



**CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

June 18, 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: Member Harding, Member Hudson, Vice Chair Hunter (virtual), Member Rachel, Member Rojas ABSENT, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Dr. Victoria Greer, Superintendent of Schools; David Murphy, Chief Operating Officer; Skylar Nash, Chief Strategy Officer

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and 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 Weinstein PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter PRESENT; Member Harding ~~ABSENT~~; Member Hudson PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons PRESENT.

Member Harding arrived at 6:10 p.m.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave., spoke regarding Motion to create a School Councils Subcommittee (#24-153) and Resolution recognizing 2023-2024 Retirees (#24-154) and acknowledged the contributions of Dr. Greer.
- John Summers, Fairmont Street, spoke regarding Contract Award of Day and Residential Program Services not available from CPSD (#24-129).

On a motion by Member Rachel seconded by Member Hudson public comment was closed on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA.

2. Student School Committee Report: None

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- June 4, 2024, Regular Meeting
- June 4, 2024, Special Meeting

On a motion by Member Rachel seconded by Member Weinstein the records were accepted as presented on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA.

- 4. **Reconsiderations:** None
- 5. **Unfinished Business/Calendar:** None
- 6. **Awaiting Reports:** None
- 7. **Superintendent's Agenda**

7a. **Superintendent's Update:**

7b. **Presentations:**

District Plan: End of the Year Progress Update.....Victoria L. Greer, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

Skylar Nash, Chief Strategy Officer, gave the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

A robust discussion followed the presentation. Committee members commented on the following topics, as well as highlighted Dr. Greer's successes:

- Need for plainer language in presentations and CPSD communications overall.
- Need for clear metrics and concrete and measurable goals that are relatable to families
- The helpfulness of school "walk throughs" to inform the Committee's work
- Educator Pathways Program
- Excel Tutoring
- Committee's involvement in Dr. Greer's District Plan and its adoption as a jointly-owned vision
- Challenges of School Committee membership changing every two years
- Launching of student success planning
- Effective use of ESSER funds
- Implementation a longer school day
- Implementation of Universal Preschool
- Student successes in ELA and math

Dr. Greer shared the following:

- Committee members' deep involvement in developing metrics and targets
- Challenge of responding to varying expectations of individual Committee members
- Invitations extended to Committee members for individual meetings; Some of the invitations were not accepted

7c. **CPS District Plan:** None

7d. **Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Simmons noted that Recommendation #24-133 was removed from the agenda with the update being noted in the supplemental agenda.

On a motion by Member Rachel seconded by member Weinstein on the following roll call vote, **#24-130, #24-131, #24-132, #24-133, #24-134, #24-136, #24-137, #24-138, #24-139, #24-140, #24-141, #24-143 #24-144, #24-145, #24-146, #24-147 #24-148, #24-148, and #24-150** items were adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson ABSENT; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#24-130 Recommendation: Contract Award: Research for Better Teaching: Professional Development 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.

Research for Better Teaching, One Acton Place, Acton, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$120,000.00.

#24-131 Recommendation: Contract Award: Aramsco, Inc.: Custodial Supplies 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.

Aramsco, Inc., 1480 Grandview Ave, Paulsboro, NJ for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$300,000.00.

#24-132 Recommendation: Contract Award: Filter Sales & Services: HVAC Supplies 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.

Filter Sales & Services, 15 Adams Street, Burlington, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$100,000.00

#24-134 Recommendation: Contract Award: 1722 Behavior & Consulting: Special Education 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.

1722 Behavior & Consulting, 7 Hazelwood Road, Worcester, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

#24-136 Recommendation: Contract Award: F. W. Webb: HVAC Supplies 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.

F. W. Webb, 160 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

#24-137 Recommendation: Contract Award: WW Grainger: Facilities Equipment & Supplies 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.

WW Grainger, 100 Grainger Parkway, Lake Forest, IL for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

#24-138 Recommendation: Contract Award: Home Depot: Carpentry & Maintenance Supplies 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.

Home Depot, 11 Dan Road, Canton, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$300,000.00.

#24-139 Recommendation: Contract Award: Metropolitan Pipe: Plumbing Supplies 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.

Metropolitan Pipe, 30 Inner Belt Road, Somerville, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#24-140 Recommendation: Contract Award: Imagine 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.

Imagine Learning, 8860 E. Chaparral Road, Scottsdale, AZ for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$125,000.00.

#24-141 Recommendation: Contract Award: NorthEast Electrical: Electrical Supplies 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.

NorthEast Electrical, 560 Oak Street, Boston, MA the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$125,000.00.

#24-143 Recommendation: Contract Award: Pasek: Locks, Keys & Hardware 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.

Pasek, 9 West Third Street, South Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#24-144 Recommendation: Contract Award: Quadient Inc.: Postage Machine Leases 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.

Quadient Inc., 478 Wheelers Farm Road, Milford, CT for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$80,000.00.

#24-145 Recommendation: Contract Award: Next Gen Supply Group: Custodial Supplies 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.

Next Gen Supply Group, 11 Norfolk Street, Mansfield, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$450,000.00.

#24-146 Recommendation: Contract Award: New England School Services: Doors & Supplies 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.

New England School Services, 98 Hicks Avenue, Medford, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$125,000.00.

#24-147 Recommendation: Contract Award: City Sprouts: Educational 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.

City Sprouts, 1034 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$138,000.00.

#24-148 Recommendation: Contract Award: WB Mason: Classroom & Office Furniture 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.

WB Mason, 647 Summer Street, Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

#24-149 Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the donations as described:

- 1) DONATION - cps received a \$489,515.00 donation to the CRLS boys and girls rowing teams from the Estate of Marie L. Hagelstein. This is the second of multiple donations from the estate which are restricted for the exclusive use of the CRLS boys and girls rowing teams. This brings the total donations to date to \$879,515.00. Funds are placed into a Trust with the City of Cambridge and are available solely for the operations of the boys and girls rowing teams, including equipment purchases. CPS is authorized to use both the principal and the interest of the trust funds.
- 2) DONATION - \$1,000.00 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to enhance STEM activities and initiatives at Putnam Avenue Upper School.
- 3) IN-KIND - Donation of LEGO robotics supplies for the EdTech department from MassCUE to support access to LEGO robotics for elementary coders. This donation originated as a classroom grant to Ingrid Gustafson and Jackie Romero, both Instructional Technology Specialists within the department.

#24-150 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Popplestone Foundation (SC25695) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY 25 Popplestone Foundation (SC25695) Private in the amount of \$303,754.00 for the period of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

8. Non-Consent Agenda

#24-129 Recommendation: Day & Residential Services Not Available from the Cambridge School 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.

Description: SY24-25 Placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:	82	\$9,992,317.21
Residential Program Contracts:	14	\$4,188,887.21
45 Day Program Contracts:		
Total	96	\$14,181,204.42

A brief discussion followed **#24-129**.

Member Rachel noted that the Recommendation and related topic might warrant a more detailed overview by CPSD administrators. She offered to delay the discussion for a future meeting.

On a motion by Member Rachel seconded by member Weinstein on the following roll call vote **#24-129** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#24-135 Recommendation: Contract Award: NRT Bus, Inc.: Unhoused (McKinney Vento/DCF) Student Transportation 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.

NRT Bus, Inc., 230 North Main Street, North Reading, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$3,482,190.00.

A robust discussion followed **#24-135**.

The group asked if the contract included tracking buses. COO Murphy shared details of the contract. After much discussion with the vendor, it was determined that CPSD would be responsible for installing tracking devices for the 2024-2025 school year and it would be a shared responsibility regarding operating the equipment. The vendor would assume responsibility in 2025-2026 school year. COO Murphy noted the inherent imperfections in the upcoming school year, but that significant improvements would be gained.

On a motion by Member Rachel seconded by Member Weinstein it was voted to suspend the rules to bring forward recommendation **#24-142** as the Recommendation involved the same vendor and topic as **#24-135** on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding NAY; Member Hudson NAY; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA. (4-2-1)

#24-142 Recommendation: Contract Award: NRT Bus, Inc.: Special Education Transportation 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.

NRT Bus, Inc., 230 North Main Street, North Reading, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$29,356,258.00.

A robust discussion followed **#24-142**.

The group discussed the financial details of the contract, transportation challenges faced by districts nationwide, and the district's commitment to convert to electric buses in the future.

On a motion by Member Rachel seconded by member Weinstein on the following roll call vote **#24-135** and **#24-42** were adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding NAY; Member Hudson NAY; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA. (4-2-1)

9. School Committee Agenda:

#24-151 May 30, 2024, Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Report

On a motion by Member Harding seconded by Member Hudson on the following roll call vote, **#24-151** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#24-152 June 3, 2024, Governance Subcommittee Report

A discussion followed **#24-152**.

Member Rachel shared her thoughts behind a motion that was put forth at the May 7 Regular Meeting which was referenced in the subcommittee report. The motion opened the registration window for public comment once a meeting agenda was posted. The group had varying opinions on the motion, with **Member Weinstein** supporting Member Rachel's motion. **Mayor Simmons** advocated for a uniform registration window (48 hours) across all meetings. **Member Harding** highlighted the problematic issues associated with a registration window that is too long, but supported the spirit of Member Rachel's motion. **Member Rachel** acknowledged that complexity of the issue and would undertake further research before putting forth a similar motion for the Committee's consideration.

Member Rachel moved to adopt the underlying report and lay the underlying policy order on the table, seconded by Member Harding on the following roll call vote the underlying report (**#24-152**) was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA.

#24-153 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Vice Chair Hunter and Member Rachel

WHEREAS: School Councils are established by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ([General Laws Part I, Title XII, Chapter 71, Section 59C](#)); and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District's [School Council Handbook](#) was drafted by a working group that included Cambridge parents, caregivers, community members, and CPSD staff and was adopted as policy by the School Committee June 20, 2023; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education advises that the "[law provides for an explicit oversight role for school committees](#)" with respect to School Councils; and

WHEREAS: In Cambridge the School Council has the following main responsibilities, as noted in the School Council Handbook:

- Adopt educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards;
- Identify the educational needs of students attending the school in the relation to the goals;

- Collaborate with school community and district instructional staff to form an annual School Improvement Plan (SIP) to be reviewed by the School Committee prior to approval by the Superintendent;
- Review the school budget annually;
- Review the student's Rights and Responsibilities handbook regularly to ensure the school discipline policies.
- Assess student discipline data; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee plays a critical role in policymaking, establishing the CPSD budget, and reviewing School Improvement Plans; and

WHEREAS: This School Committee is committed to supporting the caregivers, staff, teachers and community members serving on School Councils with the shared goal of best supporting the education and growth of all of the children of Cambridge; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee establishes a School Councils Subcommittee; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Councils Subcommittee will be focused on supporting the School Councils; coordinating the School Committee's review of School Improvement Plans; providing a forum to review and support School Councils and their work; and will undertake other work determined by the chair of the subcommittee, in consultation with the members of the subcommittee, to be relevant and timely.

A discussion followed **#24-153**.

As the main motion-maker, **Member Weinstein**, provided background on the motion. He believes that the Committee can provide additional support to the School Councils. **Mayor Simmons** exercised her Charter Right and tabled the motion to the August 6 meeting.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences):

#24-154 Joint Resolution by Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons and Vice Chair Hunter

WHEREAS: Twenty-six Cambridge Public Schools staff members are retiring or have retired in the 2023-24 school year; and

WHEREAS: Each and every one of these individuals has made a significant difference in the lives of each of the children of Cambridge whom they have served, whatever their particular roles and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS: Every Cambridge Public Schools employee leaves a legacy that is carried on by their colleagues and in the lives of the students, community members and colleagues they supported; and

WHEREAS: These retirees together represent more than 474 years of dedicated service to the Cambridge Public Schools, including many with decades of service; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That Cambridge School Committee honors all of these colleagues and wishes them all the best in their retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to each of the retirees on behalf of the entire Committee.

A brief discussion followed **#24-154**.

Members shared their heartfelt sentiments for the retirees and acknowledged their commitment to Cambridge families and children.

On a motion by Member Weinstein seconded by Member Rachel on the following roll call vote, **#24-154** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA.

11. Announcements:

Member David noted the Juneteenth celebration and parade.

Vice Chair Hunter shared that she would be a panelist at the UN Human Rights Summit.

Mayor Simmons acknowledged and thanked Dr. Greer for her service.

12: Late Orders

Joint Motion by Member Rojas and Member Rachel

Timeline for 2024 Superintendent Search

That the School Committee discuss and adopt the following timeline for the Superintendent Search

CPSD Superintendent Search 2024

Timeline	Action
By July 15	Name Ad-Hoc Superintendent Search Sub-Committee
By July 22	Engage with MASC and/or Search Firm to help with search process
By July 29	MASC and/or Search Firm draft community surveys
July 30	Ad-Hoc Subcommittee meeting to review surveys
By Aug 5	Send community surveys
By Sep 15	Posting goes live
By Sep 30	Finish vetting applications
By Oct 21	School Committee finishes 1st round of interviews of candidates
By Nov 4	Compile feedback from community of top candidates

By Nov 18	If finalist(s) are identified, School Committee finishes 2nd round of interviews. If not, adopt a calendar for extended search.
By Dec 16	School Committee appoints new Superintendent

A brief discussion followed **Late Order**.

Member Rachel, one of the motion-makers, thought it was important to share an update regarding the Superintendent search with CPSD families. She noted that it may not be appropriate to vote on the Motion at the meeting but to revisit the conversation at the August 6 meeting. She highlighted that beginning a public conversation was important. She noted that the timeline was based on a recommendation from Member Rojas following his conversation with MASC. She welcomed feedback. **Member Harding** appreciated the motion, but believed additional conversations within the Committee were necessary. He noted the lengthy process of selecting a superintendent. He is hopeful for a future meeting with Mr. Koocher of MASC. **Vice Chair Hunter** thanked the motion-makers, but she believes that the timeline is ambitious and that further discussions with MASC would be necessary. **Mayor Simmons** noted that she and Vice Chair Hunter have been working on a transition plan.

Member Rachel exercised her Charter Right and moved to lay the Motion on the table until the August 6 meeting.

Joint Motion by Member Hudson and Member Harding

That the District provide an option for Upper School students to cover Algebra I, during the school day, for 2025-2026 school year - in accordance with the commitment made to parents in August 2023.

Member Hudson provided background on her Late Order. She shared caregivers' frustration in delaying the option for Algebra I in the upper schools. Members provided additional background on the Committee's longstanding support through several past Motions related to Algebra I in the upper schools. **Member Weinstein** and **Vice Chair Hunter** expressed concern that the topic was too important to be put forth as a Late Order. **Mayor Simmons** shared that if the Motion is voted on and does not pass, it can not be brought back to the Committee. **Member Rachel** suggested that the motion-makers include a deadline to the Late Order in future iterations.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, the Late Order was referred to the Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee, on the following roll call vote: : Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA.

13. Communications from City Officer: None

Email communications: None

On a motion by Member Weinstein seconded by Member Rachel on the following roll call vote the meeting was adjourned: Member Weinstein YEA; Vice Chair Hunter YEA; Member Harding YEA; Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas ABSENT; Mayor Simmons YEA. (8:45 p.m.)

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Christo".

Katherine Christo

Interim Executive Secretary to the School Committee