



**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

September 5, 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, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Edwards, Chief of Academics and Schools; Dr. Gittens, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools; Dr. Madera, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools; David Murphy, Chief Operations Officer; Corey Dotson, Chief Talent Officer

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair.

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

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

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

Member Hunter joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Avenue, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules and the Superintendent's presentations.

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

Mayor Siddiqui entertained a motion to suspend the rules to discuss Recommendation **#23-207**: Approval of Revisions to the 2023-2024 Cambridge School District Calendar.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Rojas, on voice vote, the rules were suspended to bring forward Recommendation **#23-207**.

#23-207 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to the 2023-2024 Cambridge Public Schools District Calendar be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the Monday, May 18, 2024, professional day be rescheduled to Tuesday, March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election Day

Dr. Greer gave background information regarding the need to update the school calendar and the impact of the presidential primary election date. She asked the Committee to adjust the calendar and approve a rescheduled professional development day on March 5. **Member Weinstein** asked about the impact of after-school programming and **Member Rojas** followed up with a comment about a communication plan to parents. Dr. Greer noted their feedback.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-207** was adopted, 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:

A report was given by Elaine Wen, senior class president and Nishma Tajnia, senior class vice president. The students will serve as interim student representatives until an election is held the following week. The students updated the Committee on the opening day at CRLS, the challenges of the distribution of MBTA bus passes, the Bridge to CRLS program, and provided feedback on the student attendance policy. Committee members welcomed them to the group and thanked them for their update.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- August 8, 2023, Regular Meeting
- August 10, 2023, Special Meeting

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, the records for the August 8, 2023, Regular Meeting were approved: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, the records for the August 10, 2023, Special Meeting were approved: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSTAINED; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#23-200 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Vice-Chair Rachel, and Member Hunter

WHEREAS: The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics defines algebra as “a way of thinking and a set of concepts and skills that enable students to generalize, model, and analyze mathematical situations” ([National Council of Teachers of Mathematics \[NCTM\], 2008](#)).

WHEREAS: Algebra I is an important gatekeeper course for STEM careers, as demonstrated by Bob Moses' Algebra Project, and Algebra is usually the first domain in school mathematics that encourages students' abstract reasoning; and

WHEREAS: The opportunity to complete Algebra I prior to 9th grade, with needed supports, must be available to all CPSD children without requiring individual families to seek out opportunities outside of CPSD; and

WHEREAS: CPSD has a history of successfully offering Algebra I prior to 9th grade at multiple CPS schools at various points; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is on record with policies calling for CPSD to offer Algebra I instruction in 8th grade in 1992, 1998, 2010, 2012, and 2013; and

WHEREAS: CPS has recently adopted and is in the process of rolling out the Illustrative Math curriculum in K-12, and the CPS Upper School Mathematics plan, which includes the integration of three Algebra I units into the 8th-grade curriculum; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That, by 2025, the Cambridge Public Schools will provide equitable in-school, school-year opportunities to all students to complete Algebra 1 before 9th grade. This includes broad outreach to engage families, caregivers, and educators; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That, beginning in fall 2023, the Superintendent will offer a program that supports all students to prepare to enter Algebra I in 8th grade and expands and enriches learning for those who are already performing above grade level in math; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this plan will include an annual review of implementation that will include feedback from representative groups of educators, students, and families/caregivers, specifically including families who represent communities of color and multilingual families; and will include data that captures all student groups on math mastery to determine if all students' needs are being met, so that we can make adjustments as needed to ensure that there are no unintended inequities in math mastery and in completion of Algebra I before 9th grade; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, from 2023-2026, the Superintendent will prioritize providing math educators with coaching and support for effectively implementing the Illustrative Math curriculum in heterogeneous groups, to guarantee that all math classrooms provide rigorous math instruction that meets the differentiated needs of students; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this plan will not track students in math; and be it further

RESOLVED: That there will be multiple pathways for individual student needs to be met whether they need more time and support to master the content or to advance in the content through means such as differentiated instruction, personalized supports, or targeted intervention; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this plan will be communicated and coordinated with CPSD elementary, upper school, and high school administrators, elementary and math educators, and curriculum leaders.

Member Weinstein gave brief comments on the background on the motion and asked that it be referred back to the Superintendent.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on a voice vote **#23-200** was referred back to the Superintendent.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda: None

7a. Superintendent's Update:

There were two presentations provided by Superintendent Dr. Greer. The first presentation was the Superintendent's Update and can be found on this [website](#).

Member Weinstein asked about the transportation issues and for an update on tracking buses. Dr. Greer provided additional details and shared that she is hopeful that issues will be addressed with the new position dedicated to transportation.

Member Fantini noted that Food Services has been struggling with filling positions and asked about exit interviews for staff who leave the district. Dr. Greer confirmed that an exit survey is routinely performed. She shared that several part time positions in Food Services had been converted to full-time at has helped with attrition rates.

Member Rojas asked about the lack of bus drivers. Dr. Greer has not been informed about issues with the number of bus drivers. **Member Rojas** asked about the turnover rate with staff currently vs. past years. Dr. Greer noted that the turnover rate is consistent with previous years. Dr. Greer is working in partnership with principals and human resources to augment recruitment efforts.

Vice-Chair Rachel asked if Dr. Greer wanted to comment on the OSS pipeline that has been established for positions. Dr. Greer noted that it is vibrant pipeline and noted the challenges of filling positions in ELL, Special Education and math and science.

The second presentation was a District Plan Update and focused on FY23-24 Focused Initiatives and can be found on this [website](#). A robust conversation followed:

Interim student representative Elaine Wen thanked Dr. Greer for her presentation and hard work. She advocated for increased student representation on decision-making committees.

Member Hunter asked for additional details regarding the anti-bullying campaign, learning walks and the NEASC. Dr. Greer shared that Committee members are welcome to be involved with these initiatives. Dr. Greer offered to share more about the NEASC Visiting Committee visit in November and noted that it was a committee outside of CPSD.

Member Hunter inquired about data from the committee's last visit over 10 years ago.

Member Rojas noted the Expected Outcomes slides and how the Committee's work is now coming to fruition. He asked how the video would be used and the onboarding and implementation of the MTSS dashboard. Dr. Greer shared that the dashboard could be sorted by school and student and would be

helpful in identifying students who need interventions. The dashboard would track academics, SEL information as well and attendance. She highlighted that the dashboard would save educators' significant time. **Member Rojas** noted the School Attendance Campaign and shared that other districts are dealing with this challenge. Dr. Greer shared that the district is still working out the details and that the campaign would be largely informational. She highlighted the importance of older students understanding the importance of attending school and the significant impact of an absence rate of 10%.

Member Fantini asked about the district's response to the CRLS recent ranking in the U.S. News and World Report and the high value placed of students taking AP exams. He thanked Dr. Greer and her team for their hard work. **Vice-Chair Rachel** shared that she's interested in hearing more about student internships, the SEL curriculum and the anti-bullying campaign. She shared her hope that elementary school report cards will consider competency evaluations over letter grades.

Member Weinstein shared his enthusiasm for internship opportunities and highlighted that experiential projects can be equally as powerful. He highlighted the work of the School Councils and hopes that there will be support for them in the future. He expressed that CPSD families were reaching out to him regarding COVID tracking. Dr. Greer turned the floor to Dr. Turk for an update on COVID tracking. Dr. Turk shared that she meets weekly with the public health department and that data is not being collected to update the dashboard. Ensuring safety protocols remains a high priority. **Member Weinstein** inquired about the grading policies. Dr. Greer shared that the Committee could get an update from Dr. Gittens and Principal Smith in a few weeks.

Member Wilson expressed her gratitude to Dr. Greer and her team and noted the importance of the work. Dr. Greer concurred that the leadership team is in a cycle of continuous improvements. She noted the challenges of achieving consistent schedules and report cards within elementary schools. **Member Wilson** asked if the Committee could be involved with the school climate surveys.

Mayor Siddiqui noted her excitement for internships, career exploration and the strategic communications plan. She asked which school would be piloting the SEL curriculum. Dr. Greer will connect with Ms. Huffer and get back to the group. **Mayor Siddiqui** asked about COVID clusters and informing parents by email. Dr. Turk noted that the district was no longer doing this outreach and highlighted the district's commitment to providing testing kits to students and staff. **Mayor Siddiqui** asked for an update on Strategic Tutoring. Dr. Greer shared that Dr. Gray could provide additional information but that the response from CPSD teachers was not as robust as she had hoped. CPSD will continue looking at community resources.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Vice Chair Rachel pulled **#23-202, #23-203, #23-216**. Member Rojas pulled Member Hunter pulled **#23-209 through #23-211**. On the following roll call vote, items **#23-204 through #23-206, #23-208; #23-212 through #23-215, #23-218, #23-219; #23-221 through #23-224** were adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA;

Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-204 Recommendation: Approval of Physical Restraint Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Physical Restraint Policy (Second Reading) that are detailed in the attached redline document. These revisions seek to clarify the limitations of use of the physical restraints consistent with Massachusetts state regulations and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidance regarding the administration of physical restraints.

#23-205 Recommendation: Approval of Inoculation of Students Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Inoculation of Students Policy (Second Reading) that are detailed in the attached redline document. These revisions bring the policy in line with current Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations.

#23-206 Recommendation: Approval of Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, & Tobacco And About Family Life/Sex Education Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco and About Family Life/Sex Education Policy (Second Reading) that are detailed in the attached redline document. These revisions seek to bring the policy into alignment with the current Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements.

#23-208 Recommendation: Contract Award: 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: SY23-24 Placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

Program	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts	6	\$457,748.86
Residential Program Tuition Contracts	1	\$256,817.58
45 Day Program		
	Total	7
		\$714,566.44

#23-212 Recommendation: Contract Award: SEEM Collaborative: OSS Health Curriculum 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.

SEEM Collaborative, 82 Montvale Ave, Suite 3500, Stoneham, MA contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$25,404.00.

#23-213 Recommendation: Contract Award: PowerSchool Group LLC: Computer Software 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.

PowerSchool Group LLC, 150 Parkshore Drive, Folsom, CA for the contract period of September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024, in the amount of \$27,095.48

#23-214 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cengage Learning: Instructional Materials 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.

Cengage Learning, 10650 Toebben Drive, Independence, KY 41501 for the contract period of August 6, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$28,776.00.

#23-215 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Public Health: Nursing Services 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.

Cambridge Public Health Department, 119 Windsor Street, Lower Level, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of September 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$84,924.31.

#23-218 Recommendation: Contract Award: Barnes & Noble Inc.: Instructional Materials 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.

Barnes & Noble, Inc., 33 East 17th Street, New York, NY, for the contract period of September 8, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$48,627.05.

#23-219 Recommendation: Contract Award: Branching Minds: Computer Software 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.

Branching Minds, 157 Columbia Ave, 4th Floor, New York, NY for the contract period of September 8, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$71,000.00.

#23-221 Recommendation: Contract Award: Robert Half Recruiters & Employee Agency: Temporary Staffing Services 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 laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Robert Half Recruiters & Employee Agency, 125 High Street, 17th Floor, Boston, MA for the contract period of September 8, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$66,588.00.

#23-222 Recommendation: Contract Award: FreshPoint Connecticut: Fresh Produce 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.

FreshPoint Connecticut, 105 Reserve Road, Hartford, CT for the contract period of September 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$250,000.00.

#23-223 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY24 Individual with Disabilities Education Act Early Childhood (SC24607) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Early Childhood (SC24607) in the amount of \$63,665.00 for the period of September 1, 2023, to September 20, 2025.

Description: This federal entitlement program provides funding to support early childhood education for eligible students with disabilities. IDEA EC funding allocations will be used for:

- Professional Development for early childhood educators and staff focused on equity and bias in special education.
- Leadership assessment and coaching for Early Childhood Special Start Administrative Team
- Purchase of instructional materials for early childhood Special Start students, including play and discovery toys, manipulatives, specialized tables, rugs, chairs, etc.
- Purchase of AI robot device and curriculum which is research-based and demonstrated to improve.

#23-224 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY23 Expanded Homeless Shelter Funding (SC23218) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY23 Expanded Homeless Shelter Funding (SC23218) in the amount of \$11,648.00 for the period of October 3, 2022, to June 30, 2024.

Description: The purpose of this program is to support students enrolled in the district who were housed in an expanded homeless shelter after October 3, 2022.

- The second-round payment is based on the number of days each student was enrolled after March 1, 2023, until the end of the school year, funded at a level of \$104 per student per day.
- The funds can be used in fiscal year 2023 or fiscal year 2024 to support instructional services and any other services that the district is providing to these students and their families.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#23-202 Approval of the Controlled Choice Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Controlled Choice Policy (First Reading).

A robust discussion followed **#23-202**.

Vice-Chair Rachel asked for clarity regarding the mixed delivery system and the selection of CPS vs. home-based slots. Dr. Greer will follow-up with Attorney MacFarlane who was unable to attend the meeting. **Member Weinstein** agreed that families have questions regarding the Controlled Choice Policy and how it relates to Universal Pre-K. Sibling preference was also discussed. **Member Fantini** noted that some families apply twice with the hope of securing their preferred spots. COO Murphy joined the discussion and noted that the Committee needs to undertake policy changes and develop recommendations. He highlighted the current “hardship process” and shared that hardship cases are rarely denied. He believes that decisions need to be made “sooner rather than later.” A discussion of implementing a Controlled Choice Subcommittee or Roundtable Discussion briefly ensued.

Member Rojas highlighted that previously Controlled Choice was handled by the Buildings and Ground Subcommittee. Dr. Greer noted that the registration window is now opening, and the group needs to review Controlled Choice policy as it impacts JK enrollment.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-202** was moved to a Second Reading: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-203 Student Attendance Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the revisions to the student Attendance Policy that are detailed in the attached redline document. These revisions seek to bring the policy into alignment with the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as to when a student is considered chronically absent and to clarify what constitutes an excused and unexcused absence from school.

A robust discussion followed **#23-203**.

A robust discussion ensued regarding the definitions of excused, unexcused and explained absences and DESE requirements. Dr. Gittens shared her feedback and offered to get back to the group with additional information. Given the significance of the policy and the proposed changes, **Member Wilson** exercised her Charter Right and tabled the recommendation to be further discussed at the next Regular Meeting.

#23-209 Contract Award: Enroot 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.

Enroot, 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$70,000.00.

A brief discussion followed **#23-209**.

Member Wilson asked for additional data regarding the contract **Vice-Chair Rachel** noted her past inquiries regarding this contract and asked about the process for evaluating CPSD partners. As the current budget has been approved, Dr. Greer shared that the FY25 budget process will help CPSD determine these partnerships moving forward. Dr. Greer is happy to share the piloting and testing information that is available.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-209** was adopted. Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-210 Contract Award: Youth Guidance 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.

Youth Guidance, 1 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 900, Chicago, IL for the contract period of July 15, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$272,888.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-210**.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Hunter, on the following roll call vote, **#23-210** were adopted. Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-211 Contract Award: uAspire 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.

uAspire, 31 Milk Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA for the contract period of September 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$60,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-211**.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Hunter, on the following roll call vote, **#23-211** were adopted. Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-216 Contract Award: Cambridge Housing Authority 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.

Cambridge Housing Authority, 362 Green Street, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$231,150.00.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein on the following roll call vote, **#23-216** was adopted. Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson ABSTAINED, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-217 Contract Award: MAG Retail Holdings-FFD, dba McGovern Commercial HQ 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.

MAG Retail Holdings-FFD, dba McGovern Commercial HQ, 1200 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA for the contract period of August 15, 2023. to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$67,815.00

A brief discussion followed on **#23-217**.

CFO Spinner outlined additional details regarding the city's requirements involved with purchasing an electric vehicle for the superintendent and the challenges and costs related to its purchase.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote, **#23-217** was adopted. Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-220 Robert Avossa dba K-12 Leadership Matters 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.

Robert Avossa dba K-12 Leadership Matters, 156 Manor Circle, Jupiter, FL for the contract period of September 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$74,500.00.

Vice-Chair Rachel exercised her charter right and the recommendation was tabled for further consideration at the next Regular Meeting.

11. Announcements:

- **Mayor Siddiqui** acknowledged Member Hunter's birthday.
- **Mayor Siddiqui** shared information regarding School Fairs.

12. Late Orders:

Late Order by Vice Chair Rachel

WHEREAS: The administration developed elementary school schedule guidelines to ensure that students receive adequate instruction time in core academic subjects; and

WHEREAS: The guidelines address significant differences between individual Cambridge Public Schools' instruction time for subjects; and

WHEREAS: Schools have created their SY23-24 schedules; accordingly, and

WHEREAS: Some have interpreted the scheduling guidelines as detailed mandates rather than guidelines, resulting in concerns over rigid learning conditions; and

WHEREAS: Caregivers from every CPS school have contacted the School Committee and Superintendent with concerns about reduced play, nutrition, rest, and transition times; and

WHEREAS: The Superintendent's team clarified, at the August 8 meeting, that the guidelines would neither prevent extending class meeting times when students need longer nor providing requisite transition time between classes; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the administration issue written communication to CPS staff confirming that the elementary schedule guidelines are advisory, and that principals and educators have the trust of the Committee and Superintendent to adjust as they see fit.

A brief discussion followed the Late Order.

Vice-Chair Rachel and **Member Weinstein** shared community feedback regarding the confusion and anxiety regarding the implementation of the guidelines. Dr. Greer shared her feedback and her commitment to a more cohesive approach for elementary school schedules and adhering to DESE requirements. In addition, she highlighted the school principals' roles in implementing the guidelines.

Member Rojas exercised his Charter Right given the significance of the subject matter and the need for further discussion. The Late Order was tabled for further consideration at the next Regular Meeting.

13. Communications from City Officers:

- [Mayor Siddiqui: Communicating Information about Cambridge Promise Pilot](#)

Mayor Siddiqui provided additional context on the Cambridge Promise Pilot program and thanked those who partnered with her on the initiative.

Email communications:

- ✓ Dan Monahan

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice-Chair Rachel, on a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned (8:30 p.m.).

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee