

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Report)

Organizational Meeting
6:00 PM

Monday, January 6, 2020

Called in accordance with Chapter 43, Section 32 of the General Laws, for the purpose of organization and held in the Cambridge Public Library, Lecture Hall, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ms. Sophia Green and Mr. Hersh Kanner, Student School Committee Representatives, welcomed the audience and special guests. They thanked the musicians (Amelia Bronfman and Emma Blanc & Itamar Baz) who performed while guests entered the Lecture Hall. The audience was invited to stand and join in saluting the flag with CRLS student Sophia Green. The audience remained standing for a rendition of the National Anthem sung by the CRLS Traveling Chorus, under the direction on Dr. Ivan Stefanov.

Ms. Green and Mr. Kanner acknowledged the newly elected Mayor, Sumbul Siddiqui; Vice Mayor, Alanna Mallon; honored City Officials; Dr. Salim, Dr. Turk and Cabinet Members.

Reverend Jaron Green of the Union Baptist Church gave the Invocation.

The CRLS Traveling Chorus performed two musical selections; My Dancing Day by Mark Burrows and A la yon bon ti peyi, a traditional Haitian arrangement by Moise Abraham.

Ms. Rachael Rollins, Suffolk County District Attorney, was introduced as the keynote speaker. Ms. Rollins stated she is a proud daughter of Cambridge who attended the King School and her parents still live in North Cambridge. She spoke about achieving goals in 2020. Her administration has pushed for change even though it made people uncomfortable. They are working to decriminalize poverty, mental illness and substance abuse. She and DA Ryan of Middlesex County stood up to sue ICE to stop entering schools, churches and court houses which need to be places where people feel safe and are comfortable coming forward to help solve a case and not have to choose being sent back to somewhere or doing the right thing, it's always the right thing to protect yourself first. We are the only state in the United States of America where ICE can no longer make civil arrests. Education is the only way to stop crimes. Young people are the next generation to make changes.

Wael Alkhairo, CEO, Islamic Society of Boston, Cambridge and Roxbury gave the Benediction.

City Clerk, Anthony Wilson, assisted by Deputy City Clerk, Paula Crane, were introduced to administer the Oath of Office to the Members-Elect.

Manikka L. Bowman
Alfred B. Fantini
Jose Luis Rojas

Rachel B. Weinstein
Ayesha M. Wilson

Mayor Siddiqui, in the Chair called the Organizational Meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

Mayor Siddiqui asked the members to identify who escorted them to the podium. The Members thanked their escorts.

Mayor Siddiqui thanked the MC's, Sophia and Hersh, acknowledged the CRLS Traveling Chorus, our exceptional District Attorney, and the City Clerks.

Mayor Siddiqui asked for a moment of silence in memory of Susan Noonan-Forster, former CPS teacher and CTA/CEA President who recently passed away and asked everyone to keep her family in their thoughts.

Mayor Siddiqui read the call of the Organizational Meeting.

The Chair asked the pleasure of the Committee and entertained nominations for Vice-Chair of the School Committee. Mr. Fantini moved seconded by Ms. Weinstein to nominate Ms. Bowman as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.

On the following roll call, it was voted to elect Ms. Bowman as the Vice-Chair of the Cambridge School Committee. Ms. Bowman (YEA), Mr. Fantini (YEA), Mr. Rojas (YEA), Ms. Weinstein (YEA), Ms. Wilson (YEA), Mayor Siddiqui (YEA).

On a Motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, on the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the 2018-2019 Rules of the School Committee as presented by the Interim Executive Secretary to the School Committee, pending revisions and subject to amendments by the School Committee from time to time. Ms. Bowman (YEA), Mr. Fantini (YEA), Mr. Rojas (YEA), Ms. Weinstein (YEA), Ms. Wilson (YEA), Mayor Siddiqui (YEA).

On a Motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Bowman, it was voted to adjourn at 7:05 PM.

The Chair invited everyone to enjoy refreshments in the main cafeteria at CRLS.

Attest:
Terry Gist
Interim Executive Secretary to the School Committee