



**CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

May 18, 2021

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

Also Present: Member Vera-DeGraff, Anais Killian, 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.

The Mayor provided a statement to the public regarding Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order on guidelines for remote participation and then 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 sound check: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman ~~ABSENT~~; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Alexandra Jean Louis, misogyny at CRLS
- Caroline Berz, on misogyny at CRLS
- Elinor Aciptis, advocating for children to not wear masks
- Esther Cull-Kahn, on misogyny at CRLS
- Dan Monahan, on school reopening and misogyny at CRLS

Vice Chair Bowman discussed how public testimony should not include names.

Mayor Siddiqui stated that all comments should be directed towards the Chair.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Fantini, on a voice vote, it was voted to close public comment.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Member Vera-DeGraff shared a brief reflection on the first week of in person learning. The pros were the social interactions and study support. The cons were that some remote learners have been left feeling isolated. He discussed AP exams and MCAS.

Member Killian shared upcoming senior events. Member Killian also shared that seniors do not have to return their Chromebooks.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- April 27, 2021 Special Meeting

- May 6, 2021 Special Meeting
- May 11, 2021 Special Meeting

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, on a voice vote, it was voted to accept the minutes as presented.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports:

C21-139 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Member Rachel and Mayor Siddiqui

Whereas the Cambridge School Committee unequivocally condemns misogyny and gender-based harassment and assault; and

Whereas students at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School have recently called attention to the need for CPSD to better address misogyny and gender-based harassment and assault, with the goals of better supporting those impacted by it, better responding to specific incidents and to broader school culture and climate concerns, and ultimately eliminating it; and

Whereas for many years Cambridge Public School students have been leaders in calling upon CPSD to better prevent and address sexual harassment and assault; and

Whereas four years ago, Mayor Simmons stated in a May 17, 2016 official letter that “In light of the state-wide conversation surrounding gender-based harassment, in response to recent events at CRLS (such as the walkout that took place on April 13) and in recognition of the need to better address and prevent incidents of bullying, the City of Cambridge must take a new and more focused approach in addressing these concerns”; and

Whereas in that May 17, 2016 letter Mayor E. Denise Simmons announced that she would be “appointing a Special Committee on Gender-based Issues to better examine and monitor reports pertaining to sexual harassment, as well as to all forms of gender-based discrimination in our schools and in our wider community”; and

Whereas that committee drafted a set of “Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Action Plan Recommendations”; ([see here](#)); and

Whereas those recommendations were presented at the May 2, 2017 School Committee Meeting, as part of motion #17-80 ([see here](#)) which passed unanimously; and

Whereas motion #17-80 included the following: “ORDERED: That the Superintendent of Schools be and hereby is requested to formally review the feasibility of all recommendations included in the aforementioned and attached systemic Action Plan which references CRLS and all the Cambridge Public Schools, and to solicit recommendations from stakeholders, including students, from each school as to what measures should be enacted; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Superintendent of Schools hereby is requested to devise a timetable for the stages of a scaled implementation of these measures, devise plans for implementation, and report back to the School Committee in a timely manner on how, and how soon, this implementation can begin”; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Superintendent update the School Committee at the May 18, 2021 regular meeting on the history and current status of the implementation of these recommendations, and of any other district initiatives or plans currently in place related to the issue of fighting misogyny, gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual assault within CPSD.

Discussion followed on **C21-139**

The Superintendent presented a “Update on SC C21-139: Understanding & Responding to Power Based Behavior.” He then turned the presentation over to Alice Cohen who started a discussion of how we are strengthening the infrastructure. Dr. Gittens talked about how the current protocols and support.

Member Fantini asked if Principal Smith was open for suggestions.

Principal Smith first shared his condolences on the death of Jenna Santos and acknowledged that CRLS has had a difficult year. Principal Smith then gave background on staff training and how spot: N (notice) I (intervene) R (Report). They have scenarios every year and break into small staff groups, the training this year was somewhat different. They are looking to develop community wide opportunities. Principal Smith talked about making the Health and Wellness course mandatory.

Member Vera-DeGraff thanked the Superintendent for the presentation and acknowledged that much more needs to be done. Member Vera-DeGraff asked why this keeps happening.

- Dr. Gittens replied that adolescence development and free will and they will continue to educate.
- Ms. Cohen discussed how we are trying to build a safer culture.
- Dean Espinosa discussed the need to work on things in the building and spoke of the trust between students and administration. She is open to a better reporting process.
- Principal Smith gave a background on the reporting process and that a student can make a report now to any trusted adult. He discussed how they are not able to follow up if someone remains anonymous. Some of the issues are happening in the community and need to be worked on collaboratively.

Member Vera-DeGraff touched upon anonymity. He talked about trust issues and the lack of trust. He talked about recent events and there was no clear condemnation of events. CRLS needs to have a clear message against misogyny.

Member Weinstein thanked everyone for the presentation and echoed appreciation of people sharing their stories. Member Weinstein asked how the work has been done maps to the 2017 recommendations.

- Dr. Salim responded that with that previous report, the administrative team had analyzed that, and the staff training is an important lever and looked at the reporting process.
- **Member Weinstein** discussed the importance of looking at more of the recommendations.

Member Rachel thanked everyone for the presentation. She asked the following clarifying questions: 1) how we respond if there are multiple complaints in a school 2) what more can we do to be proactive 3) Who can accept reports of incidents? 4) When are those annual check in points 5) ensuring that a trauma informed professional development.

Member Rojas discussed the issue of trust that was brought up, whether Lisa Richardson can explain to the public the need for confidentiality and how that balances with the public knowing the reports are taken seriously.

- Ms. Richardson talked about confidentiality and how it relates to state and federal laws.

Member Rojas asked about how the pandemic impacted this work.

- Dr. Gittens discussed how they have not done their sexuality units for the past two years.

Vice Chair Bowman had concerns about page 4 “punishment and other shaming intervention do not change behavior and have deleterious effects on developing identities”-she talked about how that is not culturally sensitive.

- Ms. Cohen talked about how they agree with that accountability and consequences and those are really important she talked about how she wanted to make her slide concise
- Dean Espinosa discusses how they do want to shame a kid.
- **Vice Chair Bowman** clarified about shaming, that it's ok for them to feel ashamed.
- Dr. Gittens provided context on what the deans do.

Member Wilson asked how many hours of trainings do staff and educators go through on an annual basis

- Principal Smith talked about the NIR training over two sessions-80 minutes of training and individual follow up

Member Wilson asked for further clarification on the elective wellness course

- Can opt out the wellness class if they are involved in a varsity sport

Member Wilson talked about how it is critically important for there to be a health and wellness for four years, and how to correct certain behaviors and be mindful and that is a critical course.

Member Killian asked for an update about the taskforce.

Member Fantini asked for clarification on the teen health survey.

- Dr. Salim talked about the teen health survey and the School Climate survey that has been utilized for the past couple of years and that has been evolving as one of our district outcomes
- Dr. Brown further clarified about results on the teen health survey-it will never capture specific issues, it's more of a pulse check.

Member Fantini gave suggestions on the reporting.

- Ms. Van Blaricum provided background on the advisory program.

Mayor Siddiqui thanked the student members for their leadership on this topic and acknowledged there is more work to do on this.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, it was voted to refer **C21-139** to the School Climate Sub-Committee.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Mayor Siddiqui turned the meeting over to the Superintendent for a presentation.

Superintendent started the [presentation](#).

Mayor Siddiqui opened the meeting to questions.

Member Vera-DeGraff asked for clarification on how these new masks regulations will effect lunch.

- Dr. Doberteen talked about how they are looking at masks through the end of the school year for indoor activities.

Member Weinstein shared his concerns about families who don't feel comfortable with masking outside. No one under the age of 16 is currently vaccinated.

- Dr. Doberteen talked about how this change of policy is not something that they took lightly, Dr. Doberteen talked about being unmasked outdoors is not going to significantly increase the risk
- Ms. Rose Tynes added that anyone having their child outdoors unmasked, their children can still have masks and letting them know it's still ok to wear masks outside and that is a still a choice they can make for their families

Member Weinstein acknowledged that there are families on each side of this issue.

Member Rojas asked how it has been known that infection rates for outside are low.

Member Rojas asked for an update on graduation plans.

- It was confirmed that graduation will still be virtual.

Member Rojas confirmed an adult needs to present for children under the age of 16 for the second dose.

Vice Chair Bowman touched upon the operational implications of this policy change.

Member Wilson asked Dr. Doberteen what it would look like to have to keep on the masks outdoors.

- Dr. Doberteen talked about how they would not have to implement the DESE guidelines

Superintendent Salim talked about the need for the safety manual to be a living document, they were talking about how the recommendation is not just about Cambridge

Member Killian spoke to senior events, all masks are required outdoors, because of a large amount of students in a compact space.

Member Fantini discussed how delaying this policy change until Monday would be the best move.

Dr. Salim continued with the presentation to the Vaccine Clinics

Dr. Rose Tynes provided further guidance about the clinics

Dr. Salim further talked about outreach efforts.

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

The Superintendent's Consent Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Mayor Siddiqui removed **#21-126**. Member Rojas removed **#21-139**.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Vice Chair Bowman, on the following roll call vote, items **#21-127, #21-128, #21-140 through #21-146** were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#21-127, Approval of the Interdepartmental Services Agreement between the Cambridge Public School Department and Cambridge Public Health Commission, be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the Interdepartmental Services Agreement between the Cambridge School Department and the Cambridge Public Health Commission as detailed in the document.

#21-128, Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day		
Residential		
45 Day	<u>1</u>	<u>\$28,500.29</u>
		\$28,500.29

#21-129, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Cambridge Center for Neuropsychology & Learning, 2464 Massachusetts Avenue Suite #129, Cambridge, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$180,000.00.

#21-130, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Cambridge Health Alliance, 1493 Cambridge St. Macht Bldg Room 506, Cambridge, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$54,000.00

#21-131, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Cambridge Health Alliance, 1493 Cambridge St. Macht Bldg Room 506, Cambridge, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#21-132, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Perkins School for the Blind, 175 North Beacon Street, Watertown, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 20, 2022 in the amount of \$60,000.00.

#21-133, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Riverside Community Care, 270 Bridge Street #301, Deedham, for the period September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$180,000.00.

#21-134, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Staffing Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Careerstaff Unlimited, 400 Riverpark Drive #100, North Reading, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 202 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#21-135, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Staffing Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Easter Seals, 484 Main Street, Worcester, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$80,000.00.

#21-136, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Staffing Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

The Stepping Stones Group, 2568 Trailridge Drive East Suite 100, Lafayette, CO, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$200,00.00.

#21-137, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Staffing Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Precision Human Resources, 950 Haverford Road Suite 100 C, Bryn Mawr, PA, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$100,00.00.

#21-138, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Instructional Materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Overdrive Inc., Overdrive Way, Cleveland, OH, for the period July 1 2021 through June 20, 2022 in the amount of \$30,000.00.

#21-140, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Computer Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Newsela, 620 8th Avenue, New York, NY, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$33,845.00.

#21-141, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Computer Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Quantum Learning, P.O. Box 253, Lincoln, for the period September 1, 2021 through September 1, 2022 in the amount of \$48,750.00.

#21-142, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Computer Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Remind, 965 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$28,160.00.

#21-143, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Computer Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 20, 2022 in the amount of \$407,865.00.

#21-144, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Computer Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

CDW Government LLC, 230 N. Milwaukee Ave, Vernon Hills, IL, for the period of September 16, 2021 through September 16, 2022 in the amount of \$32,208.00.

#21-145, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Translation Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Interpreters & Translators, 232 Williams St E, Glastonbury, CT for the period of July 1, 2021 for the period of June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#21-146, Approval of in-kind donation of \$1,000 made by the Laura A. Piasecki Charitable Trust be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the above donations as described.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

Discussion followed on **#21-126**.

Mayor Siddiqui provided background on the recommendation and informed the Members that there will need to be a roll call vote in order to adopt the recommendation.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#21-126** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#21-126, Approval of Authorization for the Superintendent to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the replacement of the Morse School building boilers: That School Committee approve authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of

Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the replacement of the Morse School building as follows:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on May 18, 2021, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated no later than June 1, 2021 for the Morse School building located at 40 Granite Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

The funds are sought to be used for the replacement of the building's boilers. The Granite Street building's boilers are more than twenty eight years old, have antiquated controls and have had multiple leaks repaired. Given the age and condition of these boilers, they will soon be beyond further repair. This project falls under priority category number 5, which is for the replacement, renovation, or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.

The Cambridge School Committee hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Discussion followed on **#21-139**

Member Rojas asked for clarification on the contract.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, **#21-139** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#21-139, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Computer Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Curriculum Associates, LLC, 153 Rangeway Road, N. Billerica, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$47,001.60.

9. School Committee Agenda:

The School Committee Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Mayor Siddiqui removed **#21-147**. On a voice vote, **#21-148 through #21-150** were adopted.

#21-148 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member David Weinstein, and Member Fantini

Whereas it has been brought to the School Committee's attention that materials produced by Eversource promoting its commercial interests in natural gas were recently inadvertently distributed to CPS students in school; and

Whereas in 2009 the School Committee passed motion #09-213 which states, in part, "No advertising of commercial products or services will be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds or properties"; and

Whereas climate justice, learning about climate change and the environment, and addressing climate change is a priority of the City of Cambridge and CPSD; and

Whereas the School Committee wishes to ensure all CPSD educators and staff have the support and tools they need to ensure distribution of commercial materials does not happen again in our schools; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Superintendent will report to the School Committee detailing the current relevant procedures and supports for CPSD educators that address the CPSD policy noted above, and noting any other relevant CPSD policies; and be it further

Resolved that the report will identify and recommend any additional steps and supports, if needed, to help teachers and school leadership prevent future distribution of commercial materials that violate CPSD policy; and be it further

Resolved that the Superintendent will prepare a report for the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee on current CPSD curriculum and school-based activities around climate justice.

#21-149 Report of the April 1, 2021 Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee

April 1, 2021

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-149

Called for the purpose of discussing the health & safety working group discussions on expanded in-person learning preparations, the Tobin School construction project and a request from the Cambridge Election Commission.

Members present: Member Rojas, Member Fantini
Other present: Mayor Siddiqui; Member Weinstein

Member Rojas is the chair and called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Member Rojas turned the meeting over to the Election Commission. Ethridge King from the Cambridge Election Commission shared a list of the City of Cambridge Polling Locations. Ethridge King discussed the importance of still using the schools, and they need to let the community know where they are voting. The goal is to come up with a system that works for the schools and the City. He discussed how using the schools would be optimal. He intends to put a more formal request in writing.

Member Rojas turned the meeting over to the other members of the Sub-Committee.

Member Fantini asked for further clarification on the timing of this. Ethridge King provided an update about the timing and shared that they will not use schools for early voting. There is still a determination for the legislature, there is a sense of urgency from the commission to start providing materials for polling locations.

Member Fantini asked for an official request and to hear from Mr. Maloney on what the concerns would be.

- Mr. Maloney discussed for the past ten years, the direction of the School Committee/the City has been moving away from using the Schools due to the opposition from parents, principals and the impact on the School calendar, and issues on safety.
- Ethridge King discussed the requirements of polling locations and how they have been relying on non-City buildings and clarified that two days odd years, and for presidential years three days.
- Larry Ward noted that other Massachusetts districts utilize polling locations at Schools and the importance of having the community vote.

Member Rojas asked for further clarification on what schools would need to be utilized. Member Rojas asked what happened in previous years.

Mr. Maloney asked the election commission about using fire stations. Ethridge King talked about the space issues.

Ethridge King talked about how it has been hard on the community constantly changing locations. Ethridge King discussed how we could change the dynamic on voting in school to be disruptive.

Member Rojas turned the meeting over to Mr. Maloney on an update on the Safety and Facilities manual.

- Mr. Maloney elaborated that this is a working document and how they've changed metrics, routine changes. He further discussed the review process for cases and provided further clarification on contract tracing.

Member Weinstein provided an update from the Outdoor working group and asked if there is a way that we have the infrastructure to support outdoor learning and eating. Mr. Maloney clarified that the intention is to have lunch outside.

Dan Monahan, president of the CEA, shared highlights: masks compliance, improvements on testing Dr. Doberteen shared that they are fully staffed and they were well equipped to handle the improved testing.

Mr. Maloney talked about how they have started planning for the summer.

Member Rojas asked about plans for graduation. Mr. Maloney shared that they are still having conversations about that and no determination has been made yet.

Member Rojas then turned the conversation over to an update about the Tobin.

- Mr. Maloney shared an update: they have lost a year in the process. He said that Monday night the City Council approved the home rule petition. He talked about how they were able to work through the issues of the Callahan and collaborated with DCR. He talked about how the cost of the project will continue going up by every year that we delay. He says that it looks like this project will begin in June.
- Mr. Maloney shared that they will be looking for space for about 10 OSS staff and a relocation of the special start in the Longfellow building.
- Mr. Maloney further discussed air quality measures they are taking: ultraviolet light "zappers", with recovery money they want to continue to look at how to improve HVAC systems and that the Sub-Committee will be hearing more about these issues in the upcoming meetings.
- Member Weinstein asked for further clarification on the timeline. Mr. Maloney confirmed that it was for four years and that they would move back into the Tobin in September of 2025.
- Mr. Maloney discussed how if there were further delays they would move to the Vassal Lane School but that is not ideal to move mid-year. The goal is to keep the project going. He further clarified that each year we are delaying the Tobin project, it causes other projects to be delayed.
- Mr. Maloney also shared that there should be building assessments in the next fiscal year and that the City is not in the position to fund another major project like the Tobin until it is finished and they are looking to do more of a comprehensive renovation of the buildings.
- Dan Monahan asked for further clarification on the Kennedy-Longfellow. Mr. Maloney discussed how they will be looking at the ultra violet and that they are focused on the Long Fellow. He discussed how Kennedy-Longfellow building the HVAC systems there are out of date.
- Dr. Lichtensein discussed how instead of going with one large hepa air filter, to use two smaller air filters
- Mr. Maloney discussed how they are in the middle of looking at cleaning the air ducts, and the ducts in Cambridgeport were in better shape than expected.
- Mr. Maloney discussed how they are going to be able to get four exchanges at Kennedy Longfellow.

Member Rojas adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Attest:



Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to the Office of the School Committee

April 28, 2021

SPECIAL EDUCATION & STUDENT SUPPORTS SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-150

Virtual Special Education & Student Supports Sub-Committee
Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of this meeting will be to highlight Autism Acceptance Month, to discuss what CPS is doing to support autistic scholars including transition services, and the resources available to scholars, families and educators. This meeting is expected to end by or before 8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Member Wilson, Chair; Member Rachel and Member Weinstein

Also present: Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Morgan, Assistant Superintendent; Jean Spera, Special Education Director, Dr. Karyn Grace

Member Wilson started the meeting at 6:00 pm. Member Wilson turned the meeting over to Dr. Morgan for a presentation. The presentation objectives were to communicate OSS's efforts to enhance transition planning for students and autism acceptance month, celebrating successes of supporting neurodiverse learners. The agenda was: welcome and introduction, transition services, successes and challenges, questions and answers, and then closing.

Member Wilson opened the meeting to questions on services.

Cambria Russell asked for further clarification on the relationship with DMH (Department of Mental Health) in addition to DDS.

- Shannon Shute clarified that they have a new contact for DMH who is a Cambridge graduate and how to best coordinate.
- Jenna Callahan provided further information on CPS's relationship with DMH.
- Cambria Russell shared the MRC got a new director

Rae Ann Somerville asked Cambria further about MRC and asked how we are getting the information out to the community about services.

- Shannon Shute discussed how getting the resources earlier to students is important especially in DDS.
- Jean Spera discussed how they've expanded their outreach.
- Cambria Russell discussed how there is a DDS 101 class coming up soon.

Dr. Morgan continued with the presentation and shared what they are doing for Autism Awareness month. Elizabeth Rollins shared what Special Start does.

Kaitlin Barlow discussed how they deal with transitions.

Dr. Karyn Grace discussed program enhancements and continuing to build on that work.

Liza Gosselin shared an update that her program is in the middle of a name change, she discussed how special education is trying to get the students to access the general curriculum and discussed how educator's voices are being listened to and mentioned the inconsistencies across classrooms.

Rae Anne Sommerville shared her experience as a speech pathologist and how service providers are trying to be more collaborative.

Member Wilson turned the meeting over Cambria Russell for a presentation, Cambria presented “How FCSN Supports Families and Professionals.”

Member Wilson asked Ms. Russell for further clarification on relationships.

- Ms. Russell clarified that they are working with the family engagement department and utilizing family liaisons. She discussed the work in Brockton and how they are bringing different community members. She discussed how there are different ways to do this and they try to meet the district on where they are.

Member Wilson opened the meeting to other Committee members for questions.

Member Rachel thanked the staff for their work. Member Wilson and Member Weinstein echoed Member Rachel’s sentiments.

Member Weinstein talked about transition planning and the trouble with getting transition services. He wanted to know where we are with this.

Member Wilson extended the meeting for ten minutes.

Dr. Shute discussed how staff considers themselves advocates to help access services. She discussed the challenges of systemizing it through the grades.

Ms. Spera discussed how they have been building relationships with CPS and all the agencies.

The discussion then turned into what happens to students receiving services after high school. Jenna Callahan provided information about the post graduate program.

Member Wilson asked how we are centralizing data and evaluations.

- Ms. Spera discussed the challenges of confidentiality

Dr. Morgan thanked the staff of OSS for their hard work. Member Wilson echoed those sentiments.

Member Rachel thanked Dr. Morgan and appreciated the clarification for post graduate programs. Member Rachel voiced her support and for the staff to come to them about possible policy creations.

Member Wilson ended the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Attest:



Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to the Office of the School Committee

Discussion followed on **#21-147**.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein, on a voice vote, it was voted to place **#21-147** on file.

#21-147 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Chair Bowman, and Member David Weinstein in collaboration with Member Vera-DeGraff and Member Killian

Whereas the Federal Drug Administration has recently expanded the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to include children ages 12 years and older; and
Whereas in Cambridge Public Schools there are more than 3,000 students in grades 6-12, the vast

majority of whom are 12 years and older; and

Whereas current plans for the 2021-2022 school year anticipate nearly all students in all grades returning to learn in person, now therefore be it

Resolved that the Superintendent work with the Cambridge Public Health Department to explore and determine the feasibility of offering and administering the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine at the upper schools and the high school buildings and any other appropriate Cambridge Public Schools facilities to Cambridge Public Schools students who are eligible for vaccination; and be it further

Resolved that the Superintendent present his findings to the School Committee as soon as possible.

10. Resolutions:

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, it was voted to adopt **#21-151, #21-152, and #21-153.**

#21-151 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Chair Bowman and Member Rojas

Whereas the School Committee is deeply saddened to learn of the death of Daniel Robert Montgomery, who passed away suddenly on April 20th, 2021, at a very young age; and

Whereas Daniel is survived by his daughter Lizzie Kelly-Montgomery, Lizzie's mother Rua Kelly, parents Lynn and Bob Montgomery, and sister Sara Montgomery, among many other loving friends and family; and

Whereas Daniel was a beloved member of the Amigos School community and was deeply involved in the Amigos School as President of the Friends of Amigos, instrumental in the creation of the Amigos-Cambridgeport Neighborhood Community School, and as a room parent for Lizzie's class for several years; and

Whereas Daniel was a wonderful community member who connected with everyone he met; and

Whereas Daniel will be remembered for his character, love of life, sense of adventure, and warmth; now therefore be it

Resolved that the School Committee go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Daniel Robert Montgomery at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

Resolved that the Executive Secretary to the School Committee be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Rua Kelly and daughter Lizzie Kelly-Montgomery, on behalf of the entire Cambridge School Committee.

#21-152 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Rachel and Member Wilson

Whereas May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, and celebrates the heritage, history, culture, and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States; and Whereas about 830 students in the Cambridge Public Schools, or 12.4% of entire student body identifies as AAPI; and

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have a rich heritage thousands of years old and have both shaped the history of the United States and Cambridge; and

Whereas AAPI residents have played a vital role in our city's development and history, contributing much to the cultural, civic, and economic vibrancy of our community, and today approximately 17% AAPI residents call Cambridge home; and

Whereas with a terrible rise in hate crimes against our AAPI residents, it is more important than ever to celebrate and honor the legacies of and stand in solidarity with our AAPI scholars, families, and educators; now therefore be it

Resolved that the School Committee go on record recognizing May 2021 as AAPI Heritage Month.

#21-153 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Fantini and Member Rachel

Whereas the School Committee is deeply saddened to learn of the death of Alan J. Dworsky on January 19th, 2021 at the age of 90; and

Whereas Alan was a resident of Cambridge who leaves behind his wife Suzanne Werber Dworsky, his children Jeff Dworsky and Arianne Dar, his five grandchildren Isaac, Zephyr, Cyrus, Imran, and Rayhannah, and two great-grandchildren Selah and Marigold; and

Whereas Alan and his wife Suzanne founded the Popplestone Foundation in 2000, which has supported environmental, tax, research, social justice, public policy, early childhood, and choral singing initiatives, including the [Kodaly Music Program](#) in the Cambridge Public Schools, which has impacted the lives of

many CPS scholars; and

Whereas Alan's partnership with CPS and Kodaly enabled more children to develop the language of music, which has shown to develop the brain in ways similar to foreign languages and math, providing students with another way to engage with school; and

Whereas Alan will be remembered for his generosity and his belief that "the voice is the original instrument and a chorus is an example of democracy in action with people of all backgrounds coming together"; now therefore be it

Resolved that the School Committee go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Alan J. Dworsky at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

Resolved that the Executive Secretary to the School Committee be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to his wife Suzanne Werber Dworsky, on behalf of the entire Cambridge School Committee.

8. Announcements:

Mayor Siddiqui talked about how the community fair will be on June 5th.

Member Rachel School Climate is meeting on next Tuesday at 6 pm about the check-ins.

Member Wilson announced that that Special Education and Student Supports Sub-Committee will meet next Wednesday.

Member Rojas announced there will be a COVID vaccine session in Haitian Creole.

Member Weinstein shared that CRLS student drama works performance is coming up on Thursday,

Member Killian shared that the Sunrise Cambridge at starlight square-opportunity for student activists to discuss the Cambridge climate currently.

9. Late Orders:

Late motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Chair Bowman, and Member Wilson

Whereas the School Committee was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Jenna Paige Santos last week, a Cambridge Rindge and Latin School senior and former student at Putnam Avenue Upper Campus, Amigos School, and the Morse School; and

Whereas Jenna was a friendly and cherished member of the CRLS community and was a good person and friend to all those who knew her; and

Whereas Jenna participated in the Falcon Friends/Best Buddies Program, which promotes the development of friendships between students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and worked with staff in the school's copy center as a student helper; now therefore be it

Resolved that the School Committee go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Jenna Santos at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

Resolved that the Executive Secretary to the School Committee be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Santos family on behalf of the entire School Committee.

Mayor Siddiqui read the order out loud.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, the late order was adopted.

10. Communications from City Officers: None

Distributed Back-up Documents (copies on file in the School Committee office):

Agenda
PowerPoint Presentation

Statements from Public Comment (copies on file in the School Committee office)

- Statement re:

E-Mail communications:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ✓ Elinor Actipis | ✓ Catherine Reilly | ✓ Kalle Keikkinen |
| ✓ Tao Zou | ✓ Abigail Lewis-Bowen | ✓ Giulia Fulci |
| ✓ Emily Braunstein Pollock | ✓ Caroline Berz | ✓ Dan Monahan |

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll vote, it was voted to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing bargaining strategy for CEA Units (A & B) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining positions of the School Committee: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Rachel, on a voice vote, it was voted to adjourn the meeting (8:54 p.m.)

Attest:



Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to Office of the School Committee