



**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 19, 2024

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 Hunter, Member Harding, Member Hudson, Member Rachel, Member Rojas (Remote), Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Grace, Superintendent of Student Services; Attorney Maureen MacFarlane, General Counsel; David Murphy, Chief Operations Officer; Ivy Washington, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and read the call of the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, **Mayor Simmons** announced that the agenda item regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation was postponed.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call vote for the purpose of a soundcheck: Member Harding PRESENT; Member Hudson PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein **ABSENT**; Vice Chair Hunter PRESENT; Mayor Simmons PRESENT.

Member Weinstein joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

1. FY25 Budget Hearing:

The following individuals were heard:

- Alex Hines, Oxford Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Danielle Mulligan, Tremont Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Suhail Purkar, Marion Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Ryan Robateau, Columbia Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Trent Sandland, Fisk Pl. spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Luisa Santos, Walker Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Corey Spaulding, Prospect Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- John Summers, Fairmount Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Jacob Augestern, Elm Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Tina Lieu, Huron Avenue, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Gwynneth O'Donnell, Gold Star Road, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Dan Totten, Bishop Allen Drive, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.

- Missy Page, Gore Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.
- Claire Yu, Cambridge Street, spoke regarding the proposed FY25 budget.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Weinstein, on a voice vote, the Budget Hearing was closed.

1a. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Elinor Actipis, Whittmore Ave, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Anna Bialkowska, Gray Gardens West, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Francis Bingham, Holworthy Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Laura Clawson, Richdale Ave, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Owen Cornwall, Upland Rd, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Fiery Cushman, Walker Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Ying Dong, Buena Vista Pk., spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Andrea Eichman, Holworthy Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Rachael Elliot, Agassiz Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Daniel Farbman, Cottage Park Avenue, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Amber Fisher, Griswold Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Jessica Goetz, Pemberton Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Lilly Havstad, Granville Road, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Brooke Hopkins, Cottage Park Avenue, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Arjun Jaikumar, Richdale Avenue, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Rachel Kelsey, Mt. Vernon Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Becca Lester, William Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Maia McAleavey, Garden Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation and the presentation from the Office of Student Services.
- Ashley Owens Wood, Wood Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Ori Porat, Myrtle Avenue, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Guy Rosenzweig, Raymond Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Anna Shin, Sidney Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Leah Whittington, Sterns Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Caitlin Dube, Huron Avenue, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Tara Edelschick, Valentine Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Shawdee Eshghi, Walden Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Kimberlee Gonsalves, Franklin Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.

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

After Public Comment, the meeting was recessed for five minutes. The meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Alailima and **Student Member Anjaria** gave a student update on happenings at CRLS including sending out a survey about the AP exam to CRLS students and families, logistics surrounding the implementation of the CRLS community garden, and the senior spoon game.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- March 5, 2024, Regular Meeting
- March 12, 2024, Special Meeting

Vice Chair Hunter shared amendments to the March 5, 2024, meeting minutes.

On a motion by motion for Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Weinstein a voice vote, the records for March 5, 2024, were adopted as amended.

On a motion by motion for Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Weinstein a voice vote, the records for March 12, 2024, were adopted.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda

7a. Superintendent's Update:

Mayor Simmons passed the floor to Dr. Karyn Grace (Assistant Superintendent of Student Services) who gave an update on the district's Office of Student Services. The presentation can be found on this [website](#).

After the presentation, **Mayor Simmons** opened the floor for questions and a discussion from Committee members which included resources available for twice-exceptional learners, advanced learning, mental health services through Cartwheel, IEP support and training for families, and OSS objectives.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Member Rachel pulled **#24-046**, Member Hudson pulled **#24-044**. Member Harding pulled **#24-042**. On the following roll call vote, items **#24-041**, **#24-042** **#24-045**, and **#24-047** were adopted: Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#24-041 Approval of Policy & Procedures for the Administration of Prescription Medication & for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in the School Setting (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the Policy and Procedures for the Administration of Prescription Medication and for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in the School Setting as detailed in the attached document. This is the same Policy and Procedures for the Administration of Prescription Medication and for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in School Settings that is currently in place but in accordance with state regulations the Policy and Procedures need to be periodically reviewed in conjunction with the Public Health Department. The Medical Director, School Health and Public Health Programs of the Cambridge Public Health Department, the Associate Chief of Clinical Services of the Cambridge Public Health Department, and the Public Health Nutritionist of the Cambridge Public Health Department have reviewed the Policy and Procedures for the Administration of Prescription Medication and for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in the School Setting and are not recommending any changes to the document at this time.

Description:

This is a second reading of the review of the Policy and Procedures for the Administration of Prescription Medication and for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in the School Setting.

#24-043 Approval of the Cambridge Public Schools Wellness Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Wellness Policy as detailed in the attached document.

Description:

These revisions to the Wellness Policy are being recommended after a review of the current policy was conducted by the Cambridge Public Schools Wellness Council. This is a second reading of revisions to the Wellness Policy.

#24-045 Day & Residential Services not Available by the Cambridge Public Schools be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget.

Description: SY23-24 Placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

Program	#	Amount
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Day Program Tuition Contracts	2	\$59,782.66
Residential Program Tuition Contracts 45 Day Program	1	\$31,472.10
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Total	3	\$91,254.76

#24-047 Contract Award: Insight Public Sector: Computer Software (FY25 Contract) 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.

Insight Public Sector, 6820 S Harl Ave, Temple, AZ, from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$71,107.15.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#24-042 Approval of the Physical Education Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Physical Education Policy as detailed in the attached document.

Description:

This is a second reading of revisions to the Physical Education Policy.

A brief discussion followed on **#24-042**.

Member Harding asked for clarification of the policy.

Member Rojas inquired if the policy includes students on national teams. This policy does not include students on national teams.

On motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, **#24-042** was adopted: Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#24-044 Approval of the Cambridge Public Schools Student Opportunity Plan for 2024-2027 be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the Cambridge Public Schools Student Opportunity Act Plan, a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requirement that is submitted every three years and reviewed annually by DESE (as of 2019). This plan addresses a subset of a district's overall initiatives, focusing on evidence-based programs and strategies that will improve the educational experiences and outcomes of students, including English learners, students with disabilities, and low-income students. The plan highlights critical, actionable evidence-based programs and strategies that are focused on rapidly improving outcomes for students with low academic performance. This plan highlights how CPS plans to enhance ongoing efforts in the years ahead. the revisions to the Wellness Policy as detailed in the attached document.

Description:

This is a review of the Student Opportunity Act Plan, a DESE requirement that requires School Committee approval in advance of the April 1, 2024, deadline.

A brief discussion followed on **#24-044**.

Member Hudson asked about the three-year targets from DESE that were mentioned in the recommendation. Dr. Greer provided additional context and will share the DESE targets to the Committee in her weekly email.

On motion by Member Hudson, seconded by Member Harding, on the following roll call vote, **#24-044** was adopted; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#24-046 Contract Award: SHI International: 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.

SHI International, 290 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$38,624.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#24-046**.

Member Rachel asked about this contract and if the recent climate survey and the new communications survey will affect the scope of the contract. Ms. Wycoff shared that this contract is an extension of the current ParentSquare contract. COO Murphy provided additional clarity on the contract and software implementation.

On motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein on the following roll call vote, **#24-046** was adopted; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

**9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information):
#24-048 Report of the March 4, 2024 Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee**

Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Co-Chairs **Member Weinstein** and **Member Harding** summarized the March 4, 2024, Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee which focused on the district's Level Up program.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Harding, on a voice vote, **#24-048** was adopted.

#24-049 Report of the March 11, 2024, Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Harding, on a voice vote, **#24-049** was adopted.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences): None

11. Announcements:

- **Member Weinstein** shared that the North Cambridge Family Opera will be performing “Raissance” with performances on Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24.
- **Member Harding** announced that there would be an MCAS Forum on Thursday, March 21.
- **Vice Hunter** announced that the Health Children’s Task Force will host a Teen Mental Health Zoom meeting on Wednesday, March 20.
- **Member Rojas** announced that there is an art exhibit by CRLS students at the Multicultural Arts Cambridge through March 29. He also acknowledged students who participated in spring sports which had just begun.
- **Mayor Simmons** announced that the Community Iftar will take place on Wednesday, March 27.

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications from City Officer: None

Email communications:

- Dan Monahan
- Lisa Downing
- Sarah Figge Hussain
- Elizabeth Patton
- Rob Wood
- Corey Spaulding
- Rebecca Richman
- Lilly Havstad
- Madan Ramakrishnan
- Lauren Gibbs
- John Tever
- Elsie Hiang
- Sarah Klionsky
- Tom Burke
- Clara Hendricks

- Linda Nathan
- Amind Sheikh
- Melissa Rubbelke
- Martine Udengaard

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Rachel on the following roll call vote, it was voted to adjourn the open meeting: Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA. (9:24 p.m.)

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee