

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 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: 05 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 June 1, 2010 meeting.

Public Comment

The following individuals were heard:

- Mark Gardner, Walden St., re 504 program
- Terry McCoy, C-Chair, PAC re 504 program
- Mary White, re 504 program
- James Young, Parker Road, re high-end learners
- Graham Moore, Larchwood Drive, re high-end learners
- Alex Zimmer, Gold Star Road, re high-end gifted learners
- Charlie Marquardt, Rogers Street, re achievement gap
- Karen Propp, Clay Street, re high-end learners
- Belinda Watt, re letter from Julie Crosston
- Robert Travers, Sr., Fulkerson Street, re vocational education

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

Members passed over.

B. Awaiting Report

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Harding, 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)**.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to remove and place on file, 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)**.

New Business

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to hear presentations following new business.

A. Action Items

Mr. Fantini moved, seconded by Mr. Harding, for the adoption of items #10-87 through #10-96. Ms. Nolan removed #10-93. Ms. Turkel removed #10-92. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted: Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Maher YEA:

#10-87, 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 (second reading).

#10-88, Approval of Revisions to the Student Transportation Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Transportation Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

#10-89, Approval of Settlement Agreement and General Release: that the School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the settlement of a matter pending before the American Arbitration Association in accordance with WR10-313; CN-A.

#10-90, Educational Services: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Origins, 3805 Grand Ave., S. Minneapolis, MN, for the period June 28, 2010 through July 2, 2010, in the amount of \$36,650.00.

#10-91, Educational Services: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Wheelock College, 200 The Riverway, Boston, for the period September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$40,000.00

#10-94, Report of the June 3, 2010 meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole):

Called for 8:00 AM., 159 Thorndike St. for the purpose of discussing the 2011-2012 Budget.

Members Present: Ms. Turkel, Mr. Fantini, Co-Chairs, Ms. Tauber

Also Present: James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Turkel called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

Discussion took place around the following:

- Early assessment re deficit for next year
- Early updates from the Chief Financial Officer
- Update on goals
- Comparison to other districts should show districts that are very different
- Discuss revenue with City Council
- Have a preliminary 5 year projection in the Fall
- List from the Superintendent of large expenditures for next year
- How do we manage Fall financial issues
- Try to use last year's goals
- No need to do a lot of re-writing
- Use Media Arts Center for presentation on how to read the budget
- Include key factors of outcomes in report
- Show student comparisons in the district for a number of years
- Use Superintendent's knowledge of another district's budget
- Is it worth the expense to mail "Budget at a Glance"

The next meeting is September 23 at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Fantini moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Turkel.

Respectfully Submitted
Patricia A. Berry
Confidential Secretary

#10-95, Report of the June 8, 2010 meeting of the Governance Sub-Committee:

Called for 4:30 p.m. for the purpose of planning an agenda for a School Committee retreat.

Members Present: Ms. Tauber, Mr. Fantini, Mr. McGovern

Ms. Tauber in the Chair.

Also Present: Ms. Turkel
Superintendent Young

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. There was concern expressed about the way the Committee is operating this term. Discussion took place around the following:

- Agenda items
- Protocol for motions
- Separate SC motions from Superintendent's – they should not be given same weight
- What day should motions be filed
- Role of SC
- How should the Committee operate, i.e., what rules and guidelines should be used
- SC Rules/Operating Principles
- Concern around Committee's becoming disjointed
- Look at other SC agendas
- Create more opportunities for Members to talk offline
- Roundtables
- Meetings are at cross purposes
- Modeling behavior of a high performance district
- Attitude
- Micromanaging

- Master calendar
- What is needed to become a high performing district
- Protocol for dealing with constituents
- Goals/strategic plan

Retreat: June 22, 6:00 – 9:00 – Facilitator: Mayor Maher

Summer Meeting: vote goals, master calendar, evaluation instrument and process.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, the meeting adjourned (6:15 p.m.).

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

#10-96, March 2010 letter enclosing MASC Nomination, Resolution, Voting Delegate and Awards forms.

Non-Consent Agenda

In response to a statement by the Popplestone Foundation that the “unique music program at the Peabody School and...at the Fletcher-Maynard Academy, achievements which are being studied...around the world”, Ms. Turkel asked the Superintendent for a report on what programs are being studied around the world. The Superintendent was heard. On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Mr. McGovern, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#10-92, Grant Awards**: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Popplestone Foundation, for the period June 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, in the amount of \$11,811.25, Project/Grant SC11695.
Description: This foundation grant supports the salary of a music teacher to continue teaching grades K-2 at the Peabody School and the Fletcher-Maynard Academy. Funds will also be used to purchase musical instruments and instructional materials.
CPS Target Population: Students in grades K-2 at the Peabody School and Fletcher-Maynard Academy.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Development of music literacy and ability in students in the early grades will lead to continued interest in pursuing music studies and will strengthen students' engagement in their school. Part of the project involves following the progress of students through grade 4 and beyond to examine the relationship between the music program at the Peabody School and the Fletcher-Maynard Academy for the academic progress of its students.
2. The Big Yellow School Bus-Supplemental, for the period September 15, 2009 through June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$200.00, Project/Grant SC10856.
Description: This is a supplemental to School Committee Order #C09-557, December 1, 2009. This grant will provide \$200.00 to the Graham & Parks School to support field trips to art science museums, historic sites, and music and theater performances.
CPS Target Population: The students in the above named school.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: These visits help foster creativity and innovation in students and provide critical exposure to cultural institutions. Students will become more engaged and better informed about their cultural environment.
3. CEATV Youth View Cambridge, for the period June 15, 2010 through August 15, 2010, in the amount of \$3,200.00, Project/Grant SC10875.
Description: CEATV has received a Mayor's Summer Work and Learning Project Grant to support YVC Online! Summer 2010, a student on-line news portal and web-based

offshoot of our school year television news magazine, Youth View Cambridge. Cambridge students will be trained in the variety of media used on our web site to create short video reports, photo essays, podcasts and blogs that highlight youth news and events around the city. The program will be held at the Media Arts Studio as a paid work experience with the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Target Population: Ten Cambridge students, including 8 rising 9th and 10th graders and 2 experienced high school media makers as mentors, as well as all Cambridge youth who watch the program.

Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Pre and post-questionnaires about media literacy, news journalism, web production, and "mapping" of the CRLS community will evaluate whether students are mastering the content and connecting to their community. At the end of the session, the results of the project will be publicly presented to family and friends. The site will be promoted to the educational community and further developed in our new school year CRLS Media Journalism class and with the Cambridge Youth and Resource Development System (YARDS), a new data and social networking site for CPS and all City of Cambridge youth.

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

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Harding, it was voted to refer to the Superintendent **#10-93, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that whereas a key to high achievement is high expectations, and whereas Cambridge is committed to addressing the needs of all learners, and whereas there are a number of explicit supports and programs for elementary students who are behind, but not those who are academically ahead, therefore the Superintendent should report on plans to meet the needs of students who are high-end learners whose educational needs are not being met.

Presentations:

✓ CRLS Update

Dr. Saheed introduced his instructional team, Assistant Principal Tynes, Deans Gaglione, Gehant, Mason and Smith, Head Guidance Counselor Williams, and Special Education Counselor DeYeso, and shared some highlights from the year:

- Maintained high-level programming while packing and moving in the middle of construction
- Established the grade 9 program
- Implemented Naviance program in grades 9-12
- Improved the attendance policy resulting in a 95% record
- Established middle grade and high school vertical teams
- Carried out an extensive professional development program in multiple strands
- Used an embedded instructional coaching model
- Started an effective new Arabic language program
- Sponsored community service trips to Cambodia and Dominican Republic
- Sponsored a cultural tour of Turkey
- Expanded senior projects and courses
- Student government and student-driven assemblies
- Awarded senior projects with distinction
- Conducted 8th grade tours led by 9th grade students
- Shared with community and City partners to develop assessments of 21st Century skills
- Received a number of significant awards
- Graduation and Valedictorian speech reflected positive school climate
- Graduation rate reflected the highest number ever of students receiving diplomas

Dr. Saheed walked Members through a "Report to the School Committee: Cambridge Rindge and Latin School – Executive Summary for SY 2009-10" (copy on file in the School Committee Office), including:

- Goals
- Graduation Statistics for CRLS/HSEP Class of 2010
- CRLS Data – Taken from DESE Profile Page
- 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate – CRLS/HSEP
- 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate – CRLS/HSEP
- Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) Results
 - 2009 Mean SAT Scores – Public School Students Comparison with the State and Nation
 - Mean Critical Reading and Math SAT Scores 2005-2009
 - 5-year Comparison 2005-2009 by Race/Ethnicity
- Percentage of Students in Honors Classes by Race/Ethnicity
- Percentage of 11th & 12th Grade Students Enrolled in AP Courses by Race/Ethnicity
- 10th Grade MCAS Results
- CRLS Professional Development Programs
- Context of Goals
- Class Size Information
- Matriculation List for Class of 2010

Dr. Saheed and his team responded to some of the following questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- How do students choose classes
- What are the differences between honors, advanced placement and college prep classes
- What has worked this year and what has not
- How is the block schedule being dealt with – looking forward to its evaluation
- What is being done to insure the number of students who are taking science
- Why is the number of students taking AP exams so low
- Do we pay the exam fee for students who cannot afford it
- This document does not tell the story of what is going on at the high school – it is the most fantastic place on earth
- Is there a plan to continue the 9th grade campus
- What is the difference between the graduation rate and adjusted cohort rate
- Is there underlying information on why white students' scores have declined
- Why was there a big jump in honors classes
- Look at how many classes are in the block
- Need more clarity on how students are placed in honors and AP classes
- What does "by seat not student" mean
- How many students on IEPs are taking honors and AP classes and what is being done to help those students become more successful
- What is being done to help transition 22 year old students on IEPs
- There is still a lot of work to be done but confident that we are on the right track

The Chair thanked Dr. Saheed and staff for the presentation.

✓ RSTA Update

The Chair welcomed Dr. Ananis who shared some highlights from the year:

- Instructional program remains robust and unchanged in structure
- Expanded single-block stand-alone courses
- Continued follow up on Department of Education Coordinated Program review

- In the process of completing final stages of revised admissions policy
- Worked to insure even more collaboration with CRLS
- Of 60 Level 3 completers, 96% have been admitted to 2- or 4-year colleges, 11 National Honor Society members, 6 varsity captains and two Skills USA Massachusetts gold medal winners

Dr. Ananis walked Members through a packet of information, "Supporting Materials for the End of Year Presentation to the Cambridge School Committee, June 2010" (copy on file in the School Committee office), including:

- Executive Summary
- Annual Report on the Achievement of RSTA Goals
- RSTA Guidance Connections with CRLS
- RSTA Enrollment by Course Category
- RSTA Enrollment by Grade and by Year
- RSTA Students by Elementary School 2009-2010
- RSTA Level 3 Graduates, Class of 2010

Dr. Ananis responded to some of the following questions, comments and concerns raised by Members:

- What is the goal of the RSTA program
- There should be a goal to expose students to the range of offerings RSTA has
- Encourage 10th and 11th graders to take Exploratory
- Think about offering more opportunities for trades and vocations
- What is the relationship between RSTA and CRLS – it should be seamless
- Follow this presentation with a roundtable
- Think about the RSTA name – as it implies separation from CRLS
- Do students who request Exploratory all get it
- Would like to see a plan for including gender in non-traditional classes
- Can a student bypass Exploratory and take an elective
- Consider offering adult evening classes

The Chair thanked Dr. Ananis for his presentation.

Late Orders/Announcements

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring in two recommendations. The rules having been suspended, on a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt Superintendent's Recommendation, Approval of Impact Bargaining Agreement Between the Cambridge Teachers Association Unit C and the Cambridge School Committee: that the School Committee approve the Impact Bargaining Agreement Between the Cambridge Teachers Association Unit C and the Cambridge School Committee as detailed in the document: Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Turkel, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt Superintendent's Recommendation, Amendment to Agreement for Two Year Leave of Absence for Paul F. Toner to Serve as President of the Massachusetts Teachers Association: that the School Committee approve the amendment to the agreement providing Paul F. Toner with an additional two year leave of absence to serve as President of the Massachusetts Teachers Association: Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

Ms. Turkel announced that the summer food program will begin July 6 for anyone under 18 at the Moore Youth Center, Gore St. Park, Danehy Park, Sennott Park, Harvard St. Park, and Gold Star Mother's Park.

Mr. Harding announced that the Cambridge Health Alliance Men of Color Health Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 19 at Hoyt Field.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Harding, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of conducting a Level III grievance hearing as part of collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental affect on the bargaining and litigation positions of the School Committee: Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan 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. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to substitute the language of the new goals document and place it on the Calendar.

Executive Session

Members present: Mr. Fantini, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Nolan, Ms. Tauber, Ms. Turkel, Mayor Maher
Absent: Mr. Harding recused himself from this hearing.

Mayor Maher in the Chair.

Also Present: Jeff Young, Superintendent
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Chris Saheed, CRLS Principal
Robert Tynes, CRLS Assistant Principal
William DiBiase, Vice President, Local 1611
James Miele, Grievant

Mr. DiBiase presented the grievance on behalf of Mr. Miele. Mr. Miele was heard in his defense after which, he and Mr. DiBiase were excused.

Attorney MacFarlane explained Civil Service Regulations and the Collective Bargaining Agreement. She, Mr. Maloney and Dr. Saheed reviewed the details of the case and responded to Members' questions.

It was suggested that a special meeting be called for next Tuesday to vote on the Level III grievance response.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, on the following roll call, it was voted to adjourn (9:40 p.m.): Ms. Tauber YEA, Ms. Turkel YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Harding ABSENT, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Maher YEA.

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee