

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 1, 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.

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 Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting – May 18, 2010
- Special Informal Meeting – May 11, 2010
- Special Informal Meeting - April 13, 2010

Public Comment

The following individual was heard:

- Chris Colbath-Hess, CTA President, re Cambridge Public Schools' Goals

On a motion by Mr. Harding, 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:

Having filed the proper notice as required by the Rules, Mr. McGovern moved reconsideration of the vote taken at the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2010 that adopted the following motion: That the School Committee approve Superintendent's Recommendation #10-69, Approval of Revisions to Student Transportation Policy (Second Reading).

On a voice vote, the motion for reconsideration prevailed and the matter was again before the Committee.

Mr. McGovern asked Attorney MacFarlane to speak to the revisions to the Policy. Ms. MacFarlane read the following substitute language to page 2, paragraph 2 and explained that this is being done to bring the Policy in line with current practice: "When a child is dropped off at his/her home, parents/guardians or an authorized adult shall be present at the child's home to receive a child returning home from school. A child will not be left at his/her home without a parent/guardian or an authorized adult present to receive the child unless (i) the child is age twelve (12) or older, and (ii) the parents/ guardians of the child have signed a consent form authorizing that the child may be dropped off at his/her home without his/her parents/guardians or an authorized adult present to receive him/her." Discussion took place around the Policy. Drs. Young and Ramos were both heard. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Turkel, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **Superintendent's Recommendation #10-69, Approval of Revisions to Student Transportation Policy** (Second Reading), as amended: Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini NAY, Mr. Harding PRESENT, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

A. Calendar

Members passed over.

B. Awaiting Report

Report on the process to be used in determining the location of strands of Special Education classrooms to be placed continuously in individual schools (**Fantini/Nolan/Turkel**) (**C10-081**). Discussion took place around whether the location of special education classrooms will happen in September. The Superintendent was heard. It was pointed out that this was voted in this year's budget and families need to know.

On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to remove and place on file, Report with a plan for a school placement process for students moving on from the Haggerty School and the expected date by which parents/guardians will be informed (**Turkel/Tauber**) (**C10-084**).

Report by the summer meeting (August 3) with a plan to offer Algebra I in all middle grades as soon as possible and when and how this implementation will take place (**McGovern**) (**C10-100**).

Report on how the new policy on additional credit for GPA calculation for AP courses is working and whether any changes in the policy might be recommended (**Nolan**) (**C10-101**). The Superintendent was asked to include student input into this policy change and how it will be communicated to students. The Superintendent was heard.

New Business

A. **Presentation:** None

B. Action Items

Mr. Harding moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini, for the adoption of items #10-76 through #10-86. Mr. McGovern removed #10-76. Ms. Nolan removed #10-84, #10-86, and #10-83. Mr. Fantini removed #10-82. Ms. Turkel removed #10-81. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted: Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mayor Maher YEA:

#10-77, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for School Transportation, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Eastern Bus Co., 14 Chestnut St., Somerville, for the period July 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011, in the amount of \$1,924,120.00. FY12-FY15 contract pricing will increase by Boston CPI-U.

#10-78, Approval of Addendum to Cambridge Public Schools 403(b) Plan: that the School Committee approve the addendum to the Cambridge Public Schools 403(b) Plan as detailed in the document.

#10-79, Approval of Modifications to Anti-Bullying Policy: that the School Committee approve the modifications to the Anti-Bullying Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

#10-80, Approval of Revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Acceptable Use Policy for the Cambridge Public Schools as detailed in the document.

#10-85, Motion by Mr. Harding that the Superintendent report to the School Committee the number of CRLS students who will not meet their graduation requirement due to not passing the MCAS. Further, that the report specify which curriculum areas the students did not pass.

Non-Consent Agenda

Mr. McGovern moved an amendment to the May 18, 2010 late order regarding a new Early Out Incentive Plan, that the phrase "either a union referred financial planner or" be deleted from the second line of the first bullet in the second paragraph. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Turkel, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#10-76, Early Out Incentive Program for July 2010**: that the School Committee approve the agreement with the Cambridge Teachers Association for an Early Out Incentive Program for July 2010, as amended: Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

Ms. Turkel asked the Superintendent to speak to the Title I grant. The Superintendent and Dr. Turk were heard. On a motion by Ms. Turkel, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#10-81, Grant Award**: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Title I, for the period June 1, 2010 through August 31, 2010, in the amount of \$66,350.00, Project/Grant SC10874.

Description: This Title I School Improvement Grant for Professional Development with Support from District and School Assistance Centers (DSACS) will enable the district to: 1. Provide two weeklong content institutes in mathematics for teams of teachers from Title I schools; 2. Provide four days of ELA professional development in curriculum calendars and Word Generation; 3. Train two freshman math teachers and provide a 14 day summer program in Academic Youth Development (AYD); and 4. Enable six ELA teachers to participate in DSAC Courses.

CPS Target Population: All teaching staff in the 8 Title I schools in the district, with the goal of staff training leading to improved academic outcomes for students. Two freshman math teachers will be trained in AYD and work with a cohort of rising 8th graders on a new program designed to prepare them for success in mathematics at the high school.

Outcomes and Measurers of Effectiveness: Staff responses at the end of the trainings will be one indication of relevance and impact on practice. Student assessment data, both local and state, will also be examined as part of the ongoing school improvement planning process.

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

#10-82, Motion by Ms. Turkel that the Superintendent support the elementary music program by creating, in every elementary school, safe storage for musical instruments that is accessible to students without interrupting classes. Discussion took place around the motion. The Superintendent was heard. On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to refer the motion to the Superintendent for a report back on the feasibility of the request.

#10-83, Joint motion by Mr. Harding, Ms. Tauber, and Ms. Turkel (Curriculum Sub-Committee) that the yearly report on RSTA include the following information and answers to the following questions:

How many students are in each level of each program by race, gender, public housing status, English language learner status, special education status and by sending elementary school?

How many students are in the exploratory program and how many students request the exploratory program each year and are not placed in the program?

What are the post graduation plans (numbers accepted into college, other training programs, going to work etc.) of students who complete a RSTA program?

Please include information about communication between RSTA and CRLS. What is the Guidance Counselor's role in advising students and their families about RSTA opportunities? Is a positive message being communicated?

Please cover the past 4-5 years in the report so that it will include information about before, as well as during, the High School renovation.

Mr. Harding moved to strike "(Curriculum Sub-Committee)". Discussion took place around using and understanding the framework for reporting data; five-year plan for RSTA including vision and depth; advising students and parents on all of the programs available to them; and the use of socioeconomic status in place of public housing. On a motion by Mayor Maher, it was voted to refer the motion to the Superintendent and Dr. Ananis.

Discussion took place around 504 plans, what they are, and who coordinates them. The Superintendent and Dr. Turk were heard. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to adopt **#10-84, Joint motion by Mr. McGovern and Ms. Nolan** that whereas the process of developing and following a 504 plan for students is not uniform across the district, that the Superintendent develop a plan to review the current system, identify best practices and recommend ways to improve the 504 process. Further that the plan for the review be sent to the School Committee prior to the start of the next school year, and recommendations delivered by November 2010.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to refer to the Curriculum Sub-Committee **#10-86, Joint motion by Ms. Turkel and Mr. Fantini** that: Whereas the mathematics faculty and leadership from the elementary schools and from the high school have been working together to improve the Cambridge Public School's mathematics curriculum and assessment as well as to ease the transition from eighth to ninth grade;

And whereas the current eighth grade curriculum covers several of the essential pre-Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 concepts fundamental to achieving success in the subject;

And whereas the mathematics faculty and leadership is currently working to differentiate the elementary school curriculum to meet the needs both of those students who struggle as well as of those who excel;

Therefore, the following policy be implemented starting in the fall of 2011: Mathematics shall be taught in every elementary school in such a way that all students will engage in mathematics instruction in grade eight that covers all of the essential Pre-Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 concepts. This will prepare students who have demonstrated proficiency in their middle grades' math courses, making it possible for them to enroll in a math course in ninth grade that is sequenced beyond the initial Algebra 1 course.

And further, students who lack proficiency in their middle grades' math courses will receive support during their eighth grade year. And further, if as rising eighth to ninth grade students, they are in need of more support in Algebra prior to entering high school they will have access to summer support that could position them to enroll in a math course beyond the initial Algebra 1 level.

History:

It was voted by the Cambridge School Committee in 1992, Order C92-654:

"That the Superintendent bring in a plan to implement full year algebra in all the elementary schools."

And further it was voted by the Cambridge School Committee in 1998, Order C98-170:

"A specific plan for insuring that all 8th grade students take the 8th grade Algebra test will be developed and submitted for approval by the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. This will be followed by a plan for insuring that such students pass the 8th grade Algebra test with specific performance benchmarks."

Late Orders

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted that the Governance Sub-Committee schedule, as soon as possible, a meeting to coordinate an agenda for a School Committee retreat.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, on the following roll call, it was voted to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee: Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mayor Maher YEA. The Chair announced that no votes will be taken and the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by the entire Committee, it was voted that the School Committee send a letter of congratulations to Marvin Gilmore for receiving a French Legion of Honor Medal for service to his country during World War II.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by the entire Committee, it was voted that the School Committee send a letter to Dr. Elaine Koury congratulating the CRLS singers and marching band for the fabulous Memorial Day performance.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by the entire Committee, it was voted that the School Committee send a letter to congratulate Wendell Bourne, Barbara Weaver and Eliza Cohen for advancing to the National History Finals in Washington, D.C.

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

Executive Session

Members present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. Harding, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Ms. Tauber, Ms. Turkel,
Mayor Maher

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also Present: Jeff Young, Superintendent
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Bridget Rodriguez, Education Liaison

Attorney MacFarlane apprised Members of pending arbitration. Members and Legal Counsel discussed strategy for negotiating an offer with the litigant.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted to adjourn (8:05 p.m.): Ms. Nolan YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee