



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

December 6, 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 any and all business that may properly come before the Committee.

Members Present: Vice-Chair Rachel, Member Fantini, Member Hunter, Member Rojas, 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 6:00 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.

Before the roll call vote, newly-elected School Committee Member Hunter provided a statement as a new member of the School Committee.

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

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard during public comment:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, spoke in regards to #22-283 and #22-285.
- Emmanuel Oppon Yeboah, CRLS Educators, spoke in regards to #22-285
- Duncan MacLauy, Dover Street, spoke regarding #22-285
- Tara Edelschick, Valentine Street, spoke in the disposition of #22-282
- Tina Lieu, Huron Ave, spoke in the disposition of #22-285
- Karen Dobak, Allston Street, spoke in the disposition of #22-285
- Mercedes Soto, Harvard Street, spoke in the disposition of #22-285

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson on a voice vote, public comment was closed.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Clemente and Student Member Escamilla-Salomon provided updates on the recent happenings and updates which included Falcon Pride Day (November 23rd), TIAA advocacy work, HBCU expo, Caregiver and Equity Summit, and ongoing student advisory and advocacy work.

Member Weinstein shared his enthusiasm for the ongoing TIAA student advocacy work. He also inquired about the student perspectives regarding Falcon Block. **Student Member Clemente** discussed her experience with Falcon Block and mentioned that Falcon Block was beneficial in the college application process. She mentioned that the planning of Falcon Block could use some improvement due to some disconnections between the objective of Falcon Block and what students are receiving. Student Member

Escamilla-Salomon also agrees that it is great for student connections and a break but believes the effectiveness of Falcon Block can be improved.

Dr. Greer provided more clarification on the Falcon Block. This is the first year of Falcon Block implementation. Harvard Research Lab will also assist the district in evolving and improving the Falcon Block experience for students.

Member Wilson motioned to suspend the rules to bring forward recommendation **#22-282** from the Superintendent's Consent Agenda, seconded by Member Fantini, on a voice vote the rules were suspended

#22-282 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY23 Reading Recovery (SC23632)

A discussion followed on **#22-282**.

Member Rojas inquired about the potential impacts for the two employees who would be a part of this grant. Dr. Greer responded that it does not have any implications for the two employees and that the administration will expedite the request from the School Committee. The administration will take a deeper dive into what the grant entails and if there will be any action plan forward.

Member Hunter inquired about the number of children in Reading Recovery. Dr. Greer will provide that information to Member Hunter and the School Committee tomorrow.

Member Weinstein shared that the recommendation can be a bit misleading since the district has moved forward in implementing the Science of Reading and other evidence-based approach methods.

Member Fantini expressed his gratitude to those who spoke during Public Comment and their passion for the subject matter The Goal is for every student to be on grade level for reading by the time they graduate.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Fantini, on a voice vote, **#22-282** was referred back to the Superintendent.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

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On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas on the following voice vote, the records were approved as written.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#22-272 Grant Award: FY2023 Occupational Education Vocational Skills (SC23606) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY23 Occupational Education Vocational Skills (SC23606) in the amount of \$101,784.00 for the period of September 26, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

Description: The FY2023 Perkins grant will fund the purchase of advanced electronic equipment for the Automotive Program and a convection oven for the Culinary Arts Program. It will also support the services of the veterinary and animal research consultants to assist with the design of a new course and laboratory space for an animal research component in the Biotech program. Funds will also support the creation of public information materials for all RSTA programs, and the cost of attendance for the Director and 3 RSTA staff members at the national conference of the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE), an event that provides valuable professional development opportunities in current ACTE practices.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-272**.

Member Fantini exercised his charter right at the previous meeting to table the recommendation. **Mayor Siddiqui** shared additional information on the grant award and what it entailed.

On a motion Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote **#22-272** was adopted.

6. **Awaiting Reports:** None

7. **Superintendent's Agenda:**

7a. Superintendent's Update:

- **Revised Superintendent Draft Goals & Focus Indicators**

Dr. Greer presented an update on her proposed draft goals and focus indicators for End-Of-Cycle Formative and Summative Superintendent evaluation. The updated draft goals and indicators are based on Committee feedback from her presentation on the topic at the November 15th meeting. She modified her district improvement goal and removed it for a college and career readiness goal. The Superintendent's revised goals were well-received by the committee.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson the Superintendent Drafts Goals and Focus Indicators for the 2022-2023 school year was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

7b. Presentations: None

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Member Weinstein pulled #22-277. Member Rojas pulled #22-279 and #22-280. Member Fantini pulled #22-285 and #22-283. Member Wilson pulled #22-278.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, item #22-281 was adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-281 Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

1. An in-kind donation of a camera, three lenses, and a camera bag, made by an individual donor to the Visual & Performing Arts Department

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#22-277 Contract Award: Sunbelt Rentals: Equipment Rentals be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to 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:

Sunbelt Rentals, 2431 Deerfield Drive, Fort Mill, SC, for the period of March 15, 2023, to June 15, 2023, in the amount of \$223,641.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-277**

Member Weinstein inquired about the tents and the reasoning why the tents are not used all year round. Dr. Turk mentioned that during the winter when inclement weather occurs regularly, snow and ice can cause damage to the canvas of the tents and be a safety hazard.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by, on the following roll call vote. **#22-277** was adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA..

#22-278 Contract Award: Systemic Special Education: Consulting Services be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to 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:

Systematic Special Education Support LLC, 1701 Colquitt Street, Houston, TX for the period of December 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$35,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-278**.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#22-278** was adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-279 Contract Award: New Solutions K12: Consulting Services be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to 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:

New Solutions K12, 29 Winthrop Road, Brookline, MA 02445 for the period of December 9, 2022, to July 31, 2023, in the amount of \$126,000.00.

Description: This contract is for strategic scheduling support for CPS's 12 elementary schools. This work will aim to optimize each school's ability to deploy staff and organize time strategically to deliver effective instruction and services to students.

#22-280 Contract Award: New Solutions K12: Consulting Services be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to 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:

New Solutions K12, 29 Winthrop Road, Brookline, MA 02445 for the period of December 9, 2022, to July 31, 2023, in the amount of \$140,000.00.

Description: This contract is for strategic scheduling support for CPS's four upper schools. This work will aim to optimize each school's ability to deploy staff and organize time strategically to deliver effective instruction and services to students.

A discussion followed on **#22-279** and **#22-280**.

Member Hunter inquired about the reporting timeline and asked if the vendor has ever had experience working with a district like ours. Dr. Greer confirmed that the vendor does have experience with a district the size of Cambridge.

Member Weinstein inquired if students will be consulted as well. Dr. Greer mentioned that part of the audit is to shadow the student experience. He also asked if recommendations will be made based on how time is structured and used. The auditors will assist with uniform scheduling for the schools in the district. It will help assist with the schedules for the 2023-2024 school year.

Member Fantini asked if the contract award was a "sole-source bidder" and could a formal report be made and shared with the School Committee. Dr. Greer mentioned that information will be shared and Claire Spinner clarified that the contract award went through the standard bidding process.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#22-279** and **#22-280** was adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-283 Approval of Revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Acceptable Use Policy that are detailed in the attached redlined document. These revisions seek to provide clarity with respect to the application of the policy and to update the titles of other policies that are references to their current ones.

A brief discussion followed **#22-283**.

Member Rojas inquired about the reasoning for updating the policy and asked for the opinion of the district's legal counsel on the proposed revisions. Dr. Greer mentioned that the update was necessary to adapt to the recent alignment with ongoing Title IX work. Ms. MacFarlane also recommended the modifications as the revisions to the policy clarify updates to the discriminating and Title IX policies. On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#22-283** was adopted for a second reading: Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-285 Approval of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Regarding Falcon Block adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association with respect to the implementation of the Falcon Block at the high school, which provides Cambridge Rindge and Latin School ("CRLS") students with two (2) thirty-five (35-minute blocks per week) to receive instruction that helps students to develop their skills and plan for life after high school, and provides time and resources for CRLS students to receive specific and targeted interventions.

Description: This agreement will provide all CRLS students with the opportunity to receive targeted instruction that will help them develop skills and plan for life after high school and also provides time and resources for CRLS students to receive specific and targeted interventions twice a week.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-285**.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote, **#22-285** was adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information): None

10. Resolutions:

#22-284 Motion by Mayor Siddiqui

WHEREAS: The CRLS Girls Cross Country Team placed 3rd in the MIAA Cross Country State Championship on Saturday, November 19th, 2022; and

WHEREAS: The varsity team of Eleanor Allan, Eliza Dickie, Audrey Jordano, Sophia Juanes Seto, Theia Lund, Hazel McDiarmid, Aoife Shovlin is the first CRLS Girls Cross Country team to place in the top 3 at the State Championship; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Rindge and Latin sophomore Aoife Shovin came in first place with the best time of the day across every division; and

WHEREAS: The coaches Scott Cody, Jamahl Prince, and Ian Woodhouse helped lead the team to this historic feat with grace and humility; and

WHEREAS: This is the best state finish in the history of Girls Cross Country for Cambridge; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee extends a huge congratulations to the Girls Cross Country team; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Girls Cross Country team on behalf of the entire School Committee.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-284**.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein **#22-284** was adopted via voice vote.

11. Announcements:

Mayor Siddiqui announced that some of the School Committee members are traveling to Miami for the NSBA CUBE conference this week and will be presenting Early College at the conference. She also announced that the CRLS play 9-5 is still showing for those interested.

Member Fantini and Member Rojas announced that Mayor Siddiqui received an award from the Massachusetts Association of School Committee (MASC).

Member Rojas announced that the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee took place on November 30th.

Member Weinstein announced that the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee will meet on 12/15 with a discussion on school alerts (Parent Square) and the school council.

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications from City Officers:

- Vice Chair Rachel & Member Rojas: FY2024 Draft Budget Calendar

Vice Chair Rachel and Member Rojas shared the proposed draft calendar for the FY2024 budget.

Claire Spinner announced that January 26th is the identified for the TBD Community Meetings. Dr. Greer and CFO Spinner will be meeting with Student Members Clemente and Escamilla-Salomon on December 7 to discuss student engagement within the FY2024 budget.

Member Wilson inquired if the Community Meetings will be hybrid. CFO Spinner implied that currently, the plan is to have these Community Meetings in-person. Member Hunter also insisted on looking into remote/ hybrid options.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas, on a voice vote, the communication was placed on file.

Email communications:

- ✓ Juliet Simpson
- ✓ Anna Silbey
- ✓ Maggie Schultz
- ✓ Tina Lieu
- ✓ Eugenia Schraa
- ✓ Briana Pearson
- ✓ Amanda Beatty
- ✓ Lisa Downing
- ✓ Lucy Budman
- ✓ Lauren Gibbs
- ✓ Joanne Dermody Mullan

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Hunter, on a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned. (7:50 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kermekneu

Cambridge School Committee
Regular Meeting

December 6, 2022

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee