



**C A M B R I D G E
S C H O O L C O M M I T T E E**

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

December 1, 2020

Called for 6:00 p.m. held in and broadcast from 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: Vice Chair Bowman (ABSENT), Member Fantini, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui

Also Present: Dr. Kenneth N. Salim, Superintendent of Schools, Member Nuriel Vera-Degraff, Member Anais Killian, Student School Committee Representatives

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

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

The Chair provided a statement to the public from Governor Charlie Baker regarding the threat of Covid-19 and read the call of the meeting. The first item on the Agenda was a roll call for the purpose of a sound check: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT. With the Committee of the Whole present and clearly audible, the floor was opened for Public Comment.

1. Public Comment:

The following individual were heard:

- Tawnya Lewis, Middlesex Street, CRLS Parent and Middle School Educator, opposed to the decision not to host the SAT's this year at CRLS.

Having no others signed up to speak, on a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, the Rules were suspended to vote on allowing the speaker additional time. On the following roll call, the time was extended: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to close public comment: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Member Vera-Degraff reported that the deadline to apply to the National Honor Society (NHS) was today, Dec. 1, 2020 and a number of students were not able to apply due to a lack of being notified in a timely manner and the nonsupport in the district for students that don't have printers at home, stating that it was a very inequitable process.

Member Killian reported that the Nov. 22nd Winter Food and Clothing Drive by the Junior Class was a huge success. She read a statement by CRLS Junior class president, Jennifer Lee, which was very

inspiring describing what was collected and distributed. Member Killian also reported on the success of a three-day virtual Falcon Pride week.

The floor was opened for questions.

Member Wilson asked how many students were able to fully participate in the NHS application process. She expressed a need to troubleshoot. It was answered that they will find out and respond later.

Member Rachel thanked the Student Representatives for their update and is wondering what other community services can be provided and how to improve the process for next year.

- Dr. Salim answered that he will look into how to improve the process and examine the timeline. He will be looking into pdf forms and any other paperless avenues that may be explored.

Member Killian offered emailing the forms to the school or going to CRLS and dropping them off. It was made clear the only options were going to public library, (the libraries are not open) asking family/friends for help and reaching out to their LC Specialists.

Member Weinstein is hopeful that there is a way to extend the deadline for community service and to provide access to networks to generate the requisite paper printing.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval: None

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#20-278 Motion by the Governance Sub-Committee

Whereas several of the new School Committee members expressed their interest in incorporating restorative practices into how this body handles conflicts involving its members in the future; and
Whereas the School Committee's current Code of Ethics focuses only on what is expected from committee members, but not on how the School Committee should respond when a school committee member's actions fall short of those expectations; and

Whereas Vice-Chair Manikka Bowman, suggested at a retreat in February that the School Committee via its Governance Subcommittee take a look at the code of ethics of Cape Cod Technical High School as a possible starting point of how the Code of Ethics could frame how the School Committee should respond when it receives a complaint against one of its members; and

Whereas the proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics uses language that more clearly defines expected behavior, it is important to acknowledge that the language in the rest of the document should be further reviewed at a later date to better describe the expectations of school committee members to the community, the administration and to each other; therefore

Be it resolved, the School Committee adopts these initial modifications to incorporate Restorative Justice into its Code of Ethics.

Cambridge School Committee – Code of Ethics – **PROPOSED CHANGES HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW**

Current: <https://z2policy.ctspublish.com/masc/browse/mascall/cambridge/BCA>

File: BCA - SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHICS

(Massachusetts Association of School Committees Code of Ethics)

Preamble

The acceptance of a code of ethics implies the understanding of the basic organization of School Committees under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The oath of office of a School Committee member binds the individual member to adherence to those state laws which apply to school committees, since school committees are agencies of the state.

This code of ethics delineates three areas of responsibility of School Committee members in addition to that implied above: (1) community responsibility; (2) responsibility to school administration; and (3)

relationships to fellow School Committee members. Should the actions of a school committee member come into question, as being out of alignment with the requirements and expectations of their role, a Restorative Process will be offered to support the members in defining next steps.

A School Committee member in their relations with their community should:

1. Realize that their primary responsibility is to the children
2. Recognize that their basic function is to be policy making and not administrative
3. Remember that they are one of a team and must abide by, and carry out, all School Committee decisions once they are made
4. Be well informed concerning the duties of a School Committee member on both a local and state level
5. Remember that they represent the entire community at all times
6. Accept the office as a School Committee member as means of unselfish service with no intent to "play politics," in any sense of the word, or to benefit personally from their School Committee activities
7. Recognize and respect the confidentiality of parent/guardian/caregiver, student, and personnel records.

A School Committee member in their relations with their school administration should:

1. Endeavor to establish sound, clearly-defined policies which will direct and support the administration
2. Recognize and support the administrative chain of command and refuse to act on complaints as an individual outside the administration
3. Give the chief administrator full responsibility for discharging their professional duties and hold them responsible for acceptable results
4. Refer all complaints to the administrative staff for solution and only discuss them at School Committee meetings if such solutions fail.

A School Committee member in their relations with their fellow School Committee members should:

1. Recognize that action at official meetings is binding and that they alone cannot bind the School Committee outside of such meetings
2. Realize that they should not make statements or promises of how they will vote on matters that will come before the School Committee
3. Uphold the intent of executive sessions and respect the privileged communications that exists in executive sessions.
4. Not withhold pertinent information on school matters or personnel problems, either from members of their own School Committee or from members of other School Committees who may be seeking help or information on school problems
5. Make decisions only after all facts on a question have been presented and discussed.

6. It is the responsibility for all School Committee members to both follow and enforce the letter and spirit of the Member Code of Ethics, Member Authority policies, Non Discrimination Policy and Prohibition Against Sexual Harassment, and Equal Employment Opportunity policy. In order to confirm our acceptance of this point, each member shall sign a copy of each document after its reading and acceptance at the annual organizational meeting.

7. In the event that a School Committee member observes another member or is made aware by an identified or anonymous individual of another member behaving in a way that might fall short of the expectations set by any of these documents, they will report the behavior to the Chair, the Vice-Chair or a member of the Governance Subcommittee, as appropriate.

The Chair, the Vice-Chair, member of the Governance Subcommittee or their designate will speak to the member in question to share the concern and will call for an executive session of the School Committee to discuss the report. The School Committee will then re-convene in

open session. If the majority of the School Committee then votes in favor that the report is indeed an issue, support will be provided to address the behavior:

a. Initially, the member in question will be offered the use of Restorative Justice to solve the problem.

b. If the member in question does not claim some responsibility for the complaint against them or if Restorative Justice is not implemented, the School Committee could consider the following in open session:

i. Vote for an external in-depth examination of the complaint, with the cost, selection process and scope of the examination discussed in public.

ii. Vote to censure the member in question

iii. Vote to consider other actions as appropriate

c. The School Committee shall keep a record of all Executive Sessions where reports of instances of a member falling short of expectations were discussed and how the complaints were addressed. (FF 11-17-2020)

Adopted: TBD

Discussion followed on the first reading of motion **#20-278**.

Member Rojas moved, seconded by Member Fantini, to refer motion **#20-278** back to the Governance Sub-Committee for further discussions and re submit to the Committee of the Whole. On the following roll call vote, **#20-278** was removed from the Calendar and referred to the Governance Sub-Committee: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-279 Motion by Member Fantini

That the School Committee provide relief requested by School Principals at a special meeting held on Tuesday, October 27th -called by the School Committee, relative to our system of Weekly Check-In's. Further, until such time the School Climate Subcommittee returns to the entire school committee a revised recommendation to ensure that student check-ins are providing meaningful support to our students with the appropriate systems, procedures, rationale and reporting to support said goal. All principals have critiqued the current procedures in place and have pointed out several key observations as follows:

- Not every student may need or benefit from this type of outreach, especially given current degree of student/staff engagement in every student's daily schedule.
- Family preference
- Demands on all staff members' time
- Data entry (FF 11-17-2020).

Discussion followed on **#20-279**.

Member Fantini moved, seconded by Member Wilson, to place **#20-279** on file. On the following roll call vote, **#20-279** was removed from the Calendar and placed on file: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-280 Motion by Vice Chair Bowman

Whereas the goal of having metrics for school opening/closing are to minimize the risk of a person infected by COVID-19 with an asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic case bringing it into CPSD and spreading it to others; and

Whereas these metrics should reflect the risk across the entire school population, which includes a diversity of people; and

Whereas identifying school opening/closing metrics based on race/ethnicity could create a high risk of discrimination to racial and ethnic children and families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 that are a part of the CPSD community; and

Whereas people of color have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and Black Latinx, and Indigenous (LBI) communities have been hit particularly hard as a result of being more likely to have jobs that cannot be done from home and have higher rates of underlying health conditions that increase the risk of severe illness; and

Whereas BLI communities are more likely to live in multi-generational households, and due to systemic racism, BLI communities are less likely to get state of the art care when they encounter the healthcare system; and

Whereas these are critical issues to address and are best managed by a partnership between DPH and the Mayor's office within Cambridge as well as at the state and national levels;

Therefore be it resolved that the Mayor initiates discussion through DPH with communities of color to review the City of Cambridge COVID dashboard to ensure data being reported and collected can best support communities of color with outreach, increased access to testing, and support when infected; and

Be it further resolved that DPH will continue to provide updates and guidance to CPSD on the most effective ways to support CPSD students and families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (MB 11-17-2020).

Discussion followed on **#20-280**.

After a very short discussion, it was agreed that motion **#20-280** be passed over and remain on the Calendar.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: Covid-19 Response Update.....Dr. Kenneth N. Salim,
Superintendent of Schools

Member Rojas asked about the school lunch program, it is his understanding that the program expires at the end of December. What will happen if there is no federal money?

- Mr. Maloney stated that he believes it was extended and he will provide the information in the Weekly.

Member Rojas asked that the information be made public beyond the Weekly.

Mayor Siddiqui provided a waste water update as follows: The City of Cambridge has implemented its own waste water surveillance program; the original plan was to have samples and data from three locations. It turns out they have data from only two locations; the third collection site was disallowed by the MWRA. This will be a weekly collection beginning Monday, December 7, 2020.

Presentations: CRLS Winter Sports Participation Schedule SY20/21.....Mr. Tom Arria,
Athletic Director

Dr. Salim made a short statement on the MIAA winter sports recommendation and the Dual County League proposal. Superintendent Salim explained that DESE requires that remote districts vote seasonally for sports participation. CPSD voted for the fall season and the vote was fall sports specific. Depending on the outcome of a Wednesday (tomorrow) working group meeting, the Committee of the Whole will vote specifically on winter sports at a future Regular Meeting. He turned the floor over to Mr. Tom Arria for the presentation which can be viewed online.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0ef808350d&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1684826284347114196&th=1761b4943ac042d4&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_ki50lfc60

The presentation ended and the floor was opened for questions, comments and concerns:

Member Rachel asked if there are winter sports that are reliant on using the field house during the winter season.

- Mr. Arria answered that the field house is a primary space for athletics, normally from 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. but there is a chance that it can be shared. He offered the student representatives an opportunity to speak on the fall sports experience.

Member Vera-Degraff spoke very positively about all of the sports activities held during the fall. Sports are important and there were many benefits to physical, mental and social health.

Member Killian mentioned the impact of the Covid-19 issues in sports and found the Covid-19 Task Force extremely helpful.

Member Vera-Degraff asked what the different levels are by the NEA and why track and field is moderate risk and swimming is low risk.

- Mr. Arria answered that the risk level sport is determined by the amount of contact and the amount of time for contact. Swimming is a low risk sport because of the absence of contact; everyone stays in their own lane.

Member Weinstein asked what the guidelines are for sports like fencing that are not part of the MIAA. He added that he supports anything that the Members can do to help and encouraged Mr. Arria not to hesitate to come to the Board.

- Mr. Arria answered that portions of guidelines were combined together from all different MIAA sports and rolled them into CPS fencing guidelines. The modifications are to uphold safety most.

Member Wilson asked how many students can show up for tryouts.

- Mr. Arria answered that there is guidance from the NEA and supported by the MIAA on how many people are allowed on a playing surface, which happens to be capped 25 depending on the size of the surface. Freshman basketball is capped off at 15 students per team.

Member Wilson asked about the field house issue, will basketball and indoor track still be happening? Mr. Arria answered in the affirmative.

Member Fantini wants us to have our own gymnastics arena for our students instead of always using MIT. He is not sure if a gym can be converted into a gymnastics arena however he is open to all suggestions.

Member Rojas wants to know about dance and other extra-curricular activities.

- Dr. Salim responded that this falls into the same dilemma as RSTA, chorus, and band. He turned the floor over to Principal Smith who explained that they are planning for expansion in Visual and Performing Arts (VPA).

Member Rojas stated that students could have been dancing outside just as students were having sports outside.

Member Killian asked how regulations will be taking place knowing that masks cannot be used in the water.

- Mr. Arria replied that masks should go in labeled plastic zip lock lunch bags at the beginning end of the pool area. An adult, wearing a mask and gloves, will take the masks within the labeled zip locked lunch bags to the opposite finishing end of the pool area. When not in the water, masks must be worn all around the pool deck.

Member Killian also asked about the protocol for cleaning the bars and the beams used for gymnastics.

- Mr. Arria explained that there are rules in place for that between individual usage, including disinfecting basketballs between periods.

Member Rachel asked is basketball happening upstairs in the gym?

- Mr. Arria explained that in the winter season normally there is track and field beginning at 4:00 p.m. and then basketball practice begins. There are six different basketball teams, therefore both

upstairs and downstairs are used. We also shared the building with recreation during normal times. Relative to this winter he expects the same activity.

- Mr. Maloney answered the question of six teams and playing in an upper school gym does not prohibit pursuing the motion on tonight's agenda, however, it is complicated.

Member Weinstein commented on making sure middle grade sports are part of these conversations.

- Mr. Arria stated that he is very proud of our scholar athletes and the way they carried themselves. We asked a tremendous about from them and they behaved fantastically. They were extremely responsive and respectful of all of the extra rules and guidelines.

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

The Superintendent's Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Dr. Salim removed and withdrew **#20-290**. Member Weinstein removed **#20-291**. Member Fantini removed **#20-293** and **#20-295**. On the following roll call vote, items **#20-292**, **#20-294**, **#20-296** were adopted: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-290 Approval of CRLS Winter Sports Participation Schedule Proposal SY2020-2021 that the School Committee approve CRLS students who are learning remotely to participate in a scheduled winter sports season as determined under the guidelines presented by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA). **Withdrawn.**

#20-292 Contract Award Day & Residential Program Services not available from the Cambridge School Department, that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions on the attached list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the general fund and/or grant fund budget.

	<u>#Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	4	\$192,222.90
Residential		
45 Day Program		
Total	<u>4</u>	<u>\$192,222.90</u>

#20-294 Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts

1. \$1000.00 for professional development activities for CRLS made by the Equitable Foundation as part of their Equitable Excellence Scholarship Program.
2. An in-kind donation of one trombone and three trombone cases made by an individual donor to the visual & Performing Arts Department.
3. An i-kind donation of 60 thesaurus/dictionaries mae by the Cambridge rotary club for school libraries.

#20-296 Grant Award: FY21 Circuit Breaker Allocation (SC21776) that the School committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated: October 19, 2020 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$5,136,461.00

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#20-291 that the School Committee Retain Law Firm of Morgan Brown & Joy for Labor & Employment Matters That the School Committee retain the law firm of Morgan, Brown & Joy, LLP to provide in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §837E & 37F, legal services for labor and employment matters

in a contract amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 (forty thousand dollars); and further, that the Superintendent of Schools to be authorized to take the necessary steps to effectuate the retention of these services.

Discussion followed on **#20-291**.

Member Weinstein recused himself. On the following roll call vote: **#20-291** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein ABSENT; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-293 Contract Award: Lesley University: Professional Development that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with: Contractor, Lesley University, 29 Everett Street, for the following years:
September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$85,328.00.
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$97,920.00.
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$565,586.00.
Total contract amount \$249,834.00

Discussion followed on **#20-293**.

Member Fantini thanked Ms. Barbara Allen and Mr. Ramon De Jesus for all of their hard work on making this come about.

Member Rojas asked how this ties in for approving funding for the budget on an annual basis

- Ms. Spinner spoke on the multi-year effort, explaining that this contract will be structured as a one-year contract with two options to renew and be rolled out over a multi-year process. This contract will put it in the base budget for the upcoming year.

Member Rachel thanked Member Fantini and Dr. Salim for championing this from the beginning along with Ms. Allen and Mr. De Jesus.

On the following roll call vote, **#20-293** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-295 Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Popplestone Foundation, for the period September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021, in the amount of \$284,907.00. Project/Grant SC21695

DESCRIPTION: This foundation grant will continue to support the salary and benefits of 2.0 FTE music teachers at the Peabody School and the Fletcher-Maynard Academy, as well as contribute funding for 0.4 of a 1.0 teacher FTE at the Tobin School. \$250/school for music instructional supplies is also provided.

Member Fantini stated that the Kodaly is a great program and there are only two schools that do not have this program. It was also noted that they gave \$100,000.00 to the Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund.

Member Rojas asked why all schools do not have this.

Member Fantini answered that those schools that do not have the Kodaly program chose to prioritize other subjects.

- Dr. Salim added that some schools have a six-hour day so there is a trade-off. Some schools have instructional time needs that cannot accommodate the amount of time needed to support Kodaly.
- Ms. Spinner stated that seven schools have Kodaly and five do not.

On the following roll call vote **#20-295** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

Moved by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, the School Committee Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Member Fantini removed items **#20-299**, **#20-302** and **#20-303**. Mayor Siddiqui removed **#20-301**.

#20-298 Joint Motion by Member Rachel, Member Wilson and Mayor Siddiqui

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools strive to engage families, students, educators, staff, and the community in decision-making, and;

Whereas CPS policy (section KDD) states, "Every effort will be made to assist the press and other communications media to obtain complete and adequate coverage of the programs, problems, planning, and activities of the school district," and;

Whereas the number of people participating in School Committee meetings has grown significantly since the Committee expanded access through online and television outlets, now therefore be it;

Resolved that the School Committee will amend the rules to televise all future Roundtable discussions (second reading).

#20- 299 Motion by Member Fantini, that the School Committee request that CRLS take all necessary steps to host the SAT exam for our students.

Discussion followed on **#20-299**.

Member Fantini read a statement supporting CRLS having the SAT exams. He is eager to push as much as possible for this, he feels very strongly about it.

- Dr. Salim responded there are two different ways to administer the test. The college board test administrator designates the site; CPS does not supervise or proctor the test. It is open to all students that register for it and it is usually on a Saturday. The other way is to do it during the school day in the spring. CPS would have control over where it is done at that time. The district will pay for it and control it.
- Dr. Gittens stated that it is her understanding that the Guidance Counselors are working with the students and colleges to make sure the schools they have selected are not required to have taken the SAT. The juniors seem to be all set because the district is in control for the PSAT and hopefully the district will be able to administer the SAT in the spring. The decision to cancel the SAT's at the high school is not a district based decision, it is a call made by the college board. The college board chose not to use CRLS as a site.

Member Fantini asked how that communication was passed to the district? Email, phone call, letter, he would like to see the communication and would like to know why we did not challenge it.

- Dr. Gittens is not sure how it was communicated. She was able to explain that the College Board staff has a process and they also have their staff to facilitate the follow through.

Member Killian shared a communication, clarified by **Member Wilson**, from the Guidance Coordinator, a few days prior to the testing day that the test would no longer be administered at CRLS; some students had already signed up for the test.

Member Wilson commented that the district should look into providing transportation to students to get to where ever the test will be administered.

On the following roll call vote, **#20-299** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-300 Joint Motion by Member Rachel, Mayor Siddiqui and Member Wilson

Whereas the majority of Cambridge Public School students have been learning remotely since March 16,

2020; and

Whereas students, families, educators and administrators have noted a surge in mental health challenges amongst our young people; and

Whereas expansion of in-person learning is not feasible prior to second semester; and

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools recognize that social opportunities with peers are critical to children's well-being; and

Whereas the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School's Field House will soon complete its service as a shelter for people experiencing homelessness; now therefore be it

Resolved that the school department will work with other City departments to determine how soon the Field House can be made available for school use; and be it further

Resolved that the school department will work with scientific advisors, community partners and volunteers to explore the provision of wellbeing and social opportunities for students at the Field House during the remainder of the global pandemic. On the following roll call vote, **#20-300** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-301 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Weinstein and Vice Chair Bowman

Whereas the City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools aim to ensure that schools are effectively surveilled for COVID-19 in order to mitigate the spread of the virus; and

Whereas the City of Cambridge is densely populated, with more than 7,000 students enrolled in the Cambridge Public School system; and

Whereas regular and repeated testing of entire school populations has been proven to substantially mitigate spread; and

Whereas Governor Baker's administration urges districts to continue and expand in-person learning options and CPSD is committed to ensuring that in-person learning in Cambridge is as safe as possible; and

Whereas CPSD provides in-building testing twice a week to all educators and staff, and seeks to maximize participation in testing; and

Whereas CPSD currently offers onsite testing only to symptomatic students who are learning in-person; and

Whereas the nearby municipalities of Somerville and Medford have partnered with Tufts University, which will cover half the costs and provide support, to pool samples together that are screened by the Broad Institute to monitor everyone within a school—all teachers twice a week and all students once a week—at about a third of the cost of the standard individual tests, with individual follow-up testing in the event of a positive result; and

Whereas a pool testing program may allow the Cambridge Public Schools to regularly and cost-effectively screen asymptomatic students, and increase the participation of educators and staff while reducing cost, with only a fraction of the analysis required of standard individual tests; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Superintendent work with the Safety, Health, and Facilities Working Group and Cambridge Public Health Department to explore the possibility of implementing a pool testing strategy and whether it can be effective and applicable to the Cambridge Public School community.

Mayor Siddiqui stated that testing has come up frequently and this method has been used across the state including childcare facilities and universities and in the surrounding districts of Somerville, Medford and Wellesley. It will continue to be used and should be scaled up across the Commonwealth. This could be a significant way to test the school community.

Member Weinstein agreed that this is a promising way to improve safety and offer more options for staff in a way that non pool testing does not provide.

Member Rojas stated that when individual testing is not available, pool testing is. After pool testing, individual testing is required. He wonders why we are looking to do this since the end result will always require individual testing.

Member Rojas also wanted to know why the Committee does not ask the scientists instead of making a motion?

Mayor Siddiqui answered it is to make the avenue available for exploring all testing possibilities.

Member Weinstein added that it does not necessarily mean that we would not keep doing individual tests.

Member Wilson moved, seconded by Member Weinstein, an amendment to add a date. Motion **#20-301** was amended to add Dec. 31, 2020. On the Amendment: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA. On motion **#20-301** as amended: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-301 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Weinstein and Vice Chair Bowman as amended

Whereas the City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools aim to ensure that schools are effectively surveilled for COVID-19 in order to mitigate the spread of the virus; and

Whereas the City of Cambridge is densely populated, with more than 7,000 students enrolled in the Cambridge Public School system; and

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Whereas a pool testing program may allow the Cambridge Public Schools to regularly and cost-effectively screen asymptomatic students, and increase the participation of educators and staff while reducing cost, with only a fraction of the analysis required of standard individual tests; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Superintendent work with the Safety, Health, and Facilities Working Group and Cambridge Public Health Department to explore the possibility of implementing a pool testing strategy and whether it can be effective and applicable to the Cambridge Public School community by **December 31, 2020**.

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

#20-302 Motion by Member Fantini

Whereas Peter F. Colleary, 86, of Medford, MA, passed away Saturday, November 14, 2020; and

Whereas he was born and educated in Cambridge and was the beloved husband of 46 years to the late Beatrice M. (Moynihan). Devoted and Loving father of Maura C. Colleary of Medford. Dear brother of the late James and Thomas Colleary; and

Whereas he attended, Matignon High School and was in the first graduating class of the School of Education for Boston College, Class of 56; and

Whereas Peter Colleary was an Army veteran who served our country during the Korean War Conflict; and

Whereas, he was a beloved teacher and administrator who was a friend to countless students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the local Cambridge Community.

Whereas while at the Peabody School, Mr. Colleary's number one focus was always the students. He took an interest in their academic success as well as their personal success. Maintaining relationships long after graduation; and

Whereas Peter Colleary was one of the founding members of the Cambridge Teachers Association, where he was instrumental in demanding and implementing fair wages and safe working conditions for his peers; and

Whereas Peter Colleary was not only a dedicated father to his daughter, Maura he was an equally proud Uncle Peter to his many nieces and nephews of the Karle, Buckley, and Colleary Families, regaling on their journeys and accomplishments; and

Whereas Peter Colleary loved travelling to Ireland and relished his times on Cape Cod, he always knew his roots were in Cambridge; and therefore be it

Resolved that the Cambridge School Committee go on record recognizing the accomplishments; academically, personally and professionally, of Peter Colleary and his impact on the Cambridge School District; and be it further

Resolved that a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and forwarded to his daughter.

#20-303 Motion by Member Fantini

Whereas Thomas R. Scalese, Jr. of Belmont, MA, passed away Monday, November 16, 2020; and

Whereas Thomas R. Scalese Jr. was born in Cambridge and was the beloved husband of the late Jeanne M. (Brooks) Scalese. Father of Richard Peloquin and his wife Rosie, Nancy E. Mullen and her husband Dana, Suzanne Peloquin and Dayna Junkins and her husband Paul; and

Whereas Thomas R. Scalese, Jr. was a veteran who served our country as a Marine; and

Whereas Thomas R. Scalese, Jr. was a dedicated educator and spent the majority of his career at the M.E. Fitzgerald School, where the Fitzgerald School community, faculty, staff, students, and families all admired him; and

Whereas Thomas R. Scalese, Jr. was not only a dedicated father to his children, he was an equally proud grandfather of Rachel Peloquin, Brian Gonzales, Jacqueline Nadeau, Michael Nadeau, Christina Cafiso, Maximilian Eisenberg and Brett Junkins, cherished great-grandfather of Peyton Nadeau, Bodhi Eisenberg and Gavin Eisenberg; and

Whereas Thomas R. Scalese, Jr. relished his times in Florida during the Winter as well as enjoying his meals at the Mount Auburn Grill; therefore be it

Resolved that the Cambridge School Committee go on record acknowledging the tremendous contribution to the Cambridge Public Schools as a teacher and mentor; and be it further

Resolved that a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and forwarded to his family.

Discussion followed on both Resolutions **#20-302** and **#20-303**.

Member Fantini remarked that Mr. Thomas Scalese Jr. and Mr. Peter Colleary were both longtime teachers and also both veterans in the armed forces. Peter was a founding member of the CEA. They both loved what they did and had great families. They were old school, tough and created close relationships which kids and as a result were endearing to young kids and shaping their lives in positive ways. He regrets having to bring this forward, he knew them both very well and it is a big loss. On the following roll call, **#20-302** and **#20-303** were adopted: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

11. Announcements:

Member Rachel announced the following: There will be a School Climate Sub-Committee Meeting on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. to revise the elementary policy on check ins.

Member Rojas announce that he wants the community to know Friday at 4:00 there will be a Bldgs. & Grounds Sub-Committee meeting on metrics and expanded in person learning.

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications from City Officers: None

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, it was voted by a roll call vote to adjourn the open session at 8:10 p.m.: Vice Chair Bowman ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

- Agenda
- CRLS Winter Sports Participation Schedule SY20/21

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

- None

E-Mail communications: None

Attest:

Dosha E. Beard

Dosha Beard
Executive Secretary to the School Committee