



**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

March 21, 2023

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 the Public Hearing of the FY24 Budget.

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 6:11 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 Hunter PRESENT; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

1. Public Hearing on the FY24 Budget (3 minutes);

The following individuals were heard during the Public Hearing of the FY24 Budget:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Avenue
- Nathalie Aris, Adams Street, Quincy
- Marisa Berenbaum, Tufts Street
- Nina Faruok, Robinson Street
- Christopher Montero, Warren Road
- AnnJilla Rogers-Jensen, Jaques Street, Somerville
- Elijah Lee-Robinson, Chauncey Street
- Nataliya Yufa, High Street

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Fantini on a voice vote, the public hearing for the FY24 Budget closed.

1a. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Tony Clark, Mass Ave, spoke regarding **#23-058**, **#23-060**, and **#23-061**
- Kiersten Alexis, Walden Square Road, spoke regarding **#23-060**
- Helen Hailemariam, Walden Square Road, spoke regarding **#23-060**

- Robin Gilbert, Gurney Street, spoke regarding **#23-058**
- Lynne Curran, Tremont Street, Somerville spoke regarding **#23-058**
- Maggie Rushkin, High Street, spoke regarding **#23-058**
- Hamila Osman, Rindge Ave, spoke regarding **#23-058**
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, spoke regarding **#23-054** and **#23-064**.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Hunter 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 which included the second annual staff vs. students' basketball game held on March 17th. The portal for the Global Studies program is open and applications are due on May 5th. The Students of Color Coalition will be visiting the upper schools for anti-discrimination affinity spaces beginning the week of March 27th.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- March 7, 2023, Regular Meeting

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

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#23-047 Joint Motion by Vice Chair Rachel, Member Hunter, and Member Weinstein (Second Reading)

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee's policy on the "Non-Tolerance of Hate Crimes" specifies that we "will not stand for hate crimes;" and

WHEREAS: Despite a change in how the federal government collects hate crime statistics, in 2021 the FBI reported the highest rates of hate crimes in a dozen years, and multiple advocacy organizations documented record levels of hate crime incidents based on race, nationality, gender, and religion; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools not only prohibits hate incidents, but takes pride in our active embrace of anti-racist, equitable, and liberatory education, as reflected in the CPS Anti-racist vision and mission statements to "support learning spaces where all students are known, celebrated, empowered and thrive;" now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee updates policy [JICFA-E-1 - NON-TOLERANCE OF HATE CRIMES](#) to elaborate that the Committee and district also are intolerant of all incidents of biased-based behaviors and expressions of hate, be they crimes or not; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the policy include that educators will prioritize responding to incidents of hate in a manner that utilizes the experience as a teachable moment for students, allowing all students to engage, process, learn and build community; and be it further

RESOLVED: That educators may invite students directly impacted or involved to participate in restorative practices; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge Public Schools will provide access to and counseling support for students and staff following such incidents; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, when incidents of hate occur, the Superintendent or their designee will alert School Committee Members in a timely manner.

This motion was the second reading to adopt the updates to policy **JICFA-E-1 - NON-TOLERANCE OF HATE CRIMES**. There were no additional amendments to the policy.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, the policy was adopted via voice vote.

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.

There was no response and no update on the awaiting report, so this item will remain an awaiting report.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel to suspend the rules to bring forward motion **#23-060** for discussion and adoption; on a voice vote, the rules were suspended.

#23-060 Joint Motion by Member Hunter, Mayor Siddiqui, and Member Wilson in collaboration with Student Member Clemente, and Student Member Escamilla-Salomon

WHEREAS: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis publicly signed the Stop Woke Bill and banned the teaching of AP African American History in Florida; deeming it as “lacking educational value”, preventing and discouraging students from taking this course and other ethnic and racial studies classes that go beyond current standard history curriculums around the country; and

WHEREAS: The newly introduced College Board’s AP African American Studies class taught by Ms. Williams- Giordano at CRLS is a pilot course that explores Black history to a new extent, exposing students to a comprehensive curriculum at a college level that is centralized around the concept of Harvard’s Henry Louis Gates Jr.’s idea of the “42 million ways to be Black”; and

WHEREAS: This class follows the trajectory of Black history via four units: Unit One - Origins of the African Diaspora, Unit Two - Freedom, Enslavement, and Resistance, Unit Three - The Practice of Freedom, and Unit Four - Movements and Debates; and

WHEREAS: AP African American studies equips students with the foundational tools to apply their understanding of the historical evolution of Black societies around the world in addition to the more general skill of historical analysis which can be utilized on an everyday basis beyond this course; and

WHEREAS: By the end of their time in this class, scholars have a more holistic understanding of various sub-themes that together create the curriculum of AP African American Studies; and

WHEREAS: Students learn about the concept of intersectionality through examining the implications of race, gender, and class on the experiences of Black Americans and those in the broader African diaspora; and

WHEREAS: Scholars gain the critical skill of understanding the diversity within and across Black societies both before and after the emergence of trans-Atlantic slavery; and

WHEREAS: Members of the class conceptualize the various ways that Black communities have advocated for autonomy and authentic representation, the advancement of opportunities, and justice as a means to combat global systemic inequality; and

WHEREAS: CRLS is one of 60 select high schools across the nation that were given the opportunity to implement the pilot course of AP African American Studies, this district has demonstrated its continued commitment to equity in education, both in Cambridge and beyond; and

WHEREAS: More than 200 colleges and universities have already committed to recognizing the AP African American Studies for college credit, and

WHEREAS: We must acknowledge that this revolutionary stride towards a better future for our schools has only been possible through the persistence and empowerment of marginalized students and educators whose histories are a vital part of our curriculum and should be treated as such; and

WHEREAS: Due to the national threat towards the learning of our youth and the preservation of the historical narratives of Black and other marginalized peoples, it is our duty to act in solidarity and actively support and protect this course; and

WHEREAS: AP African American Studies is a course with a culturally responsive curriculum that represents a foundational part of Americans' authentic shared history. By uplifting underrepresented trailblazers such as Michelle Browder and Kathleen Cleaver and frequently unrecognized events such as Gabriel's Rebellion, the St. Augustine Movement, and the Watts Truce, this course shifts from a Eurocentric focus to an alternative yet equally important point of view that every student deserves to have access to learning from; and

WHEREAS: 54 students have taken AP African American Studies between this past Fall and the current Spring semesters, including 38 Black Students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee reaffirms its commitment to including AP African American Studies and other ethnic studies in the Cambridge Public Schools and publicly declares intent to protect the teaching of this course and material despite any forthcoming backlash

Student Member Clemente and Student Member Escamilla-Salomon co-wrote the motion and provided a robust background on the motion and the impact the AP African American class has on its students. The students who have taken and/or are currently in the class have stated that the class was a safe haven for them and they felt represented. The same day as the final for the AP class was the day Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Stop Woke Bill and banned the teaching of AP African American History in Florida. **Member Hunter** explained the reasoning for adding Florida Governor DeSantis to the motion was due to the impact of his signing the Stop Woke Bill to the students in the AP African American History class.

Member Hunter pledged academic and financial support for the students in the AP African American History class and all AP courses in the district to be welcoming. Cambridge is one of 60 schools in the United States who have implemented the teaching of the course. **Member Hunter** also suggested amending the motion to include Ms. William-Giordano as she has been a fundamental teacher and leader of this course.

Member Wilson expressed gratitude to Member Hunter and the Student Members along with those who expressed support for the motion in Public Comment.

Vice Chair Rachel motioned to amend the motion to be supported by the committee as a whole and encouraged all the school committee members attending the NSBA conference in Florida next week to express to the NSBA the importance of addressing some of the recent bills that were passed in Florida.

Member Weinstein expressed that this motion emphasized the powerful impact that this course has on the students in the CRLS community.

Member Rojas suggested amending the motion to remove the language regarding the Florida governor given that the School Committee is non-partisan. He also suggested including the inclusion of ethnic studies. Student Member Escamilla-Salomon mentioned that she is struggling to amend the language to omit the language of the Florida Governor due to the signing of the Stop Woke Bill being more of a human rights issue as it is banning the history of African Americans. **Member Hunter** suggested we leave the language surrounding the Florida Governor as it does not include his political party. Both Student Clemente and Student Member Escamilla-Salomon are agreeance with the inclusion of ethnic studies and Ms. Williams-Giordano in the motion.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson, the motion was amended to include “and other ethnic studies” to the last resolved of the motion.

Mayor Siddiqui thanked the Student Members for their advocacy and the motion brought forward.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson, **#23-060** was adopted via voice vote.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Greer transitioned the floor to COO Murphy to provide an update on School Committee Order **#C23-052** Longfellow Building Repair. COO Murphy confirmed that the results of the mold and asbestos testing came back favorable. The Longfellow Building currently has a roof that is beyond its life expectancy and there are several contraptions set up to ensure the building is safe. The district has made it a high priority to begin the steps to get started on the roof repair implementation. COO Murphy mentioned that there is no definite timeline for the repairs as it is contingent on many things including the availability of contractors.

Member Rojas inquired about the fast-tracking of the Longfellow roof repair when other school buildings in the district also need roofing repairs. COO Murphy provided context on the different types of building repair projects and funding in the state.

Member Hunter inquired about the ability of the district to utilize funds when responding to emergencies like a hole in the roof. COO Murphy responded that each repair is accessed as an emergency or a priority and once determined then funding for the repair will be accessed.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded to Member Wilson on a voice vote, **#C23-052** was placed on file.

7b. Presentations:

The presentation of the evening was postponed to the next Regular Meeting on April 4th,

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Member Weinstein pulled **#23-053**. **Member Hunter** pulled **#23-054** and **Vice Chair Rachel** pulled **#23-055**. On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, items **#23-056**, **#23-057**, and **#23-064** were adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-056 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 books by and about Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders valued at \$4,341.66.

#23-057 Grant Award: FY23 Special Education IDEA Allocation (SC23605) Increase be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve an additional \$12,480.00 to the grant award below for the period indicated.

Amount: INCREASE of \$12,480.00 Period: 9/1/2022 – 6/30/2023
Source: Federal thru State, Entitlement Administrator: Dr. Karyn Grace

| Expense Category | FY23 Budget | FY23 FTE | FY23 Budget Amended | FY23 FTE |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Permanent Salaries & Benefits | \$172,352.00 | 1.0 | \$190,291.00 | 1.0 |
| Tuition to Other Schools | \$2,135,221.00 | | \$2,135,221.00 | |
| Other Expenses | \$503,801.00 | | \$498,342.00 | |
| Total | \$2,811,374.00 | 1.0 | \$2,823,854.00 | 1.0 |

Description:

The purpose of the IDEA grant is to provide funds to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs. The largest portion of the IDEA allocation is for out-of-district tuition. In addition, the grant will fund a workload audit (\$65,000) and translations (\$58,127). To meet the requirement of a proportionate share for eligible students attending private schools, a set aside of \$132,865 will provide services by CPS teachers and a consultant. There is also \$3,500 for membership in the MA Urban Collaborative. \$429,141 of the grant will be for activities under the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), including the 1.0 FTE Director of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). As of SY21-22, the district has been required to implement a plan for CCEIS to mitigate the disproportionate identification of the subset of African American/Black students for special education services. The district's plan includes professional learning in SEL, cultural and linguistically responsive practices, and coaching and leadership development for OSS staff, all part of a comprehensive program of MTSS. The increase will be used toward health benefits for the MTSS Director.

#23-064 Approval of Agreement Between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Regarding Sick Leave Bank for CEA Units A & B, C, E and Building

Substitutes in Unit D be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the attached agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association (“CEA”) in regards to the creation of a sick leave bank for CEA Units A&B, C, E, and building substitutes who are members of Unit D and for the provision of up to eight (8) weeks of paid parental leave (“PPL”) in connection with the birth of a child or the adoption or foster placement of a child under the age of eighteen (18), or under the age of twenty-three (23) if the child is disabled for all bargaining unit members of Units C and E and building substitutes who are bargaining unit members of Unit D who have worked for at least three (3) consecutive months in a regularly appointed position of twenty (20) hours per week or more.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#23-053 Approval of Revisions to the School Council Handbook (First Reading) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent’s Recommendation #23-053, Approval of Revisions to the School Council Handbook (First Reading) be referred to the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee.

A discussion followed on **#23-053**.

Member Weinstein asked for the recommendation to be referred to the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee. There was a misunderstanding from the February 16, 2023, Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee, where the Subcommittee asked for drafts of the school council handbooks to discuss at its next meeting.

Member Rojas asked the Superintendent if referring the recommendation would slow down any ongoing work. Dr. Greer mentioned that it does not as the district has been working off the posted draft.

Member Hunter asked if the School Councils members receive Open Meeting Law training. Attorney MacFarlane mentioned that they do.

Member Rojas suggests adding additional trainings for the School Councils. Dr. Greer mentioned that the Family Engagement Office is planning on additional School Council trainings.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Fantini, on a voice vote **#23-053** was referred to the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee.

#23-054 Contract Award: Henry J. Turner: Professional Development be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor to provide updated to interactive display technology at CRLS to meet the needs of students and teachers. 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:

Henry J. Turner, 70 Clifton Avenue, Marblehead, MA for the period of December 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$34,400.00.

A discussion followed on **#23-054**.

Member Hunter inquired about the training and if the training is a part of the School Improvement Plan. Dr. Greer responded that the training is a school request and is a part of both the school improvement and district plans.

Member Fantini inquired about the duration of the professional development and more clarification regarding the contract details. He also would like to get feedback on all the equity audits done in the district.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote **#23-054** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-055 Contract Award: Cartwheel Health Services P.C.: Mental Health Services be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor to provide updated interactive display technology at CRLS to meet the needs of students and teachers. 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:

Cartwheel Health Services P.C., 625 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge for the period of February 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$40,000.00.

A discussion followed on **#23-055**.

Vice Chair Rachel inquired about the telehealth services of the contract. At the last School Climate Subcommittee, it was revealed that some services such as Gaggle had low utilization rates for virtual mental health support. Dr. Grace responded that Gaggle (our current vendor) is taking up to eight weeks to schedule the support appointments whereas Cartwheel responds within 24 hours and appointments are scheduled within seven days. Dr. Greer responded that at the next School Committee meeting, the OSS office will be presenting more clarification on these products.

Mayor Siddiqui inquired about the number of students Cartwheel will be serving. Dr. Grace responded that as many as possible, but the current waitlist for Gaggle is 79 students.

Member Fantini inquired about clarification on “rapid equitable access”. A response will be received within 24/48 hours and scheduled appointments within seven days. Dr. Greer mentioned that due to Covid, mental health services have shifted.

Member Wilson inquired about the expansion and does Cartwheel have the capacity to service the 79 students on the waitlist plus any other students who would also inquire or need the services. Member Wilson inquired if the vendor was chosen via a bid. Dr. Greer mentioned that the cost of the contract does not require a bid.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote **#23-055** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

#23-058 Joint Motion by Vice Chair Rachel, Mayor Siddiqui, and Member Wilson

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools prioritizes the safety of our students, staff, and everyone in our school communities; and

WHEREAS: Keeping our schools safe from gun violence is a responsibility of all adult stakeholders in each of our school communities; and

WHEREAS: In the United States, gun violence is the leading cause of death in children and teens. An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm, and every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else; and

WHEREAS: 1200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, and over 80 percent of children under age 18 who died by firearm suicide used a gun belonging to a family member;⁶ and

WHEREAS: Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to a 78 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens; and

WHEREAS: In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, the US Secret Service found that 76 percent of shooters under age 18 acquired their firearm from the home of a caregiver, or that of relatives or friends; and

WHEREAS: Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component of any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe; and

WHEREAS: The US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes; and

WHEREAS: Across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART Program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns; and

WHEREAS: Secure storage of firearms is a legal requirement in Massachusetts pursuant to G.L. Chapter 140, sections 131L and 131C, and failure to comply with secure storage laws can lead to criminal prosecution, jail time, fines, and/or revocation of FID card or license, depending on the offense; and

WHEREAS: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends storing firearms unloaded and locked, with ammunition locked separately to reduce risks of injury to children; and

WHEREAS: The epidemic of school shootings and mass shootings requires more preventative measures in order to increase student and school safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge Public Schools will update the Student Handbook for SY24-25 and all following years to include information about caregivers' legal obligations regarding the secure storage of firearms; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent will send an appropriate communication to caregivers that explains the importance of secure firearm storage to protect children and teens from unauthorized access to unsecured firearms, and their legal obligations consistent with Massachusetts safe storage law. Notification will be included on the district website and in annual registration materials at each school site.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-058**.

Vice Chair Rachel provided background on the motion and thanked Moms Demand Action for bringing awareness to her. The motion is to safely secure firearms in the community.

Member Fantini inquired to bring this motion to the MASC to provide additional advocacy in the motion as it is powerful and important.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson **#23-058** was adopted via a voice vote.

#23-059 Joint Motion By Member Weinstein, Vice Chair Rachel, and Member Hunter in collaboration with Student Member Clemente and Student Member Escamilla-Salomon

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) has made a commitment to providing access to menstrual products to students; and has been a leader in menstrual equity,

WHEREAS: CPSD has been a leader in this area thanks to a policy order put in place in 2016, as a result of Motion C16-298, sponsored by then Building and Grounds Subcommittee Chair Member Manikka Bowman and then Subcommittee Members Fred Fantini and Patty Nolan, and because of the advocacy of CPSD students and the leadership of Member Bowman during her service on the School Committee; and

WHEREAS: Recent research shows nearly a quarter of all students in the United States experience “period poverty” – the inability to access menstrual hygiene products and many people miss out on school time because of lack of access to period products; and

WHEREAS: Legislation that includes expanding menstrual equity to all schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, known as the I AM Bill, is being considered by the Massachusetts State Legislature; and

WHEREAS: CPSD is committed to continual review and improvement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That CPSD will update its policy to clarify that menstrual products will be accessible at no cost to all menstruators using our buildings including students, staff, and visitors and that the policy includes all CPSD buildings; and be it further

RESOLVED: That menstrual products will be accessible to all students, staff, and visitors in a gender-inclusive manner following best practices, including with regard to the locations of products and dispensers, the labeling of products and dispensers, and the communications about this availability; and be it further

RESOLVED: That menstrual products will be easily accessible to all who need them and that the availability of menstrual products at no cost is clearly communicated to the entire school community every year, and on the labeling on dispensers; and be it further

RESOLVED: That dispensers are clearly labeled with contact information for alerting CPSD of the need to restock or repair the dispensers; and be it further

RESOLVED: That providing menstrual products is accounted for in every annual CPSD budget, and that it is part of the assigned work of the CPSD Facilities Department to maintain dispensers, keep them fully stocked, and consult with CPSD’s healthcare partners to ensure that the products being provided are the best available for the needs of those we are serving.

A discussion followed on **#23-059**.

Member Weinstein provided an overview of the motion and highlighted the significance of the motion which is to improve the previous menstrual policy to be more equitable. **Student Members Escamilla-Salmon and Clemente** both highlighted the importance of updating the menstrual policy from the student’s perspective.

Member Hunter reported that there is a high percentage of students who miss school due to a lack of availability of menstrual products.

Member Fantini described Somerville’s model of providing a month’s supply and the ability to provide some privacy to those who need the products.

Member Rojas asked if there were any operational challenges based on the wording of the motion. The district is currently working on initiatives to better implement menstrual products in schools.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Fantini **#23-059** was adopted via voice vote.

#23-061 Motion by Member Fantini

That the School Committee receive budgetary reports from the schools regarding their school improvement funds.

A brief discussion on the **#23-061**

Member Fantini gave a brief overview of the motion which is to receive periodic reports on the school-improvement funds.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Hunter, **#23-061** was adopted via a voice vote.

#23-062 Report of the March 1, 2023, School Climate Subcommittee

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Wilson, **#23-062** was adopted via a voice vote.

10. Resolutions:

#23-063 Joint Resolution by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Weinstein, and Member Hunter

WHEREAS: Congratulations to the CPSD students who brought home awards from the 2022-2023 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running, most prestigious award and recognition program to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talents; and

WHEREAS: Our students received 25 Gold Keys, 34 Silver Keys, and 46 Honorable Mentions; and

WHEREAS: The Gold Key winning artwork and portfolios are currently being judged in New York City for National Medals and there will be an exhibition of all Massachusetts Gold and Silver Key Award-winning work at Tufts University in March; and

WHEREAS: In 2022, students across America and Canada entered nearly 260,000 original works of art and writing; and

WHEREAS: Some alumni of the awards include Andy Warhol, Amanda Gorman, Richard Avedon, Cy Twombly, Ezra Jack Keats, Ken Burns, Stephen King, Sylvia Plath, John Updike, Red Grooms, Zak Posen, and many more great artists; and

WHEREAS: A special thank you to the CRLS Students who have created this excellent work and won the Awards and to the CRLS Educators for teaching and creating these opportunities for Cambridge Rindge and Latin students; and

WHEREAS: These students were supported by extraordinary CPSD writing and visual arts teachers; and

WHEREAS: The students' artwork can be viewed [here](#), the winners for the art award can be found [here](#), and the list for the writing awards can be viewed [here](#); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee goes on record congratulating the students and teachers on this wonderful accomplishment.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-063**.

Mayor Siddiqui congratulated all the Scholastic Writing Awards winners including Student Member Escamilla-Salomon.

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Member Weinstein, **#23-063** was adopted via a voice vote.

11. Announcements:

- **Member Rojas** announced thanked the Kennedy Longfellow school for allowing him to be a guest reader for Reading Across America.
- **Member Weinstein** announced that the North Cambridge Family Opera is having performances for the next two weekends on March 25th and 26th and April 1st and 2nd.
- **Member Hunter** announced that she along with Mayor Siddiqui, Member Fantini, and the Superintendent attended the Family Policy Council Meeting where they introduced the Cradle to Career map which showcased over 360 services organization in the city.
- **Member Wilson** announced that the Mayor's Program Work Site Application proposals are due on March 22nd. She also wanted to congratulate Cambridge Pride students.
- **Mayor Siddiqui** announced that Iftar is on Wednesday, March 29th at CSUS, and the Mayor's Art Contest is being held through March 24th.

12. Communications from City Officers: None

13. Late Orders: None

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Weinstein on a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned. (9:02 p.m.).

Email Communications:

- Dan Monahan
- Janet MacNeil
- Christopher Montero
- Tony Clarke
- Megan Singh
- Susan Agger
- Sue Cusack

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee