



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting

March 19, 2025

Called for Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway for the purpose of discussion the superintendent search.

Members Present: Member Harding, Member Hudson, Vice Chair Hunter, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Others Present: Ashley Pierre, Executive Director of Human Resources, CPSD
Dr. Carolyn Turk, Director of Education Policy, Mayor's Office

Mayor Simmons in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, **Mayor Simmons** called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. **Mayor Simmons** read the call of the meeting and explained that the meeting was being televised and recorded. Votes may be taken.

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

Member Harding joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Ms. Pierre joined at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Following introductory remarks, Mayor Simmons opened the floor to public comment. Caregiver, Ann Coburn, shared positive feedback that Interim Superintendent Murphy was a good listener and she hoped that the selected superintendent would be open to hearing and learning from the community as well.

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

Prior to Ms. Pierre's arrival, the group discussed that search firms have submitted bids during the Invitation for Bids (IFB) process. The lowest bidder was not qualified and was no longer in contention. The second lowest bidder was now up for consideration.

Ms. Pierre joined the meeting and the group discussed the following highlights.

- Search Firm Selection
 - The first bid for a search firm was rejected due to not meeting qualifications.
 - The second lowest bidder is being reviewed, with Ms. Pierre/HR to conduct reference checks.
 - If the second bidder is also unqualified, the committee will move to the third bidder.
 - A decision is expected soon, and the contract will be reviewed by HR before a vote by the committee.
 - Once a search firm is selected, they will be expected to meet with the committee within a week.
- Community Engagement Plan:
 - Discussion on ensuring timely public engagement – once the search firm is selected, undergoing the community engagement process would be a priority.
 - The Working Group will review and refine its outreach strategy.
 - Consideration of releasing a leadership profile in advance to provide transparency.
- Leadership Profile

- Ms. Pierre shared that in previous district superintendent searches, the search firm managed the drafting of the leadership profile which was informed by community engagement.
- Additionally, the Committee completed a leadership profile survey.

In the closing minutes, the group decided to set a tentative date of Tuesday, April 8 for a follow-up meeting with Ms. Pierre. **Mayor Simmons** asked that Committee members hold the first Tuesday evening of each month to devote to meeting about the superintendent search.

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Member Weinstein, the meeting was adjourned on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, ABSENT, Member Hudson, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (6:52 p.m.)

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Christo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee