

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 a Public Hearing inviting input from the Public on the FY20 School Department Budget Priorities

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

Also Present: Superintendent Salim, Mr. Maloney, Ms. Spinner, Ms. Allen, Ms. MacDonald, Ms. Morgan, Ms. Liss, Mr. Monahan, Ms. Washington

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

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- John Paul Kambazza, Ware St. Parent of 3 kids, Thanked the Curriculum Sub-Committee for re-activating the Math Olympiad Program at the Putnam Ave. Upper School. The after school programs are working for his kids. The programs are achieving results but need financial support. I am a Cambridge Schools Volunteer and he hears where they are struggling. He has no specific ask but the programs are wonderful and need financial support.
- Carol Magill, Waterman Road, Parent of 2 kids and Jim Moore, Concord Ave. Parent of 1 kid. They read a letter on behalf of the Haggerty School signed by 83 families. They want to expand Haggerty staffing and technology but other schools could also benefit by these things. Staffing is not known until the summer which is unnecessary stress on teachers. Students need Differentiated Instruction when they are starting to master skills. Expand co-teaching at Haggerty for grades 2-5 classrooms. Expand the model that was started last year. Place a full-time Special Educator in the classroom at all times, which had a positive effect on students meaning less students were sent to the office. They are asking for a full time Paraprofessional in all grade 1 & 2 classrooms that have 22 students. A full time Social Worker, provide more assistance to struggling SEL curriculum students, and pilot a restorative justice curriculum. Also a 2nd full time Building Sub. There were 17 times they did not have a sub and had to scramble to find classroom coverage. They want someone that is familiar with the school culture. Adequate staffing for less structured time during early morning free breakfast where there are not enough seats which is intimidating to small kids., Staff is not expected to be in the building until later. Continue to have 2 part-time Interventionists to support the most vulnerable students. Fix and replace the twenty-year-old technology that is not working in the building and maintain a separate computer lab that is more appropriate for younger learners. (on file in School Committee office)
- Jen Richards, Aberdeen Ct. Parent at Haggerty, supports expanding co-teaching for grades 2-5. Last year there was academic improvement, no students were removed from classroom due to behavior. The budget did not allow continuation of co-teaching for this year. Special and General Education Teachers need to be co-teaching in classrooms. Why did the successful pilot program not continue? It is a district problem. We spend twice as much as surrounding communities. Why aren't we incorporating co-teaching when we pay outside consultants that tell us it works? We have seen success with these programs. Upper Schools and CRLS use co-teaching to close the opportunity gap. It is a great opportunity to add more teachers of color. The School Committee needs to examine how the meetings are run; there is no child care for small kids evidenced by the six children playing in the hallway. The Agenda is hard to read/understand. Three minutes to speak is intimidating and not welcoming. (on file in the School Committee Office)
- Natalia Yufa, High St, Parent & Educator in the district, The staffing levels need to be increased. Brookline has more staff in classrooms. CPS has 16 students and one teacher in a pre-calculus class at the high school. Lower level grades need increased staffing. Many years ago there was more staffing in the classrooms. We need more certified Teachers, Paraprofessional's and Math Interventionists. Our Reading and Literacy classes have many interventions which is crucial but Mathematics does not have the same level of staffing/support. She submitted a petition signed by 65 parents asking for more equitable edification of students that have advanced learning needs.

We do not have a system to identify advanced students except by parent's identification which is not equitable. She wants K-8 students tested so it is equitable. Part of the training that all CPS teachers undergo needs to be related to how diverse learners exhibit advanced learning needs, one may ask for more work and one may act out. Every school should have a part-time designated Assistant Teacher for advanced learning because currently we have 1 for 7,000 kids so Teachers have someone to help. (On file in the School Committee Office.)

The Chair declared a recess at 6:25 PM. The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

- Lauren Gibbs, Newport Road, Supports more faculty, Guidance Counselors, staff and administrators of color in the schools. Ramon DeJesus should have another person, or two working with him to recruit more diverse staff. Her daughter died in a fire and wants CPS to create a Health Curriculum for high school students to have fire safety information. Students, parents and faculty ask for smaller classes and caseloads. Add Teachers and Guidance Counselors as necessary. Respond to the Parkland Students that came to Harvard last Spring and fund the Arts. There are CPS elementary schools that have less than one Art Teacher. Music, Dance, Sculpting, and Acting are as important as core subjects. Fund the girls' sports as equally as the boys. To sum up she wants more diverse staffing, Fire Safety information in Health Education, smaller classes and caseloads and fund the Arts for all.

The Chair declared a recess at 6:45 P.M. The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting at 6:47 P.M.

- John Trevor, Richdale Street, Parent of 2 kids, Chairman of the PTA Spanish Program Committee. He wants funding for World Languages in the Upper Schools. The Task Force set up the seal of bi-literacy so current students, particularly seniors at CRLS could qualify for the seal of bi-literacy. He wants World Language pathways that have immersion programs and a modest amount of languages at the elementary schools with no clear pathway. We have Spanish 2 days a week at Fletcher Maynard Academy so when they get out of FMA they have had 8 years of Spanish but at the upper schools there is no continuous pathway. The current weakness is there is no solid foundation for a continuous pathway in the Upper Schools. It would be expensive to have every language at every Upper School. We could have certain Upper Schools focused on certain languages and he realizes the cost involved with 1 or more languages.

The Chair declared a recess 6:51 PM.

On a motion by Ms. Dexter Seconded by Ms. Nolan the meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Gist
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee

Documents on file in the School Committee office
Letter from Carol McGill and Jim Moore
Statement from Jennifer Richards
Document from Natalia Yufa