



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

December 20, 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. Brown, Chief Strategy Officer
Dr. Edwards, Chief of Academics and Schools
Mr. Fernandez, Chief Equity Officer
Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools;
Ms. MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
Ms. Madera, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary and Early Education
Dr. Mullen, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Ms. Spinner, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Wycoff, Director of Communications

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.

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

1. Public Comment:

No one spoke in public comment.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein on the following 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 the TIAA workshop, the conclusion of fall classes at Lesley University, the Design workshop (a two-day workshop), a Community Engagement Response Survey, and an upcoming meeting with the CRLS student and CPSD administration budgeting team to talk about the

FY2024 budget. The Student Budget workshop will be on January 18, 2023. On January 12th during Falcon Block, students will be able to fill out a form about their interests and concerns, and what they would like to see in FY2024. The goal is to increase student engagement in the budgeting process.

Member Wilson inquired about student outreach for the January student meeting about the FY2024 budget and asked how she can support the student outreach process. Student Member Clemente responded that a flyer is currently in the works along with food incentives (free lunch) and a student interest form via a Google doc.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- December 6, 2022, Regular Meeting

Member Wilson requested a small amendment to the meeting minutes - to correct the recommendation numbers for those who spoke in public comment.

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

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports:

C22-311 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein and Mayor Siddiqui

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) is reviewing and revising bus service schedules; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) students and their families rely on public bus service to attend school and to participate in out-of-school time opportunities including extracurricular activities, sports, jobs, and internships; and

WHEREAS: CPSD does not provide school bus transportation to students in grades 9 to 12; and

WHEREAS: Proposed changes to MBTA bus routes serving the City of Cambridge include reductions and changes in routes and/or schedules that would greatly impact the ability of CPSD students to access school and other activities; and

WHEREAS: Many issues with the proposed route modifications and recommendations have been brought forward by the community, including:

- **Route 68** Harvard - Kendall / MIT (travels down Broadway between Kendall Sq. and Harvard Sq.). MBTA proposes reducing service to weekdays only 6:00 am- 9:00 am and 4:00 pm-7:00 pm every 30 minutes. Afterschool activities and sports need evening rush hour frequency service extended to 3:00 pm-8:00 pm;
- **Route 69** Harvard - Lechmere (travels down Cambridge St. between Lechmere and Harvard). MBTA proposes a reduction from every 15 mins to every 30 mins;
- **Route 83** (Rindge Ave to Central Sq. via Porter Sq.). MBTA proposes a reduction to every 30 minutes from the current 20 minutes. Current frequency should be maintained, or increased to every 15 minutes to make the bus usable between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm;

- **Routes 69 and Route 83** are being cut drastically; the frequencies of both routes should be increased to account for the needs of students;
- **Route 78** (78 Arlmont Village - Harvard via Garden St., Concord Ave to Cambridge Highlands). MBTA proposes a reduction from every 25 minutes to every 60-90 minutes (6:00 am-1:00 am). Students on this line need more frequent service to access school and afterschool activities and sports need evening rush hour frequency service extended to 3:00 pm-8:00 pm. Cuts to Route 78 also reduce access to Neighborhood Nine, Cambridge Highlands, Concord Ave between Huron and Blanchard Rd, including assisted care and medical facilities; it is also the only connector between West Cambridge and Arlington;
- **Route 75** (The dedicated CRLS route on school mornings) provides essential transportation services for high school students to get to school on time and should be reinstated and additional dedicated CRLS routes considered for other areas of the City;
- **Routes throughout the City** need to be assessed in light of new and planned housing units including affordable housing and the potential future needs of students living in that housing; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent and Mayor Siddiqui send a letter and forward this policy order along with emails from the community to representatives at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Cambridge state delegation on behalf of the entire School Committee, and be it further

RESOLVED: That this letter will detail the MBTA bus routes and schedules that are critical for the needs of CPSD students, with particular attention to those students and families who rely the most on MBTA busses; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CPSD will review student needs and the most recent MBTA proposals before submitting the letter and will add to or modify the list noted above if needed, and be it further

RESOLVED: The Cambridge School Committee goes on record in support of changes that improve access and in support of further changes to address the concerns of residents as summarized above, and be it further

RESOLVED: That this letter will be delivered to the MBTA, the state delegation, and the Governor-Elect Maura Healy as soon as possible with a request for a response.

This motion remains an awaiting report to allow the public to have additional time to access and read the letter that was sent to the MBTA before it is placed on file.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Superintendent's Update: None

7b. Presentations:

Mayor Siddiqui passed the floor to the administration for a presentation on an update to the proposed district plan. The presentation focused on the proposed set targets within the plan. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

After the presentation, **Mayor Siddiqui** opened up the floor for discussion.

Vice Chair Rachel asked for clarity about the literacy and math portion of the presentation regarding an achievement target that was added for all students who can meet or exceed grade level. Will the district have both an aspirational goal and a state/DESE goal? Dr. Brown confirmed that the district will have both state and aspirational targets for students to meet and exceed grade-level expectations. The district is setting an aspirational target now and will revisit it in subsequent years when state data is available.

Member Wilson asked about chronic absenteeism and wanted to know if the district can be more ambitious with certain ethnic groups. Dr. Brown mentioned that the gaps between the groups were not exacerbated because there are not any current “real data”. Even if the district meets these targets, there still is a gap with certain ethnic groups.

Member Fantini asked for clarity on the percentages used in the presentation surrounding chronic absenteeism. Dr. Brown provided clarity on the percentages. 2019 is the baseline as that was the last full year of school pre-pandemic. Every year the district hoped to reduce the percentage rate of chronic absenteeism by 1.7% for the first year and 2% for subsequent years.

Member Fantini asked for raw numbers regarding the number of students with chronic absenteeism and asked for the definition of chronic absenteeism. Dr. Brown responded that 18 days out of the 180 days of the school year defined chronic absenteeism which averages about 2 absences a month per student. Students who are chronically absent 10% or more school days, usually have reduced attainment of skills and academic proficiency.

Member Fantini asked for the reasoning behind why the district did not set an aggressive percentage – something along the line of 5%. Dr. Brown responded that the 10% is comparable data with other similar and surrounding districts. When students are at 5%, they will be on an early intervention plan. The district can use 5% as a trigger for an early intervention plan. The district is currently working on compiling data for the student sabbatical and its impact on chronic absenteeism data. Dr. Greer responded that the current CPSD policy on student sabbaticals is not typical of other districts that require students to re-enroll. In addition, Dr. Greer has connected with principals who shared that sabbaticals present a hardship for educators who work with returning students who need assistance in catching up on missed curricula. Dr. Greer would like to work with the School Committee on the student sabbatical policy before setting more aggressive goals regarding chronic absenteeism.

Member Fantini also asked for the definition of MYCAP. Dr. Brown responded that MYCAP means “My Career and Academic Plan”. MYCAP is an individual student success plan process where students meet articulated milestones at each grade level based on their student success plans.

Member Weinstein shared that the target-setting process has iterative and supported by data. He alerted the group to the “unintended consequences” that may be the result of these goals. He highlighted that the group should be mindful of supporting students’ growth and that math and literacy goals should not be the sole focus. Dr. Greer responded that she and her team set targets purposely, reflect urgency, but must be realistic. CPSD must meet the needs of every student regardless of their needs.

Member Weinstein shared that our work around the individual student success plans should not be made in isolation. CPSD needs to build and strengthen partnerships with caregivers and educators. He

circled back to the topic of chronic absenteeism and shared that it would be helpful to include the data for the 5% threshold.

Member Hunter inquired about the definitions of moderate and high-level growth. Dr. Brown responded that students are categorized into five levels of growth. For students that are not meeting grade-level standards (we want to see those students at high growth). All students should be a minimum of moderate growth. Dr. Brown mentioned that parents/caregivers receive reports that are understandable and relate to their individual students. This will not replace the report that is given to caregivers by educators and teachers.

Mayor Siddiqui mentioned that the biggest significance of the target settings is their implementation.

On a motion, by **Member Rojas**, seconded by **Member Wilson**, the set targets on the district plan were adopted via a voice vote.

The presentation continued with Dr. Greer presenting an update on the strategic objectives for the 2022-2025 district plan. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

After the presentation, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor up to the Committee for questions and discussion.

Mayor Siddiqui announced that the Universal Pre-K ad-hoc Committee will provide more updates on their discussions and action items in January.

Member Weinstein asked for clarity on the Family & Community Engagement Advisory Subcommittee and how it differs from the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee. Mr. Fernandez provided clarity on the group and shared that it was not an official subcommittee but rather loosely referred to as an advisory group which resulted from the Caregiver Equity Summit. Caregivers created a group to meet regularly to discuss family and community engagement to create and maintain a community dialogue. **Member Weinstein** offered to connect with the group to ensure the School Committee was supportive and working in coordination.

Member Rojas inquired about the working timeframe and the number of individuals involved in the Instructional Framework Design Team. Dr. Edwards shared that in the early stages, the design team consisted of students, caregivers, educators, and administrators (approximately 50 individuals). Dr. Edwards confirmed that the process began with a Summit in September, followed by focus groups in October and November, and a design team in December.

Member Rojas inquired about examples of policies regarding Universal Pre-K that may be referred to the Committee in the upcoming months. Dr. Greer responded that some policies would include school-entry age and school admissions.

Member Hunter asked about the time of implementation for Universal Pre-K. Dr. Greer confirmed that the anticipated implementation of Universal Pre-K to be in the 2024-2025 school year.

Member Fantini inquired about iReady and what role will it continue to place in the instructional framework of the district plan. Dr. Edwards mentioned that iReady will continued to be used as a tool for assessment (formative assessment of student skills based on standards) and for individualized learning components. Dr. Greer i-Ready assists with facilitating connections from schools to homes. The CPSD participation rate is very high.

Member Rojas asked for examples of framework vs. curriculum. Dr. Edwards responded that curriculum is the material and the framework is the guide or the roadmap to instructional practices.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Member Rojas pulled #22-291. **Member Fantini** pulled and #22-292. **Member Hunter** pulled #22-289.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, items #22-286, #22-287, #22-290, and #22-293 were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-286 Approval of FY22/23 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund budget for FY 2022-2023.

<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase/(Decrease)</u>
Salaries, Wages & Benefits (SW)	(\$325,500)
Other Ordinary Maintenance (OOM)	
Travel and Training (TT)	\$205,500
Extraordinary Expenditures (EE)	<u>\$120,000</u>
Total	\$0

Description: During the course of the school year, transfers between statutory categories may be necessary to meet the educational and operational needs of the School Department. The net effect of these transfers on the General Fund Budget is \$0.

1. **Settlement Costs:** To fund workers' compensation settlement costs related to School Department personnel injured in the performance of their duties. The transfers requested to fund this expense are a reduction to Salaries, Wages & Benefits of \$205,500 and an increase to Travel and Training of \$205,000.
2. **School Transfers:** To purchase a new van for RSTA. The transfers requested to fund this expense are a reduction to Salaries, Wages & Benefits of \$205, 500 and an increase to Travel & Training for \$205,000.

#22-287 Approval of Revisions to the Cambridge Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy (Second 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.

#22-288 Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School

Department be adopted as follows: that the School Committee contracts to the institutions as detailed 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.

FY22-23 placement of students in private schools for implementation of the educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:		
Residential Program Tuition Contract	1	\$117,524.61
45-Day Program Contracts:		
Total	1	\$117,524.61

#22-289 Contract Award: Research for Better Teaching: Professional Development be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference below. Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Research for Better Teaching, One Acton Place, Acton, MA 01720 for the period of January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$56,000.00

#22-290 Contract Award: McGraw Hill, LLC: Instructional Materials be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference below. Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

McGraw Hill, LCC, PO Box 182605, Columbus, OH for the period of December 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$33,035.14.

#22-293 Grant Award: FY2023 SEL & Mental Health Grant (SC23832) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY23 SEL and Mental Health Grant (SC23832) in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the period of December 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Description: Funding from the SEL and Mental Health grant will support the strengthening of several components of the CPS Social Emotional Learning program. as well as provide additional school-based mental health support for students. The stipends will support a lead team of clinicians and educators to further develop the district's SEL systems of support. The grant will support the acquisition of Tier I SEL curriculum materials, provide professional development in

mental health for clinical and education staff, and support contracted school-based services within community mental health providers and additional telehealth services from Gaggle.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#22-289 Contract Award: Research for Better Teaching: Professional Development be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference below. Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Research for Better Teaching, One Acton Place, Acton, MA 01720 for the period of January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$56,000.00

A brief discussion followed on **#22-289**.

Member Hunter asked for the timeline of the training in the contract. Dr. Greer clarified that each year, a cohort of principals (new and returning), due to turnover in schools, this contract assists new principals in calibrations and getting up to speed on CPSD policies and practices.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel on the following roll call vote, **#22-289** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-291 Contract Award: Applied Behavior Learning: Special Education Services be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference below. Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Applied Behavior Learning Services, 110 Cedar Street, Wellesley, MA for the period of December 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$45,000.00.

A discussion followed on **#22-291**.

Member Rojas for feedback from the administration on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) practices. Dr. Mullen responded that the particular contract award for in-home Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). By law, the district must provide this service for families for the needs of students and their IEP goals. This contract will ensure the district complies with providing students support for their IEP goals. Based on some students with IEPs, it has been identified that some students may need additional services at home based on feedback from educators, clinical staff, and family. Dr. Greer highlighted that an IEP requires that in-home services are provided. She stressed the team that develops the IEP includes family members. As an example, home-based care includes life-skill instruction for older students that impact school life. The CPSD approach is holistic.

Member Weinstein inquired that he would like to pursue additional conversations regarding ABA and how best CPSD can support students with IEPs.

Mayor Siddiqui mentioned that the Superintendent and the Offices of Student Services team will do some further research and will present that research and information to the Committee in an upcoming weekly.

On a motion by **Member Rojas**, seconded by **Member Weinstein**, on the following roll call vote, **#22-291** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-292 Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

1. A \$3,000.00 gift to the Athletics Department from the Special Olympics of MA for equipment, uniforms, transportation, and resources for the Unified Sports Interscholastic Track & Field team.
2. A \$500.00 gift to Rindge Avenue Upper School made from Geskus Studios & Yearbook Publishing as a commission for student portraits. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-292**.

Member Fantini and **Member Wilson** each expressed their support and gratitude for the donation regarding the Unified Sports Interscholastic Track & Field Team.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#22-292** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

#22-294 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein and Vice Chair Rachel

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) holds a sense of belonging as a core value; and

WHEREAS: CPSD is committed to advancing equity, defined as meaning “that each student, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or socioeconomic status will have access to the opportunities, resources, and support they need to attain their full potential;” and

WHEREAS: CPSD seeks to align its practices with its values and commitments; and

WHEREAS: Some CPSD forms and communications use gendered language that is not inclusive, such as the use of or absence of terms and pronouns; and

WHEREAS: While unintentional, outdated binary language has a significant impact on students, staff, and families; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That CPSD will undertake a comprehensive review of forms and communications informed by best practices for gender-inclusive language, with the goal of identifying any forms or communications currently in use or planned for use that falls short of these best practices; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CPSD update all identified forms and communications according to those best practices as soon as possible, completing the full review and updates by December 2023 and prioritizing

those being used currently or soonest, with the expectation that any registration or other forms related to the start of the school year be reviewed prior to the 2023-24 school year; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CPSD will ensure anyone tasked with creating or updating CPSD forms and/or CPSD communications at the district or the school level is supported to follow best practices now and as those practices evolve.

A discussion followed on **#22-294**

Member Weinstein provided clarity and context on the motion. The district has many forms of communication and the district needs to update gender-inclusive language on all the district forms. **Vice Chair Rachel** added that it is important for the district, along with parents and caregivers, to better understand how to use and learn gender-neutral language and adopt best practices. **Member Wilson** added that as a district it is important to stay committed to advancing equity and a sense of belonging. She asked if she can be added to the motion as a co-motion maker

Member Rojas responded that the Amigos School has done well with implementing gender-neutral language in their communications. Dr. Greer mentioned Member Weinstein and Vice Chair Rachel shared the motion with her before the Committee meeting and that she made minor edits. Dr. Greer responded that she will need to collaborate with several CPSD departments before implementing the updates district-wide, but emphasized that this was a priority.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Weinstein, Member Wilson was added to the motion via a voice vote.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, **#22-294** was adopted as amended via a voice vote.

#22-295 Joint Motion by Member Fantini and Member Rojas

WHEREAS: Cambridge takes pride in its dual-language immersion school and programs; and

WHEREAS: That hiring teachers fluent in the target language of our dual-language immersion school and programs can be more difficult than hiring other teachers; therefore

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent put in place a hiring plan for staff that will anticipate shortages and plan far in advance to ensure appropriate staffing are in place to ensure continued success of our dual-language immersion school and programs; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the district consider sponsorship of work visas for teachers that we cannot hire otherwise as a necessary and normal accommodation of our hiring processes.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-295**.

Member Fantini gave context on the motion, to ensure the district has hiring practices to support and hire bilingual teachers in the district. **Member Rojas** provided some background on the importance of sponsorship for bilingual teachers.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas on a voice vote, **#22-295** was referred to the superintendent.

#22-296 Joint Motion by Vice Chair Rachel and Member Rojas

That the School Committee adopt the Preliminary School Committee FY24 Budget Calendar.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-296**.

Vice Chair Rachel provided information on the draft FY2024 budget calendar and draft guiding principles for the FY2024 budget. Claire Spinner, CPSD Chief Financial Officer, clarified a theory of action surrounding the FY2024 Guiding Principles, notably the measurability of effectiveness. It was noted by several members that the Guiding Principles would be voted on at a later date.

Member Fantini asked about outreach regarding the scheduled Community Budget meetings. **Vice Chair Rachel** responded that outreach efforts are still outgoing but the district is making significant efforts.

Member Hunter thanked the budget co-chairs and thanked the district administration for incorporating virtual community meetings in the FY2024 budget calendar.

Member Weinstein inquired about childcare at the scheduled community meetings. Ms. Spinner confirmed that childcare will be provided along with some transportation for attendees.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas, **#22-296** was adopted via a voice vote.

#22-297 Report of the November 30, 2022 Buildings & Grounds Sub-Committee

A brief discussion followed on **#22-297**.

Member Hunter asked for a follow-up on the underground leaking pipes that were discussed in the report. The district will keep the Committee informed on an update to Member Hunter's inquiry.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Fantini **#22-297** was adopted via a voice vote.

10. Resolutions: None

11. Announcements:

Member Weinstein announced that the next Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee Meeting will be held on January 19th and the discussion will focus on the school council handbooks.

Member Wilson announced her attendance in the Cambridge Program's Holiday Play and gave a shout-out to the great performance of the participants. She also gave a shout-out to Deondre Starling of Starling Inc. who brought 100/150 people to Apple Cinemas for a showing of Wakanda Forever in November.

Member Hunter announced that she is the new Chair of the School Climate Subcommittee and the next School Climate Subcommittee has a tentative date of January 11th.

Mayor Siddiqui announced that she along with Member Wilson, Member Weinstein, Member Rojas, and Member Hunter attended the NSBA CUBE Conference in Miami earlier in the month. Mayor Siddiqui and Member Wilson led a presentation at the conference on Early College.

12. Late Orders:

WHEREAS: The School Committee was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Sheila Russell on December 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS: Sheila was the devoted wife of the late Mayor Leonard Russell and was predeceased by her son Billy and sister Marylou; and

WHEREAS: Sheila's passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving family, her loving children Lenny and his wife Sandy, Eileen and her husband John, Nancy and her husband Ed, Katie and her husband Scott, cherished grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of 3, nieces and nephews, sister of Nancy and James "Buddy" and her gang fondly nicknames "The Murphy Chicks", and

WHEREAS: Sheila Doyle Russell was a lifelong resident of Cambridge, graduating from St. John's High School in North Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Sheila married Leonard J. Russell at the age of 20, and stayed home to raise their 5 children while serving as an accountant to the family trucking business, and

WHEREAS: 1967 marked the beginning of Sheila's indoctrination into the world of Cambridge politics when her husband Leonard campaigned for Cambridge City Council, being elected in 1973, elected mayor in 1984, and served until his death in 1985; and

WHEREAS: Sheila was elected to the Cambridge City Council in 1985 where she served the resident of Cambridge for 14 years, as a strong advocate for the elderly and the Cambridge businesses and is described as "the glue that holds council together"; and

WHEREAS: Sheila was elected as the 66th Mayor of the City of Cambridge during the 1996-1997 term; and

WHEREAS: A tireless leader, Sheila's tenure includes the opening of Cambridge's city-wide Senior Center, the Irish famine monument being brought to the Cambridge Common, and assisting in the creation of the North Cambridge Anti-Crime Task Force; and

WHEREAS: In 2008, the Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell Youth and Community Center was opened honoring Sheila for her work and dedication to the community that she served; and

WHEREAS: Sheila enjoyed Friday nights at Bickford's with friends listening to Irish music and the beautiful breeze off Hull Bay, her home away from home, spending summers entertaining on the front porch and

WHEREAS: Sheila will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record extending its deepest sympathy for the family of Sheila Doyle Russell at this time of such personal loss, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Russell family on behalf of the School Committee.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, on a voice vote, the late order was adopted.

13. Communications from City Officers: None

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Weinstein, on a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned. (8:19 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee