested in learning more about the internship program
- Budget Co-Chairs should meet with the City's budget Co-Chairs on collaborations
- We are primed to have some breakthrough achievement levels
- Feels that morale is very high in the school system
- Would like to find a way to elevate the Leadership Team
- Demonstrate how we are reaching goals
- Correlate what are district goals and how we are meeting them through the budget
- Need to know we are making changes through the budget
- How does differentiation of diplomas speak to the goals
- What is embedded honors and how does that meet the goal of educating all students at high levels
- Is there a parallel embedded honors experience at the elementary level
- We need to look at where we are now so that we can see progress next March
- Where is the finished achievement gap report
- Look at special education out-of-district placements to insure our students are getting the best education possible
- Use ombudspersons to follow the letter and spirit of IEPs
- How many community partnerships were initiated by Superintendent Fowler-Finn and how many were already here
- What is the Rise Up program, how does it meet our goals and how will we measure it
- How are graduation rates aligned with our goals
- Would like to see all documents that come before the School Committee be tied to our goals
- Need to see how many students are at Advanced – want to accelerate learning for all children
- Need to agree on what data we will use to evaluate programs
- Keep eye on Healthy Children Task Force so the program does not get diminished
- Insure that we keep families engaged – they should be able to understand the budget
- Make the budget family-friendly and reader-friendly
- Why isn't there more recess and is it tied to achievement
- Is there a point at which we might be doing too much professional development
- Can we agree that professional development should be done in the classrooms
- The words achievement gap do not appear in the Executive Summary – add something up front
- Can we expect DOE comparisons prior to the final budget
- What potential impact will there be on on-going building repairs
- Where is funding from crew coming from – is it an on-going grant
- Why is actual enrollment in middle schools so disparate

Members thanked the Superintendent, Principals and staff for their work on the budget.

Mayor Simmons moved to bring forward **#08-90, Motion by Mayor Simmons** that the School Committee seeks to support the work of school leaders and provide flexibility in meeting the needs identified in School Improvement Plans, and wants to act in accordance with educational research showing high impact for bringing spending authority to the individual school level as much as possible. Therefore, the School Committee directs the Superintendent to increase School Improvement Funds for all schools. Further, the School Committee directs the Superintendent to make recommendations on funding for this initiative in such a way as to not reduce school budgets or accounts directly tied to in-school spending. The Superintendent was heard. Mr. Schuster moved a friendly amendment to add after "all schools", "by a total of \$260,000 to be allocated proportionally to the current school improvement plan funding formula". Mayor Simmons accepted the friendly amendment. The Superintendent was heard saying that

this will be very difficult to do and he urged the Committee not to do it. Extensive discussion took place around the timing and collegiality of the motion. Mayor Simmons moved that #08-90 be referred to the Superintendent, as amended, to see where the funding will come from before he brings back a recommendation on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Superintendent was asked to insure that changes meet Members' expectations before bringing back the recommendation.

The Budget Co-Chairs were asked to look at the School Committee Office budget prior to finalizing this budget cycle.

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to reconvene in the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

### **Non-Consent Agenda**

**Recommendation #08-165, 2008-2009 State School Choice Program:** that the School Committee hold a Public Hearing on the Statewide School Choice Program for School Year 2008-09 pursuant to State law and a recommendation from the Superintendent. The Chair entertained public comment.

The following individual was heard:

- Angelica Allende Brisk, Walden St. re Amigos' interest in participating in School Choice Program

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to close public comment.

Ms. Tauber asked the Superintendent to speak to the Amigos proposal. the Superintendent was heard.

**#08-166, 2008-2009 State School Choice Program – Recommendation for Non-Participation:** that the School Committee vote not to participate in the Statewide School Choice Program for School Year 2008-09, for the following reasons:

1. the need to maintain the quality and integrity of Cambridge Program of Controlled Choice; and
2. the need to maintain flexibility for appropriately-sized classrooms in the public schools.

On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to bring forward **#08-176, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that whereas, the Amigos School has requested participation in the Commonwealth's School Choice program, and whereas there are advantages to the district in supporting schools' initiatives, and whereas the district would receive payment expected to be in excess of any costs, and whereas the Amigos School has many empty seats in each requested grade; that therefore, the Cambridge Public Schools participate next year in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts School Choice program, limited to the Amigos School. Further that a maximum of three students be allowed to enroll in grades 2 through 7, for a maximum of 15 students. Further, that in all communications with applicants, it be made clear that only those specified seats at Amigos School are available through the Statewide School Choice program. Further, that the outreach and recruitment efforts for the program clearly state the requirements that applicants meet the Amigos School linguistic requirements, and that only the Amigos School is participating in School Choice.

Ms. Nolan moved to Calendar items **#08-166** and **#08-176**.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to bring forward together **#08-167, #08-170, #08-171** and **#08-172**. Ms. Nolan raised questions on the items and expenditures in the above Recommendations and asked that a list of start-up costs be provided in one place. The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney were heard. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#08-167, FY07-08 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers**: that the School Committee approve the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund Budget for FY2007-08:

	<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
51000	Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$(873,598.00)
52000/55000	Other Ordinary Maintenance	691,630.00
57000	Travel & Training	(2,393.00)
58000/59000	Extraordinary Expenditures	<u>184,361.00</u>
	Total	\$ 0

Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA. Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Schuster, for suspension of the Rules for the purpose of moving reconsideration of the foregoing vote. The Rules having been suspended, a motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, **failed of adoption**.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt:

**#08-170, Montessori Instructional Supplies and Materials**: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for instructional supplies and classroom materials for the Montessori Program at the Tobin School, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Materials Company of Boston, PO Box 596, Goffstown, NH, for the period April - June 2008, in the amount of \$37,188.39,

**#08-171, Montessori Instructional Supplies and Materials**: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for instructional supplies and classroom materials for the Montessori Program at the Tobin School, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Nienhuis Montessori, 140 E. Dana St., Mountain View, CA, for the period April - June 2008, in the amount of \$36,888.50, and

**#08-172, Contract Award, Montessori Furniture**: that the School Committee award a Contract to the following vendor for Montessori approved furniture for the Montessori Program at the Tobin School, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Materials Company of Boston, PO Box 596, Goffstown, NH, for the period April - June 2008, in the amount of \$43,129.05.

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

Ms. Nolan raised a question on what is included in the following contract. Dr. Turk was heard. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#08-168, K-5 TERC Math Investigations Reorder**: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for math instructional materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Pearson Scott Foresman, 501 Boylston Street, Suite 900, Boston, for the period January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$49,923.37.

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

Mr. Grassi raised a question on how many students the following agreement will service and asked to see some of the trends for the program. Mr. Maloney was heard. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#08-169, Consultant Agreement**: that the School Committee approve the Consultant Agreement with the company or individual on the list, in the amount set forth, funds to be provided as shown:

1. Action for Boston Community Dev., Boston, in the amount of \$35,000.00, Account 53201, Fund 15000, Org. 830250, Program 250.

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

Ms. Nolan congratulated the King School on its fund-raising effort. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#08-174, Contract Award - King School Travel to China, April 5-11, 2008**: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for travel to China, funds to be provided from the fundraising efforts of the King School:

1. Cambridge Travel, Inc., One Porter Square, Cambridge, for the period April 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$30,311.00.

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

**#08-175, Motion by Mr. Fantini** that the School Committee go on record as supporting the motion of the CRLS School Council that reads as follows:

"We respectfully request that the Cambridge School Committee not pursue the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at CRLS for the following reasons:

1. The IB program will reintroduce to the High School the troublesome issue of 'choice'.
2. CRLS has undergone so many program changes in the last few years that yet another change is undesirable.
3. CRLS is working on multiple programs that will encourage high achievement for all students at CRLS.

"CRLS School Council members and Administrators thank the School Committee for consideration of this request and will be available to discuss any of the above topics. This motion passed unanimously."

Discussion took place around the School Committee's adopting motions from School Councils, and the International Baccalaureate Program. Mr. Schuster moved a friendly amendment to add after the word

“pursue”, “for the remainder of this School Committee’s term”. Mr. Grassi moved a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Nolan, “that the School Committee place the motion on file”. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, the substitute motion **failed of adoption**: Mr. McGovern NAY, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster NAY, Ms. Tauber NAY, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA. Mr. McGovern moved a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Nolan, that “the School Committee go on record acknowledging and respecting the CRLS School Council’s motion regarding IB, and states that the School Committee has no plans to implement IB at the high school in the foreseeable future, but reserves the right to continue conversation regarding this program”. Mr. Fantini accepted Mr. McGovern’s substitute motion. Mr. Grassi moved to Calendar **#08-175**.

Mr. Fantini moved to place the remaining items on the Calendar:

**#08-177, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that whereas, graduation rates are important measures of interest to the community, and whereas, the State only started requiring graduation rates reporting in a consistent manner two years ago, that the Superintendent report to the School Committee by the first meeting in June on the best surrogate for graduation rates, the drop out rate, for CPS students for each of the last 10 years, including a breakdown by subgroups. Further, that these drop out rates by subgroups be compared to the State.

**#08-178, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that whereas, post high school education is critical to success in an increasing number of jobs, and whereas, the district has subscribed to the National Collegiate Clearinghouse, which covers most of the secondary institutions CRLS graduates attend, that the Superintendent report, by the first meeting in June of 2008, to the School Committee on the verified percent of students in post-high school educational institutions, by using Clearinghouse data and individual follow up to the handful of schools not in the Clearinghouse database.

**#08-179, Motion by Mayor Simmons** that the School Committee direct the Superintendent to report on the CRLS ranking in the School to College Report recently released by the Department of Education. Further, that the report include information on more recent graduates and finally, that the report include a plan to respond to the number of students required to take remedial courses in State colleges.

**#08-180, Motion by Mayor Simmons** that the School Committee direct the Superintendent to work with Principals to encourage students to apply for the Governor’s Statewide Youth Council.

The Chair entertained a motion to convene in Executive Session to discuss 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. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA. The Chair announced that the Committee will 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 Advisor

Attorney Moschos discussed the statement to accompany the Superintendent’s contract. The Chair and Vice Chair each submitted an amended draft statement. Mayor Simmons withdrew her statement and met with the Superintendent to discuss the amended statement. Mayor Simmons reported back that the statement is accepted by the Superintendent. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the amended statement: Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA,

Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to reconvene in Open Session: Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted that the School Committee authorize a one-year contract for the Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the attached document: Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan ~~NAY~~ YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA. Ms. Nolan requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on the foregoing roll call.

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted that the School Committee authorize Mayor Simmons to execute a one-year contract with the Superintendent of Schools: Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

The Chair read the following joint statement from the Cambridge School Committee and Superintendent Thomas Fowler-Finn:

"After collaborative and professional negotiations on the part of the School Committee and the Superintendent, the School Committee accepted Dr. Fowler-Finn's offer of a one year contract, thus Dr. Fowler-Finn's contract will be extended until July 31, 2009.

"Dr. Fowler-Finn wishes to state, 'I would like to thank the School Committee for its good faith in negotiating my employment agreement for 2008-2009. We were able to reach an agreement that works both for me personally and for the district, as this will allow a smooth transition to a new leader. I look forward to working with the Committee for the duration of my employment, to continue moving the Cambridge Public Schools forward, and to assist the Committee in its recruitment of a new Superintendent for the Cambridge Public Schools.'

"The School Committee wishes to thank Dr. Fowler-Finn for the professionalism he demonstrated during these negotiations and looks forward to working with him for the remainder of his contract and during the search for a new educational leader for the district.

"The School Committee will hold a series of public meetings to gather input from the community regarding the search process and to hear what experience and characteristics the community feels will be important in a new Superintendent. More information regarding this process will follow shortly."

The Chair directed the Executive Secretary to distribute the joint statement to the appropriate news media.

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

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee