

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Special Meeting

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue for a Public Hearing on the proposed FY2010/2011 School Department Budget.

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 6:15 p.m. and turned it over to Superintendent Young. Dr. Young shared that this year's budget is a total of \$137,492,275, thanking the City Manager for an increase of 2.9% over the current budget – there is still a shortfall of \$3.7 million that has to be closed. \$1 million have been added in new initiatives and other areas reduced by \$4.7 million.

The Chair entertained public comment.

The following individuals were heard:

- Elizabeth Hammond, Audrey St., re Olá
- Louise Adler, President, Community School Volunteers (CSV), re CSV funding
- Sondra Peskoe, CSV Vice President re CSV funding
- Alison Stewart, Webster Ave. re CSV funding
- Archeley Guerrier, CRLS Senior re CSV
- Rene Meshon, CSV Manager CRLS Tutoring Center, read letter from CRLS Science Teacher Margaret Farrar re CSV
- Ruth Goodman, Forest St., parent re CSV
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave., Instructional Coach re Science cuts
- Councillor Craig Kelley, St. Gerard Terr., parent re lack of detail in Budget document
- Lawrence Adkins, re achievement gap
- Charlie Marquardt, re lack of detail in document
- Charles DuMond, Pleasant St., parent re cutting aides in SPED classrooms
- Aida Bairos, King Open re Olá
- Anastasia Mathis, Fairmont St., re out-of-school time grant

On a motion by Ms. Turkel, seconded by Mr. McGovern, it was voted to close public comment.

On a motion by Mr. Harding, seconded by Ms. Nolan, it was voted to suspend the Rules to bring forward CRLS Principal Chris Saheed, High School Extension Program (HSEP) Principal Joe Dolan and RSTA Executive Director Mike Ananis, who responded to the following questions, comments and concerns from Members:

- What will the HSEP/Transition consolidation look like
- Insure that interventions needed for Transition students are addressed through HSEP
- Need a conversation re HSEP history, what it is providing for students, what the program is now and who it is serving
- Concerned with half time social worker position at HSEP with the addition of Transition students

- Set a time outside of the Budget for a roundtable discussion on HSEP to revisit the vision
- Would like to receive a summary of class size at CRLS

Messrs. Saheed, Dolan and Ananis reported that they are in support of the proposed Budget. The Chair thanked them for coming.

The Superintendent responded to the following questions, comments and concerns from Members:

- Be thoughtful with staff around how cuts are being handled – this is going to be painful especially for people who have been with us a long time
- Are most reductions being handled through attrition (aides can be handled through attrition)
- What are the next steps regarding administrative cuts and the impact of eliminating JumpStart
- How much in advance of the vote will the Committee receive reports and revisions
- Where is the Olá money going
- There is a disparity in the use of SIP funds – what does basketball have to do with student achievement
- Be intentional across schools re SIP funds and what Principals will do to improve student achievement (SIP funds have been decentralized - need guidance from the School Committee)
- Has there been conversation between CSV and the Superintendent re availability of stimulus funds
- Move our District into the 21st Century - look at what is needed and match people to those needs
- Are there organizations other than CSV, Breakthrough and City Sprouts that are level-funded

On a motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Tauber, it was voted to adjourn (8:02 p.m.).

Adjourned
Marilyn Y. Bradshaw
Executive Secretary to the School Committee