



**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)

Special Meeting

March 24, 2022

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 on the FY 2023 Superintendent's Proposed Budget.

Members Present: Vice-Chair Rachel, Member Bhambi, Member Fantini, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent of Schools; Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer

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 read the call of the meeting and explained that this meeting is being televised, and votes will not be taken.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with the following roll call of members present: Member Wilson, PRESENT; Member Bhambi ~~ABSENT~~; Member Fantini PRESENT; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT. Member Bhambi joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Siddiqui turned the floor over to the Superintendent and Ms. Claire Spinner who presented a brief overview of the FY23 Proposed Budget and ESSER III Plan. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

After the presentation, Mayor Siddiqui turned the floor to the community to begin public comment.

The following individuals were heard:

- Gwynneth Caitlyn O'Donnell, Gold Star Rd, spoke virtually from the parent perspective of children who were born between April and September and were not eligible for Junior Kindergarten until the following year. She discussed the district's reduction of JK classrooms (due to lack of enrollment) and urged the district to consider expanding the JK program for children born between April and September until the city implements universal Pre-K.
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, spoke in person about substitute teachers, educator collaboratives, new positions, the Cambridge Coalition of Educators of Color, OSS Advisory, the reorganization of the leadership team, and ESSER funds in the Proposed Budget.
- Christine Burke, Allston St, spoke virtually regarding the classroom, enrollment, and staff reductions at the Kennedy Longfellow school in the proposed budget.
- Emie Michaud Weinstock, CHR, spoke virtually in support of the district's efforts in becoming an anti-racist district and the work that is being done to support racial equity in the budget. She also

spoke in support of the Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (OEIB) and the efforts the office has done to support racial equity in the district.

- Hermela Shimelis and Jennat Jounaidi, CRLS students, spoke virtually on the student perspective of the proposed budget which included support for the early college program and calculus project. They also urged the district to expand these initiatives beyond high school.
- Jodi Ekelchik, Walden St, spoke virtually about budget adjustments in the proposed budget that included curriculum, instruction and leadership department increases, upper school plans, and teacher/family liaison support.
- Maya Gonzalez, Seventh St, spoke virtually in support of after-school programming for special education students, as well as more initiatives and opportunities for K-8 special education students in the FY23 budget.
- Jenny Andre-Jean, Concord Ave, spoke virtually to advocate funding for the Fletcher-Maynard Academy to extend foreign language programs and library materials.
- Karen Dobak, Allston St, spoke virtually in support of the personalized instruction portal of i-Ready and the reorganization of the district leadership team.

During the Public Hearing, Member Fantini motioned to abort the timing for all speakers during public comment. Seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, public comment proceed untimed for the remaining speakers.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, it was voted via voice vote, to close public comment.

Mayor Siddiqui provided an overview of the Public Hearings and reiterated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear public testimony on the proposed FY23 budget and there will be no discussions or deliberations by the Committee.

Email communications:

- ✓ **Dan Monahan**
- ✓ **Nancy Campbell (on behalf of the Elementary School Principals)**
- ✓ **Jamie Litchenstein**

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned (6:45 p.m.).

Attest:



Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee