



**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)

Special Meeting

March 14, 2024

Called for a 6:00 p.m. broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of a budget workshop to review the FY25 Proposed Budget

Members Present: Member Harding ~~ABSENT~~, Member Hudson, Member Rachel (ABSENT),
Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Vice Chair Hunter, Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Ivy Washington, Interim Chief Financial
Officer; Heather Francis, Director of MTSS, Dr. Madera, Assistant
Superintendent of Elementary Schools; Dr. Gittens, Assistant Superintendent of
Secondary School; Dr. Grace, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Student
Services, Mr. Fernandez, Chief Equity Officer; David Murphy, Chief Operating
Officer; Damon Smith, Principal of CRLS

Vice Chair Hunter in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair read the call of the meeting and explained that this meeting is being televised, votes will not be taken and there will be no public comment.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call of members present: Member Harding ~~ABSENT~~, Member Hudson PRESENT; Member Rachel ~~ABSENT~~; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter PRESENT; Mayor Simmons PRESENT.

Member Harding joined at 6:11 p.m.

Vice Chair Hunter turned the meeting over to the Superintendent who gave an overview of the evening's agenda and passed the floor to Heather Francis for a presentation.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Key initiatives for MTSS
 - Excel After School Tutoring Program
 - MTSS Design Team
 - Title I Programs

The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

After the presentation, **Vice Chair Hunter** opened the floor to the Committee members for questions discussion, and feedback.

The Committee members led a robust discussion following the key MTSS initiatives shared in the presentation that included:

- An effective data system for student support and program evaluations
- Financial resources surrounding the key initiatives
- Parent resources and support for Excel Tutoring and Branching Minds
- Future of Title I
- Additional questions/clarity surrounding Branching Minds, social-emotional student supports, family liaison supports, chronic absenteeism, and student safety and discipline,

The full discussion can be found on the [website](#).

With the meeting approaching its anticipated end time, Member Harding motioned to extend the meeting by 30 minutes, seconded by Mayor Simmons, on the following roll call the meeting was extended: Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas NAY; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

Mayor Simmons left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Hunter gave an overall summary of what members have expressed they would like to discuss at the upcoming Budget Workshop on March 26th and concluded the meeting by thanking the Superintendent, MTSS Director Heather Francis, Interim CFO Ivy Washington, and the district administration for the budget book and presentation.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Harding, on the following roll call the meeting was adjourned: Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA. (8:10 p.m.).

Attest:



Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee