

Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole)  
Budget Workshop  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – 3:30 P.M.  
CRLS Media Café

Called for the purpose of a Community Meeting #1 inviting input from the public and staff on the FY20-21 School Department Budget Priorities. It is anticipated that the Meeting will end by 5:30 PM.

Members Present: Mr. Fantini, Ms. Rachel, Mr. Rojas, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Bowman (ABSENT), Mayor Siddiqui (ABSENT).

Also Present: Superintendent Salim, Dr. Turk, Mr. Weinstein-Member elect, Ms. Spinner, Ms. Allen, Ms. MacDonald, Dr. Madera, Ms. Washington, Mr. Monahan

A quorum of the Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) being present, Co-Chair Fantini called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM.

Mr. Fantini gave a brief overview of what will be discussed regarding Budget Priorities and turned the meeting over to Superintendent Salim.

Dr. Salim asked the School Committee Members to introduce themselves. He reviewed a couple of slides regarding the CPS District Plan five objectives and outcome measures and how we think about the investments that we make. The meaning of Equity and Racial Equity were described. The timeline of the Budget has been completed and this is a community meeting to get input. There will be a Public Budget Hearing on March 19, 2020 and in May the City Council will vote on the overall Budget. We are fortunate to have robust resources in Cambridge to support our students. The General Fund Budget totals \$215.2M. Staffing is our most important resource and 79% of the Budget is spent on salaries and benefits. He explained there is base level of funding given to all schools and on top of that depending on the number of students at a school they may get additional resources finally, the needs of the students determine further allocations. Our responsibility is to regularly review and align our greatest resources to our priorities for improvement; rigorous, joyful and culturally responsive learning. He explained the framework for how this meeting is going work. There is a Cabinet Member or School Committee Member at each table that will take notes. There are handouts at the tables. After that we will come together and share what was discussed at the tables.

The following are some of the suggestions: to have valuable project based learning, increase coaching throughout the district, professional learning and educator voice, partner with local universities, recruit and retain teachers of color, create opportunities for after school teachers to be able to attend universities, behavioral support, more counselors, social emotional learning, cross training teams, anti-bias training, evaluators need a check list because they don't always know the content of the curriculum, community engagement, classroom management, professional development outside the district, restorative practices, curriculum retreats, student voice, funding BEB work, discretionary funds should uplift and enrich school climate and culture when we need more staffing, better representation of our staff, grade level help, mental health staffing, fund co-teaching models, equity coaches in each school and Learning Communities, examine barriers regarding use of staff, evaluate the Innovation Agenda, Level Up does not exist in practice, # of students that Level Up have to teach, skilled co-teachers in every classroom, stop tracking, heterogeneous classes, project based learning, Full time math interventionists, reallocate OSS staff, less fragmented schedules, too much focus on Honors & AP.

Dr. Salim appreciates the feedback, we will report back to the School Committee next Tuesday.

Mr. Fantini announced we will repeat the program now. The Mayor has arrived. Teacher input is very valuable. These sessions are worth while. If you don't want your photo taken give a wave to Bethany, the photographer, and she won't put you in the pictures.

Attest:

Terry Gist  
Interim Executive Secretary to the School Committee

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM.