



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

May 2, 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.

Members Present: Vice-Chair Rachel, Member Fantini, Member Hunter (Remote), 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 6:03 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: Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Hunter PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

1. Public Hearing on Teacher Performance Standards:

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Avenue, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Nella Larsca-Waters, Crescent Avenue spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Andrew King, Chilton Street, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Lily Read, Broadway, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Duncan MacLaury, Dover St, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Rachel Parrish. Harding Street, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Joel Patterson. Reed Street, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Jenny Chung, Washington Street, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Sheili Wortis, Berkshire Street, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Donna Peruzzi, Somerville, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores
- Amanda Van Vleck, Dimick Street, spoke In opposition to evaluating educators based on student test scores

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to close the public hearing: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

1b. Public Hearing on School Choice:

No one spoke during the public hearing on school choice.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Fantini on the following roll call vote, it was voted to close the public hearing: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

1c. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Avenue, spoke regarding **#23-087** and **#23-088**
- Banke Oluwole, Bolton Street, spoke about **#23-087** and Strategic Tutoring
- Victoria Juror, School Street, spoke regarding agenda item 7b.: The Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation
- Anne Coburn, Otis Street, spoke about **#23-087** and Strategic Tutoring
- Emie Michaud-Weinstock spoke regarding agenda item 7b.: The Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation
- Vivek Sikri, Allston Street, spoke regarding agenda item 7b.: The Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation
- Ramsey Champagne, Brookford Street, spoke regarding agenda item 7b.: The Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation
- Jill Minot-Seabrook, Hill Street, spoke regarding agenda item 7b.: The Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation
- Tina Lieu, Huron Ave, spoke regarding agenda item 7b.: The Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation
- Missy Page, Gore Street, spoke regarding agenda item 7b.: The Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation
- Loretta Haynes, Cambridgepark Drive, spoke regarding agenda item 7b.: The Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation
- Amanda Van Vleck, Dimick Street, spoke about **#23-087** and Strategic Tutoring
- Alta Mauro, Holden Street, spoke regarding the hiring process for the new FMA principal

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Rojas on the following roll call vote, public comment was closed: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Clemente and **Student Member Escamilla-Salomon** provided a few updates that included a recap of the Youth Equity Summit on April 13th, and a district-sponsored trip for CRLS students to Puerto Rico during the April school break. AP exams are underway for CRLS students and there will be a Dance Works spring show on May 12th and May 13th and Scholarship Night will occur on May 18th. **Student Member Clemente** announced that she will be attending Northeastern University and **Student Escamilla-Salomon** will be attending Harvard College.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- April 4, 2023, Regular Meeting
- April 4, 2023, Special Meeting
- April 11, 2023, Special Meeting

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas on the following roll call vote, the records were approved: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

4. Reconsiderations:

By Member Rojas, of the vote taken at the April 4, 2023, Regular Meeting, that adopted the motion: **#23-070 Joint Motion by Member Fantini and Vice-Chair Rachel**

WHEREAS: Travel opportunities and field trips provide significant learning opportunities for Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) students; and

WHEREAS: These exceptional learning opportunities should be available to students regardless of their financial ability to cover the costs of such trips; and

WHEREAS: Travel opportunities and field trips may be most convenient and preferable to take place outside of the school calendar year; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee direct the Superintendent to redraft CPSD Field Trip Policy to allow for reasonable financial support for overnight, out-of-state or out-of-country travel for our students, particularly those who would not otherwise be able to access such travel; and be it further

RESOLVED: That certain criteria be established to ensure that such trips are safe, equitable, and provide for significant learning experiences; and be it further

RESOLVED: That such travel opportunities and field trips may take place during the summer, outside of the school calendar year.

Having filed the proper notice as required by the Rules of the School Committee, Member Rojas moved a reconsideration of the vote taken at the Regular Meeting of April 4, 2023, that adopted motion **#23-070**.

Member Rojas explained the reasonings for the reconsideration, which is to open a discussion with the School Committee for suggestions on amending the motion and to gain some additional clarity.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, the motion for reconsideration prevailed and the matter was again before the Committee: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

A discussion followed on **#23-070**.

Member Rojas provided clarity on his reasoning for reconsideration, and the intent is to not block the motion from being approved but to express his concerns about the motion to the Committee members and the Superintendent. He supports field trips and values the experience of being able to travel and learn about different cultures. His concern with the motion is that it changes the district's field trip policy to include activities that are not open to all students. When we consider new initiatives, we should question if we are helping all of the students and he encourages the committee to recommend changes to the motion to be more equitable for all students.

Member Wilson asked the Superintendent if this motion is exclusive to international travel. Dr. Greer responded that out-of-country travel can be problematic for students with undocumented status so the opportunity for them isn't included in the motion. **Member Wilson** asked if the Committee would be amendable of striking out the language regarding out-of-country travel.

Member Rojas encourages the committee to seek the Superintendent for recommendations on amending the motion language.

Vice Chair Rachel shared that although she would like all students to access everything that is offered. The district already offers international travel for students. She mentioned she is struggling to find what is an equitable path to ensure that there is equitable access for everyone without anything being lost.

Member Fantini mentioned that international travel is extremely important, as we want our students to be leaders in the world and not just in Cambridge. He also shared that the committee can try to speak to legislatures to provide more international travel opportunities for all children.

Member Weinstein added that anything we offer to students should be accessible options for all. We want to ensure that finance is not a burden for anyone and we should think about why these international trips are valuable and what we can do to provide additional resources to ensure all students in the district can have accessibility to travel whether it be international or out-of-state travel.

Member Hunter stated that the district should aim to provide additional opportunities within the continental U.S. that all students can travel to so that travel opportunities are equitable for all.

Student Member Escamilla-Salomon mentioned that perhaps we can find some sort of a compromise to ensure that this motion provides equitable opportunities for all.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel on the following roll call vote, **#23-070** was adopted and referred to the Superintendent: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA (6-1).

Member Rojas's vote was NAY on the adoption vote.

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#23-072 Joint Motion by the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee: Co-Chairs Member Weinstein and Member Fantini and Member Wilson (Second Reading)

WHEREAS: School Councils play a critical and valued role in the Cambridge Public Schools by assisting school principals in planning for and implementing best practices that enhance the achievement of all students; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee seeks to support our schools and our School Council members by ensuring School Councils in CPSD:

- follow uniform policies and practices while being able to adopt practices that best serve each school community;
- are inclusive, diverse, and equitable spaces that reflect the diversity of our students, with representation from parents/guardians, caregivers, secondary-level students, teachers, and community members; and
- function as they should under state law and regulations and are supported to do so; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is grateful for the work from March - June of 2021 of the School Council Working Group, which included a diverse group of parents/guardians/caregivers, students, family liaisons, teachers, and administrators, listed by name in the Handbook, in partnership with the then-newly formed CPSD Family Engagement Office, and is grateful for the subsequent review of the handbook by the CPSD administrative team and for the additional input and feedback of members of the CPSD community who reviewed draft versions of the Handbook; and

WHEREAS: The Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee of the School Committee has convened multiple meetings to review and revise proposed versions of the Handbook resulting from this process and is satisfied that the attached version is ready for full implementation, with regular review with the aim of continuous improvement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee approves the attached [School Council Handbook](#); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Committee notes that at the time of this motion being submitted, current law related to extending certain state emergency accommodations, which, among other things, extends the provision allowing public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the body physically present at a meeting location and to provide “adequate, alternative” access to remote meetings until March 31, 2023, has not yet been further extended, and therefore the language in this handbook will be adjusted to ensure compliance with Open Meeting Law as in effect of April 1, 2023, if this provision is not further extended.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-072**.

Member Weinstein shared that the Committee will need to delay the vote of the second reading to ensure that the council handbooks are completely updated and accessible. This will remain on the calendar for the next scheduled Regular Meeting,

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.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Superintendent's Update: Dr. Greer shared that the district has submitted an application for the Community of Practice for student success planning at the Harvard Redesign Lab

7b. Presentations:

The presentation of the evening was led by the Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

The presentation was led by Manuel Fernandez (Chief Equity Officer), Dr. Leslie Jimenez (Director of Equity), and Raymond Porch (Director of Family and Community Engagement) and highlighted initiatives and efforts made by the Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (OEIB) throughout the past year.

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

Member Weinstein inquired about the equity audit and self-assessment work and asked if any of these findings will be implemented in the instructional framework of the district. Dr. Greer responded that in the development of the instructional framework, a group of individuals did a crosswalk of the instructional framework through an equity lens. Jenny Chung of the OEIB office was a part of that team. Mr. Fernandez added that Dr. Jimenez and Mr. Porch of the OEIB have collaborated closely with Dr. Edwards regarding the instructional framework.

Member Rojas inquired about partnerships with other educational institutions and if the OEIB office has thought about partnering with other educational institutions. Mr. Fernandez and Mr. Porch both shared that the OEIB office is involved with several educational collaboratives throughout the state. Dr. Jimenez shared that the office actively partners with other community initiatives throughout the city. Dr. Greer responded that the OEIB is the foundation for ensuring equitable practices throughout the district. The district will be meeting with Lemelson Institute at MIT to discuss additional collaboration opportunities. **Member Rojas** also inquired about the equity audit, the individual self-assessment of the OEIB office, and how the district working with individual schools to become better schools. Mr. Fernandez provided additional clarity on the self-assessment. The composite assessment was shared with the administration and equity teams and it included facilitated conversations with Mr. Fernandez, Dr. Jimenez, and school leadership that included interventions and specialized supports. The work is still ongoing.

Vice Chair Rachel shared her gratitude to the administration and the OEIB for their efforts. She inquired about the self-assessment and equity audit tool and wondered what it means to the educator and what is

the bandwidth to support professional learning and development. Mr. Fernandez responded that the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent will be working with the schools individually to strategize the best methods to support professional growth at these schools.

Member Hunter inquired about the accessibility of the presentation and the substance of the elementary school math equity lab on June 14th. Mr. Fernandez discussed the context and background of the implementation of the math lab, which started when he was a principal in the district, and questioned why are we paying attention to the mathematics group at the high school. He mentioned that students are often broken up into math groups at the elementary level which is inequitable because students remain with one another throughout their tenure at CPSD. The June 14th meeting will be informal presentations with elementary school leadership to better discuss improvements to math groups at the elementary school levels. **Member Hunter** also inquired about the school climate, particularly around social media and cyberbullying.

Member Fantini discussed the importance of closing the achievement gap in the district and inquired about the OEIB's approach to closing the achievement gaps. Mr. Fernandez shared a few approaches the OEIB pursuing. **Member Fantini** also inquired about coaching. Dr. Jimenez shared that the office sponsors monthly personalized coaching sessions with the school leadership team.

Member Wilson inquired about Caregiver University. Mr. Porch shared that the Caregiver University is being implemented in partnership with The Village. **Member Wilson** asked the OEIB office if there foresee any challenges regarding the elementary equity lab. Mr. Fernandez responded that it is hard to determine any foreseeable challenges at this current moment, but encourages the Committee to attend the Equity Lab on June 14th.

Mayor Siddiqui wrapped up the discussion by sharing some ideas she has about parents' training and joining community partners, etc.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Member Rojas pulled **#23-078**. Member Weinstein pulled **#23-080**. Member Fantini pulled **#23-082**. Vice Chair Rachel pulled **#23-083**. Member Wilson pulled **#23-084**. On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, items **#23-076, #23-077, #23-079, #23-081, #23-085, and #23-086** were adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-076 SY2023/2024 State School Choice-Recommendation For Non-Participation be adopted as follows: that the School Committee vote not to participate in the Statewide School Choice Program for School Year 2023/2024 for the following reasons:

1. The need to maintain the quality and integrity of the Cambridge Program of Controlled Choice and,
2. The need to maintain flexibility for appropriately sized classrooms in public schools.

Description:

The Superintendent recommends non-participation for the reasons listed. Massachusetts General Laws require that local school districts that do not wish to participate in the state inter-district school choice program must vote to withdraw from participation in such program, after conducting a public hearing.

#23-077 Approval of Agreement Between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Family Liaisons Invested in Families & Education, AFSCME/AFL-CIO (LIFE/AFSCME) be adopted

as follows: That the Superintendent’s Recommendation, #23-077, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the attached agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Family Liaisons Invested in Families & Education, AFSCME/AFL-CIO (LIFE/AFSCME) in regards to offering parental leave to all bargaining members of Family Liaisons who have worked for at least three (3) consecutive months in a regularly appointed position of twenty (20) hours per week or more. This leave will offer up to eight (8) weeks of paid parental leave “PPL” in connection with a 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 (“Qualifying Event”).

#23-079 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 in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Description: SY22-23 Placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

Program	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts		
Residential Program Tuition Contracts	1	\$85,856.21
45 Day Program		
Total	1	\$85,856.21

#23-081 Contract Award: Mansfield Paper Company: Food Service Paper Products - Amended be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mansfield Paper Company, 380 Union Street, West Springfield, MA for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, from the original contract amount of \$170,000.00 to the amended amount of \$212,500.00.

Description:

This contract is for food service paper products for the school breakfast and lunch program.

Background Information:

Mansfield Paper Company was the lowest bidder using the Massachusetts Buying Group Bid. The Massachusetts Buying Group facilitates a streamlined bid process and collective volume purchasing for participating school districts throughout the state to ensure the best possible pricing.

#23-085 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 three treadmills, a workout mirror, and a floor stand made by Reviewed USA Today to the Health, Physical Education & Wellness Department.
2. An in-kind donation of 50 books written by Black and Brown authors was made to the Cambridgeport School by an individual donor, who is a Cambridgeport alumnus, for their library.

#23-086 Grant Award: FY23 Cambridge Hospital Legacy Project (SC23177) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below from the Cambridge Hospital Legacy Project (SC23177) in the amount and for the period indicated:

<u>Amount:</u>	\$10,000.00	<u>Period:</u>	3/23/23 – 12/31/2023
<u>Source:</u>	Private	<u>Administrator:</u>	Ryan Souliotis

Expense Category	FY 22 Budget	FY22 FTE	FY23 Budget	FY23 FTE
Permanent Salaries & Benefits	-	-	-	-
Temporary Salaries	-			
Other Expenses	-		\$10,000.00-	
Total		-	\$10,000.00	-

Description:

This donation from Cambridge Hospital will support a field trip for students at the High School Extension Program (HSEP) traveling to the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#23-078 Approval of Amendment of the COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Sports & Extra-Curricular Activities be adopted as follows: that the School Committee remove the COVID-19 vaccination requirement for student sports and extra-curricular activities for the 2023-2024 school year.

Description:

The COVID-19 vaccination requirement helped improve vaccination rates and lower risk for those participating in certain higher-risk activities at a time when levels of transmission of COVID-19 in our community were high and that in that moment of time of the pandemic, the requirement was the right thing to do. Further, members of the COVID-19 Health & Safety Working Group acknowledge that; given that conditions have improved and there is better immunity (both from having the disease and from vaccinations) the current requirement which speaks to continuing the initial vaccination series rather than updating boosters may be considered less essential but the School Committee should do everything possible to continue to encourage vaccination against COVID-19.

A discussion followed on **#23-078**.

Dr. Greer shared that the Health and Safety Working Group met and recommended amending and rescinding the vaccination requirement from sports and extra-curricular activities due to the high-vaccination rate of students in the district.

Member Weinstein suggested editing the language to specify what is being amended and inquired if the Health and Safety Working Group will continue to meet to discuss and share recommendations.

Vice Chair Rachel suggested amending the recommendation to read: that the School Committee amend “remove” the COVID-19 vaccination requirement for student sports and extra-curricular activities for the 2023-2024 school year.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, **#23-079** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#23-080 Contract Award: Concentric Math: Professional Development be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-080, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Concentric Math, 624 N Silverado Drive, Lafayette, CA for the period of June 23, 2023, to June 29, 2023, in the amount of \$30,000.00

A brief discussion followed on **#23-080**.

Member Weinstein asked for additional clarity on the recommendation. Dr. Greer responded that the contract is for professional development to teach the newly implemented Illustrative Math Curriculum.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, **#23-080** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#23-082 Contract Award: Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology: Instructional Services

A brief discussion followed on **#23-082**.

Member Fantini inquired about more information on the contract award. Dr. Greer responded that the contract award is a continuation of the current contract surrounding the contract award. **Member Fantini** exercised his charter right for this recommendation and will appear as an unfinished business at the next school committee meeting,

#23-083 Contract Award: Just Right Reader, Inc.: Instructional Materials be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-083, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Just Right Reader, Inc. 750 North Saint Paul St, Suite 250 for the contract period of May 5, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$129,857.25.

Description:

To contract will provide research-aligned and culturally responsive decodable classroom texts to all CPS JK-2 classrooms

A brief discussion followed on **#23-083**.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, **#23-080** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#23-084 Contract Award: Sterling Business Products: Printing Services be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-084, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sterling Business Products, PO Box 845, Medford, MA for the period of May 5, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$190,933.38.

Description:

This contract is for printing and preparing Illustrative Math curriculum materials

A discussion followed on **#23-084**.

Member Wilson inquired about the printing department at the RSTA program and was wondering if the district could utilize the RSTA students to do other print contracts. Dr. Greer mentioned that the RSTA students don't have the capacity due to the substantial amount of printing services required for the Illustrative Math curriculum materials.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, **#23-080** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

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

#23-087 Report of the April 24, 2023, Special Education and Student Supports Subcommittee

A discussion followed on **#23-087**.

Member Wilson provided a recap of the Special Education and Student Supports Subcommittee that occurred on April 24, 2023.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, **#23-087** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#23-088 Joint Motion by Vice-Chair Rachel and Member Wilson

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools' Anti-Racist Mission Statement reads, "On the journey to becoming an anti-racist school district, the CPS community actively uplifts and collectively holds each other accountable to equitably support our young people and families. We center the voices and prioritize the needs of youth, families, and educators of color with antiracist decisions, practices, and policies to dismantle historical oppression and to support learning spaces where all students are known, celebrated, empowered, and thrive;" and

WHEREAS: Students of color and all students benefit academically and socially when they have educators of color (Will, M. (2022, Feb). Teachers of Color Are Linked to Social-Emotional, Academic Gains for All Students. *Education Week*); and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools continue to work on recruiting and retaining educators of color while recognizing that additional systemic barriers exist externally, including in preparation programs and state licensure processes outside of the district's purview; and

WHEREAS: The Educator Diversity Act (H. 4539, S. 2748) would develop an alternative pathway for educator certification, charge the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with an Educator Diversity Data Dashboard, mandate diversity and anti-bias training for district leaders and staff, elevate the voices of educators of color through advisory councils, and create an educator diversity grant fund for increasing hiring and retention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The Cambridge School Committee goes on record supporting the Educator Diversity Act and advocates that our state representatives and senators support this legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary to the School Committee forward copies of this resolution to each member of the state delegation on behalf of the entire School Committee.

A discussion followed on **#23-088**.

Vice Chair Rachel and **Member Wilson** both shared context on the motion and the significance its support can have on the students in the district. **Vice Chair Rachel** shared that all students in the district can greatly benefit from educators of color and the purpose of the motion was to forward the Committee's support for the Educator Diversity Act.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-088** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

10. Resolutions: None

11. Announcements:

Member Wilson announced that My Brother's Keeper just opened up at the location at 301 Mass Ave and on May 3rd will be hosting a "Freedom to Learn National Day of Action" which will be read-alouds banned books and a teach-in. The event will be held from 3:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Siddiqui shouted out to everyone who supported her tree-planting event and announced Rise Up Cambridge for families with incomes under 250% of SMI. More information on the Rise Up program can be found online. Applications for the program will be available starting June 1st.

Member Fantini announced that he represented the School Committee at the inauguration of the new MIT President on Monday, May 1st.

Student Member Clemente recognized teacher Nathan Whitfield for being a semifinalist for the 2024 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

12. Communications from City Officers: None

13. Late Orders: None

Email communications:

✓ Dan Monahan	✓ Anne Coburn	✓ Emie Michaud-Weinstock
✓ Missy Page	✓ Ceshada Chambers	✓ Ramsey Champagne
✓ Lily Read		

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel on the following roll call vote, it was voted to adjourn the meeting: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA. (10:04 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee