

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue.

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

Also Present: Student Representatives Arianne Berelowitch and Josiah Bonsey

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. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Schuster, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting – September 8, 2009

Public Comment

There being no one signed up, on a motion by Ms. Nolan, 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

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to pass over Unfinished Business to move to the presentation.

A. Presentation

The Chair turned the meeting over to Dr. Young who gave a brief introduction to the presentation by Haggerty School Principal, Janelle Bradshaw. Ms. Bradshaw explained that the goal of the co-teaching model was what inclusion would look like in the 21st Century, and that students can be successful in any middle school in Cambridge as well as the high school. Ms. Bradshaw walked Members through a Power Point presentation, "Haggerty School Co-Teaching Model" (copy on file in the School Committee office), including:

- Haggerty Classrooms in SY2007-2008
- History of Inclusion at Haggerty
- Co-Teaching: Year 1
- Co-Teaching: Year 2
- Program Evaluation

The Chair explained that each School Committee Member will ask two questions after hearing comments from the public

The following individuals were heard regarding the Haggerty School co-teaching model:

- Tim Cutler, Haggerty parent with three children having positive experiences
- Ashley Warlick, Josephine Ave., Somerville, 3rd grade general education co-teacher having a positive experience
- Nabia Meghelli, Prospect St., 3rd grade special education co-teacher having a positive experience

The Superintendent and Ms. Bradshaw responded to the following questions, comments and concerns:

- Has anecdotal data been collected from parents and staff regarding their experience
- Are students still being pulled from class if necessary
- How do you insure that special education educators in classrooms can provide the range of services children need and what is the impact on available resources
- At what point would a co-teaching model not be appropriate and would it make sense to staff it the same way
- Is there a threshold for special education services that would require us to go to a co-teaching model
- Evaluation needs to be a key component of this model
- What are some of the challenges with common planning time
- Does this model give more time for planning
- Let the School Committee know what improvements need to be made to the roof and playground
- How will parents and teachers be involved in the evaluation process
- Is the longitudinal data going into Test Wiz
- Are there any resources needed that the School Committee can help with
- It would be interesting to see a current student schedule versus two years ago

Mr. McGovern in the Chair

- What is being done to foster teacher relationships
- If we are going to spread this to other schools, what mistakes have been made and what positives have been seen
- Describe the inclusion model as students get older – how different would it look at the high school
- How does student independence relate to co-teaching

Mayor Simmons in the Chair

- If we are thinking about bringing this model to other elementary schools, there should be one strand that is co-taught to look for potential pitfalls
- It takes buy-in from everyone to make a program successful
- To what degree are out-of-school-time programs being worked with to support what is being done in the classroom
- If the model is not robust, what will be done in case of a mid-budget crisis
- Review the relationship between the Family Resource Center and families to insure that the relationship is smoother and helpful

On behalf of the Members, the Chair thanked the Superintendent, Ms. Bradshaw and staff for the presentation.

The Chair returned to the Agenda. Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Mr. Schuster, to return to Unfinished Business Calendar items. Mr. Schuster raised a point of order and asked that the Level III grievance be heard at this time. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Schuster, on the following roll call, it

was voted to convene in Executive Session to hear a Level III grievance: 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 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: Jeffrey Young, Superintendent
Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
Chris Saheed, CRLS Principal
Lenora Jennings, Education Liaison
Chris Colbath-Hess, CTA President
Dan Monahan, CTA Vice President
Mark Sheehan, MTA Representative
Gene Kelly, Grievant

The Chair turned the meeting over to Mr. Sheehan who presented the grievance on behalf of Mr. Kelly. Mr. Kelly was heard in support of his grievance and he, Ms. Colbath-Hess, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Monahan and Mr. Kelly exited the meeting.

Members discussed the grievance with Attorney MacFarlane, the Superintendent, Dr. Turk, Dr. Saheed and Ms. Allen. Mr. Schuster moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, to accept the recommended Level III response. Mr. Fantini moved to table the response until additional background information is received.

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

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

The Chair reconvened the meeting and announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session. The Chair returned to the Agenda.

Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

A. Calendar

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Schuster, it was voted to remove and refer to the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee **#09-37**, Motion by Ms. Nolan that whereas both environmental and economic reasons demand greater attention to energy efficiency and sustainable practices and policies; and whereas the City recently established a program of energy champions in every department; and whereas the district has established a laudatory policy on environmentally responsible, sustainable operations; and whereas the school department now has information on energy use which was previously unavailable; therefore that the School Committee establish a policy of encouraging all schools to save energy by emulating energy-improvement financing models providing economic incentives to save energy. Further, that such a policy include sharing the financial benefits of energy savings by allowing individual school communities and administrative departments to decide on the use of up to 50% of the funds saved for up to five years. Further, that the School Committee host a public forum on recycling and energy efficiency

district-wide to announce the new policy, disseminate information, and gather ideas for further improvements.

Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan to refer to a second reading **#09-120**, Recommendation: Approval of Revision to the Student Transportation Policy (*First Reading*). Mr. McGovern moved that this item remain on the Calendar until Administration addresses the issue of out-of-district students.

On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to remove and refer to a second reading **#09-210**, Recommendation: Approval of Revision to the Cambridge Public Schools Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (first reading).

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to remove and refer to a second reading **#09-220**, Recommendation: Approval of Revision to the Patriotic Exercises Instruction Policy (first reading).

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to remove and refer to a second reading **#09-221**, Recommendation: Approval of Revision to the School Ceremonies and Observances Policy (first reading).

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to remove and refer to a second reading **#09-228**, Recommendation: Approval of Revision to the Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco and Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol And Tobacco/Family Life/Sex Education Policies (first reading).

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to remove and refer to the Policy subcommittee **#09-255**, Recommendation: Approval of Revision to the Substance Abuse And Drug use by Students Policy (second reading); **#09-256**, Recommendation: Approval of Revision to the Alcohol Use by Students Policy (second reading); and **#09-257**, Recommendation: Approval of Revision to the Student Conduct Policy (second reading).

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to remove and refer to the Policy subcommittee **#09-285**, Approval of Revisions to the Administration Goals Policy and the Administrative Goals and Objectives Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Administration Goals Policy and the Administrative Goals and Objectives Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to remove, accept and make part of the record **#09-425**, Report of the July 27, 2009, meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Office of the School Committee; and **#09-426**, Amended report of the August 20, 2009, meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Office of the School Committee.

B. Tabled Matters

C. Awaiting Report

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to remove the request for the 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)**.

New Business

B. Action Items

Mr. McGovern moved, seconded by Ms. Nolan, for adoption of #09-439 through #09-448. Ms. Nolan removed #09-447. Mr. Grassi removed #09-442 through #09-444. Mr. Fantini removed #09-446. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted and/or referred to a second reading:

#09-439, Approval of Revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

#09-440, Approval of Revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Non-Discrimination Policy and Prohibition Against Sexual Harassment: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Non-Discrimination Policy and Prohibition Against Sexual Harassment as detailed in the document (first reading).

#09-441, Approval of Revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Equal Employment Opportunity Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (first reading).

#09-445, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Professional Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Boston ABA, 464 Common Street, Suite 106, Belmont, for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$37,000.00.

#09-448, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve the Grant Awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

1. Massachusetts Cultural Council, for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$17,615, project/grant SC10789.
Description: This grant will fund the fourth year of a four year grant "Page-to-Stage" project collaboration with the Underground Railway Theatre. Through this project, students in grades 5-8 learn the craft of playwriting through intensive workshops which culminate in a play reading festival in which professional actors act out the students' plays.
CPS Target Population: This year, approximately 150 students in grades 5-8 at the Graham and Parks, Amigos, and Tobin Schools will participate in Page-to-Stage.
Outcomes and Measures of Effectiveness: Participating students will improve their reading and writing skills and meet the State standards in drama in the ELA Frameworks.
2. 21st Century Community Learning, for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, in the amount of \$310,000.00, project/grant SC10854.
Description: This 21st Century grant will support the design and implementation of three Middle Grade After-School Enrichment Centers in collaboration with community partners. The centers will be located at the Kennedy/Longfellow (with the East End House as partner); the Peabody School (with Gately Center as partner) and the King Open (with the Frisoli Center as partner). The grant will also support academic enrichment and school partnering efforts by six other after-school providers that serve CPS students (K-8): Community Art Center, Cambridge Community Center, Windsor Street Boys & Girls Club, King After-School Program, Frisoli Youth Center, and Afterworks at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.
CPS Target Population: The centers will be open to all middle school students in Cambridge.
Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: Through engaging in complementary learning enrichment activities designed in collaboration with the Cambridge Schools,

middle school students will make strides in their academic and social development as measured by a variety of criteria specified by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Evaluation team.

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

Non-Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to bring forward together **#09-442, #09-443, and #09-444**. Mr. Grassi asked that evaluation and performance measures be developed for the organizations being awarded a contract. On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt:

#09-442, Contract Award: 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:

1. Breakthrough Cambridge, 158 Spring Street, Cambridge, for the period October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010, in the amount of \$37,244.00; and

#09-443, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Professional Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Cambridge School Volunteers, c/o CRLS, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$82,443.00; and

#09-444, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Professional Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Action for Boston Community Development, 178 Tremont Street, Boston, for the period September 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$30,000.00.

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

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to suspend the Rules to extend the meeting to 10:15.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#09-446, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Transportation Services, funds to be provided from the Transportation, General Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. S.P. & R. Transportation, 210 Donahue Rd., Dracut, for the period November 1, 2009 to October 31, 2012, in the amount of \$996,337.50.

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

At the request of Ms. Nolan, the Superintendent said backup information will be provided. On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Schuster, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#09-447, Contract Award:** 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:

1. Cambridge Economic Opportunity Comm., 11 Inman Street, Cambridge, for the period September 2009 to June 2010, in the amount of \$52,000.00.

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

Late Orders: None

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

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to adjourn (10:05 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee