

**CAMBRIDGE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE****(Official Minutes)****Regular Meeting****December 17, 2019**

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee.

Members Present: Ms. Bowman, Ms. Dexter (ABSENT), Mr. Fantini, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Kimbrough, Ms. Nolan, Mayor McGovern.

Also Present: Superintendent Salim, Dr. Turk, Mr. Maloney, Ms. Spinner, Ms. Allen, Ms. MacDonald, Ms. MacFarlane, Ms. Madera, Mr. Monahan

Student School Committee Representatives Present: Ms. Green and Mr. Kanner

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair, Mayor McGovern, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McGovern made a statement about what happens next because Ms. Dexter has decided not to serve her third term. Once the Legal Department and City Solicitor gets an official written resignation from Ms. Dexter, the Election Commission will notify the public that the votes will be redistributed and the winner will be notified. The press stated that David Weinstein will win the seat but that is not official. I hope this is complete before the January 6<sup>th</sup> inauguration. There is a petition online that says the School Committee should not be allowed to redistribute Ms. Dexter's votes. The School Committee is not part of this process. The Election Commission will re-run the numbers and we are following the legal process that must be done according to our Charter.

Ms. Bowman asked the Mayor to explain how a change can be made to the City Charter. Mayor McGovern explained that there are about 12 types of Charters; we have a type E (strong City Manager/weak Mayor). To make a change we'd have to petition the state to make an amendment. Or there would be a ballot initiative, people would have to elect a ballot committee, engage in a process to open the charter, make changes and vote on that charter. It is not an easy thing to do, it takes years. It will not happen with this event.

Ms. Bowman thanked the Mayor for explaining that information to the public as far as a civic engagement process.

**1. Public Comment:**

The following individual's were heard:

Ryuji Marishita, Davenport St. supports #19-290 (On file in the School Committee Office) there is a high demand for the Montessori/Immersion Programs. This Motion is one step in the positive direction. We have friends and acquaintances that are afraid to speak in public or private and that's too bad. Immersion Programs teach children how to engage with others from different cultures with a different perspective. This motion is not a quick fix but a step towards long term action that will help change the lives of hundreds possibly thousands of children. They will be able to develop skills of learning from different multicultural perspectives and will help bring people closer together and that's what immersion programs do. So by supporting this Motion you are taking a tangible step in the right direction.

Tunzel Hayes, Putnam Ave. supports #19-290 (on file in School Committee office) I have a letter signed by 27 parents that support this proposal for the MLK. I want to speak about restricted access at my

school, the differences in the two programs and have two kids one in each. NiHao language is restricted. It used to be in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade a NiHao child could join the Immersion Program. The NiHao Program doesn't maintain an SES balance. NiHao students cannot overcome the language to pass the test that was instituted by the school administration without a tutor (costs \$330-400 month). The textbook and workbook cost \$150, please support this Motion.

Rebecca Xiong, River St, Parent of King Immersion Program, supports #19-290. I have a heavy heart tonight. I have been talking to parents about what has been going on for the last two weeks and hopes for healing. We need to prepare our students for better economic opportunity.

Tara Edelschick, Valentine Street, supports #19-282 that the schools will pay 100 % of students for non-remedial course. My daughter had to take two classes and had to do a writing paper. She is no longer in school, which is very disappointing. We felt she was well prepared, how could that happen? She was not prepared by this school system. Regarding #19-290 I am against the coded language in the proposal. There is nothing valuable about more people getting first choice. This feels like coded language to me. There are no schools where White kids aren't doing well. The FMA which is being considered has high test scores. Let's take the schools that have the worst test scores and put them there, let's talk clearly and have honest discussions.

Jeff Barneson, Valentines St. supports #19-282 his daughter's boyfriend spoke Spanish his entire life and failed his placement test to go to Bunker Hill Community College. We are passing along these kids and they don't have success.

John Trever, Richdale St., Supports #19-290 his kids have 10 years combined experience at FMA and he is the chairperson of the PTO Spanish Committee and is the parent liaison to the Seal of Biliteracy workshop. On the 2018 Spanish Program Survey we received 87 responses from FMA families that indicated 9.5% want their child to be fluent in Spanish and 9.7% want their child to continue in Spanish after FMA. Administration should develop a framework for developing biliteracy from an early age. FMA students don't have adequate exposure because when they get to the high school they all go into Spanish 1 and accept that you're not going to learn anything. Expand the Amigos Program. It is possible to look at this Motion for White middle class people.

Denise Hanes, Putnam Ave. Opposes #19-290 as a public school student from MLK and CRLS. My son is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader in the NiHao Program at MLK. There are inequities in the program. There are no resources for students and instructional advancement. You need to look at what's broken. Her son said he has many friends in the NiHao Program that don't want to learn Chinese. Why do we have to have immersion into one program? We have the option to take French, Spanish, and Italian. How is it equal if you are only focusing on one Asian culture? It is hard to see that there is more of an emphasis on the Chinese New Year and not MLK day or Black History month. I strongly recommend looking at world languages and move away from Immersion Programs.

Lisa Downing, Clay Street Opposes #19-290, a concern is it combines equity and people getting their first choice. The Program is so small that it cannot be reported to DESE by grades. Looking at that data the programs are not as balanced.

Leslie Brunetta, Roberts Rd. Supports #19-282 (on file in School Committee office) but would make one change that all students that take remedial college courses regardless of whether they pass or fail, as long as they produce evidence of satisfactory attendance and of turning in required work. One aspect is it will create a data set, we're held accountable for graduation rates and where students say they intend to go to college not whether they are prepared for college work. This proposal will let the community know how many CRLS grads have to take remedial courses. Maybe when we realize how much we'll have to pay because we've been able or unwilling to prepare graduates for college and consider if we should stop outsourcing adequate high school instruction and instead figure out how to do it in-house during junior and senior year.

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on a voice vote it was voted to close public comment.

## **2. Student School Committee Report:**

Mr. Kanner reported that Student Government and the BSU recommends adding another position (an Incident Counselor) because the Deans have a lot of things on their plates. Mayor McGovern asked what do you mean by incident. Mr. Kanner responded incidents involving student to student or teacher/student. We would meet with the teacher's union to get their input too.

Ms. Green stated that last week there were many heated comments and frustrations expressed in follow up meetings regarding how student's voiced their opinions and asking for responses from the panel of 50 people. It was a high emotion week. Students were distracted and teachers not knowing how to handle situation. Jon (Baring-Gould) has been on leave since last Wednesday and there have been multiple subs and they are planning a mediation later this week. Students are trying to process and recover from what happened last week. There is a lot of student engagement coming and the new School Committee Members will see more coming through. The Committee should reach out to the students that spoke last week or have a roundtable with the students not just the students giving comments. The members could not respond last week. Students want an apology from the Committee.

Mr. Kanner added don't forget the students that were at the heart of this incident. The School Committee and Superintendent should meet with the BSU and discuss how this will be handled if it happens again in the future.

Superintendent Salim thanked the Student School Committee Members for their comments. We are working district wide on next steps and I will be sharing more communications later this week and after vacation we will collaborate on what next steps will be taken.

Ms. Bowman stated this has been a difficult time for the whole community. When we come back I hope we can have a cross dialog conversation. It appears that this Committee is seen as not supporting the students. Students that came to me, I take very personally. After break take a breath and come together with new School Committee Members and have the conversations to move us forward because there is a lot of pain in this district. The Superintendent and 50+ others took a big step addressing this because they believe in the voices of our students.

Mayor McGovern added so much of the focus has been on the incident from last January. We have issues of race and class in this city and with the start of a new committee we can re-set and bring people together to work on this issue. There are communities that don't have these discussions and things simmer and it builds up under the surface. It's easier if you ignore things and don't have to work on this hard, painful, necessary subject and I am glad we don't act like everything is OK when it's not.

Mr. Kanner responded the students are waiting for the School Committee to approach the student groups and tell them we want to work with and talk to you.

Mayor McGovern stated we had asked young people to come to the conversations with Dr. DeAmante but they did not come but are happy to continue having these hard conversations.

Ms. Bowman doesn't think people know the function of the School Committee; the rules and regulations, limitations and that our Charter dictates how we meet. There is a disconnect and if there are things we need to change we need to think about what that looks like. It is challenging to have a cross dialogue with students because for all members to be together we are breaking the Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Kimbrough stated outreach is important. I spoke to the city side to gain access to the youth buildings to hear student voice and was turned away. Students want to have the conversations and if there are rules in place that don't allow us to move forward we won't be able to make changes that they are asking

for. I challenge Mr. Fantini and Ms. Bowman to take down those barriers and have the city and school department come together for the students.

Ms. Nolan responded that we are in this position because of failure by the leadership. We have to ask every adult in the district how we might have contributed or we won't get to the deep root causes of the pain and hurt we've been seeing.

Mr. Kimbrough added we all come with different perspectives and want to help young people. We are all running for six spots and are in competition which is not healthy for our students. When we have disagreements on policy we take them personally rather than political disagreements.

Ms. Kelly stated I decided not to run again because there was not a level of respect and self reflection on the Committee. It got too personal. I hope the new Members will be welcomed, encouraged and have a collaborative environment.

Mr. Fantini stated while running I enjoyed spending time at the schools with the students which was very helpful. We have an expectation that schools are going to be able to run on their own. It is best if we get invited into the school to show we are a team and will work together. Before I walk into a classroom I ask the teacher is it OK to come into the classroom? It doesn't mean we cannot do what the Student School Committee Members are asking.

Mayor McGovern said Ms. Bowman asked how to change the Charter and one of the things is we have a political system designed not to collaborate as elected officials. We all run city wide and there are only so many #1 votes. We all ask for #1 votes and it creates tension. When elections are separated by 11 votes it makes it hard to stay together as a Committee. Thinking of the budget process, there are things that I am happy about yet someone wants to make a change and add another position and we all want to be the savior for everyone. We try to satisfy everyone because we will be doing it again in another year and a half and that puts us at odds and we shouldn't be. Being an elected official takes a lot of time from our families and huge commitment but we love the city and want to make it better.

Ms. Kelly clarified her point saying that the Committee needs to work collaboratively.

Mayor McGovern continued there will be five new people here and they are committed to the district and city and we can go smoothly.

Mr. Fantini added the reason we have a new Charter is because there was a lot of political corruption and that's why it is so difficult to change it.

Mayor McGovern asked to suspend the rules to do the Presentation.

Ms. Bowman asked the Mayor to bring forth Items following the Agenda.

Mayor McGovern agreed and proceeded with unfinished business.

**3. Presentation of the Records for Approval: None**

**4. Reconsiderations: NONE**

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:**

On a motion by Ms. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on a voice vote the following Minutes were accepted as presented:

- Roundtable Meeting, November 12, 2019
- Regular Meeting, November 19, 2019

**#19-282 Motion by Mr. Kimbrough**, Be it resolved that the Cambridge Public Schools will pay a 100% reimbursement fee to all CRLS graduates who pass a remedial, non-credit course at a community college or four-year college (Dexter).

Discussion on **#19-282**

Mayor McGovern spoke to the City Solicitor and there is concern on the City's side around how to do this legally. There are laws around spending tax payers' money. Ms. Bowman wants to refer this to the Superintendent so we know the cost, if it's legal and what we can put in place to achieve this then if we can't figure it out we can refer it to a sub-committee.

Ms. Bowman moved seconded by Ms. Nolan to refer **#19-282** to the Superintendent. On a voice vote it was referred.

**#19-289 Motion by Ms. Dexter**, That whereas the Innovation Agenda proposal of 2011 stressed that the new middle schools would be small schools with cohorts of roughly 88 students per grade for a total enrollment of 300 students or fewer; and

Whereas the current total enrollment of VLUS (FY20 projected) is 303 students; and

Whereas current plans for the new VLUS are for a total population of 552 students, which would be an 82% increase in size;

The School Committee will have a roundtable to discuss the desired size of CPS upper schools and any alternatives to having any upper schools of more than 350 students.

[https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/publicworksdepartment/tobinschool/tobinvassallaneschool\\_communitymeetingpresentation\\_11132019.pdf](https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/publicworksdepartment/tobinschool/tobinvassallaneschool_communitymeetingpresentation_11132019.pdf)

**Current (Projected FY20)**

Total = 303

Regular = 259

Self-contained special education= 6

Sheltered English Immersion = 38

**Projected new VLUS**

Total = 553

Regular = 450

Self-contained Special education = 28

Sheltered English Immersion = 75

Discussion followed on **#19-289**: Superintendent Salim spoke about space, challenges with enrollment growth and Upper Schools where we are very close to if not at the contractually allowed limit. King Open and MLK have not had the opportunity to look at accommodating expanding enrollment and how the caps are made. He invited Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Maloney to share information.

Mr. Kimbrough exited the meeting at 7:15 PM

Mr. Maloney communicated that we have heard a lot about the Tobin/VLUS building. We are almost at a crisis point with regard to space. We have 843 more students than we had during the Innovation Agenda. Today grade 6 at VLUS and CSUS are over enrolled and have more than 100 students. The four Upper Schools, excluding the Amigos, have 1110 students. PAUS has 2 seats available in 7<sup>th</sup> grade right now. The projected growth indicates we will need more space before 2024 when the new building is scheduled to open. With the space restriction we have to cap schools from feeder schools and not on an equitable basis but a space basis. Grade 5 at the Haggerty has 82% full pay students and small classes. King Open has 43 students in grade 5 which has a class size of 21 or 22 the majority are full pay students. We are capping only on space availability. Tobin Gr. 4 and 5 we are capping. Think about the students that will be in that building; SEI, autism spectrum and special start our most vulnerable students and we need space for them to go into traditional classrooms. We may need to look at portable classrooms. The enrollment has grown 13.2% over the past seven years. We are working with the City and architects trying to re-work this. If we add a fifth Upper School the classes will get so small and the cohort of students won't be able to engage in the non-curricular courses. We opened the CSUS and PAUS both fully populated.

Mayor McGovern added we don't have enough schools with a larger foot print. If we knock a building down it won't give us a larger footprint because there is no land to build on. There are many districts that

Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room

aren't able to pay \$250M to build a new school. There is a meeting Jan. 16 at the Tobin and I hope folks come to it. We have to listen closely to the abutters and need to hear voices from across the city.

Ms. Nolan agrees with most of what has been said to plan for the future but there has not been enough communication with the School Committee and we never got the data. With the lack of conversation it was a surprise to us and the community. This one Upper School will be different than the other Upper School with a 50% increase in enrollment. How will we meet the needs in the future? When the restructuring started it was predicated by our 5<sup>th</sup> grades not being full. If the attrition continues, this Motion says to have a roundtable and discuss the enrollment, nothing else. We are above 7,000 students and continue to grow.

Ms. Bowman doesn't think this should be a Roundtable because it won't have any impact on enrollment.

Mr. Fantini Moved second by Ms. Bowman to place **#19-289** on file. On a voice vote it was voted to place **#19-289** on file.

**#19-290 Motion by Ms. Nolan, Mr. Kimbrough, Mayor McGovern,**

That whereas the School Committee has sought, through studies and reviews and in policy, to use data to ensure that schools in the district are equally successful and to expand and replicate successful programs and bring programmatic change to struggling; schools; and  
Whereas the data consistently shows that the Tobin Montessori and Amigos Schools are both high achieving for a range of demographic groups and highly chosen; and  
Whereas it is desirable to stabilize our schools and have even choices across the district, that the School Committee commits to:

- Start a second Montessori School, east of Harvard Square,
- Start a second Spanish Bilingual Immersion School which would be K-5, and join the Amigos School for grades 6-8
- Explore how to expand the MLK Chinese immersion program to enable more Cambridge students to have the opportunity to learn a language of world importance and economic benefit
- Use choice and achievement data to support programmatic change at schools to implement the above changes
- A goal of 95% of all families receiving their first, second or third choice school in the Kindergarten lottery, which would stabilize school enrollments and provide the community more certainty.

Ms. Bowman stated that the FMA was not mentioned in the Motion and they have demonstrated that they have a good track record and should be looked at as a model. Mayor McGovern agreed and clarified that no schools were named in the Motion and it is less about choice and more about looking at programs that have shown success across demographics. Do we open additional Schools?

Ms. Nolan motioned to refer **#19-290** to Superintendent Salim. On a voice vote **#19-290** was referred to Superintendent Salim.

**6. Awaiting Reports:**

**#19-178, Joint Motion by Ms. Nolan, Vice Chair Kelly and Mr. Fantini**

That whereas the district has a commitment to all learners; and  
Whereas the position of lead teacher for advanced learners has not had stable leadership for some time; and  
Whereas the district has been reviewing protocols to address advanced learners needs; and  
Whereas at times circumstances are such that students' needs cannot be met in a classroom;  
That the School Committee request, before the next school year begins, a report on recruitment efforts for the position, on supports for learners, including existing statistics on existing plans, and future updates to procedures, policies and protocols, including changing the existing system of relying on parents and guardians to identify students, which is inherently inequitable, and to ensure transparency and clarity, and under what circumstances a student may advance a grade. (C19-205)

**7. Superintendent's Agenda:**

The Mayor turned the meeting over to the Superintendent who stated Dr. Turk and Ms. Flynn will be presenting the Middle Grades Health Survey results (on file in the SC office) and turned the meeting over to the Dr. Turk and Ms. Flynn.

**7a. Presentations:**

2018-19 Cambridge Middle Grades Health Survey

Jennifer Flynn, Lead Teacher K-12  
Health & Wellness,  
Carolyn L. Turk, Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Turk explained that we will share the trends between 2019 and 2017 survey. The numbers of students in grade 6, 7 and 8 represented about 20% of the Upper School population. Most of this data focuses on risk behaviors but we need to make sure we are looking at what those behaviors are and the why behind the data which will help us identify what the most effective next steps are. Ms. Flynn stated the work represents a long standing partnership with Cambridge Public Health Dept. and Social Science Research and Evaluation. The survey asked about background characteristics, substance abuse, violence and safety, mental health, sexual health, weight perception and control, physical activity, nutrition and habits and activities. This survey was administered in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole. We looked at Student Relationships with adults.

Females are more likely to report anxiety and depression. In 2019 the rate of reported depression is slightly above all other historical levels. The current prevention efforts in elementary schools are mindfulness, self awareness, identifying emotions and asking for help. The Upper Schools and High School focus on prevention, identifying emotions, asking for help and understanding grief, which is not fully implemented. We have mandated staff training on suicide prevention for all staff and administrators and universal interventions for all to provide systems that are clear and consistent. Direct instruction will build social emotional skills, increase student's sense of belonging at school and improve their relationships with peers and adults. Dr. Turk noted that staff has professional development available. Ms. Flynn reviewed second steps regarding the curriculum and gave examples of Substance Use/Abuse Prevention and next steps.

The Presentation ended and the Mayor opened the floor for questions.

Ms. Nolan is shocked by the number of females that report anxiety and depression. Ms. Flynn said we have to do a deep dive into this; this report is new and is a high level overview. We have areas that are showing in this survey that we don't have a series of responses to that. Dr. Turk added this is a pathway and the Upper Schools will see the Presentation and have access to the summary that is quite dense. After the holiday break we will be able to make recommendations. Ms. Nolan asked would we know if this was higher at a particular school to ensure the number of students that are saying they are anxious and depressed. Ms. Flynn replied yes, each Upper School received the data for their school.

Ms. Bowman asked how this affects the Social Worker connection and meeting the student's needs. Future surveys need to dig deeper if things are written down it is a problem. Dr. Turk replied all of our schools have data teams and the coaches observe, analyze and understand ELA and Math data. There are times we need to bring in different people based on what we are looking at. When we are looking at this particular data we bring in our guidance counselors and support staff that work closely with our young people and know the numbers they are seeing on the ground. Ms. Flynn added that Cambridge Public Health has epidemiologists that are available to sit with data teams, student support groups to help interpret the data and create action plans.

Ms. Bowman would like to see examples of which schools indicate that they have issues with alcohol so there is an action plan in place that a kid can quickly execute.

Mr. Fantini stated that our Policy says a teacher can't give a student their phone number, personal email, etc. Is it the coaches, VPA, Breakthrough, Enroot Program, etc. that have the best relationships with

Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room

kids? Ms. Flynn responded there is a Rindge Ave. Upper School (RAUS) teacher starting to work on that with students. What is a meaningful relationship? Give young people a place to examine what that means and determine what happens to them. Mr. Fantini stated we have improved our health courses in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and is a requirement. Why aren't more health courses required rather than an elective at the high school? Dr. Turk said a few years ago we (the School Committee and Administration) decided we wanted to maintain different flexibility for students to participate in other activities at the high school. That was the right decision at that time but it is always worth looking at that again because circumstances change. We need a review based on the current needs. Mr. Fantini voiced that we wanted to give students the availability to take advanced courses. The public library has different speakers come in and the high school should have them come in for the students. I don't know how that is done, maybe during lunch. We wait 24 months for the results of the health survey do we do any other check ins with students? Dr. Turk replied we have quite a few going on at different times academic and about the well being of students. A common thread I hear from CRLS students is see me as someone more than just a name in your grade book. Mr. Fantini commented I remember seeing you and Ms. Spooner at the SI&S with students that you were mentoring. Maybe we should start that with the students. Ms. Bowman added that she would co-sponsor that Motion. Dr. Salim stated our priorities are having positive student cultures and engagement for better understanding at our schools.

Ms. Green did not find her mentor in health curriculum in 9<sup>th</sup> grade helpful; maybe you should review the curriculum before you start a different one. I have a more meaningful relationship with my LC teacher.

Mr. Kanner stated he has a relationship with teachers and they know what I am doing outside of school. Those are easy for me to do. Guest speakers are a good idea but did not work in the past. Only 30% of students do sports rather than health. We never talked about juling and vaping while doing athletics.

**7b. CPS District Plan:** None

**7c. Consent Agenda:**

**#19-291 and #19- 292** were adopted as presented. On a roll call vote Mr. Fantini (YEA), Ms. Kelly (YEA), Mr. Kimbrough (absent), Ms. Nolan, (YEA), Mayor McGovern (YEA), Ms. Bowman (YEA), Ms. Dexter (absent).

**8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

Ms. Nolan pulled **#19-293** and Mr. Fantini pulled **#19-294**.

Discussion followed on **#19-293: Grant Award: FY20 Early Literacy Intervention (SC20632)**.

Ms. Nolan stated that unless Reading Recovery is revamped I want them to be clear and robust. Why are we continuing this program without measures of effectiveness? Superintendent Salim replied we have been working on some early literacy screenings on phonics and learning about different screeners and interventions. Ms. MacDonald responded last year was significant for not only Reading Recovery but our whole approach with working together with the Special Education team. We had a Reading Recovery subcommittee meeting on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> and on Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> to talk about our early literacy program. Each year we train Cambridge teachers and teachers in other communities and there is a site report that is issued every year and a national data base. Moving forward with the new Committee we can share the Reading Recovery Report. Cambridge students that participate in Reading Recovery discontinue in the program and are reading at the first grade level. We have worked with our team, Dr. Morgan and Special Ed parents who brought the new guidelines on dyslexia and talk about how we look at the screeners in K-8 to see where the gaps are. Dr. Madera worked with Dr. Christodoulou to look at specific risks to see how we work with students with dyslexia before we get the specific sub-tests for who will be at risk of dyslexia.

Ms. Nolan stated we never received a report on the summer program. Many experts say Reading Recovery is not the most up to date program and there are more up to date programs out there. Ms. MacDonald replied there is no one magic bullet when it comes to reading, we are working with experts. We do have a preliminary report that I will be sharing with the Superintendent. We are waiting for the



Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room

data analysis from Dr. Christodoulou. Kids were screened last year to enter the program and were brought back this fall with their parents to see the progress made and we anticipate that analysis in December. We will share the overall description review ASAP.

On a roll call vote **#19-293** was adopted as presented: Ms. Nolan (YEA), Mr. Mayor (YEA), Ms. Bowman (YEA), Ms. Dexter (absent), Mr. Fantini (YEA), Ms. Kelly (YEA), Mr. Kimbrough (absent).

**#19-294 Grant Award: Teacher Diversification Pilot Project (SC20162):** Mr. Fantini asked how the five participants will be selected? Ms. Allen replied this grant is an outgrowth of the Project Elevate Program of the Para to Teacher Pipeline that was developed by Candyce Dostert and Ramone DeJesus. We aren't at a point of determining how these individuals will be selected but the grant provides for five individuals over each of two years to take courses. The plan is to select individuals from the two cohorts. The 1<sup>st</sup> cohort had 40 applicants; ten were selected and we are in the process of adding 12 additional Paraprofessionals to the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort and one has already secured a teaching job in the district.

On a roll call vote **#19-294** was adopted as presented: Ms. Nolan (YEA), Mr. Mayor (YEA), Ms. Bowman (YEA), Ms. Dexter (absent), Mr. Fantini (YEA), Ms. Kelly (YEA), Mr. Kimbrough (absent).

#### **9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information):**

Ms. Nolan moved, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to bring the School Committee Agenda forward for discussion and adoption, on a voice vote, the School Committee Agenda was brought forward.

**#19-295** Motion by Ms. Dexter: That whereas there is community and parent concern about elementary school suspensions, particularly for students in grades preK-2, the School Committee requests that the FY21 budget include enough resources to meet the academic, socioemotional, and behavioral needs of all elementary school students in order to reduce or eliminate elementary school suspensions, particularly in grades preK2.

**#19-295** Mayor McGovern moved seconded by Mr. Fantini to refer **#19-295** to the Budget Sub-Committee. On a voice vote **#19-295** was referred to the Budget Sub-Committee.

**#19-296** Motion by Mr. Fantini: That the School Committee adopt the FY21 Budget Calendar.

On a voice vote **#19-296** was adopted as presented.

#### **10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolence):**

Motion by Ms. Nolan that the School Committee send a letter of condolence to the family of Betty Barg.

On a voice vote it was approved to send a letter of condolence to the Barg Family.

**11. Announcements:** The School Committee Members expressed appreciation to each other for work done by this Committee and their commitment to the kids of Cambridge and wished each other well going forward. Mayor McGovern thanked Terry and Dosha for keeping him on track and the guys in the booth for televising the meetings.

#### **12. Late Orders: Motion by Mayor McGovern, Mr. Fantini and Ms. Bowman:**

Whereas: The primary function of CRLS is to prepare students for post high school, and

Whereas: For many students that means going to a 2 or 4 year college, and

Whereas: Some students choose other avenues such as entering the workforce including jobs in the trades, and

Whereas: CRLS sponsors a college fair with colleges from around the country, and

Whereas: This fair doesn't include representation from the union trades despite CRLS being home to Rindge School of Technical Arts,

Therefore be it ordered that the Superintendent work with high school to change our college fair to a college and career fair and invite unions to participate.

**13. Communications from City Officers:** None

On a Motion by Mr. Fantini seconded by Ms. Bowman on a voice vote the meeting adjourned at 10:40 P.M.

**Distributed Back-up Documents** (copies on file in the School Committee office):

- Agenda
- 2018-19 Cambridge Middle Grades Health Survey Presentation

**Statements from Public Comment** (copies on file in the School Committee office)

Ryuji Morishita #19-290  
Tunzel Hayes #19-290 (and 27 others)  
Leslie Brunetta #19-282

**E-Mail communications** (copies on file in the School Committee office)

Molly O'Brien Supports #19-290  
Sonia Kowal Supports #19-290  
Inyang Isong Supports #19-290  
Leah Williams Supports #19-290  
Mary Lonshteyn Supports #19-290  
Zack Goldberg Supports #19-290  
Caroline Lowenthal Supports #19-290  
Nancy Wyse Opposes #19-290  
Joy Lucas Supports #19-290  
Mary Ellen Doran Opposes #19-290  
Kelly Sherman Supports #19-290  
Dawn Baxter Supports #19-290  
John Trevor Supports #19-290  
Tim Mazanec Opposes #19-290  
Group Email from Jamie Lichtenstein, Beatriz Meza-Valencia, Valerie & Duncan Reece, Katherine DePasquale, Mathias J. Cousin, Explore Options #19-290  
Piotr Mitros Supports #19-290  
Parents for a Global Education Association Supports #19-290 Parth Patwari, Rosie Jones, Tien-Yi Lee, David Miller, Rebecca Xiong, Michael Lam, Jeff Perkins, Diane Johnson, Pam Mindell, Lily Lee, Sen. & Erik Blankinship, Rafael & Maria Sol Patanian Carbonell, John Trevor, Helen Jenkins, Lynn Margherio, Brian Burke, Katie Giraldi, Wendy & Eric Henderson, Changgang Lou, Bertha Pantoja, Heather Hoffman, Cullen & Donielle Buie, Melody & Josh Komyerov, Min Zeng, Julian & Michael Fray, Matthew Yost, Tunzel Hayes, Sara Toomey, Nien-he Hsieh, Piotr Mitros, Norma & Patrick Barrett, Na Li & Pengcheng Luo, Ron Phelan  
Mercedes Soto Opposes #19-290

Attest:

Terry Gist  
Interim Executive Secretary  
to the School Committee