



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

December 15, 2020

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: Superintendent Dr. Kenneth N. Salim,
Deputy Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Turk
Nuriel 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 Chair 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, explaining that the meeting is being televised, votes will be taken and there will be public comment.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call vote for the purpose of a sound check: Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Vice Chair Bowman PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

1. **Public Comment:**

The following individuals were heard:

- Rua Kelly, Upton Street, Reopening Plan
- Kate Skubecz, Thorndike Street, Motion **#20-310** in support of reopening for in-person learning
- Sam Murphy, Thorndike Street, **#20-310** in support of reopening for in-person learning
- Jack Toner, Newman Street, **#20-304** in support of Winter Sports, specifically Hockey
- Zachary Barneson, Valentine Street, in support of the Winter Sports Season
- Anahid Mikirditsian, Inman Street, in favor of in person vs. remote for scholars with special needs
- Graham Quigley, Fenno Street, in support of Hockey and other Winter Sports
- Sandy Gould, Fairmont Street, **#20-304** in support of Winter Sports Season
- Lisa Laskin, Avon Hill Street **#20-304** in support of Girls Hockey
- Iris Jaffe, Antrim Street, **#20-304** in support of Youth Hockey for boys and girls
- Jon Come, Fairmont Street **#20-304** in support of Youth Hockey
- Julian Chu, Meacham Road, **#20-304** in support of Youth Hockey
- Mark Marfione, Washburn Ave, in support of Boys Hockey
- Fionn McGowan, Magazine Street, in support of Youth Hockey
- Chris Gould, Fairmont Street in support of adding Hockey to winter sports
- Paul Magalhaes, Porter Street, in support of Youth Hockey
- Tim Nicolette, Pearl Street, in support of in person-learning
- Michael Daniluk, Griswold Street, **#20-304**, in support of Youth Hockey
- Whitney Schutzbank, Norfolk Street, in support of in-person learning
- Kai Grunewald, Upland Road, in support of reopening school ASAP for grades 4-12

- Giulia Fulci, Broadway, **#20-280**, expressed confusion on what numbers decide closing schools
- Kristin Huang, Worcester Street, supports eliminating the metrics, in favor of in-person learning
- Jacob Griffin, Rockwell Street, in support of Youth Hockey as part of Winter Sports-*
- Elena Fagotto, Bigelow Street, **#20-280**, requests expansion of in-person learning for all grades
- Tancredi Botto, Broadway, school reopening
- Marta Bianciardi, Union Street, **#20-280**, no to remote learning, decreased learning, losing jobs
- Barbara Bryant, Henry Street, **#20-310**, supports outdoor learning and orienteering opportunities
- Seth Reich, Hawthorn Street, 5th grader understands in-person learning not remote learning
- Catherine Rich, Columbia Street, **#20-310**, supports in-person learning
- William Doran, Orchard Street, in support of Girls Hockey
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Avenue, school reopening, in support of **#20-307** and **#20-308**
- Charlie Bonney, Foster Street, in support of **#20-304** supports Hockey for Winter Sports Season
- Justin Saif, Hurley Street, in support of in-person learning, eliminate the Wednesday remote day
- Cheryl Keane, Plymouth Street, in support of school re-opening sooner than later
- Alexandra Landman, Granville Road, in support of in-person learning

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to close public comment: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Member Killian reported on two fundraisers: Club Med, run by CRLS students and Club 4. For the holiday break, she questioned if there is school on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 – there seems to be a lot of confusion. The CRLS Survey went out this week, she found it was very engaging, it took about 5-10 minutes.

Member Vera-Degraff reported that the student members support that winter sports are very important to the mental, physical, social/emotional health of students. They are looking forward to the discussion.

Dr. Salim clarified that December 23, 2020 is a Wednesday and we will be following a synchronous block 1-4 schedule.

Member Rojas asked the student members if any of the student population is interested in extra-curricular activities other than sports.

Member Vera-Degraff answered in the affirmative.

Member Killian stated that the VPA is trying to expand and have some activities online.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- November 12, 2020 Special Meeting
- December 1, 2020 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Fantini, it was voted to accept the Minutes on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#20-280 Motion by Vice Chair Bowman

Whereas the goal of having metrics for school opening/closing are to minimize the risk of a person infected by COVID-19 with an asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic case bringing it into CPSD and spreading it to others; and

Whereas these metrics should reflect the risk across the entire school population, which includes a diversity of people; and

Whereas identifying school opening/closing metrics based on race/ethnicity could create a high risk of discrimination to racial and ethnic children and families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 that are a part of the CPSD community; and

Whereas people of color have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and Black Latinx, and Indigenous (LBI) communities have been hit particularly hard as a result of being more likely to have jobs that cannot be done from home and have higher rates of underlying health conditions that increase the risk of severe illness; and

Whereas BLI communities are more likely to live in multi-generational households, and due to systemic racism, BLI communities are less likely to get state of the art care when they encounter the healthcare system; and

Whereas these are critical issues to address and are best managed by a partnership between DPH and the Mayor's office within Cambridge as well as at the state and national levels;

Therefore be it resolved that the Mayor initiates discussion through DPH with communities of color to review the City of Cambridge COVID dashboard to ensure data being reported and collected can best support communities of color with outreach, increased access to testing, and support when infected; and

Be it further resolved that DPH will continue to provide updates and guidance to CPSD on the most effective ways to support CPSD students and families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (MB 11-17-2020).

No discussion.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Fantini, it was voted to adopt **#20-280** on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice Chair Bowman, the Rules were suspended to bring Superintendent's Recommendation **#20-304** forward for discussion and adoption. On the following roll call vote, **#20-304** was brought forward 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.

#20-304, Approval of CRLS Winter Sports season for Swimming, Diving & Basketball School Year 2020-2021, that the School Committee approve CRLS students who are learning remotely to participate in a scheduled SY 20/21 winter sports season as determined under the guidelines presented by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) for the following sports: 1) Swimming; 2) Diving; 3) Basketball (when taking place in spaces with the equivalent of 4+ air exchanges per hour (ACH)).

Dr. Salim shared his slides on the Winter Sports section of the PowerPoint presentation.

The Presentation can be viewed online.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0ef808350d&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1686175990437899385&th=176680212ad7ec79&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_kiqezrty0

Dr. Salim paused the presentation and turned the floor over to the Chair.

Discussion followed on Recommendation **#20-304** with the following comments, questions and concerns.

Dr. Jamie Lichtenstein spoke on the fresh air exchanges per hour and also confirmed that effective ventilation is extremely important. She spoke on the hepa filters which can substantially help the air flow. The hockey rinks at this point do not meet the guidelines of the CDC. The Boston Bruins are planning to

play outdoors due to the risks and space requirements. She does not support a relaxing of the ventilation agreements, adding that the CDC has updated its ventilation requirements.

Member Rachel asked if it makes sense to add additional space and cubic feet to the rink and will it help to require the athletes to play with helmets with a shield as well as the mask?

- Dr. Lichtenstein answered that opening doors will help the most for mitigation efforts. As far as the Simone rink, and they don't have the requisite number of air exchanges per hour, and she also spoke on the helmets, face-shields and masks for hockey players is a positive effort.
- Mr. Maloney added that we all want to find a way to make this work. Opening doors to the outside is not an option due to ice control and humidity control issues.

Member Fantini moved, seconded by Member Wilson, an amendment to add **Hockey** to the winter sports season. Member Fantini asked for more ideas from the scientific experts on how to improve the fresh air in facilities.

Member Wilson moved, seconded by Member Fantini, to add **Gymnastics** to the winter sports season. Member Wilson asked about the testing that went into air exchanges.

- Dr. Lichtenstein explained that she asked for information and was informed that there is one air exchange per hour and there is additional air flow through the filters. Perhaps there are other rinks that are able to achieve the desired results by opening doors. It would make sense if the rink is interested with these mitigation measures to examine all of the possibilities and options.
- Mr. Maloney responded that we do not own the rinks, since they are not our buildings, that may not be a solution.

Member Wilson asked what other rinks do we have for our athlete scholars?

- Mr. Arria answered that MIT is not having a hockey season so they don't have any ice down, BB&N does not have any ice down on their rinks yet, they are using that space for classrooms. He is trying to find outside rinks, with temperature control beneath the ice.

Member Wilson also asked about tested spaces for gymnastics

- Mr. Arria answered that we usually use MIT Dupont Gymnasium, they are not renting to outside groups this season, we are also not allowed to rent their equipment. He did look to a facility that does not meet our air exchange requirement. He is still considering a place in Wilmington, he is waiting for the report on the air exchange quality. He looked into the Gymnastics Academy of Boston; they do not meet our standards. Gymnastics facilities are hard to come by.

Vice Chair Bowman asked when does the Winter Season start?

- Mr. Arria answered that the season started yesterday, December 14, 2020, the MIAA moved the start date from November 30th to December 14, 2020. Most districts have started.

Vice Chair Bowman asked if we put a delay in place in order to meet the air exchange requirements, what would be recommended.

- Mr. Arria responded the season ends on February 22nd so we limit our window with any delay. We would not need to delay past January 4th.

Vice Chair Bowman is concerned about deviating from the rules when making decisions. She is worried about changing our safety standards.

Member Rojas commented that he appreciates the discussion on winter sports and he also wants to put as much emphasis on non-sports related extra-curricular activities. He asked what the air exchanges are at the Baldwin gym.

- Mr. Maloney stated that the Baldwin meets the CDC codes for gymnastics but they have two kindergarten classrooms in their gym.

Member Fantini stated that manager at the FMC rink stated he will make his outdoor rink space available. He will open all of his doors and do whatever the school system tells him to do to make it possible for CRLS to play hockey. Member Fantini is insistent upon including hockey and we need to keep investigating until we find a solution, he suggested the Belmont outdoor skating rink and also wants to know why we are the only ones in the league that is not playing hockey.

Mayor Siddiqui stated that we all understand how difficult it is for everyone. There are many considerations at play, creating a very difficult decision. The Chair mentioned that Dr. Salim asked that the MIAA results be reviewed by the Public Health Dept. and we have also heard from the public as to how much the students need this.

- Mr. Arria added that everyone here wants the same thing. The students have taken the responsibility seriously. He is willing to do everything he can to meet the mitigation standards to give these kids a chance. They need something to get away from the screen for so many hours during the day. Mr. Arria also stated he is support of all extra-curricular activity not just sports. He made a pledge to the School Committee to look for a way to do it safely. There is a question as to whether FMC can or cannot open their doors for ice hockey.
- Dr. Jamie Lichtenstein offered an amendment to add four **effective** air exchanges per hour.
- Dr. Jill Crittenden stated that ventilation is an important factor. Cloth masks are not considered effective. People need to be able to breathe well; especially in sports, a lot of oxygen is required. CPS has made the purchase of the correct type of masks with specialized filters to actively trap small aerosol particles for our athletic scholars. It is very hard to track where a person is infected.

Member Fantini motioned, seconded by Member Weinstein, to suspend the rules for Coach Mark Marifione to give another statement regarding Simone rink. On the following roll call vote, the Rules were suspended 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.

After Coach Marifione spoke in support of winter sports, the meeting returned to the regular order of business with the following comments and questions:

- Is it possible to play only away games in order to move forward?
- Member Weinstein moved the Committee of the Whole adopt the main recommendation
- The recommendation has been amended to add the language **Ice Hockey** and **Gymnastics**.

On the following roll call vote for the **amendment of #20-304**: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

On the following roll call vote, it was voted to adopt Recommendation **#20-304 as amended**: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-304, Approval of CRLS Winter Sports season for Swimming, Diving & Basketball School Year 2020-2021, that the School Committee approve CRLS students who are learning remotely to participate in a scheduled SY 20/21 winter sports season as determined under the guidelines presented by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) for the following sports: 1) Swimming; 2) Diving; 3) Basketball; **4) Hockey; 5) Gymnastics** (when taking place in spaces with the equivalent of 4+ **effective** air exchanges per hour (ACH)).

Dr. Salim returned to the remainder of the PowerPoint presentation.

The presentation ended and the Chair turned the floor over to the Committee.

Member Rojas asked who in the district will put the infographics from around the world together so the public can know how in-person learning is decided.

- Dr. Salim responded one of the challenges is time to share the rationale that guides our thinking before it changes. Despite all of the hard work, it keeps changing before it can be shared.

Member Rojas asked about modifying data

- Dr. Salim answered that Dr. Danielle Allen spoke on this and Mayor Siddiqui added that she will be speaking with Dr. Allen tomorrow.
- Dr. Keith Ericson responded that they are planning to come up with revisions of the metrics.

Member Rojas also asked to know what has been implemented for surveillance testing

- Dr. Salim responded that they are talking about it for grades six through 12.

Member Fantini liked the presentation and appreciates that there will be a recommendation on January 4th. He wants to know how many staff have gone out on leave according to the Federal Act.

- Ms. Richardson explained that there are approximately 285 remote accommodation requests under the FFCRA and another 30 or so that are on remote leave primarily for childcare reasons.

Member Fantini asked if a recommendation is needed from the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee for the Committee to look at regarding the three-foot level of distancing?

- Dr. Salim answered that it is already part of the Health, Safety and Facilities Manual, explaining that it can be looked at during a special meeting if needed to take up that specific recommendation.

Member Fantini requested the Superintendent to explain where he stands on the district wide Wednesday remote day issue.

- Dr. Salim explained that there is still not enough time for educators to collaborate with each other with only one day (Wednesday) to do so. That is the only day they have to bring all issues and concerns to a meeting. It also important to use this one day for educators to brainstorm over remote vs. in-person learning across the district.

Member Rachel asked if we are requesting our middle and high school teachers to teach both remote and in-person simultaneously? She stated that this will create a pedagogical burden and asked what supports can we offer them. She also wants to hear from the various doctors and Nurse Rose-Tynes on how we are addressing the mixing of pods since our students are not in one pod all day?

- Dr. Lichtenstein answered that the music, choir, band, orchestra – middle school and upper school children can be in cohorts; it can take more work for some and less for others. The mitigation strategies differ for certain grades, and for the high school, six-foot distancing needs to be adhered to.

Member Rachel asked Dr. Salim about the pedagogical piece.

- Dr. Salim replied it will be a lot of using the remote learning platform for both in-person and remote students. Engaging in-person through the remote platform will be the premise. It is not a perfect model, but it is a tradeoff of how we are thinking about being able to schedule classes that will include some in-person learning. We are trying to avoid re-rostering students to new teachers. One constant example is this School Committee meeting tonight, which shows the hybrid method we use for Regular Meetings; some of us are in person and some are remote and interacting through zoom.

Member Weinstein asked is any planning for outdoor in-person options for students that are remote and are there any conversations coming up on January 5th Meeting on the 3 and 6 foot recommendations.

Member Killian asked about before & after school activities that typically happen during the school year.

- Dr. Salim answered that they are looking for different forms of activities including a RSTA pilot.
- Dr. Gittens stated that club advisors have agreed to walking activities around the building. The focus is on bringing more students in person.

Vice Chair Bowman has a question about the upper school model. She would like more rationale on two days per week in person.

- Dr. Salim stated this is the challenge every district is faced with for older students. When the requirement is six feet, it is impossible to have many students in classrooms for all sections that happen over the school day. We are not able to double our staff to accommodate more in-person learning. Cambridge is unique for having the four-day model for as many students as we did. Most districts employed two days on and two days off or one week on and one week off have been the most predominate models.

Vice Chair Bowman asked if it would make a difference if we adjusted the six feet down to 5 feet?

- Dr. Salim stated that he is not sure if the incremental distance change will accomplish not cohorting the students.

- Mr. Maloney responded that it is not just classes, we need to deal with the fact that lunch also will confuse operational issues.
- Dr. Khan asked if we can be more creative with other public spaces we can use.
- Mr. Maloney stated that they have looked into this in the fall and can re-look but he is not optimistic about what we will find, there are also staffing issues when we relocate.

Vice Chair Bowman added that religious facilities do not use their buildings during the week. She brought up the approved vaccine and the fact that it is not designed for young children if that is being considered in the upcoming school year.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Bowman, the Rules were suspended to vote extending the meeting. On the following roll call vote, the meeting was extended to 11:00 p.m.: 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 regular order of business.

- Dr. Dobberteen answered that the vaccine won't be available to most until March to June. We will not have data and information about children until late in the year 2021, but having that data will definitely make things better for staff and administrators.

Vice Chair Bowman hears that we will be in this pandemic for a while even with the vaccine here; as much as we possibly can, we need to try to work collaboratively with each other.

Member Wilson feels that the mental health issue is not being talked about enough. Parents are telling us that their children are suffering. Our libraries and youth centers are closed and families are trying to figure it out on their own. This is a failure of the district. She emphasized the urgency of the mental health of our scholars. The School Committee voted on a contract for tents and what have CPS done with that contract? Where do community partnerships play a role in any of our work? She asked about February 8th and if that is the end of the semester?

- Dr. Salim explained that every part of the education sector has been trying to figure out how to engage every aspect of support. It was answered that February 8 is the start of the semester for the upper schools. They are trying to launch the RSTA Department and engage OSS services.
- Dr. Khan supported the message of uplifting the mental health of not only our students, but also our parents, caregivers, and staff. She suggested bolstering our mental health support into the curriculum it does not always need to be focused on academia. She also suggested having discussions with community partners may go a long way. Another suggestion is to bring in counselors and telehealth services into the infrastructure. She would like to see a holistic approach to looking into the parents' mental health also. Dr. Khan also asked if there any disparities in the mental health within families of color?
- Dr. Gittens spoke on the Out of School Time partners headed by Mr. Kari Milner, which include East End House, Cambridge Community Center, the Arts Center, and Margaret Fuller House. The city has identified funding to open these organizations; we are working the families they normally work with and also working on getting the safety measures, i.e. heppa filters etc. up and running. This is mostly for students between the ages of five and twelve. There is no surplus of workers to facilitate the extra-curricular endeavors. Schools have never been set up to meet the mental health needs of students and families, it is hard to find the resources to provide this for our principals and staff, however, we may be able to look at this issue in collaboration with the community.

Member Vera-Degraff supported the outdoor learning suggestion brought up by Member Weinstein.

Mayor Siddiqui made a statement about what New York has done, what has happened in Boston and that we need to revisit the metrics in a collaborative way. She will call a special meeting on the 3 feet vs. 6 feet recommendation and there will be some work done on it now. She is also thinking about additional mitigation strategies to ease some of the burden. Mayor Siddiqui asked about filling the health aides positions and the option for pool testing.

- Dr. Dobberteen answered that it has been looked at by Somerville and Medford in conjunction with Tufts. It may be best for elementary school children.
- Dr. Lichtenstein added that swabbing younger kids is tricky and there are a lot of logistics that goes into pool testing.
- Dr. Jenkins replied that if we knew how many transmission events have happened so far and we multiply that by X percentage we expect to see X percentage of transmission events. This is one way to know what answer

Member Rojas asked about updating the Metrics

- Dr. Ericson and Dr. Jenkins agree that they just need to know what is wanted.
- Mr. Maloney responded that there is a meeting tomorrow to continue the discussion.

Vice Chair Bowman wants the public to know that the Working Group meets first, then the Buildings & Grounds Sub-Committee meets on the same issue after that in order to bring the issue to the Committee of the Whole.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: COVID-19 Response Update:.....Dr. Kenneth N. Salim
Superintendent of Schools

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

On the following roll call vote, items **#20305 and #20-306** were adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-305, Special Needs Contracts for Day & Residential Program Services not available from the Cambridge School Department, that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list 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 Grant Fund Budget.

<u>Programs</u>	<u>Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	2	\$143,890.68
Residential	0	0
45	0	0
<u>Total</u>	2	\$143,890.68

#20-306, Approval of Gifts to Cambridge Public Schools, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the following gifts and receipts as described.

1. An in-kind donation of 151 copies of the book *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson made by the Cambridge Rotary Club for each 3rd grade classroom.
2. \$15,000 in 300 \$50 gift cards to Target, Magic Beans, Porter Square Books, and Henry Bear's Park made by Alexandria Real Estate to benefit Cambridge Public Schools.

8. Non-Consent Agenda: None

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

On the following roll call vote, item **#20-307** through **#20-310** were adopted: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-307 Motion by the School Climate Sub-Committee:

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools are committed to the academic success and general wellbeing of all scholars, and;

Whereas CPS aspires to work as a team with families to support scholars, and;

Whereas the School Committee approved a policy to provide weekly check-ins between scholars, families and school staff in this school year, and to report the numbers of students unreached, and;

Whereas educators and administrators are stretched beyond capacity in this school year, and;

Whereas elementary educators spend the vast majority of their time with one cohort of students they know well and are in frequent contact with families, now therefore be it;

Resolved that elementary school teams will identify students who might benefit from stronger relationships between their schools and families through this approach and will reach out at least bi-weekly to them, and be it further;

Resolved that, with regards to check-ins, educators only will use Aspen to record notes that may be of help to educators supporting scholars in the future, and be it further;

Resolved that the School Climate Subcommittee will assess this practice through a conversation with educators at the end of this school year.

#20-308 Joint Motion by Member Fantini and Mayor Siddiqui

Whereas, the Cambridge Public Schools participate in the Journey into Education and Teaching Program, known as JET, to provide a pathway at little cost for paraprofessionals to get their bachelor's degrees and Massachusetts teacher licensures; and

Whereas JET (www.jetintoteaching.org) supports the goals of building local teacher pipelines and developing an educator workforce that reflects the racial, cultural, and linguistic diversity of our students; and

Whereas JET provides the program structure for recruitment and support such as: advising, guiding in application procedures for college admission and financial aid, participating in cohort groups, providing local educator mentors, and professional and career development opportunities; and

Whereas Cambridge must commit to providing and compensating mentors as part of our commitment to JET Paraprofessionals; and

Whereas JET is an education program of the Massachusetts Foundation for Teaching and Learning; and

Whereas Massachusetts is unique in providing a state education grant that funds the undergraduate education of employed eligible paraprofessionals who commit to becoming teachers; and

Whereas, JET already has demonstrated a record of success; and

Whereas meeting application deadlines is critical; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Superintendent collaborate with JET and report on how the program will operate in Cambridge.

#20-309 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Fantini and Member Wilson

Whereas equity and access are of highest priority for the Cambridge Public Schools and Cambridge School Committee, including postsecondary success for all of our scholars; and

Whereas extensive research nationally found that Early College is a promising model that narrows educational opportunity gaps, and that existing programs were a powerful foundation from which to build a broader statewide Early College Initiative; and

Whereas the Massachusetts boards of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education jointly launched an initiative in 2018 to establish an Early College designation for districts specifically attempting to recruit underrepresented students, to allow cohort-based models that provide high-need and low-income students with the opportunity to complete college level academic coursework on a clearly articulated pathway while simultaneously gaining exposure to a variety of career opportunities; and

Whereas 37 different high schools and 19 colleges and universities have partnered to offer Early College programs to thousands of students across the commonwealth, with enrollment projected to hit 4,200 students in FY21 and students earning an estimated 25,000 college credits, securing tuition and fee savings at an estimated \$5.4 million; and

Whereas the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School offers a Dual Enrollment program in partnership with Bunker Hill Community College but has not received the state's Early College Designation, which requires very specific advising metrics and a scope and sequence demonstrating that a school can offer at least 12 fully transferable college credits; and

Whereas Dual Enrollment, while often conflated with Early College, serves any students who self-select and therefore are already high-performing; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Superintendent work with the Principal of CRLS to provide a report on the current participation of the Dual Enrollment program by demographic, courses, and number of credits by year since its inception before the next Regular Meeting of the School Committee on Tuesday, January 5th, 2021.

#20-310 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Mayor Siddiqui and Vice Chair Bowman

Whereas CPSD is facing unique health and safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the science indicates that outdoor settings have a lower risk of transmission of COVID-19 than indoor settings, and

Whereas in-person educational experiences are highly beneficial for scholars, and in some cases of critical importance, and

Whereas pre-pandemic CPSD has had a commitment to and has offered various outdoor and nature-based experiences, and outdoor and nature-based experiences have value independent of pandemic response, and

Whereas during the pandemic CPSD has been using the outdoors in new ways, and

Whereas the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's guidance from July 22nd 2020 urges districts to consider outdoor and off-campus options for classes; and

Whereas during the 2019-2020 school year CPSD has been using the outdoors in new ways, has inventoried outdoor spaces accessible to our schools, and has acquired through purchase or rental agreements infrastructure such as tents that can support some types of outdoor education programming, and

Whereas there are educational, logistical, and health and safety considerations that are unique to outdoor education, and there is local, regional and national experience and expertise on these considerations, and

Whereas members of the CPSD community with relevant expertise and experience have offered to support CPSD's work in this area, therefore

Be it resolved that CPSD will establish a working group on outdoor education as a part of the COVID-19 Task Force, with this working group to first convene in January 2021, and be it further

Resolved that this working group will include outdoor education experts with local, regional, and or national experience implementing outdoor education programming, together with community members, CPSD educators, CPSD scholars, and CPSD caregivers, and be it further

Resolved that this working group will work in coordination with the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee to develop recommendations to the administration and full School Committee for outdoor education in CPSD for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, summer 2021, and the 2021-2022 school year, and will act in an advisory capacity on an ongoing basis.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolence): None

11. Announcements:

Vice Chair Bowman announced that we are going into the budget season; the recommendation for dates and an overview of the budget process will be brought forward at the January 5, 2021 Regular meeting.

Member Rojas announced that there was a recommendation at the last Buildings & Grounds Sub-Committee meeting to adjust the quarantine guidelines in alignment with the CDC that will be brought to the Committee of the Whole in January.

Member Killian announced this Thursday, December 17, 2020 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. there will be an online improve show led by CRLS students. It will be a lot of fun to watch.

Vera-Degraff reiterated on the two Club drives this week to support both the Cambridge and the homeless community.

Mayor Siddiqui acknowledged the Glocal challenge, they collected many pounds of clothes last Saturday.

12. Late Orders: None

13. 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)

- Dan Monahan,
- Piotr Mitros Weekly Check-ins
- Kristin Huang, in-person vs. remote learning
- Seth Reich in support of in-person learning

E-Mail communications:

- ✓ Paul Fiore, in support of the winter sports season, in particular Varsity Hockey
- ✓ Lisa Laskin, in support of the winter sports season
- ✓ Christopher Gould in support of winter sports

- ✓ Belinda Watt support for Girls and Boys Hockey
- ✓ Dr. Helen Jenkins Child Development/mental health expert
- ✓ Bill Doran Girls Ice Hockey
- ✓ John Ransom High School sports Winter Season
- ✓ Lucia Berman-Rossi in support of Ice Hockey
- ✓ David Quigley, in support of CRLS hockey
- ✓ Renee Daniliuk #20-304
- ✓ Iris Jaffe, youth hockey
- ✓ Amy Dahlberg-Chu, Hockey

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Vice Chair Bowman, it was voted, on a voice vote, to adjourn the open session: Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Adjourned (10:50 p.m.)

Attest:



Dosha Beard
Executive Secretary
to the School Committee