



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Virtual Special Meeting

April 25, 2025

Called for Friday, April 25, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. and broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway for the purpose of discussing the superintendent search.

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

Others Present: Elizabeth Unger, Director of Purchasing, City of Cambridge
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 9:30 a.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 Weinstein, PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter, ~~ABSENT~~; Member Harding, ABSENT; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Member Rachel, PRESENT, Member Rojas, ABSENT; Mayor Simmons, PRESENT.

Member Rojas and **Vice Chair Hunter** joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Member Harding joined the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Mayor Simmons gave introductory remarks and welcomed Ms. Pierre and Ms. Unger to the conversation. She then opened the floor to public comment. There was one registrant who had not joined the meeting. **Mayor Simmons** offered to keep public comment open for 15 additional minutes should the registrant join the meeting.

Mayor Simmons gave the floor to Ms. Pierre who shared that three bids were submitted in response to the IFB (Invitation to Bid), but none would be able to be accepted due to unmet minimum qualifications, budget issues or insufficient references. She suggested revising the scope of work if the Committee decided to reissue a bid or pursue direct contracting.

Committee members emphasized the importance of maintaining the timeline and ensuring a thorough and inclusive process. The group discussed the options including 1.) pursuing a direct contract with pre-approved organizations such as the Collins Center or MASC; 2.) modifying the original scope of work; and 3.) a hybrid model of combining internal and external efforts.

Ms. Unger outlined three potential pathways: 1.) director contracting with Collins Center, MASC or a similar organization; 2.) identify and request quotes from at least three qualified vendors; and 3.) undertake a new bidding process. Ms. Unger highlighted that a new bidding process would be time-consuming.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, the Committee would move forward with direct contracting process on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Rachel, YEA, Member Rojas, ABSENT; Mayor Simmons, YEA

Regarding next steps, Ms. Pierre offered to draft a modified scope and share it with the Committee on Monday. Mayor Simmons shared that she, Dr. Turk and Ms. Pierre would discuss community engagement and explore possibilities for securing assistance from a firm for under \$10,000. A Special Meeting to review the modified scope was proposed for Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m., pending scheduling confirmation.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Weinstein the meeting was adjourned on the following roll call vote: On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, the Committee would move forward with direct contracting process on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding,

YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Rachel, ABSENT, Member Rojas, ABSENT; Mayor Simmons, YEA
(10:19 a.m.)

Attest:

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

Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee