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CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting

July 21, 2020

Called for 5:00 p.m. broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing the Proposed Re-opening Models, voting on Superintendent's Recommendations, and School Committee Reports and Minutes.

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

Also Present: Dr. Salim, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Claire Spinner, CFO
Mr. James Maloney, COO
Dr. Jill Crittenden

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Chair read the call of the meeting and explained that this meeting is being televised, votes will be taken and there will be public comment. The meeting proceeded to the first order of business of a sound check with the following roll call: Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Vice Chair Bowman PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

On a Motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, the Minutes of the following Meetings were approved as presented: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

- May 5, 2020 Regular Meeting
- May 7, 2020 Special Meeting
- June 16, 2020 Regular Meeting
- June 23, 2020 Special Meeting

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment.

The following individuals were heard:

- Tony Clark, MBK, encouraged plans to work together for the reopening of schools
- Karen Engels, thanked Dr. Turk, and requested information to be able to plan to open schools
- Dr. Leo Anthony Celi, represented health care workers, as an intensive care unit at Beth Israel, hoping CPS does not downplay the importance of this virus. Advocates remote learning
- Pia Cisternino, Albany Street, changed her mind from hybrid to complete remote learning plans
- Sue Mapel, Harvard Street, Assistant Principal at Haggerty School, hybrid learning model is not practical to implement safely
- Tracy Walter, recommends that we do not use a hybrid

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- Rafael Jaramillo, Harvard Street, recommends outdoor learning using existing creative resources
- Tsekai English, considering an all in person learning model for the fall is not responsible, maybe in the spring but not right now
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, CEA President, supports various voices for decision making on reopening, questioned the validity of data from surveys, supports Educator Colaboratives
- Karen Dobak, suggested CPS apply for a grant from DESE for a hybrid or full remote, all students should have reliable internet access for at least one year
- Kini Udovicki, CSUS Counselor, wants CPS to use a trauma informed plan, supplied examples
- Jennifer Richards, Aberdeen Court, has concerns about the state providing a hybrid model and time is short for reopening plan;s CPS may have to close at any given time given an increase of COVID-19 cases
- Marianne Rezaei-Kamalabad, Peabody School special starts pre-school teacher, for students ages 4 and up with autism and extremely developmental delays, does not have any info for classroom modifications for students. They help students eat, use the toilet, change diapers, help students learn at water tables, on the floor with blocks, loves her job wants safety for all
- Boniswa Sundai, Garden Street, parent, she is representing the Middle Schoolers for Change group, they have not received any counseling, who will provide the PPE's has more concerns
- Tina Lieu, Huron Ave, in person learning is dangerous for all, remote learning should be primary and hybrid as secondary/supplemental form of learning. Is there a plan for CPS to test students, teachers and staff? If in person learning is decided, please only outdoor classes.
- Amara Donovan, Camb. St., addressed unreliable data and suggests CPS get rid of MCAS
- Janet Forte, Appleton Street, Arlington, Special Start Program at Peabody School, she is thankful for all that has been done so far with the crisis and systemic racism. She is concerned about the lack of ANY pre-school programming in the re-opening plans. JK have been considered but they have not been included for the students with severely developmental needs
- Mary Shillue-Goldberg, Clifton Street, Peabody parent, wants to get rid of the MCAS, supports outdoor learning/classrooms
- Aaron Shakow, Newton Street, C'Port parent, examine all past interventions using updated technology, supports outdoor learning
- Moira McNabb, Waltham Street, Newton, Special Start Program Special Needs Educator, read a letter from her colleagues thanking CPS for their leadership, Special Start has not been included in ANY plans, many students have delayed developmental skills that require contact, they want their thirty-three questions answered from the Town Hall meeting held last week, they want to be heard and prioritized
- Gal Kober, Newton Street, supports prioritizing outdoor learning

On the following roll call vote, motioned by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Member Wilson, Public Comment concluded: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Mayor Siddiqui stated that the comments and concerns of the speakers tonight are also the School Committee's concerns. She apologized to the Special Start Program Pre-School Teachers for not communicating to and involving them in all plans. She also responded to the MCAS comments stating there is no plan to remove MCAS testing at this time. Mayor Siddiqui also reiterated that CPS have already identified families with internet access needs and will increase this service to families as needed.

The Chair turned the floor over to Dr. Salim who also responded to public comment explaining that this can be an opportunity to look into Early Childhood Education and Care Models to govern how to implement the Special Start Program Pre-School Model. CPS Pre-School partners will be opening their doors at the end of the month, and CPS plans to work with those partners and learn from them. CPSD is working on what a fully remote model will look like along with using outdoor models for part of the day.

The Proposed Model presentation began.

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There was a pause in the presentation for comments, concerns, questions and answers.

Vice Chair Bowman asked for Dr. Salim to explain the Hybrid Model in detail as it relates to distancing.

- Dr. Salim answered that we intend to use the six feet Model for all grades JK, K, 1 and 2 through 5, including substantially separate classes. They plan to use outdoor learning as much as possible, they will explore all possibilities, going fully remote as a last resort. He also reemphasized that he is not asking the Members to vote at this or the next meeting and he is aware that the educators want to know how to plan. Childcare needs and health care needs are going to be considered for staff also.

Vice Chair Bowman asked Dr. Crittenden to speak to the scientific thinking on indoor vs. outdoor models

- Dr. Crittenden responded that the data shows there is much less transmission outdoors. Some people have problems when the weather is very cold. The cold weather can injure our student's lungs and they develop asthma. Porta potties may be safer than indoor bathrooms.

Vice Chair Bowman appreciates the members of the Task Force that contributed to these conversations.

Member Fantini asked about professional development for staff, does it include our 240 paraprofessionals along with the teachers.

- Dr. Salim answered in the affirmative. There is a professional learning working group that will include them also in engagement planning.

Member Fantini asked what the assessment screener is to find.

- Dr. Salim answered they are social emotional screeners and academic screeners

Member Fantini asked what the rest of the state is doing regarding learning management systems.

- Dr. Salim stated this is part of the google suite platform. We are continuing to improve those systems and the state is trying to create a distance learning platform, similar to what is used at the High School Extension Program (HSEP). It is a fully packaged learning platform. We don't have any specific details on what specific platform will be selected, no matter what, there will still be an CPSD educator assigned to the students. He is hoping for more information and also what the staffing needs are.

Member Rachel asked how can we send anyone into a building if we cannot even have an outdoor graduation? She made it clear that she is not the only one losing sleep over this life and death issue. She suggested a three stage approach to reopening:

(1) only the educators come back

(2) September and October for outdoor learning only

(3) November CPS plans to go fully remote, except for the highest needs scholars and ones that cannot learn remotely. She also suggested that we find out what families need childcare.

Member Weinstein asked what are we doing for outdoor learning, tents, heaters, porta-potties; suggested we may be able to take advantage of the visual and performing arts outdoors. He also asked what are we doing to tackle the challenge of childcare?

- Dr. Salim responded to childcare stating that we need collaboration with that. If we can get kids in buildings let's get them in for school. He cannot give robust thought to having kids in buildings for childcare instead of for educating the students. He plans to leverage as much outdoor learning as possible and asked Mr. Maloney to contribute to the conversation.
- Mr. Maloney acknowledged the weight on all staff, administration, Committee and families and stated that having all students outside is not realistic. Rainy days, there will be supervision issues for containing students; students with health issues will put limitations on being outside all day. We are using every single available space to make education possible for our students, we cannot be expected to provide day care also. Pods are being considered for education. He would like to know the thoughts of medical professionals for outdoor space.

Member Rojas asked about the remote learning stage 1 approach

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- Dr. Salim answered that remote learning with touchpoints for students has not been explored yet. He believes the stage approach will be the best opportunity to engage students with an educator.

Member Rojas asked what are the thresholds and benchmarks we are looking for and when will we have them?

- Dr. Salim stated that it is on the agenda for a working group to be held tomorrow.
- Dr. Crittendon stated that the high school students may be mixing with the college kids. She will be interested in that data.

Member Rojas asked what the thresholds are, what is delaying us from knowing what they are?

- Dr. Crittendon is not an epidemiologist and is not able to answer.

Member Rojas asked about testing for all. The privacy issues prevent making it mandatory.

- Dr. Salim stated that there will be a follow up conversation this fall on making testing available to all adults, multiple times, the question of students in terms of implementation, even self-administered, who is helping the students to do it, how does it get back to the facility. There are the privacy and implementation pieces that are not limited to our younger kids that need to be considered.

Member Rojas asked for a point of clarification as to whether or not testing would be mandatory or voluntary for all.

- Dr. Salim answered in the affirmative, voluntary for all.

Member Wilson asked how can we operate any model other than a fully remote model if we do not listen to the educator's voices. How can we find a hybrid model if we cannot find educators to teach?

- Dr. Salim responded there is no question that this is an essential part of the puzzle and one (of many things) that keeps him up at night. Some teachers have very specific reasons why they are not able to return in person, i.e. fear, family conditions, child care circumstances. We are trying to figure out how to have as much of a robust system as possible, but it is a very complicated puzzle. He still believes there is a large value to being able to work with students in person. There are going to be many flaws in what we come up with, he recognizes flaws with what was presented this evening, but CPS is going to keep trying to brainstorm and problem solve to get to a solution of real value.

Member Wilson shared that the emails and the public comments address a lot of fear. We need to have experts in these conversations to reassure families and workers alike. She also spoke on a feasibility test for what our classes look like and asked Mr. Maloney if he has walked through every classroom and can tell each teacher what room doesn't work. She thinks the conversations have been too general.

- Mr. Maloney stated that food service workers have worked through the shut-down, the custodial staff has been very diligent working nonstop since the shut-down, clerical staff have been in and out of the buildings and all workers feel the fear, yet they are all doing whatever they possibly can to make the students and teachers feel safe if and when they return. The district has not hidden the fact that there are some buildings that have less than 21st century ventilation systems.

Member Wilson asked how many scholars will be in the first phases of operation

- Dr. Salim responded if we can be in person, it will be determined by how many positive cases we have. Other states are starting with a full remote model because their numbers are high, then going to in-class model later when their numbers come down, we are more fortunate and should be able to come in at 6 feet apart, and go remote when it gets too cold. We currently have regulation for 180 school day attendance policy. We are waiting for the DESE to let us know if there will be any relief in that. The only other way is to extend the school year.

Vice Chair Bowman stated that Dr. Salim and Dan Monahan, CEA President, have been meeting daily and it speaks to the level of where we are as far as listening to teacher voice.

The presentation resumed. At the end of the PowerPoint presentation, the Mayor opened the floor for the pleasure of the Committee. The following comments, concerns, and questions were addressed:

Member Wilson asked about the partnership with Out of School Time (OST) providers, who are we communicating with? Are we planning to work with the Agenda for Children?

- Dr. Salim stated that there are a few members from the OST community that are on the task force and the working groups will connect also. This area needs to be accelerated, CPS has not figured out what model to use yet.

Member Wilson asked about the students that won't wear their masks

- Dr. Salim stated that as with rules in general, we need to look at root causes before we look at discipline, we have to consider the whole child and remember biases. We may need to incorporate mask breaks into the schedule.

Member Rojas asked about Google Meet, sometimes it is good, sometimes it is bad what are the districts plans on continuing to use it?

- Mr. Smith, Chief Information Officer, responded that they don't have any evidence from other districts that the glitches are only with Google Meet. Google Meet seems to be the best environment for our students and teachers to remain in. ICTS is optimistic that it will continue to be the best platform.

Member Rojas asked how the distance learning platforms may be used to provide differentiated teaching

- Dr. Salim answered there will be support in different ways for a student to connect with an educator. He cannot name the platforms at this time, there will be an additional sense of value in having more than one resource at our disposal.

Member Fantini asked if the helpline is going to be a 24-hour hotline.

- Dr. Salim stated most likely not 24 hours, we will be staffing it ourselves so they are trying to accommodate families.

Member Fantini stating that the tutoring centers informed him that they provide most of their tutoring in math. We need to try to make sure we have the tutors in those subjects. Also, OST might benefit from Saturday and Sunday programs. He wants to know what CRLS has in mind as stated last week

- Dr. Salim responded that Principal Smith will be meeting with his team, they are looking at hybrid models and taking child care responsibilities into consideration. There are some confusing components to this model at this time.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Weinstein, the Rules were suspended to entertain a motion to extend the meeting to 9:00 p.m. On the following roll call vote, it was voted to extend the meeting for the reason stated: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

The meeting returned to the normal order of business.

Vice Chair Bowman asked about remote learning and key learning with key milestones. Distant learning plans are not consistent school by school how can we improve it?

- Dr. Salim replied they are looking at raw data and will have more information on it soon.

Member Rachel wants to know what technology we need for teachers

- Dr. Salim responded that there are different tools to stabilize the laptops, in general there can be some very high costs on what is out there for purchase and the benefits do not match up. The cameras can be sold to us that may not do the job we have in mind.

Member Rachel wants to know who has been shaping the educator expectations?

- Dr. Salim answered that they are getting feedback from educators, looking at the tech platforms, talking about 1:1 outreach and these results will give us a more standard template for communicating with families, and communicating with the CEA on flexibility on use of time.

Member Weinstein stated looking at how the remote experience worked during the last few months, we can see what worked and what didn't and we can use it to move digital literacy forward. He wants to know about the hotline also as it relates to the interpreting service.

- Dr. Salim stated there will be a translating service connected to the hotline.

Member Weinstein asked for an update on the DESE grant and technology for special needs students

- Dr. Salim asked Dr. Morgan to provide this information

- Dr. Morgan responded they did receive information from SE-PAC and Ms. Candyce Dostert, our grant specialist, is working on the grant now, the families are in support of the recommendation.

Mayor Siddiqui commented that childcare is weighing on parents. It is an important question and we need to do more work on that. As for outdoor learning, we need a lot more key data points for that. We have a lot of halfway plans at this point, the educators want to know what a practical classroom space will literally look like. It is understood that they have a lot of questions. The Mayor acknowledged that this is a huge challenge. We need to know how remote learning will improve from last spring because remote learning will continue to happen regardless.

The Superintendent Recommendations were brought forward for discussion and adoption: Member Wilson removed **#20-171 and #20-172**. Member Rojas removed **#20-179**. Vice Chair Bowman removed **#20-185**.

On the following roll call vote, **#20-173 through #20-178, #20-180, through #20-184** were adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-173, Special Needs Contracts for Day and Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department: that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions as detailed in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget and/or Grant Fund Budget.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	6	\$452,846.21
Residential	2	\$495,375.53
45 Day Programs		
Total	8	\$948,222.74

#20-174, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for equipment and supplies, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

WW Grainger, 100 Grainger Parkway, Lake Forest, IL, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$800,000.00.

#20-175, Contract Award, That the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for supplies and equipment; funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

WB Mason Co., Inc., 647 Summer Street, Boston, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$350,000.00.

#20-176, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for supplies and equipment; funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:
Safeware, Inc., 403 Forbes Blvd, Lanham, MD, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$350,000.00.

#20-177, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for supplies and equipment; funds to be provided from the General Fund. Procurement procedures for this contract have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts..

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Next Gen Supply Group, 11 Norfolk Street, Mansfield, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$1,500,000.00.

#20-178, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for custodial supplies and equipment; funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Casey EMI, 8 Panas Rd., Foxborough, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$500,000.00.

#20-180, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for furniture; funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

WB Mason Co., Inc., 647 Summer Street, Boston, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$150,000.00

#20-181, Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated:

Coordinated Family & Community Engagement, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$263,815.00. Project/Grant SC21851.

Description: This CFCE grant supports pre-school-aged children and their families through a collaboration between CPS and the City of Cambridge DHSP's Center for Families. Together they provide a seamless network of programs that are responsive to diverse families, including: conducting ongoing outreach, information, and referrals; providing family literacy-based play groups and community-wide activities; partnering with public schools and community-based programs to support Kindergarten registration and screening; providing family education and support services; and engaging families in supporting early childhood development through utilization of the ASQ screening tool and follow-up activities and referrals to address challenges early. In CPS, the grant funds the 0.2 FTE Early Childhood Specialist who co-facilitate mother support groups and other family support programs. The majority of the grant funding is subcontracted to the Center for Families, supporting many types of specialist positions.

#20-182, Grant Award: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicate

Cambridge In Motion/ Cambridge Health Alliance, for the period July 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021, in the amount of \$500.00. Project/Grant SC21128.

Description: A mini-grant of \$500 has been awarded to the Haggerty School by the Cambridge Health Alliance's Cambridge in Motion Program. This grant will provide sensory pathway equipment to encourage self-regulation skills through interaction with special equipment available in the physical environment.

#20-183 That the Report of the June 5, 2020 Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Meeting be accepted as presented. (Please note these minutes have been approved and posted online).

#20-184 That the Report of the June 19, 2020 Buildings and Grounds Sub Committee Meeting be accepted as presented.

Non Consent Agenda

#20-171, Educational Opportunities for Military Children Policy, that the School Committee approve the Educational Opportunities for Military Children Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

Discussion followed on **#20-171** and **#20-172**.

Member Wilson asked Dr. Salim to speak to this contract because it is new to her. She would like to know how many scholars are being served. Dr. Salim answered that these policies are new and therefore go through two readings. It was recommended by DESE to adopt these policies; it is not based on any number of students. Same thing goes for **#20-172**.

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#20-172, Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care: that the School Committee approve the Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

On the following roll call vote on **#20-171** and **#20-172** both contracts were adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-179, Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for student transportation; funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

McGraw Hill Education, P.O. Box 182605 Columbus, OH, for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 from the original amount of \$96,003.00 to the revised amount of \$103,642.83.

Discussion followed on **#20-179**.

Member Rojas asked if we were reordering the same books again or is it a new book. Dr. Salim responded that this contract is before the committee again because the cost is a little higher than in the past. It is not a new book, it has been used in OSS in the past.

On the following roll call vote, **#20-179** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-185 Contract Award: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Upstaging, Inc., 821 Park Ave. Sycamore, IL, for the period July 21, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$49,000.00.

Discussion followed on **#20-185**.

Vice Chair Bowman asked how this contract will be used.

Mr. Maloney replied that shields will be a very important piece of our PPE going forward, especially when used with masks. We are starting a business with these and the younger students may like them. They will have one for each teacher along with a mask to provide more protection if they choose.

On the following roll call vote, **#20-185** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-186, Revisions to the Current Education of Homeless Students Policy be approved as detailed in the document: that the School Committee approve the Revisions to the Current Education of Homeless Students Policy (first reading).

#20-184 That the Report of the June 19, 2020 Buildings and Grounds Sub Committee Meeting be accepted as presented.

**Building & Grounds Subcommittee
Virtual Meeting 12:30 PM June 19, 2020
(Anticipated to end by or before 2:00 PM)**

Goals:

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- Continue to share brief updates on the facilities plans in general and in response to the COVID-19 recovery plan in particular, responding to some frequently asked questions.
- Hear an update on the status of operational items related to reopening the schools.
- Provide opportunity for community members to ask questions and/or share concerns and ideas on these topics to Administration and Public Health Representatives.

Attending:

- Administration Representatives:
 - James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, Administration Lead Liaison
 - Joanne Johnson, Operations Assistant
 - Vedad Konjic, Facilities Director
 - Robin Harris, Fletcher Maynard Principal
 - Sarah Bartels-Marrero, Amigos Principal
 - Rowan Marcus, IT
 - Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel
 - Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer
 - Rosalie Rippey, CPS Contractor

- City of Cambridge:
 - B Kim, Educational Liaison & Policy Advisor to Mayor's Office

- Public Health Representatives:
 - Tracy Rose-Tynes, Nurse Manager for School Health Services, Interim Associate Chief

- Members of Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee:
 - José Luis Rojas Villarreal, Subcommittee Chair
 - Manikka Bowman
 - Fred Fantini

- Other Members of School Committee:
 - Rachel Weistein
 - David Weinstein
 - Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui

Others

- Helen Jenkins
- Elinor Actipis
- Jamie Lichtenstein
- Ena Valenzuela

Welcome and Agenda Overview (1 min)

- Give context around the meeting: This is a continuation of the conversation started four weeks ago to identify policies that the School Committee will need to consider in the context of our school buildings & grounds looking to re-open.
- Waiting for DESE guidance to then discuss and decide strategic direction (e.g. back to "normal", continue remote learning, or hybrid (staggered scheduled)). We can then discuss as part of this subcommittee how to operationalize that strategy.

- Public comment will be framed as a Q&A

Agreements (1 min)

- Speak and listen from the heart (respect)
- Step up/step back (watch air time)
- Expect and accept non-closure (work in progress)
- Bike rack (list of things that are important but should be addressed another time)

Introductions (5 min)

- Name, role, something you are looking forward to during the summer.

Review minutes (1 min)

- Minutes should be ready by next meeting

Review topics to discuss and community questions(2 min)

- Update on use of school buildings as polling stations with Cambridge Election Commission – Recommendation from walk through?
 - Exchanged emails
 - Jim will have update soon
 - But he is leaning towards having to close the schools if used for polling
- Updates on Facilities & Grounds plan in response to COVID-19 recovery plan
 - List of buildings with their readiness status for re-opening
 - List of operational items related to reopening of schools

Presentations by members of administration, public health and electoral commission & discussion (40 min)

- FYI... As of next Friday, Tracy Rose-Tynes will be the Interim Associate Chief for Clinical Services for the Public Health Department. Susan Breen is retiring.
- Operational Procedures document presented by Jim
 - What we have done in the interim since we last met is to continue to identify lots of independent items we need to address. It is going to grow as we continue. We don't expect guidance from DESE this weekend, most likely next week which will have an enormous impact on this.
 - This information is all public and we want as much input as possible to make people a bit comfortable.
 - This doc is in PDF and is organized as drafts or under development.
 - **Draft** Sections ready to be discussed with the subcommittee and public attending today's meeting. Some are from the Task Force and others from community working groups. Consider moving towards policy by the School Committee.
 - **Under Development** – To be shared with the Task Force and Working Groups and hopefully get the information to the subcommittee soon.
- **Personal Health Screening Procedure (DRAFT)**- All Staff will be sent a message on Sundays to self-check themselves for symptoms. If they have symptoms they are urged to contact their medical provider. I think you will notice it's pretty inclusive of the symptoms out at this point. –

Looking for SC to approve soon - Still waiting for guidance from the public health department on procedures for staff returning to work after being ill.

- Isolation areas for students who become ill during school. (Under Development) Need to dedicate isolation areas outside of the nurse's office where students who are sick can be held until they are picked up. The difficulty here will be finding space. Our principals, Robin and Sarah as they know space is at a minimum as it is.
- Protocols for staff members if they become sick during the day (Under Development)
- Student absences and staff members returning. (Under Development) Are items we are following school committee
- **Maintaining 6 feet of separation (DRAFT)** We are talking about what is now up to this date. We are going to be working with students and staff and trying to maintain 6 ft distance whenever possible. – Manikka asked if we could run a pilot. Jim said there might be a chance to run the pilot with students in OSS summer programs, but not put them at risk. Jim said getting students to wear masks will be a big challenge. This and related procedures on hold until we receive guidance from DESDE.
- **Eliminating unnecessary entry into school buildings (DRAFT)** All student drop offs must take place outside including the first day of school. Non-essential visitors should not be allowed. This is a new way of handling things, specifically on the 1st day of school. - **Obviously we need more input from principals, SC, public health officials** - Guidelines state if you don't have to be in the building then you shouldn't be. We have already begun discussions with facilities, plumbers, electricians, Etc. will need access at times.
- **Parent/Caregiver Meetings and Visits to the School (DRAFT)** Meetings with parents and school staff should continue on Zoom. If guidelines are loosened we will be following the guidelines. – **Jim wants more guidance from SC, community and health providers**
- Policy on School Volunteers and and Other Third Party Intermittent Service Providers (Under Development) – E.g. CSV, Flagway - It is hard to see how we allow entry, specifically because the volunteers are usually in the vulnerable age category. We will need to work this out.
- Virus shields are currently being installed
- **Transportation Procedure (DRAFT)** - Do not have guidelines for Eastern Buses. Likely reduction from 44 students to 12 students on each bus. Financial implications will be staggering.
- Special Ed Transportation (Under Development) - Some of our out of district schools are returning in July and we have added the protocols for Spec Ed vehicles that we received from the vendor. We will be reviewing.
- **Face Coverings and Masks (DRAFT)** - CPS will make every effort to have masks, etc. available for students/staff. But the supply chain is challenging. Vast majority of school districts around the country get their budgets replenished on July 1. We are working with the City so we are ready to move July 1 with orders. We currently have 6000 masks, which will go quickly. Some staff have physician notes stating that masks make it difficult and cannot wear a mask. Students and staff do not have to wear masks for safety/medical issues. – **Normally could be seen as an administrative decision, but would be good to have School Committee agreement/approval**
- **Frequent Hand Washing and Sanitizing (DRAFT)** - Have portable sinks/hand washers, have sinks being plumbed in where possible. This will have an impact on the school day, handwashing.
- Hygiene promotion - 100 additional hand sanitizers - Additional sinks
- Difficult to clean classroom materials (Under Development)
- **Protocols for Cleaning Facilities Under Standard Conditions (DRAFT)** – Will be hiring some additional part-time custodians to help with cleaning during peak times.
- Protecting People at Higher Risk (Under Development) - Remote Learning Policy for Students at Elevated Risk of Complications – To be discussed at a different subcommittee

Q & A and public comment – 3-minute limit per question/comment (30 min)

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- Fred Fantini
 - Thank you for the presentation. A bit overwhelming.
 - Will there be a way for people to view and comment or have a question?
- Jim
 - We are going to work with our IT department. There will be an opportunity. Transparency and community feedback is valuable, public health guidelines are important, DESE guidelines really important, vulnerable students attending school in summer.
- Fred
 - Remote learning – BC high was able to hit the road running. Books were on Kindle. Key on best practices for remote learning.
 - Sports – example at CRLS how are we going to handle?
 - Some parents will not send their children to school. Need to be able to handle that as well.
 - Sports is definitely an issues
 - Early late staggered times. Alternating days, it's very interesting to see that every district is taking a different approach. We will just have to try and come up with the best model for our kids.
- Jim
 - Developing protocols for various departments, including athletics and visual performing arts.
- Jose
 - We first need to nail the re-opening strategy(s). We can then dive deeper on the policies and procedures to implement those strategies.
 - Curious about the dropoff (restrictions) Would love to hear from the principals.
- Robin
 - I think it will be fine. The liaisons had talked about doing virtual school tours. I would imagine we could do virtual classroom tours. Don't think it will be that difficult. People realize how serious this is. I think families would adjust, then it would become routine.
- Sarah
 - I would agree. Obviously it's a change on how the community works. But I imagine we can figure out a welcoming way outside.
- Member Rojas
 - Asked Jim by when we would need to vote on Personal Health Screening Procedure memo
- Jim
 - This staff memo is a pretty straightforward process where we would not need a SC vote. We are not asking for personal data etc. But I would like for it to be discussed before the 4th of July weekend.
- Jamie
 - Face shields are a new recommendation for people who cannot wear masks. Face shields alone without a mask probably are better than cloth masks alone, for others and are definitely better for the wearer. People who are not able to wear a mask. Maybe add to protocols for people to ask medical providers if it would be okay to use for children staff with health issues. For kids a face shield can be part of their hat/cap.
 - CPS Taskforce - Jill Crittenden could give guidance.
 - Volunteers – I wonder if there is room in planning for next year that the volunteers could do one on one tutoring online. Could be helpful.
 - Positive case in the building – Does CPH think we would be able to track others exposed within this 48 hours time.
- Tracy
 - They would react immediately with tracking
- Jamie
 - Would students & staff in the classroom be quarantined for 14 days.
- Tracy

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- Yes they would need to be tested and quarantined.
- Data on testing right now 48 hours immediately; better chance on not having false negative.
- Close and back to remote learning. Everybody who screens as a symptom should be tested.
- Fred
 - Asked about protocols mentioned by Jamie
- Jamie
 - 4 days on / 4 days off model appears to be the best to minimize transmission.
- Robin
 - Is it possible to have a mobile test? If we could make testing as easy as possible might work.
- Tracy
 - Great idea but unfortunately we do not have the set up for that kind of testing. We have been trying for a mobile test but it has been difficult.
- Jaime
 - The Broad introduced a self test kit. Allows someone to do a nose swab. If you need a contact I could try and connect. Maybe school nurses could have some of these test kits in their offices. At what age would someone be able to do a self swab?
- Tracy
 - It's a painful test. So I can understand why self-test would be difficult.
- Ena
 - If a student is exposed at one school would we be notifying siblings in other buildings.
- Jim
 - We wouldn't necessarily automatically know but in our data system we could certainly check by address. Can't confirm that it is 100% but our Aspen system is pretty reliable.
- Tracy
 - With any type of communicable disease, oftentimes nurses know who have siblings, but as nurses talk to parents when students become ill, nurses will ask parents about children in other schools or household members.
- Eleanor
 - I am a single parent of two children trying to work full time and have no childcare. Thank you all for your hard work. I can see how difficult the logistics are.
 - Governor Baker reopened the playgrounds but the playgrounds in Cambridge are still closed.
 - She is a member of Bring Our Kids Back To School
 - We have written to Governor Baker
 - We understand the pandemic has caused major issues but students need to be back at school. Please consider a cost analysis, my kids are falling behind, I will be spending \$28/hour on babysitting, and most people cannot afford that.
- Jose
 - Several school committee members, administrators and teachers have children and share your concerns.
- Fred
 - Will FEMA reimburse us for PPE that we are purchasing?
- Claire
 - We are keeping track of every single thing that we have spent and will spend and working with the City on filing for reimbursement. There is Care Acts money.
 - The City has access to a separate in Cares Act funding that seems to be oriented towards, PPE, cleaning products, etc.
 - Other districts don't have the resources that we have.
 - Transportation budget will blow us out of the water.
- Jose
 - Reminded Jim to send the ventilation report list.
- Jim

- Asked Vedad to please share.
- Transportation questions
 - Could siblings, household members ride together on buses?
 - Could it be possible to install plexi glass in between seats?
 - Mass regulations might not permit the installation of plexi glass...
- Sumbul
 - I am getting a donation of 10,000 masks and I am willing to give them to the schools.
 - I also have been working with the Broad Institute.
 - The mayor told Tracy how impressed she is with the job they all have been doing.
- Member Rojas asked for a motion to extend the meeting to discuss ventilation.
 - Fred, Mannika and Jose voted in favor
- Ventilation Report
 - Some buildings, in particular the Cambridgeport, Amigos and FMA that have limited air handling systems.
 - What this report shows us:
 - Half of our buildings are centrally air conditioned and the other half we have been able to install window air conditioners.
 - Our goal in the Fall is to make sure that at least one window is operable in these areas. It's not always the case.
 - Amigos, FMA and Cport would be the buildings we would focus on. All of them have operable windows.
 - Even in our new buildings with central air, we need to monitor, to watch out for mold, etc.
 - We are looking to purchase HEPA filters, reviewing and need more information.
 - We will be focused mostly on older buildings.
 - Check that window mechanism is working properly to be sure they are not difficult
 - 50 windows we will need to fix so they work properly.
 - Longfellow building
 - FMA
 - Cport
 - (Amigos art room can use outside door)
 - Windows will be marked where they should open (at least 5 inches)
 - Sarah
 - Air quality is top concern for her staff. She would imagine they will be looking for more of an answer, than a window. Staff is not concerned about the ability to clean surfaces.
 - Something to keep in mind are staff's considerations for return to buildings.
 - A couple of years ago we spent the summer installing air conditioners. They have an option to ventilate to take the air outside.
 - Jamie
 - OSHA recommends not to use window air conditioners, because they stream in one direction. Window AC's have been linked to spreading.
 - As guidelines come out, we will adjust our work.
 - In those schools where there are window units we could be sure that windows are open in those classrooms when students are there.
 - High humidity days to open windows will be an issue. One thing that we can do, not sure about individual rooms because of electrical capacity, dehumidifiers in those rooms.
 - This is one of the issues that we are going to struggle with.
 - DESE only wants our self-contained classrooms in buildings with central air. Not all of our buildings are equipped. It's definitely a challenge
 - Jime
 - The district already has some Air Scrubbers that have HEPA Filters, which are the size of a suitcase. They are made in Germany. Which could be a problem because of the supply chain

- Room scrubbers are expensive
- There are places that have used these and it has lowered absences due to illness.
- Jose
 - Can you let us know if the cost for air scrubbers was included in the cost for opening schools.
- Claire
 - Our initial cost was so broad that we had placeholders, so air scrubbers were not in there specifically. We are now going deeper at what it will cost to reopen.
 - There are still so many moving parts and we are still gathering information on what our budget needs will be for opening in the fall.
 - The cost of air scrubbers will be incorporated into the budget.
- Jim
 - Cost should not be an issue
- Jose
 - Asked that we order air scrubbers as soon as possible.
- Member Rojas moved conversation to planning next subcommittee meetings
 - Should we cut down on meetings due to the task forces now taking place?
- Jim
 - I don't want to wait until August and then have lots of information. The more debate we have now is helpful. Would prefer to continue to meet every other week.
 - Good to have one more meeting until we see how the task force and other community groups are doing.
- Robin
 - Asked for the documentation shared earlier.
- Fred
 - Is it possible to get all of the task force meetings and community working groups schedules online?

Next Steps/Closing Reflection (5 min)

- Meet again before Friday July 3rd –
- Air scrubbers update – ID # needed and status of ordering them
- Election commission update
- Finish going through policies & procedures

Vice Chair Bowman thanked the Members for creating their own Reports and informed the assembly that in the fall we intend to move forward with the School Committee hiring processes.

Member Rojas thanked Ms. Joanne Johnson and Mr. James Maloney for their assistance in helping to prepare the Reports for these meetings

Announcements:

Member Wilson announced that Mr. Maurice Page, CRLS Math teacher and Math Coordinator, passed away, and Ms. Josie Vendetti, CRLS Lunch Aide, passed away also, both career CPSD professionals.

Member Weinstein announced that the Communications and Community Relations Sub-Committee will have a Caregiver University meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 12:30 pm.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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Attest: *Dosha E. Beard*

Dosha Beard
Executive Secretary to the School Committee