

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### (Official Report)

#### Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 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, Mr. Schuster, Ms. Tauber,  
Mayor Simmons

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

Also Present: Student Representative Josiah Bonsey

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. Nolan, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting – October 20, 2009

#### Public Comment

There being no one signed up, on a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to close public comment.

#### Reports and/or Comments from Student School Committee Members

Reconsideration of Votes Taken at Previous Meeting: None

#### Unfinished Business from Previous Meetings

##### A. Calendar

**#09-462**, Joint motion by Mr. Grassi and Mayor Simmons that the School Committee consider raising its policy goal for the composition of minority teachers and administrators from 25% to 30%. Mr. Grassi moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini, an amendment to change Mr. Grassi to Mr. McGovern as a co-sponsor of the motion. On a voice vote, **#09-462** was adopted as amended.

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to refer to the Superintendent for a report back by December 1, 2009 on what the current percentages and staffing look like, **#09-462**, Joint motion by Mr. McGovern and Mayor Simmons that the School Committee consider raising its policy goal for the composition of minority teachers and administrators from 25% to 30%.

The Chair acknowledged and welcomed School Committee Member-Elect Alice Turkel.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward **#09-467**, Approval of Cambridge Teachers Association Unit E Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012, and **#09-468**, Approval of Cambridge Teachers Association Unit C Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, it

was voted to adopt **#09-467, Approval of Cambridge Teachers Association Unit E Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012**: that the School Committee approve the agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Teachers Association Unit E for a collective bargaining agreement for the period of September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012, which was ratified by the members of the bargaining unit: Mr. Gardner for the City Manager, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#09-468, Approval of Cambridge Teachers Association Unit C Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012**: that the School Committee approve the agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Teachers Association Unit C for a collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012, which was ratified by the members of the bargaining unit: Mr. Gardner for the City Manager, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Mayor Simmons YEA.

#### **A. Presentations**

The Chair turned the meeting over to Superintendent Young who introduced James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, who walked Members through a presentation on the "Middle School Study – Enrollment and Demographic Data" (copy on file in the School Committee office), including:

Mr. McGovern in the Chair

#### **SECTION I - ENROLLMENT**

- Enrollment Summary PK to 8
- 09-10 PK-5 Summary
- 09-10 Grade 6-8 Summary
- Enrollment Comparison Grade 6-8 District Wide
- Students Per Classroom summary

#### **SECTION II – ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

- Grade K-12 District Wide
- Ten Year Enrollment History SY 00/01 to SY 09/10
- Enrollment Projections SY 10/11 to SY 14/15

#### **SECTION III - INTENSIVE STUDIES PROGRAM**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Applicants for SY 09/10
- 09/10 Grade 6 Enrollment
- 09/10 Grades 6-8 Summary

#### **SECTION IV – TRANSFERS WITHIN DISTRICT AND FROM DISTRICT**

- Summary – Transfers by Sending School
- Summary – Transfers by Receiving School
- Transfer Requests Sorted by Sending School
- Transfer Requests Sorted by Receiving School
- Student Transfers – Out of District
- Transfers Out by Grade

#### **SECTION V – STUDENT DISTRIBUTION BY SCHOOL**

#### **SECTION VI – STUDENT DISTRIBUTION BY DISTRICT – GRADES K-6**

#### **SECTION VII – STUDENT RESIDENCE BY GRADE K-6**

SECTION VIII – BUILDINGS & GROUNDS INVENTORY

SECTION IX – AFTER SCHOOL

- Percentage of CPS Middle Grade Students Self-Reporting Enrollment in an Afterschool Program
- Percentage of CPS Middle Grade Students Self-Reporting Participation on a Sports Team
- Percentage of CPS Middle Grade Students Who Self-Report That They Attend Academic/Homework Support Afterschool Sessions Located in Their School
- Percentage of CPS Middle Grade Students Self-Reporting Participation in a Range of Afterschool Activities
- Percentage of CPS Middle Grade Students Who Self-Report That They Go Home Afterschool
- Percentage of CPS Middle Grade Students Who Self-Report They Take Care of a Family Member(s) Afterschool
- Percentage of CPS Middle Grade Students Who Self-Report That After School They “Hang Out With Friends or Have Nowhere to Be and/or Go”
- Summary of Students’ Responses to Open-Ended Questions

The Superintendent and Mr. Maloney responded to the following questions, comments and concerns:

Mayor Simmons in the Chair

- What does this information tell us educationally
- Are middle schools broken down by race
- Look at class size school by school
- Is the controlled choice proximity bonus contributing to choice
- ISP does not represent the true demographics of Cambridge
- Demographics are troubling and require more study from School Committee and Administration
- What’s happening in ISP should be happening in every classroom
- Concerned about graduating classes with 30 or fewer students
- Look at why students are moving from school to school within the City
- There are signs of racial and socio-economic isolation in the middle grades
- We need to adjust for the drop in elementary enrollment
- So many transfers are creating instability
- We have too many classrooms, too few students and too many transfers
- Would like to see a breakdown by grade for transfers within the district
- Establish a policy to conduct exit interviews for families transferring out of the district
- Is 4% high for transfers compared to other choice districts
- Would like to see a range of forecasts for enrollment over the next five years
- Will some of the small classes increase with an increase in enrollment
- Think about the definitions for paid lunch and free lunch
- Look at and talk to teachers about who they are encouraging to apply to ISP
- What are we doing as a district to encourage and support free lunch students to apply to ISP
- Is there any data that would indicate the percentage of students who graduate from 8<sup>th</sup> grade and go on to high school
- 5% or 1 in 20 students transferring each year does not seem like a high number
- Would like to see the number of students who are transferring more than once and what are the sending schools
- What does the trend look like in other districts for enrollment decline in middle grades
- Why is the expectation
- For the “Transfers out by Grade” chart, percentages would be more helpful
- Why isn’t ISP held to the same averages as our elementary schools for free and paid lunch students
- Is there a way to look at actual high school performance by elementary school
- Look at what out of school time programming is available for middle grade students
- Are there different trends in schools after consolidation

- How is this information going to inform us financially
- How many school-age children are in Cambridge and how many are in private schools, charter schools, etc.
- National trend seems to be moving toward segregating schools
- Need more information on Montessori
- What would data suggest if we look at student achievement
- The Student Data Report model would have addressed some of the questions raised tonight
- Educational excellence and social justice are partners in educating our students
- Are there five schools with less than 300 students
- Highlight single graded classes and classrooms with minimal students that can be combined
- Are transfers a cause of a problem or an effect of a problem

Members thanked the Superintendent and Mr. Maloney for the presentation.

The Chair entertained a motion to convene in Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel and to discuss a Level III grievance. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purposes stated: Ms. Nolan YEA, Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber ABSENT, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern 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: Barbara Allen, Executive Director, Human Resources  
James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer  
Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel  
Lenora Jennings, Education Liaison

The Chair said that this session is to look at the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Office of the School Committee and its staff. Ms. MacFarlane gave Members information on making recommendations to a new Committee. Ms. Bradshaw was excused and Ms. Jennings was asked to take notes.

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair reconvened the meeting and turned it over to Budget Co-Chairs McGovern and Nolan for the presentation of the draft "Guidelines for developing the FY11 Budget for Cambridge Public Schools". Ms. Nolan presented the following categories to give the Superintendent a sense of what the priorities are to move the district forward:

- Professional development
- Bold academic initiatives
- Special education services
- School climate
- Class size review
- Technology to increase effectiveness and efficiency
- Building capital improvements
- Well-rounded education

Discussion took place around the Guidelines and the following questions, comments and concerns were raised:

- We should decide if we want to go to this model – it is very different in style from previous guidelines
- Certain things do not need to be attached to the budget
- Do we want to do less professional development or do we want to evaluate how we do it
- If we want to fund programs differently, we should just say it
- School climate is one of our goals, why is it in the budget
- Section on middle grades is missing
- Is there something new about program evaluation that we want to include in this budget
- Prefer a process that is more inclusive of all Members, Superintendent and Members-elect
- Need to include something substantive about MCAS progress
- Slow process and schedule a budget retreat
- Budget needs to collaborate with academic goals in the forefront
- Process should have allowed more time for discussion
- Would like to know what was the conversation between the Co-Chairs and Administration
- Guiding Principles from last term are more manageable
- We have been talking about doing guidelines differently and nobody but Ms. Tauber weighed in
- Format from last year did not work for the Superintendent
- Need the benefit of everyone's input - not through email
- The vision is that this will make the budget process clearer for all of us

The Superintendent and Budget Co-Chairs were heard in support of the document saying it gives the Administration some discretion. On a motion by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to amend the Budget timeline to change the vote to approve the Guiding Principles from December 1 to December 15 and that a Budget Subcommittee meeting be scheduled for December 1 to discuss the Guidelines.

## **New Business**

### **A. Action Items**

Mr. McGovern moved, seconded by Mr. Schuster, for adoption of #09-469 through #09-480. Ms. Nolan removed #09-471 and #09-480. Mr. Fantini removed #09-470 and #09-474. On the following roll call, the remaining items were adopted or referred to a second reading:

**#09-469, Approval of Response to Level III CTA Grievance 14-08-09:** that the School Committee ratify and affirm its vote taken in Executive Session on October 20, 2009 approving the Superintendent's recommendation relative to the response to the Level III Grievance in accordance with WR09-285 (CN-A) dated October 16, 2009.

**#09-472, 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 Health Alliance, 1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, for the period September 2009 through June 2010, in the amount of \$91,200.00.

**#09-473, 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. Lesley University, 1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, for the period September 2009 through June 2010, in the amount of \$43,500.00.

**#09-475, Approval of Revisions to Cambridge Public Schools Family and Medical Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy:** that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Family and Medical Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy for the Cambridge Public Schools as detailed in the document (first reading).

**#09-476, Approval of Cambridge Public School Prohibition against Idling Vehicles Policy:** that the School Committee approve the Prohibition against Idling Vehicles Policy for the Cambridge Public Schools as detailed in the document (first reading).

**#09-477, Approval of Revisions to the Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy:** that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

**#09-478, Approval of the School Committee Policy Manual:** that the School Committee approve the School Committee Policy Manual as detailed in WR09-284(1) (second reading).

**#09-479, Contracts for Day Program Services not Available from the Cambridge Public Schools:** 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        | Brandon Residential Treatment Center, 27 Winter St., Natick | \$ 45,394.62     |
| 1 student        | Landmark School, PO Box 227, Prides Crossing                | 39,427.75        |
| 1 student        | Learning Prep School, PO Box 650205, West Newton            | 27,583.32        |
| 1 student        | Perkins School for the Blind, 175 N. Beacon St., Watertown  | 64,156.13        |
| <u>1</u> student | Schools for Children, 20 Academy St., Arlington             | <u>52,379.28</u> |
| 5 students       |   | \$228,941.10     |

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

#### Non-Consent Agenda

Mr. Fantini thanked Mayor Simmons for the work done on this lease. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#09-470, Lease for parking lot for the Fletcher-Maynard Academy:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for parking spaces, pending approval of special permit by the Cambridge Zoning Board of Appeals, funds to be provided from the Fletcher-Maynard Academy General Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Cambridge Community Outreach Tabernacle, Inc., 210 Donahue Road, Dracut, for the period September 2009 through June 2012, in the amount of \$49,500.00.

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

Ms. Nolan asked how many students are served by this contract and what its effectiveness is. Dr. Turk was heard. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#09-471, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following

vendor for Education Program, funds to be provided from the Grant Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. East End House, 105 Spring Street, Cambridge, for the period September 2009 through August 2010, in the amount of \$109,000.00.

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

Mr. Fantini asked if these services are available to all students. Dr. Ramos was heard and services are available to all students who are absent for two weeks or more. On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. McGovern, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt **#09-474, Contract Award:** that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for home and hospital tutoring, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

1. Education, Inc., PO Box 3345, Plymouth, for the period July 2009 through June 2010, in the amount of \$35,000.00.

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

**#09-480, Motion by Ms. Nolan** that the School Committee provide direction for voting on the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Resolutions. Discussion took place around the Resolutions and how they should be voted. On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to grant Ms. Nolan discretion to vote her feelings.

**Late Orders:** None

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to adjourn (9:55 p.m.).

Adjourned  
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee