



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting

June 28, 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 discussing and voting on Superintendent Recommendations, unfinished business, and presenting the appointments of the Chief of Academics & Schools and the Chief Talent Officer.

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

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent;

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

The Chair provided a statement to the public regarding Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order on guidelines for remote participation and then read the call of the meeting.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call vote for the purpose of a soundcheck: Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Bhambi PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

1. Public Comment:

No one spoke during Public Comment.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice-Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to close public comment.

2. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#22-129 Approval of the hiring of Assistant Superintendent of Student Services be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the hiring of Dr. Barbara Mullen as the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A discussion followed on **#22-129**.

Dr. Greer presented her recommendation for the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services – Dr. Barbara Mullen. Dr. Mullen served as the Interim Assistant of Student Services for the 2021-2022 school year.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice-Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, **#22-129** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-130 Approval of Revisions to Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan as detailed in the [attached document](#).

A discussion followed on **#22-130**.

Dr. Greer provided context on the recommendation. The district is under a tight timeline with DESE to implement a revised Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

Member Bhambi asked for the specific reasoning for implementing the changes to the plan at this moment. Dr. Mullen responded that most of the specific changes to the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan are to reflect the district's current organization infrastructure. The district's SEL team reviewed the policy and made updates based on organizational changes in the district. Dr. Greer mentioned that modifications that were made were the only changes needed to respond to DESE.

Member Weinstein inquired about the next priorities policies in need of review. Dr. Greer recommends that the administration and school committee prioritize policy reviews at the next retreat. **Member Bhambi** and **Member Fantini** discussed best practices for policy reviews.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice-Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, **#22-130** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

3. Superintendent's Agenda

7a. Presentations:

Mayor Siddiqui passed the floor to the Superintendent who presented the appointments of the Chief Talent Officer (Mr. Corey Dotson) and the Chief of Academics of Schools (Dr. Lendozia Edwards.)

Mr. Dotson was introduced first to the Committee. Currently, Mr. Dotson serves as the Chief Talent Officer for the Arlington Public School district in Arlington, Virginia. After his introduction, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor up to the Committee for questions.

Vice-Chair Rachel:

If I'm reading your resume correctly, it looks like you're coming up on a decade of human resources work in Arlington, Virginia, where you recently became leader of the department. Why leave for Cambridge at this juncture?

Member Fantini:

What is the most important personal attribute you bring to Cambridge?

Member Weinstein:

How will you measure/judge success in this role?

Member Wilson:

How will new hires be acclimated and supported as they develop their roles in CPS?

With no further questions or comments from the Committee, Mr. Dotson left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting proceeded with the introduction of Dr. Lendozia Edwards as the Chief of Academics and Schools. Currently, Dr. Edwards serves as the Executive Director of School Support and Improvement for the Metropolitan Nashville Public School district in Nashville, Tennessee.

After her introduction, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor up to the Committee for questions.

Mayor Siddiqui:

How have you implemented an initiative or program that improved student success outcomes and how was that initiative monitored?

Member Fantini:

What is the most important personal attribute you bring to Cambridge?

Member Weinstein:

How will new hires be acclimated and supported as they develop their roles in CPS?

Member Wilson:

Cambridge and CPS are unique environments. We operate differently than most districts. How will new hires be acclimated and supported as they develop their roles in CPS?

With no further questions and comments from the Committee, Dr. Edwards left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Mayor Siddiqui passed the floor to the administration for the second presentation of the evening that focused on the District Plan. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

At the end of the presentation, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor to the Committee members for a robust discussion regarding the presentation and a vote on the outcomes portion of the district plan.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Fantini on the following roll call vote, the Committee agreed to move forward with the District Plan and adopted the Student Outcomes and Indicators portion of the district plan: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

7c. Consent Agenda:

##22-164 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Center for Neuropsychology & Learning: Special Education Services

#22-165 Recommendation: Contract Award: Agassiz Baldwin Community: Student Tuition

On the following roll call vote, items **#22-164**, and **#22-165** were adopted; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

On a motion by Member Fantini seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, it was voted, to adjourn the meeting: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA. (7:54 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

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Executive Secretary to the School Committee