

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall, 759 Massachusetts Avenue.

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

Mayor Simmons 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 6:02 p.m.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings: None

Public Comment

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow members of the public to speak to matters not on the Agenda. The following individuals were heard:

- Lisa deLima, Fairfield St, re CRLS Arts
- David Fichter, Worcester, re CRLS Arts
- Jude Glaubman, Auburn St., re CRLS Arts
- Counselor Ken Reeves, Harvard St., re Harlem Children's Zone Office of College Success

Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members:

Mr. Bonsey was heard re CRLS Arts.

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

The Members passed over Unfinished Business.

A. Tabled Matters

B. Awaiting Report

- Ethnic Enrollment forecast for the next 10 years in an effort to direct our minority hiring in the present and the future. **(Simmons) (C08-332)** (9/16/08)

New Business

A. Presentation

Dr. Ramos, Director of Special Education, presented the Special Education Information and Statistics Report, (copy on file in the School Committee office) including the following:

- Background Information Executive Summary:

- Statistical Information
- Percentage of Special education Students by School
- Percentage of Special Education Gender Stats
- Female Special Education Stats by Ethnicity
- Male Special Education Stats by Ethnicity
- District Referral Stats by Gender and Ethnicity
- Office of Special Education Goals
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds
- Coordinated Program Review (CPR)
- Special Education Findings

Dr. Ramos introduced her staff and thanked them for their help in preparing the SPED presentation. The Superintendent and Dr. Ramos responded to the following questions and concerns:

- What is the difference between students with behavior related IEPs and self contained classrooms
- Is there a comparison chart showing percentages of students in substantially separate classes by race and by gender and how do you determine the numbers
- Is there a comprehensive circle of information to ensure that the parent/guardian feels an issue has been resolved
- Keep Members informed of parent/guardian issues and concerns
- Referrals are going down, kids being served are going up, especially in the African-American community; what is being done
- How do we measure the level of satisfaction with Special Ed Department in Cambridge
- What is status of the Special Ed Strategic Plan
- What is an educationally sound practice in terms of how we keep Special Ed students first in terms of School Committee goals.
- What are some of the obstacles in resolving the issue of keeping continuity in one school
- If a practice is not educationally sound, we need to change it
- What is the practice of in-district 45 day placement
- What is the plan to address in-placement services
- How is the pilot Ombudsperson program working; how are we measuring it
- Is there a plan for professional development for cross-training between regular teachers and special ed teachers
- How are staffing levels determined
- How do you assess that staffing levels are appropriate
- How is the increase in referrals of African-American children being addressed
- What strategies are going to be used to include parents of color

Members thanked Dr. Ramos for the presentation.

B. Action Items

Mr. McGovern in the Chair.

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Ms. Tauber, for adoption of items #09-429 through #09-438. Ms. Tauber removed #09-429 and #09-433. Ms. Nolan removed #09-437. Mr. Grassi removed #09-438. on the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted:

#09-430, Approval of Deletion of Granting of Diplomas or Certificates Policy (File: IKFC): that the School Committee approve the deletion of the Granting of Diplomas or Certificates Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

#09-431, Approval of Deletion of School Committee Sub-Committees Policy (File: BCE): that the School Committee approve the deletion of the School Committee Sub-Committees Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

#09-432, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for School Gardens, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. City Sprouts, 25 River St., Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, in the amount of \$66,000.00.

#09-434, Special Needs Contracts for Day Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department: 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	Arlington Academy (McLean Hospital), 115 Mill St., Belmont	\$ 61,192.06
5 students	Bay Cove Human Services, 66 Canal St., Boston	314,990.30
1 student	Beacon High School, 917 Belmont St., Watertown	44,629.78
1 student	Bi-County Collaborative, 397 E. Franklin St., Franklin	39,634.00
1 student	Cardinal Cushing School, 405 Washington St., Hanover	58,989.98
1 student	Clearway School, 61 Chestnut St., West Newton	40,095.20
1 student	Crossroads School for Children, 11 Huron Dr., Natick	77,106.68
4 students	Dr. Franklin Perkins School, 971 Main St., Lancaster	231,312.76
1 student	The Elan School, PO Box 578, Poland, ME	54,960.60
5 students	Farr Academy, 71 Pearl St., Cambridge	295,132.45
5 students	Gifford School, 177 Boston Post Rd., Weston	257,896.85
1 student	Granite Academy (Massasoit School), 6A Columbian St., Braintree	51,403.32
6 students	Judge Baker Children's Center, 53 Parker Hill Ave., Roxbury Crossing	428,950.32
5 students	LABBB Collaborative, 281 Winter St., Waltham	280,545.00
1 student	Landmark School, PO Box 227, Prides Crossing	39,427.75
4 students	Learning Prep School, PO Box 650205, W. Newton	110,333.28
8 students	Lighthouse School, 25 Wellman Ave., N. Chelmsford	409,750.72
1 student	MAB Community Services, 200 Ivy St., Brookline	88,817.69
4 students	The May Institute, PO Box 847240, Boston	340,225.85
1 student	McLean Hospital, (CNS Pathways Academy), 115 Mill St., Belmont	88,883.17
1 student	Milestones, Inc., 460 Totten Pond Rd., Suite 300, Waltham	117,311.23
4 students	NE Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Rd., Southboro	345,851.11

5 students	Perkins School for the Blind, 175 N. Beacon St., Watertown	586,848.79
1 student	Protestant Guild for Human Services, 411 Waverly Oaks Rd., Suite 104, Waltham	81,979.40
1 student	Schools for Children (STEP 45 Day), 20 Academy St., Arlington	123,750.00
6 students	Schools for Children (Seaport Campus), 20 Academy St., Arlington	307,862.94
17 students	Schools for Children, 20 Academy St., Arlington	890,447.76
5 students	SEEM Collaborative, 92 Montvale Ave., Suite 3500, Stoneham	302,529.84
1 student	Shore Collaborative (45 Day Program), 100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea	59,211.00
3 students	Shore Collaborative, 100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea	121,462.20
1 student	St. Ann's Home, 100A Haverhill St., Methuen	43,196.51
<u>1 student</u>	The Walker Home, 1968 Central Ave., Needham	<u>69,075.00</u>
103 students		\$6,363,803.54

#09-435, Special Needs Contracts for Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department: 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	Boston Higashi School, 800 N. Main St., Randolph	\$144,961.49
1 student	Camphill Special School, 1784 Fairview Rd., Glenmoore, PA	26,293.00
1 student	Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc., 405 Washington St., Hanover	161,904.33
1 student	Dr. Franklin Perkins School, 971 Main St., Lancaster	178,986.03
2 students	Evergreen Center, 345 Fortune Blvd., Milton	299,123.32
1 student	Justice Resource Institute, 545 Boylston St., Boston	174,522.95
1 student	The May Institute, PO Box 847240, Boston	326,787.30
1 student	Melmark New England, 461 River Rd., Andover	213,447.07
2 students	NE Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Rd., Southboro	289,398.71
<u>1 student</u>	St. Ann's Home, 100A Haverhill St., Methuen	<u>136,623.92</u>
12 students		\$1,952,048.12

#09-436, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. After-School Out-of-School Time Quality Program, for the period September 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$27,747.00, Project/Grant SC10832.
Description: The Agenda for Children and the Cambridge Public Schools and After-School Partnership have received funding from the DOE's After-School and Out-of-School Time Quality Grant to promote innovative partnership between schools and after-school settings. This will support joint projects between school teachers and after-school providers to promote academic support and learning and inclusion of children with special needs. Experiential, project-based curriculum that spans both school and after-school settings will be developed.
CPS Target Population: Approximately 100 – 160 students enrolled in after-school programs in the City.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Students who participate in the new projects will benefit academically and socially from the increased communication and collaboration between their school day and after-school teachers.
2. Technology Enhancement, for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, in the amount of \$137,890.00, Project/Grant SC10838.
Description: This grant will continue the collaboration with the districts of Newton and Somerville begun in 08-09. This year, middle grade teachers in the three districts will have the opportunity to take an on-line course developed by Education Development Center (EDC) entitled *Using Web 2.0 tools to Support Middle Grade Writing*. EDC will provide training for the 4 teachers who will facilitate the course (2 each from Newton and Cambridge) and will provide additional support for teachers as they learn to use the Web 2.0 tools. The Grant also includes \$37,890.00 in funding for private school technology initiatives.
CPS Target Population: 12 Cambridge middle grade teachers, two of whom will be trained as on-line course facilitators and 10 of whom will take the course. In addition, approximately 600 CPS middle grade students will benefit from learning to use Web 2.0 tools to improve their writing skills.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Two additional Cambridge teachers will become proficient at delivering on-line courses; 10 middle grade teachers will become adept at the use of at least one form of new technology in writing instruction; and middle grade students across the district will have their learning experience enhanced by the inclusion of new technology which has been shown by research to accelerate the development of writing skills.
3. Teaching American History (TAH) (subcontract with Newton Public Schools), for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$9,231.00, Project/Grant SC10857.
Description: This is the second year of a 3-year TAH grant in collaboration with the Newton, Watertown, Waltham and Sudbury Public Schools. Through this grant, approximately 2/3 of CRLS high school US History teachers will participate in professional development provided in conjunction with teachers from the collaborating districts. Training will be provided by the Gilder Lehrman Institute and Facing History and Ourselves, among others.
CPS Target Population: All students at CRLS who will be taking US History, Part 1 (Sophomore Year) and Part 2 (Junior Year).
Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: This training will strengthen the skills of teachers of American History (Parts 1 and 2), many of whom have previously taught World History and need to be re-tooled for US History, which will now be taught at the high school level. Ultimately, the project will enable CRLS students to score at the proficient level on the upcoming MCAS History exam.

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

Non-Consent Agenda

Mr. Grassi asked that further discussion take place on the Agenda Format Policy. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to refer to the September 29, 2009 School Committee Retreat **#09-429, Approval of Revisions to Agenda Format Policy (File: BEDB)**: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Agenda Format Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

Ms. Tauber asked about the proposed process and timeline for middle grades. The Superintendent was heard. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to adopt **#09-433, Outline of Proposed Process/Timeline for Middle Grade Decision-making**: that the School Committee adopt the Superintendent's Proposed Process/Timeline for the Middle Grade Decision-making.

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

Ms. Nolan, Mr. McGovern and Ms. Tauber were heard in support of their motion. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to adopt **#09-437, Joint motion by Ms. Nolan, Mr. McGovern and Ms. Tauber** that, whereas, bullying is an issue of concern to all, and whereas Cambridge has initiated many programs to address this problem and can serve as a model district, and whereas State Senator Anthony Galluccio has filed legislation relative to schools and anti-bullying programs, now, therefore, the Cambridge School Committee goes on record endorsing the Bill S. 233 and further asks that all Members of the Cambridge Delegation to the State House be advised of our support and encouraged to support the Bill.

#09-438, Motion by Mr. Grassi that the Superintendent provides the School Committee with an update of the implementation of the Ed-Line System, by school and by learning community. Mr. Grassi offered a substitute motion: that the Superintendent report back to the School Committee on the progress with the implementation of EdLine and any other efforts and actions to improve communication between classroom, school, district and home. On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adopt the substitute motion.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to suspend the Rules to hear announcements.

- Mr. Fantini complimented the Superintendent on the success of the Summer School Programs and asked if there will be a report. The Superintendent was heard in the affirmative.
- There will be a reception on Monday, October 26, in the Mayor's parlor to welcome Dr. Young to CPS.
- A special meeting of the City Council will be held Thursday, September 24, regarding the climate emergency.
- Graham & Parks School will hold a City Sprouts celebration on Saturday, October 3.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to suspend the Rules to grant Mayor Simmons unanimous consent to be recorded in the affirmative on all votes taken in her absence.

Late orders: None

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn (8:15 P.M.).

Adjourned
Patricia A. Berry
Confidential Secretary