

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 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,

Vice Chair McGovern in the Chair.

Also Present: Student Representative Ariane Berelowitch

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Presentation of the Records of Previous Meetings:

On a motion by Mr. Grassi, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting – November 17, 2009

Public Comment

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Schuster, it was voted to suspend the Rules to allow Ms. Rivers to speak to an item not on the Agenda.

- Aquila Rivers, North Cambridge, was heard regarding a bus incident with her son between school and his after school program

Mr. Grassi asked the Superintendent to follow up and report back to the School Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Ms. Nolan, 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. Schuster, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to pass over Unfinished Business.

New Business

A. Action Items

On a motion by Ms. Tauber, seconded by Mr. Schuster, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt or refer to a second reading #09-481 through #09-486:

#09-481, 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 (second reading).

#09-482, 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 (second reading).

#09-483, Approval of Revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Family and Medical Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Family and Medical Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy for the Cambridge Public Schools as detailed in the document (second reading).

#09-484, 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. Integrated Center for Child Development, 193 Oak St., Newton, for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$45,000.00.

#09-485, Contract for Day Program Services not Available in 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	\$50,893.92
1 student	Lighthouse School, 25 Wellman Ave., N. Chelmsford	51,218.84
1 student	Arlington Academy (McLean Hospital), 115 Mill St., Suite 3500,	<u>36,100.68</u>
5 students	Stoneham	\$183,025.69

#09-486, Grant Awards: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant awards in the amounts and for the periods indicated:

The Big Yellow School Bus Grant, for the period September 15, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$600.00, project/grant SC10856.

Description: this grant will provide \$200.00 per school for the Fletcher-Maynard Academy, Cambridgeport and Haggerty Schools. It will support field trips to art and science museums, historic sites, and music and theater performances.

CPS Target Population: The students in the above named 3 schools.

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.

Welcoming Schools Cambridge, for the period September 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$1,512.00, SC10867.

Description: This private grant will support the work of the Welcoming Schools Cambridge program dedicated to providing support for diversity and ensuring a welcoming school climate for the LGBT students and families in the Cambridge schools.

CPS Target Population: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students and families in CPS.

Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: Activities in support of creating a welcoming school climate for LGBT students and families.

K-12 Literacy Professional Development Partnership, for the period November 12, 2009 to June 30, 2010, in the amount of \$50,000.00, SC10868.

Description: This grant will support the training of a Cambridge Literacy Coach in the Literacy Collaborative model at Lesley University so that she may service an in-house trainer for staff

and administrators. It will also support the on-going required training of Reading Recovery staff at the 8 school-wide Title I schools.

CPS Target Population: K-8 ELA teachers in the 8 CPS Title I schools and their students, Reading Recovery teachers and their first grade students in the 8 Title I schools.

Outcomes & Measures of Effectiveness: This grant will result in improved implementation of the Literacy Collaborative model in the 8 Title I schools, leading to an increase in the rate of improvement in literacy proficiency as measured by the MCAS, especially in the subgroups of special education and low income. The on-going training of Reading Recovery teachers will lead to continuous improvement in reading levels of at-risk first graders in Title I schools. An in-house evaluation of the program will be conducted under the guidance of the UMASS Donahue Center.

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

Mr. Grassi requested and received unanimous consent to be recorded as PRESENT NOT VOTING on item #09-486.

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Grassi, it was voted to adjourn to the Budget Sub-Committee meeting (6:27 p.m.). On a motion by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Mr. Fantini, it was voted to amend the motion to adjourn to a motion to recess.

Vice Chair McGovern in the Chair.

The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting and entertained a motion to convene in Executive Session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel. On a motion by Mr. Schuster, on the following roll call, it was voted to convene in Executive Session for the purpose stated: Mr. Schuster YEA, Ms. Tauber YEA, Mr. Fantini YEA, Mr. Grassi YEA, Mr. McGovern YEA, Ms. Nolan YEA, Mayor Simmons ABSENT. The Chair announced that the Committee will not reconvene in Open Session (8:15 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee