



CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

June 2, 2020

Called for 6:00 p.m. using zoom virtual technology, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee.

Members Present: Vice Chair Bowman, Member Fantini, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui

Also Present: Ms. Green, Mr. Kanner, Student School Committee Representatives

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

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

Mayor Siddiqui asked that the family of George Floyd and his community be kept in your thoughts and asked Vice Chair Bowman and Member Wilson to begin with opening remarks.

The Mayor read the call of the meeting and on the following roll call, it was voted to open public comment: Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rojas YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Mayor Siddiqui also offers up to the attendees their opportunity to speak.

1. Public Comment:

Elijah	Booker	#20-106
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On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call, it was voted to close public comment: Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rojas YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Mr. Kanner reported that it is important to have spaces for students to speak and engage during these turbulent times. Encourage student voices. There is a real necessity for students to have a space to speak of their emotions and questions. An email was sent to the district for space for AP exams. Graduation is next week.

Dr. Turk responds to Member Kanner - there is a determined space for the AP exams. We now know ahead of time to create the spaces in a socially distant safe way.

Ms. Green reported that these past few weeks have been difficult for students, especially students of color. The BSU call to actions being unaddressed has, "The exhaustion is definitely not new to Cambridge in particular to us members as part of the CRLS BSU the past few years."

Student Elections are discussed by the members and how it works.

There needs to be additional mental health resources as well as safe spaces.

Seniors have ended their classes and Student elections are underway.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call, it was voted to accept the Minutes of the April 28, 2020 Budget Workshop Meeting as presented:

Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rojas YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: COVID-19 Update and SC Summer Planning update

The Chair turned the presentation over to Superintendent Salim and Dr. Turk gave opening remarks on the COVID-19 Response Update and a Summer Update and framed the meeting.

[SC Summer Planning Update](#)

The presentation ended and the Mayor opened the floor for questions and discussion.

Member Weinstein spoke about the value of mentor and tutoring programs. Appreciates the updates and the evolving plan. Could there be a central place for volunteering?

Dr. Turk, the nature of planning and implementing is ongoing - an update to the update - Cambridge School Volunteers and Tutoring plus will be working with the District and Cambridge School volunteers have committed to identifying volunteers in respect to capacity. Hoping to work during the Summer and Freshman year.

Dr. Turk mentioned that she received a proposal from one of the Deans from CRLS - a small group of peers that would serve as tutors for students considering advanced placement.

Member Rachel wants to use this time as an

opportunity to build a teacher workforce pipeline with people of color, as organizations such Breakthrough are doing. She also is concerned regarding engagement and reaching out to families who have not been able to be contacted by the district.

Member Fantini wants to follow up on the Early College initiative. Concern for Summer School is a critical strategy to moving forward to service the children for their needs. Will there be an assessment for students to find out their needs? Individual Success Plans. Concerned for Summer the program.

Superintendent Salim remarks that central registration will be utilized to track students going into the school year.

Member Wilson wants a comparison with previous summers and the numbers and how they stack up. What about students with and students who are in the process of being evaluated for an IEP's?

Dr. Turk numbers do exceed past numbers. Programs are open for all students.

Member Rojas if there is a summer camp in different schools - could they be online in the buildings? Ask about coordination with the Summer Programs, the Mayor's program

Superintendent Salim's answers that with remote learning there is uncertainty with staff and availability. Social Distance and schools.

Dr. Turk brings up the model previously mentioned front the AP analogy.

Dr. Turk answers about the Mayor's program that students 14 years and older can access the program - Deputy City Manager Ellen Semenoff has made a commitment to find virtual placement for these students.

Mayor Siddiqui follows up with the MSYE timeline as follows - this Friday the city will be opening up applications for virtual employment.

Member Wilson questions the hiring process for teachers and is happy with the answer Dr. Turk provided and remarked that it is a great way to include paras.

Dr. Turk - postings are out since April and continue to this past week. Staff numbers will be determined by the enrollment and parameters. Speaks about personal contact and outreach to the teaching community both internal and external. CSV and tutoring plays will provide additional assistance.

Student Member Kanner could propose a job/opportunity for the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program? What about utilizing list serve to spread the word?

Dr. Turk answers anything is possible, there is money available and all proposals will be looked at and determined.

Member Kanner discusses students working groups and student voices and the assessment of the loss of learning.

Superintendent Salim, yes they will be utilized. As part of the Fall reentry piece using screeners for academic and social emotional factors too.

Member Green followed up with speaking about an email that was sent, enhanced Summer work packets for students who are in need of that - more resources for students who were not able to reach the next level.

Mayor Siddiqui wants to echo what Member Kanner was speaking about based on breaking down barriers and how important that is for participation.

Camp Kinda is that DESE program? The biggest challenge is so broad.

Dr. Turk is designed to provide an experience for a wide range of students. It is definitely good as a supplement for some families, it is a resource.

Mayor Siddiqui closes the presentation by keeping an open mind and there is a potential for some hybrid programming. There will be changes and more information to come.

Superintendent adds that there will be opportunities to learn from the guidance that was released yesterday and working with the stakeholders.

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

#20-79 Recommendation: FY19-20 General Fund Statutory Transfers

#20-80 Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services Not Available from the Cambridge School Department

#20-81 Recommendation: Contract Award: All Star Staffing: Nursing Services

#20-82 Recommendation: Contract Award: Delta T Group: Contract Staffing Services

#20-83 Recommendation: Contract Award: Easter Seals Massachusetts: Contract Staffing Services

#20-84 Recommendation: Contract Award: Harborside Rehabilitation: Nursing Services

#20-85 Recommendation: Contract Award: North East Educational & Development Supports Center: Special Educational Services

#20-86 Recommendation: Contract Award: Perkins School for the Blind: Special Education Services

#20-87 Recommendation: Contract Award: Shore Educational Collaborative: Professional Development

#20-88 Recommendation: Contract Award: Hummingbird Transportation: Student Transportation Services

#20-89 Recommendation: Contract Award: Van Pool Transportation: Student Transportation Services

#20-90 Recommendation: Contract Award: Quantum Learning: Math Software Program

#20-91 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers: Computer Software & Wireless Upgrades

#20-92 Recommendation: Contract Award: CCS Presentation Systems: Interactive Display Hardware

#20-93 Recommendation: Contract Award: Norfolk Power Equipment: Utility Vehicle

#20-94 Recommendation: Grant Award: HGSE Residency (C20116)

***SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

#20-105 Recommendation: Contract Award (Amendment): Sterling Printing: Printing & Mailing Services

Member Fantini moved, seconded by Vice Chair Bowman, on the following roll call vote, to bring the Superintendent's Agenda forward for discussion and adoption:

Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman, YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rojas YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative - 7-0

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information):

Motion #20-95

The discussion begins with Motion #20-95 Mayor Siddiqui yields the floor to Member Rachel.

Member Rachel -Voting and Public Health -spoke on the merits, advocacy and history of this motion - keeping in mind that a pandemic is a driving force with public health a priority and social distancing with voting. This Motion will also join with Cambridge City Council.

Also acknowledging that Motion #20-101 is very similar and could combine efforts and initiatives.

Member Wilson, co-sponsor - echoes many of Member Rachel's thoughts, the civic engagement and as well as the GOTV, would look to merge the two motions.

Member Weinstein, Civic engagement and participation are very important. Primary obligation: keeping everyone safe as possible.

Member Rojas speak to the 3rd resolve in the motion and the Building and Grounds Subcommittee speak about the non-school use

Jim Maloney, COO CPSD, speaks about working with the City and election Commission, gradually moving polling out of school as well as the history of voting in the public buildings.

Member Fantini speaks about referring this to the appropriate sub committee

Vice Chair Bowman speaks to the Buildings and Grounds committee aspect, makes sense that it should continue in the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Mayor Siddiqui continues the dialogue about the voter registration piece asking the motion makers to consider separating the motions.

Member Rachel appreciates the input, but there is a sense of urgency, and will refer back to the subcommittee with the deadline intact.

Will be amended as the following;

Resolved that, the School Committee requests a recommendation from the Buildings and Grounds Sub Committee by June 30, 2020 in regards to closing school buildings to scholars and staff on election days in 2020 and 2021 and any other viable options in order to ensure that voters who choose to exercise their right to vote in person are able to physically distance from school communities.

Member Fantini clarifies that it should go to the district's State Delegation as a friendly amendment.

Roll Call vote on Motion #20-95

Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

On a Motion by Member Rachel and Seconded by Vice Chair Bowman a Roll Call vote on amendments for Motion #20-95

Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

#20-96 Joint Motion by Member Wilson, Member Rachel and Mayor Siddiqui

Member Wilson, sponsor, speaks to the spirit of the closure and the challenging nature it has presented to the scholars. Many Scholars have experienced many challenges and barriers with the transition to remote learning. Member Wilson is looking for a report from the District regarding graduation metrics. Defined by race, socioeconomic, English as a second language and student with challenges.

Member Fantini is hopeful that a potential report will be supportive of the students and graduation rates. This motion has prompted a bigger conversation regarding graduation and what it entails for the seniors.

Roll Call vote on Motion #20-96

On a Motion by Member Wilson and Seconded by Member Rachel
Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

#20-97 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Wilson, and Member Rojas

Mayor Siddiqui gives background on the merits and history of this motion as well as what the City is helping to facilitate as too. Speaks to the basic need of the internet for CPSD students.

Member Wilson echoes and underscores Mayor Siddiqui's remarks. There needs to be a long term solution for this need.

Member Fantini agrees and compliments the motion.

As does Member Rachel.

Roll Call vote on Motion #20-97

On a Motion by Member Rojas and Seconded by Member Wilson
Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

#20-98 Joint Motion by Vice-Chair Bowman and Member Rachel Weinstein

Vice Chair Bowman starts the discussion of Motion #20-98 by clarifying that Member Rojas is a co-sponsor.

A subsequent roll call vote to add Member Rojas as a co-sponsor

Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

Vice Chair Bowman takes the floor to explain the importance that the student be able to retain their tools and devices for their continued education

Member Rojas reiterated Vice Chair Bowman's thoughts.

Mayor Siddiqui asks for clarity on how this will be done

Superintendent Salim clarifies that online learning tools and products will be available for students throughout the Summer. Devices and Hot Spot will remain accessible through the Summer.

Amended, per Vice Chair Bowman - all virtual learning curriculum developed during 2020 school closure will be accessible to the students.

Member Wilson clarified the question, would they have had to return Chromebook in a non-pandemic year.

Superintendent Salim communicated to families that devices would not be returned.

A subsequent roll call vote to add Member Rojas as a co-sponsor

On a Motion by Vice Chair Bowman and seconded by Member Rachel, Member Rojas YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

A subsequent roll call vote was held to vote on the motion as amended.

Member Rojas Yea, Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

#20-99 Joint Motion by Member Fantini and Vice-Chair Bowman

Member Fantini explains the motion and its history, regarding educating the citizens of our schools, helping them with all the aspects of remote learning and teaching them. The Goal is to have a larger base to involve more parents and have a model for parents to learn more about engagement and action.

Member Rojas would like to add language to the motion to specify the supporting technology skills, programs and literacy of parents, broadband becoming a utility.

Superintendent Salim breaks down Parent University, mind matters, engaging strategies for student learning and speaks about tech goes home, speaks to engagement of families, tools and strategies. Multiple modes of engagement.

Vice Chair Bowman offers a broader perspective to advocate that people and community members have a seat at multiple tables - important to create structure that is necessary to give them a tool to have a hand in their child's education.

Member Rachel believes that family engagement is very important and offers friendly amendments, the word replacement - parent with families and speaks to language change to further the ability of all parents etc.

Superintendent Salim offers the suggestion that this motion be referred to the Community Relations Sub Committee.

Member Weinstein concurs and a discussion follows.

On a motion by Member Weinstein and seconded by Member Fantini to send #20-99 to the Community Relations Subcommittee.

Member Rojas YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

A subsequent roll call vote to delete Member Rojas as a co-sponsor of Motion #20-100

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman and seconded by Member Rojas- Member Rojas YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA all voted in the affirmative -was adopted.

#20-100 Joint Motion by Vice-Chair Bowman, Member Fantini, and Member Rojas

Vice Chair Bowman opens up the discussion on her motion with speaking about the roll out of distant learning and the differences between the schools. It is important to have information and data to gage the parity and equity with the implementation across the district. Talks about the differences with family engagement across all of the schools. Wants to clarify that she is not looking to confront educators, looking for data to adapt, learn and grow for continuous improvement.

Superintendent Salim speaks about the motion - Giving an overview around how each school is doing is something that can be generated but prerecorded tools data wise there is a challenge. there is an end of the year planning of what has been successful.

Member Rojas questions the value of looking back, how much do you want to judge. Very interested in how we are going to do in the future.

Member Wilson agrees with the spirit of the motion, the differences between the schools is something that she has been informed of. She would be remiss in not lifting the parent's voices.

Member Rachel speaks to her support of the motion - what are the things that are consistent across the school.

Member Weinstein echoes the statements of his colleagues and his support for this motion. He supports data and does not want to judge.

Mayor Siddiqui supports this motion and echoes similar sentiments of her colleagues. In order to evaluate policy, the district should see data and a report.

Member Rojas suggested striking the last sentence of the motion.

Member Rojas moves to strike last sentence of motion and it seconded by Member Rachel, Member Rojas YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein Nay, Member Wilson NAY, Vice Chair Bowman NAY, Member Fantini NAY and Mayor Siddiqui NAY 6-1 motion denied

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman and seconded by Member Fantini -Member Rojas NAY, Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA 6 to 1 motion -was adopted.

#20-101 Vice-Chair Manikka Bowman, Member Rojas

Member Green and Kanner discuss how similar in spirit it is to Motion #20-95, a call to action to the District to have form for voter registration for all students within the voting age. Member Green discussed the importance of the census and how important it is to vote and have the exposure of drives and outreach. A flyer is discussed for distribution.

Member Weinstein expresses that the student School members should be the face of this motion and praises their student engagement.

Member Wilson echoes Member Weinstein's comments on the Student School Committee's member's significance with this motion.

Superintendent Salim talks about the need to further understand the mechanics will carry out these motions.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman and seconded by Member Fantini -Member Rojas Yea Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA 7-0 motion -was adopted.

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

Motions #20-102 and #20-103 -Member Rojas Yea, Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA 7-0

Member Fantini pulled motion #20- 104 and spoke on behalf of his motions honoring Claire Rodley and her commitment to the School Committee and its office. The ultimate professional who will be missed.

Vice Chair Bowman appreciates her legacy and sends her sympathy to her family.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman and seconded by Member Fantini -Member Rojas Yea Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA 7-0 motion -was adopted.

11. Announcements:

Mayor Siddiqui speaks to tomorrow's Budget Meeting and the specifics with the zoom credentials.

Member Wilson speaks about City Sprouts application is online, there is space available for scholars 11-14. Congratulations to the health care students at their pinning ceremony.

Members Rojas remind the audience of this Friday's Buildings and Grounds Sub Committee meeting

Vice Chair Bowman reminds the members that her 5-part series with Councillor Simmons Black Cambridge Covid 19 Sunday at 1pm, CCTV.

NB. This is the student school members' last meeting. The School Committee members, Superintendent Salim and Dr. Turk took the time to thank Members Green and Kantor for all their hard work, engagement, energy and dedication to the School Committee, their peers, and CRLS. With their focusing on understanding the student perspective where their insight was more valuable. Dr. Turk, paraphrased Christopher Robin, please always remember for all of us that you are braver than you think and you are stronger than you think....

12. Late Orders

#20-106 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui and Member Wilson:

Members Green and Kanner honor the request made by the BSU and to show their solidarity and its dedication to combat racism, to know that the district is fighting for them. To show their support to the students of color. An approval email will be appreciative from the Superintendent allowing the signage.

A substitute motion will be used as opposed to what is currently being used.

Member Weinstein would like all members to be co-sponsors.

Vice Chair Bowman questions protocol of all seven members to be sponsors.

Mayor Siddiqui clarifies that it can happen.

On a motion to have all member be sponsors by Member Weinstein and seconded by Member Wilson- Member Rojas Yea Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA 7-0 motion -was adopted.

Vice Chair Bowman expresses the importance of this motion and for the record that the student's voices are heard and they are validated.

Member Rojas acknowledges that the Latino community is hurting as well.

Superintendent Salim will provide an update to all and discuss a safe and supportive learning environment for the students especially students of color.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman and seconded by Member Wilson to use the substitute motion Member Rojas Yea Member Rachel YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA and Mayor Siddiqui YEA 7-0 motion -was adopted.

13. Communications from City Officers: None

14. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Vice Chair Bowman seconded by Member Wilson and subsequent vote was taken, Mayor Siddiqui (YEA), Ms. Bowman (YEA), Mr. Fantini (YEA), Mr. Rojas (YEA), Mr. David Weinstein (YEA), Ms. Rachel (YEA), Ms. Wilson (YEA). Meeting adjourned at 9:59pm.

Next meeting scheduled will be a virtual special meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2020, 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Dever Wood
Executive Secretary to the School Committee (temporary)