



Meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole)
Public Hearing
Tuesday, January 29, 2019

CRLS Attles Room
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Called for the purpose of a Public Hearing inviting the input of Educators and the public on the proposed FY2020 School Department Budget. It is anticipated that this meeting will end by 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ms. Dexter and Mr. Fantini, Co-Chairs; Ms. Bowman, Vice Chair Kelly, Mr. Kimbrough (ABSENT), Ms. Nolan and Mayor McGovern

Also Present: Dr. Salim, Superintendent, Dr. Adams, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Fantini in the Chair

A quorum of the Sub-Committee (Committee of the Whole) being present, Mr. Fantini called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Budget Co-Chair Fantini welcomed everyone to the Budget Sub-Committee meeting, he explained that the February 2, 2019 Budget Hearing has been postponed and information is forthcoming with the date the meeting was postponed to. Mr. Fantini also stated that there will be a Budget Workshop at 7:00 p.m. tonight. The following individuals were heard:

Public Hearing on Budget FY20 Budget:

- Lissette Casillas, Amigos School, Equity Action Network, spoke on funding to teach racial equity. Advocating for educators of color, children and families of color need to be able to rely on equity. (statement on file in the School Committee office).
- Leslie Brunetta, Roberts Road, is frustrated because of the small amount of progress made to close the Achievement Gap. School Committee and the Administration do not have high expectations for Black and African American students; the data shows they have high expectations for White students and we are a data driven district. Mr. Kimbrough informed the assembly at a prior meeting that our schools are operating as designed, which is only for White students to excel. The system operates reliably, do you plan on changing it to include all students?
- Rebecca Quinn, the process of discussing extended day is like putting the cart before the horse since we don't know what the extended day will look like. Educators don't all need extended time in the day, some feel they need additional people in the classroom. It is scary for teachers to agree and say please give us more time and then just trust the School Committee and the Administration to do what the Educators want done with the extra time. Most families do not support extra time during the day.
- Anil Mundra, Mt. Auburn St., Ola Program father, family lives in Cambridge because of the strong Portuguese presence. He appreciate having the program, the big problem is only having one combined JK/K classroom. When that class is capped, they cannot populate the first grade classes. They need another kindergarten classroom, he is sure it can be filled.
- Jill McCain, parent of two Ola kids, It is a heritage language in their home, they have exhibited more pride once they became involved in the Ola program. It is a culturally important program for the family. She is advocating for another kindergarten class. The classrooms from 1-8th grades are not filled, it is not ideal for the district's resources. Please support a second K class in Ola.
- Laura Holsen, Thorndike Street, parent of Ola program is asking for another kindergarten classroom. The parents don't speak the language but they are learning along the way.

Portuguese is the 7th most common language spoken world-wide. The current set up of 20 children are a mix of JK/K so they cannot all go into the 1st grade together. Please support a second kindergarten classroom.

- Timothy Jones, Wilson Avenue, he speaks less Portuguese than his children do, the program is fabulous, they are a close knit group and are familiar with the program mostly because they could not get into the Amigos school. He hopes for another Kindergarten classroom.
- Rachel Parish, Willow Street, has one son in the Ola Program, she is asking for another K classroom, she wants her children to be able to engage in a culturally rich environment. The program is limited and parents don't want to waste their choice on such highly limited seating.
- Dan Monahan, CEA President, They are not able to build the waitlist unless there is another classroom added. FRC is telling them not to bother trying to get in.
- Elysse Magnotto-Cleary, Gerry Street, when they got their child into Ola they hit the lottery, both figuratively and literally. She recognizes the value CPS places on diversity and bi lingual education. The school is ready for the new building and a new kindergarten classroom. She asks that the School Committee ask questions if they have any.
- Joy Harper, Washburn Ave, the King Open is their son's pride and joy. If the goal of CPS is to have access and opportunity for all children, it is not possible at King Open. We should be using all resources. She is also asking for another Kindergarten.
- Pedro Moreira, Holden Green St., his five year old son had a hard time learning to speak. Once he enrolled in the JK Ola program, he improved his speaking in both Portuguese and English.
- Penny Haney, Glenwood Ave, asking for a 2nd kindergarten classroom because there is no way to fill the first grade and up classrooms with half students
- Kaitlin Hopkins, Thorndike Street, has two kids in Ola, one twin got in at the JK level the other had to wait and go in at the K level. She is also asking for another kindergarten class in Ola.
- Andrew Myer, Broadway, he spoke to the lottery process and is very happy with their success.
- Helena Bryant, Brattle Street, she works near the Kennedy Longfellow School, stated many parents cannot come to the meetings. She works at the Pega Systems. She is here to advocate for funds for the Kennedy Longfellow School in any way that the School Committee sees fit. The family and the community cannot support the needs of the school, the appeal goes out to the district because the kids deserve it. Equality is that everybody gets a medium tee shirt, Equity is that everybody gets a tee shirt that fits.

The Chair declared a ten minute recess at 6:50 p.m. The time for recess having expired, the Chair reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- Jaime D Almieda, Hamilton St, he has been told that because the waitlist is not long enough they are not getting another kindergarten.

Ms Nolan motioned, M. Bowman seconded to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Documents/Statements referred to during public comment: (copies on file in the School Committee office)

- Lissette Castillo, in support of racial equity Network
- Leslie Brunetta, in support of another Kindergarten Ola classroom

The communications are on file in the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and can be viewed.

Attest:



Dosha E. Beard

Executive Secretary to the School Committee Office

