



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

February 2, 2021

Called for 6:00 p.m. broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 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: Dr. Salim, Superintendent of Schools; 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 6:05 p.m. The Chair provided a statement to the public regarding Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order authorizing remote participation and read the call of the meeting. The Chair stated that all votes will be by roll call.

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

1. **Public Comment:**

The following individuals were heard:

- Janina Matuszeski, Hancock Park, support for teacher voice and leadership
- Destini Wilson, Concord Ave., CRLS student, having hard time with work, sick family & schedule
- Ari Harris, Mass. Ave., CRLS student, struggling with school reopening and zoom screen time
- Siroun Johnson, Pemberton Street, CRLS student, struggling with school reopening, screen time
- Guilia Fulci, Broadway, **#21-27** (not on the agenda) listen to the tape
- Peter Lubetsky, Chestnut Street, supports equitable access to in-person learning
- Kathy Wislocky, Henry Street, supports increase to in-person learning
- Lisa Sebesta, Mount Pleasant St., supports increase to in-person learning upset about waitlist
- Elena Fagotto, Bigelow St., in support of **#21-41**, asks for more transparency demographic data
- Alisa Khan, Third Street, supports increased outreach to communities
- Michael Daniliuk, Griswold Street, in support of teachers as first responders
- Maura Conrad, Jay Street, supports increased in-person learning at Morse School
- Emie Michaud Weinstock, Cambridge Street, include public for Superintendent Search process

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Rachel, 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 Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

2. **Student School Committee Report:**

Member Killian reported on the new semester schedule; the first two periods are 80 minutes and the last two are 50 minutes. On the old schedule, all classes were 50 minutes which makes the beginning of the day a big change. Some student issues are that it was not made clear DESE was driving this schedule

change. Regardless, the extra hour will be a toll on their mental health. There may need to be a change in classes to accommodate for in-person learning.

Member Vera-Degraff reported that 640 students requested in-person learning back in January and 100% will have the opportunity to do so. There will be two main cohorts alternating weekly and a third cohort with prioritized needs that will meet every week. There was a lot of outreach by Principal Smith regarding finalizing the schedule and the students are very grateful for that. Finals were last week, 2nd semester classes started last Thursday.

There will be a Black Owned Restaurant Challenge during the month of February to contribute buying food from one of the restaurants on the list. There will be a raffle at the end of the month for \$100.00 supported by student government.

Member Wilson stated that she hears the challenge of the school schedule and asked that the list of restaurants be shared with the School Committee.

Member Rojas asked to hear more about the schedule and what they would like to see changed.

Member Vera-Degraff responded that understanding DESE has strict guidelines that we cannot go against; students feel it is still a very long time to sit behind a screen and would like to see some changes.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- November 5, 2020 Special Meeting
- November 18, 2020 Special Meeting
- December 8, 2020 Special Meeting
- January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#21-26, Joint Motion by Member Rojas, Member Rachel and Member Weinstein

Whereas: The Cambridge School Committee updated its health & safety framework on the basis of the Schools and Path to Zero report of Dr. Danielle Allen; and

Whereas: The report acknowledges that trust is necessary for the framework to work, and part of trust is clarity and transparency in decision-making; and

Whereas: The report calls for a Situation Room for In-person Learning; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent reports at every regular meeting to the School Committee on the decisions of the Situation Room for In-person Learning, and alerts the committee immediately whenever the district disagrees with a recommendation from the Cambridge Public Health Department.

(Bowman 1-19-2021).

Discussion followed on **#21-26**.

Vice Chair Bowman Calendared this because she wanted Dr. Dobberteen to be able to speak to the relationship between the school dept. and the health dept. Unfortunately, Dr. Dobberteen was not available for comment.

Member Rojas motioned, seconded by Member Wilson, an amendment to strike the last sentence on Motion **#21-26**.

On the following roll call, **on the amendment**: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

There will be updates to **#21-26** provided from the Superintendent as needed.

On the following roll call, **motion #21-26 as amended** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#21-26, Joint Motion by Member Rojas, Member Rachel and Member Weinstein

Whereas: The Cambridge School Committee updated its health & safety framework on the basis of the Schools and Path to Zero report of Dr. Danielle Allen; and

Whereas: The report acknowledges that trust is necessary for the framework to work, and part of trust is clarity and transparency in decision-making; and

Whereas: The report calls for a Situation Room for In-person Learning; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent reports at every regular meeting to the School Committee on the decisions of the Situation Room for In-person Learning. ~~and alerts the committee immediately whenever the district disagrees with a recommendation from the Cambridge Public Health Department.~~

6. Awaiting Reports:

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

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.

Discussion followed on **#20-309**.

A report was provided in the Weekly from Principal Smith. While waiting for this report, there have been many meetings to explore partnerships and other opportunities in the coming months.

On the following roll call, it was voted that **#20-309** be removed from Awaiting Reports, adopted and placed on file: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor

#21-27 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Rojas and Vice Chair Bowman was Passed Over

Whereas: Providing the best education and ensuring the wellbeing of our scholars are the highest priorities of the Cambridge School Committee and CPS Administration; and

Whereas: The data shows extreme negative consequences of school closures on scholars’ mental, physical, and academic wellbeing; and

Whereas There is growing evidence that more students can and must be brought back in-person with urgency; and

Whereas: The School Committee and Administration are committed to adaptability and quickly pivoting plans as necessary amid the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas: CPSD must continuously revisit conditions and plan for further expansions; and

Whereas: While the current reopening model recommendation allows families to opt into in-person learning, not all scholars in the district are eligible due to staffing and space constraints; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent work with his team to provide a report on what is and is not working with the existing model and the possibilities for subsequent expansions by Friday, April 2, 2021; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent provide an update on the impact of vaccine rollouts on further in-person expansion planning by Friday, April 2, 2021.

7. Superintendent’s Agenda:

7a. Presentations: COVID 19 Response Update:.....Dr.
Kenneth N. Salim

Superintendent of Schools

Mayor Siddiqui turned the floor over to the Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Salim framed the presentation for the evening, focusing on the Spring 2021 Instructional Plan. The presentation can be viewed on the website. Dr. Brown organized the data and began going over the slides, Dr. Madera went over the elementary data slides, Dr. Gittens reviewed the data slides at the upper schools and Principal Smith spoke on CRLS.

All upper schools and CRLS students will be dismissed from in-person learning at lunchtime, get their grab and go lunches, commute home, eat and then resume the rest of their classes online.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0ef808350d&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1690613816028871668&th=1776444ef4c4bbf4&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_kkoep8930

The presentation ended and Dr. Salim turned the floor back to the chair. Mayor Siddiqui asked Dr. Salim to share information for the public to be able to understand what the upcoming discussion will be focused on. The chair asked for the pleasure of the Committee.

Member Rojas asked Dr. Gittens to acknowledge that the Amigos School is always different from the data at the other upper schools. He was surprised to hear about lottery decisions since it did not involve plans based on the teacher/student support teams.

- Dr. Salim answered that there are a couple of schools that do have the lottery process, however, there are times that teacher/student support teams do not come to a recommendation that fall into the previous categories.

Member Rojas returned to the issue of the model at the Amigos School as it relates to upper grades

- Dr. Gittens corrected the statement that the Amigos School has an upper school student waitlisted, not an elementary student. There will be upper school information added to the Amigos School.

Member Rojas asked what can we do to get students to socialize more in certain spaces like gyms

- Dr. Salim answered that he cannot speak to individual opportunities at each school, but this is also reliant on staffing not just spacing.

Member Weinstein asked about the surveillance testing of 6 to 8th graders and the 4th and 5th graders.

- Dr. Salim answered testing will happen as they arrive at school by cohorts for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. They are still trying to figure out some of the logistics on the 4th and 5th grade levels. He also explained the CRLS students. There will be more to learn at the health meeting this week.

Member Weinstein asked how many numbers may shift in enrollment and what will happen after vaccinations and individual situations happen?

- Dr. Salim stated we were all hopeful for better situations after the vaccine. We have not seen any guidance at the federal or state level yet. Families have choices to continue or not continue with remote learning.

Member Weinstein asked if a family applies for the hardship accommodation, will we consider moving the child back to their home school for a subsequent year?

- Dr. Salim answered that they will circle back to the committee with an answer.

Member Rachel asked Dr. Morgan about the disabilities chart and why the number is so high

- Dr. Salim answered that there should be 5 students in that area TBD. The high number was an error and has been corrected.

Member Rachel asked about accommodations for students that need to work.

- Dr. Gittens answered that we have not allowed students to miss school to go to work in any pre-COVID situation, it is not a precedent we want to establish. They know who those students are and it is not as widespread as the narrative is on this issue.
- Principal Smith added that the experience of in-person learning most likely differ from the experience of in-person learning that was in place pre-COVID. Students and families are evaluating this and deciding whether the new in-person experience is something they want to be part of. Some students will be in-person but their teacher will be remote and not in-person with the class of students.
- Dr. Gittens mentioned snap chat and the domino effect.

Vice Chair Bowman asked why we only target Black families' decisions and not put assumptions on White, Asian and Latinx families also.

- Member Rachel clarified that she is trying to focus on what the district needs to do, not families.
- Mayor Siddiqui added that there is work being done to learn how discuss data and if there are any answers to questions from students and their families.

Member Fantini asked why the elementary grades cannot come back along with the high school and upper school grades. Those children are not going to understand. He also asked Principal Smith about the student support part of the DESE requirement.

- Principal Smith answered yes there will be student support time and they are still able to keep the asynchronous time on Wednesday.

Member Fantini asked regarding dual enrollment, who pays and who teaches?

- Principal Smith answered that CRLS has faculty that teach at CRLS and are also Bunker Hill adjunct professors. Our students can take classes on both campuses. We have a scholarship grant for 1st generation students for English 111 and what we pay per pupil is higher than other school districts.
- Dr. Gittens explained the difference between dual enrollment and early college designation with the state; early college designation requires that college access is free for students. We are targeting students that would not normally matriculate to college.
- Dr. Madera added to put everything in context; out of 12 schools, only three schools have waitlists. There is no timeline for the waitlist.

Member Fantini stated that is his whole point, we should be able to get that small amount of students in class.

Member Wilson asked if it due to the spacing that there is a waitlist at the Amigos Upper School

- Dr. Gittens assumes it is because of spacing, there are no over-sized classes

Member Wilson suggested that we use our partners for additional space.

- Dr. Salim answered that they will check with our partners and report back to the Committee

Member Wilson asked about testing for younger students. Do we know where we are with that plan?

- Dr. Salim answered that they are waiting for information from DESE and they are talking with other districts. Hopefully they will have more information soon.

Member Wilson spoke about her Workforce Development students and the mixed reviews she has received. Some are not willing to take the risk of in-person learning. She wants to make sure the remote learning program remains robust.

Member Vera-Degraff asked how the study supports time is being counted; and he questioned the schedule and how many students will be re-rostered.

- Principal Smith answered that all student attendance is mandatory, there will always be a need for individual help. Study support time may have variables in appearance, it will not look the same every day. As the experience develops over the semester, they can become more flexible. When it comes to re-rostering we have to also look at remote learning; he did not have the data in front of him and will get it at a later point to talk about how classes have changed. There have been some lateral moves from section one to section two. For the most part, re-rostering will only impact students that are in full year classes.

Member Killian asked who decides what courses are available to CRLS in dual enrollment?

- Principal Smith responded that there has been some extensive work on classes that have been selected, and it circles back to cost. The selections align with the English department and exams for qualifying assessments, unfortunately we cannot afford to continue paying the per pupil costs for enrollment courses.

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

The Superintendent's Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Member Wilson removed **#21-34, #21-37 and #21-38.**

On the following roll call vote, items **#21-33, #21-35, #21-36,** were adopted: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#21-33, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for postage machines leases, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Quadient Inc., 478 Wheelers Farms Road, Milford, CT, for the period of March 1, 2021 to February 29, 2024 in the amount of \$51, 602.40

#21-35, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for classroom 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, 647 Summer St, Boston, for the period of March 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021 in the amount \$50,000.00

#21-36, Approval of Gift to Cambridge Public Schools of an in-kind donation of \$42.99 from an individual donor to the Visual & Performing Arts Department at CRLS be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the above donations as described.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#21-34, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for equipment rental, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Sunbelt Rentals, 2431 Deerfield Drive, Fort Mill, SC, for the period of March 15, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$296, 310.00.

Discussion followed on **#21-34**.

Member Wilson asked if we used any tents in the fall and what is the intention for the use of tents during this contracted period.

- Mr. Maloney answered that we never executed that contract in the fall. The use of the tents will be up to the principals. We do not have sides to the tents; when it rains or is a stormy or windy day, they will not be valuable; but they can be used for lunch, recess and some classroom space breakout spaces.

Member Wilson also asked about the price of the contract. Will it require daily set up and take down labor?

- Mr. Maloney answered that it is for use longer than the fall and they may also be able to put some of the tents on the roof of some buildings. Mr. Maloney answered it will stay up longer than a day, more in line with a graduation ceremony and we will be paying a fair amount of insurance.

Member Weinstein asked about the cost change.

- Mr. Maloney answered the Spring semester has more good weather than the fall semester so the amount of time the tents can be used is longer.

Member Weinstein asked Dr. Turk to comment on outdoor learning

- Dr. Turk answered that outdoor learning has been a great challenge and finding the time to gather people together for best thinking was difficult. They are setting up a series of "Best Thinking Conversations". They will explore what will be done with district staff and partners.

Member Fantini asked how the schools were chosen to get the tents

- Mr. Maloney answered that they asked the principals, some wanted them and some did not. The availability of space was taken into consideration.

On the following roll call vote, **#21-34** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#21-37, Grant Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY21 Influence 100 for the period of January 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$2,000.00. Grant SC21167.

Description: The MA DESE has created the Influence 100 fellowship program to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of school leaders in MA, create more culturally responsive districts and leaders across the state, and promote better outcomes for students. Two CPS staff will receive stipends for participating in the state sponsored meetings.

Discussion followed on **#21-37**.

Member Wilson asked Dr. Turk to speak to the work on this grant.

- Dr. Turk responded that this program is in its second or third year. Dr. Morgan and Principal Smith have been involved in this for one year, it is an opportunity for our young educators of color to spend time with colleagues across the state talking about challenges and successes with a large access to leaders across the country creating a tremendous country wide think tank.

On the following roll call vote, **#21-37** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#21-38, Grant Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY21 Expanded Learning Time for the period of February 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$522,522.00. Grant SC21829.

Description: This grant will provide additional hours of instruction for all students at the Fletcher-Maynard and Dr. M.L. King Jr. Schools during the second half of the school year. The funding supports stipends for additional working hours for administrators, teachers and assistant teachers plus a .54 FTE position of project coordinator at FMA and a paraprofessional at the King School.

Discussion followed on **#21-38**.

Member Wilson explained that she pulled this one because she saw a typo in the grant. Principals Rounds' name should be in place of Principal Harris.

- Dr. Salim agreed that the two names should be Principals Rounds and Yung.

On the following roll call vote, **#21-38** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

Moved by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, the School Committee Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Member Rachel removed **#21-42**. Member Fantini removed **#21-43**.

On the following roll call vote, **#21-39, #21-40, #21-41, #21-44 #21-45 and #21-46** were adopted: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#21-39 Joint Motion by Member Fantini and Mayor Siddiqui

Whereas: Citizen Schools has received a grant from Biogen to work with Cambridge Public Schools and Somerville Public Schools to bring high quality STEM project based learning to middle school students; and

Whereas: Citizen Schools has a long established practice of developing teacher professional development centered on experiential learning and is a DESE certified PD provider; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent work with Citizen Schools on ways to incorporate their programs into the middle school curriculum.

#21-40 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Rachel, and Member Fantini

Whereas: Social emotional learning (SEL) and the mental health success of scholars are top priorities for the School Committee and CPS administration; and

Whereas: CPS is participating in [DESE's SEL & Mental Health Academy](#) to effectively integrate SEL and mental health within a multi-tier system of supports (MTSS) framework; and

Whereas: The Educators of Color Coalition (EOCC) Leadership Team has [requested a Mental Health Task Force](#) charged with investing in “wraparound services that work within and outside of school communities, and in collaboration with community partners to meet the increased mental health needs of scholars, families, and educators due to the pandemic and racial trauma”; and

Whereas: Transparency is the first step to rebuilding trust within the school community; and

Whereas: The School Committee needs to have an understanding of what does and does not currently exist in order to advocate for supports without being duplicative; and

Whereas: The guiding principle of the FY22 Budget process is to “understand academic and social-emotional/mental health needs following the COVID-19 pandemic and provide students with individualized multi-tiered support to accelerate recovery, progress, and success”; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent work with the Academic Recovery Team to provide the School Committee with a report in his Weekly that 1) summarizes the current and planned efforts at the district and school level to support SEL and mental/behavioral supports and 2) clarifies the roles and responsibilities for this scope of work by Tuesday, February 26, 2021.

#21-41 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Weinstein, and Vice-Chair Bowman

Whereas: The Cambridge School Committee's “[primary responsibility](#) is to establish those purposes, programs, and procedures that will best produce the educational achievement needed by our students”; and

Whereas: As it is also stated in the [Policy Manual](#) that, “The School Committee will hear regular reports on educational programs and on-going curriculum study and revision”; and

Whereas: The School Committee and school administration must work together to ensure that proper structures are in place to implement robust academic and social-emotional / mental health recovery plans for our scholars who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas: A new CPS Academic Recovery Team has been established to address the social emotional and academic disruption of our school communities as a result of COVID-19; now therefore be it

Resolved: That beginning on Friday, February 26, 2021, the Superintendent will present the School Committee with a monthly report in his Weekly, outlining the Academic Recovery Team’s planning efforts, including what questions are on the table and what decisions are being made.

#21-42 Joint Motion by Member Rachel, Member Weinstein and Member Rojas

February 2, 2021

Governor Charles Baker
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

We hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep Massachusetts residents safe and healthy during this global pandemic.

When we wrote to you in November, we requested that schools be the last places to close and the first to open as part of a comprehensive statewide pandemic response strategy.

Today, **we write to urge you to expedite vaccines for all classroom, food services, custodial, school transportation and school-based staff** in the Commonwealth, moving these critical workers to the top of the Commonwealth's second phase (aligning with CDC phase 1b), which began February 1. The sooner school personnel are vaccinated the sooner we will be able to welcome more students back into our school buildings.

We are concerned about the mental health and the academic growth of our young people. We are also concerned about the health of the dedicated professionals who serve our children, and the families of staff and students. Across our communities, young people are struggling with mental health crises either brought on by the pandemic or exacerbated by it. Many of our students struggle with remote learning, and many need more social interaction with their peers than we are able to provide at a distance. Furthermore, many families (including teachers) struggle to simultaneously care for children who are learning remotely while doing the work they must to support their families and communities.

The Cambridge Public Schools are slated to begin a limited expansion of in-person learning on March 1. Ideally, all in-person educators and staff would have the opportunity to receive both vaccine doses before then. At the very least, we plead with you to ensure that they are invited to obtain their first dose by then.

The Cambridge Public Schools and our partners in the Cambridge Public Health Department stand ready to support the logistics of this effort as soon as vaccines are made available to us.

We thank you for your consideration and welcome any conversation you may wish to have with us.

Sincerely,

The Cambridge School Committee

Cc: Commissioner of Public Health Dr. Monica Bharel
Commissioner of Education Mr. Jeffrey Riley
Secretary of Education James Peyser
Legislative Delegation

Member Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas, motioned the following substitute for **#21-42**

MOTION:

WHEREAS: The sooner CPS school personnel are vaccinated, the sooner the district will be able to welcome more students back into our school buildings; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is concerned about the mental health and academic growth of our young people and about the health of the dedicated professionals who serve our children, and the families of staff and students; and

WHEREAS: Across our communities, young people are struggling with mental health crises either brought on by the pandemic or exacerbated by it; and

WHEREAS: Many of our students struggle with remote learning, and many need more social interaction with their peers than we are able to provide at a distance; and

WHEREAS: Furthermore, many families (including teachers) struggle to simultaneously care for children who are learning remotely while doing the work they must to support their families and communities; and
WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools are slated to begin a limited expansion of in-person learning on March 1; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee go on record urging Governor Baker **to expedite vaccines for all classroom, food services, custodial, school transportation and school-based staff**

in the Commonwealth, moving these critical workers to the top of the Commonwealth’s second phase (aligning with CDC phase 1b) and allowing all-in person educators and staff to have the opportunity to receive both vaccines doses before March 1 limited expansion of in-person learning; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor, the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Education, and the Cambridge state legislative delegation

Discussion followed on **#21-42**.

Member Rojas asked the negotiation team if it is appropriate to add the CEA to the letter.

- Vice Chair Bowman deferred to Legal counsel and CEA President Dan Monahan, neither of whom were available for comment.

On the following roll call vote, **#21-42** was adopted as amended: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#21-43 Joint Motion by Budget Co-Chairs Member Fantini and Vice Chair Bowman

That the School Committee Schedule FY 22 Budget Meetings be amended as follows:

It was brought up that the Wednesday, February 10, 2021 Community Meeting needs to be corrected to include the words ‘for staff’.

- Virtual Community Meeting #2 will be held on ~~Wednesday, February 3, 2021 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.~~ Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 10 a.m-11:30 am
- Virtual Community Meeting #3 will be held on ~~Saturday, February 6, 2021 TBD~~ Wednesday February 10, 2021 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 pm. ***for staff** - correction

DATE*	MEETING TYPE	DESCRIPTON
Jan 5, 2021	Regular Meeting	Adoption of Calendar for FY22 Budget Development
Jan. 14, 2021 Thursday	Hybrid Budget Workshop	FY22 Budget & Enrollment Projections Budget Process & Key Dates School Committee Budget Guidelines
Jan 26 th , 2021	Budget Workshop	Finalize Budget Guidelines
Jan. 28, 2021 5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.	Virtual Community Meeting-#1	Community Meeting on FY22 Budget Priorities
Feb. 2, 2021	Hybrid Regular Meeting	Update on FY22 Budget Development
Feb. 6, 2021 Saturday 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Virtual Community Meeting -#2	Community Meeting on FY22 Budget Priorities
Feb. 9, 2021	Virtual Joint Roundtable With City Council	School Committee /City Council Discussion of Budget Priorities

Feb. 10, 2021 <i>Wednesday</i> 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Virtual Community Meeting -#3	Community Meeting on FY22 Budget Priorities <i>for staff</i>
Feb. 11, 2021 <i>Thursday</i>	Hybrid Budget Workshop	Update on FY22 Budget Development & Feedback from Community Meetings
Mar. 18, 2021 <i>Thursday</i>	Hybrid Special Meeting	Presentation of FY22 Superintendent's Proposed Budget
Mar. 23, 2021	Hybrid Budget Workshop	School Committee Review of FY22 Proposed Budget
Mar. 25, 2021 <i>Thursday</i>	Hybrid Public Hearing	Public Hearing on FY22 Proposed Budget
Mar. 30, 2021	Hybrid Budget Workshop	School Committee Review of FY22 Proposed Budget
April 6, 2021	Hybrid Regular Meeting	School Committee Review of Adjustments to Proposed Budget
April 13, 2021	Hybrid Special Meeting	School Committee Vote of Adoption of FY22 Budget
May 19, 2021	Hybrid City Council Hearing	City Council Budget Hearing on CPS FY22 Adopted Budget

Member Wilson asked to add another Community Meeting date.

Member Fantini suggested that remains as it currently stands and only change if necessary. Three Community meetings is an extra Community meeting that we did not have last year.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Fantini, **#21-43** was adopted as amended: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#21-44 Report of the June 5, 2020 Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Meeting

June 5, 2020	BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE
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#21-44

**Virtual Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Report
Friday, June 5, 2020
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA**

Called for the purpose to discuss the facilities plans in general and in response to the COVID-19 recovery plan in particular.

Members present: Member Rojas, Member Fantini, Vice Chair Bowman

Other present: Mayor Siddiqui; Member Wilson; Member Rachel; Member Weinstein; James Maloney; Robin Harris; Vedad Konjic

Member Rojas is the chair and called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm. On a motion by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to start the meeting: Member Rojas YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; and Member Fantini YEA.

Member Rojas provided the topics for the meeting:

- Discuss use of school buildings as polling stations with Cambridge Election Commission
- Updates on Facilities & Grounds plan in response to COVID-19 recovery plan.
 - List of buildings with their readiness status for re-opening?
- Review possible policies as we plan for the possible reopening of schools in September: shut-out outsider users, delay of Tobin project, health training as part of professional development, emergency closure protocols, temperature checks
- Update on April 8th's \$800,000 appropriation for building upgrades & on new chiller for Peabody School?
- Tentative 80-90% directive from DESE on re-opening?

Member Fantini provided context on his motion about the election commission.

Members from the Election Commission provided an update that because of COVID they are going to have to change how they do elections. While they anticipate a more robust return of mail in ballots, they are mandated to have in-person voting options. Due to COVID guidelines from public health authorities, many of their polling locations will not be suitable. They are looking to have more polling locations in schools and what they need to do to have this happen. They provided other context about the concerns of poll workers too and the importance of providing them with a safe and comfortable space.

Mr. Maloney provided a history of schools as polling locations. Provided context on issues that they have had with having schools as polling locations: parent concerns and having to close schools. Discussed how there are sometimes multiple elections throughout the year and they don't want to be in the position to having to close schools for each one.

Vice Chair Bowman echoed Mr. Maloney's concerns about multiple elections and the need for the Election commission to identify which schools they want to use and have the capacity.

Ethridge King, the Election Commission, pointed out that they are just asking to use schools for September 1 and the November 3 2020 Election.

Member Rojas asked if they were to close schools for the November 3 election would they have to extend the year by an extra day.

Member Rachel echoed Vice Chair Bowman's sentiments and asked Ms. Waxman to clarify what specific schools the Election Commission wanted to use

- Lesley Waxman discussed how they already use Peabody and Grahams and Parks as polling locations. They are analyzing all options, considering six or seven schools.

Member Weinstein appreciated the clarity on what specific elections and emphasized the importance of planning in advance.

Robin Harris asked if Election Commission was considering mobile voting sites. Ethridge King discussed how that has not been a consideration.

Mayor Siddiqui asked about early voting. Lesley Waxman confirmed that they will have early voting, waiting to see what the final version of the bill will be, and will not using schools for early voting.

Dr. Lietchensen discussed how there has been discussion about using gyms as classrooms and to think of that effects and ensuring that there are equitable access to these polling locations.

- Ethridge King talked about how using schools would provide that equitable access due to their strategic locations and they also meet most of the ADA requirements. Also provided that fire stations cannot be utilized for this election.

- Mr. Maloney discussed next steps of having a site visit and the administration/Election commission collaborating to work on this issue. Discussed some of the accessibility issues in Schools.
- Lesley Waxman confirmed that they are in consultation with the disability commission on evaluating polling locations.
- Vice Chair Bowman discussed about how after the walkthrough, the administration/Election Commission can come back with recommendations to this committee to get this issue resolved.
- Dan Mohan pointed out that teachers will be at the schools on September 1, 2020

Chair Rojas moved the meeting onto the topic of readiness of the schools.

Mr. Maloney discussed how they should have an update for the Committee next meeting on air readiness and discussed how guidelines for the fall re-opening have not be released. Vedad Konjic provided an update on supplies and how they are rearranging classrooms to adhere to six feet distancing. Mr. Maloney discussed the challenges of providing handwashing

Member Rojas asked if Mr. Maloney could answer the two questions from the public: 1) Update on April 8th's \$800,000 appropriation for building upgrades & on new chiller for Peabody School? 2) Tentative 80-90% directive from DESDE on re-opening?

Member Rojas, Vice Chair Bowman, and Member Fantini voted to extend the meeting to 2:10 pm. Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA.

Member Rojas Review presented two possible recommendations from this Committee about an update on the Tobin/Vassal Lane Project and temporary limitation of access to the facilities (not from out of school time providers). Mr. Maloney explained the reasoning behind the orders.

- Member Fantini and Vice Chair Bowman commented that these orders are a good start
- Peter discussed his concern about moving forward with the Tobin/Vassal Lane Project
- Member Wilson asked for an update on the plan for out of school time providers
- Member Weinstein discussed his concerns for doing a mid-year switch.

The discussion turned to air ventilation systems. Mr. Maloney confirmed that they will be following the guidelines.

Member Rojas turned the conversation to possible considerations of health training as part of professional development, emergency closure protocols, and temperature checks. Mr. Maloney discussed how they could get him that information for next meeting. Mr. Maloney talked about how they are starting with self-reporting for teachers.

Vice Chair Bowman asked for the motion on training for staff. Mr. Maloney discussed how they have an online video training. Dr. Lietchensen talked about how because of possible forthcoming state requirements, they might not need the training motion, advocated for symptom screens.

Member Rojas asked whether SEL should go through this Sub-Committee. Mr. Maloney and Member Rachel discussed how SEL training should go through another Sub-Committee other than Buildings and Grounds.

Member Rachel asked for an update on how many students are going to be able to classrooms adhering to the six feet guidelines.

Ena Vanzuela asked for an update on what the protocol is going to be for nurse's office. Mr. Maloney discussed how there will be a quarantined spot and there will be an update.

Member Rojas discussed next steps: clarity on emergency protocols, update on classroom protocols and how the six feet is working, an update on air ventilation systems and an update on using schools on polling locations.

On a motion to adjourn by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas on the following roll call vote, it was voted to close the meeting: Member Rojas YEA, Member Fantini YEA. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

#21-45 Report of the July 15, 2020 School Climate Sub-Committee Meeting

July 15, 2020

VIRTUAL SCHOOL CLIMATE SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-45

**Virtual School Climate Sub-Committee Report
Wednesday, July 15, 2020
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA**

Called for the for the purpose of discussing the Administration's proposal for individual check-ins. It is anticipated this meeting will last no longer than 6:30 p.m.

Present: Member Rachel, Chair; Member Wilson, Vice Chair Bowman

Also Present: Member Weinstein, Mayor Siddiqui, Member Killian, Member Vera-Degraff, Dr. Brown, Alice Cohen

The meeting started at 5 pm. Member Rachel provided context on the origin of the check-in idea and emphasized the prioritization of relationships. Debbie Bonilla echoed the importance of relationships and to be culturally competent.

Khari Milner discussed the Building Equity Bridges project was about finding voices we don't normally hear from and elevate them. Discussed how the lack of relationships is a huge hindrance to equity and that COVID has exasperated the problems that already existed.

Member Rachel provided two broader questions to keep in mind throughout the meeting:

- How are we radically changing our methods of interacting and collaborating with scholars and caregivers?
- Whether we are remote or in person what are the routine opportunities for communal and relationship building at each grade level?

Dr. Brown provided context of the requirements of the School Committee Order on check-ins and gave a presentation about the multi-prong check-in strategy.

Member Rachel opened the meeting for scholars.

Leo Austin-Spooner and Aleahna Lartey, students at CRLS, spoke in support of the student/teacher check-ins. Spoke of the importance of two way transparent communication and for teachers to be a support system. Provided the importance of what check-ins would look instead of just disciplinary and instead prioritizing the student well-being. Emphasized the importance of following up

Member Vera-Degraff emphasized the importance of students feeling comfortable with their educators, advocated for two way conversations and increased training for educators to facilitate these check-ins.

Member Killian pointed to the importance of having just student and educator check-ins due to many students not feeling comfortable with their guardians, and for there to be a component to have the student ask for a specific adult to receive a check-in from that they have an established relationship with.

Jin Ho talked about the importance of the structures of the check-in.

Member Rachel opened the meeting for caregivers.

Mercedes Soto asked for clarification from the scholars on their perspective of using google calendar and what are some tools to coordinate schedules?

- Member Killian spoke to her experience and how there is a disconnect between platforms available and what the administration is currently using for outreach.
- Hope discussed the importance of keeping it consistent across classrooms

Ellen Wang challenged us to reimagine what is possible in public education and that it's important the check-ins are coming from a place of well-being instead of compliance. Discussed the negatives of CPS has been using the Positive Behavior Intervention Support and instead advocated for Classroom Circles of Care approach.

A parent of a younger student spoke to their experience with remote learning and the challenges, and the importance of having one-on-one time.

Debbie Bonilla advocated for authentic relationships and emphasized perseverance in regards to the check-ins.

Ena Vanzuela discussed the importance of cultural awareness in the check-ins, engaging with the parents of scholars, and providing the assistance to help teachers. Does not want promises to be made that can't follow through. Member Rachel discussed the opt-out options.

Kini Udovicki shared her experiences as a school counselor during this time: would meet with teachers each week to see who was struggling and sometimes the families did not appreciate the check-in but through that conversation they would see the intention was just to see if there was anything they could do to support the families. Talked on the importance of engaging different people through these meetings and to make them feel comfortable in these spaces.

Amara Donavon emphasized the importance of clarifying what the expectations of the meetings and training on cultural competence. She also talked about the importance of facilitating anonymous feedback.

Emie Michaud Weinstock emphasized the importance of listening to our scholars, advocated against the one-tier system. She also discussed the importance of the administration to be transparent with the data, providing additional resources to educators, hiring more social workers of colors.

Kristen Emack reiterated that authentic relationships work and highlighted the importance of how we frame these check-ins ensuring family engagement.

Member Rachel extended the meeting, Vice Chair Bowman seconding. Member Rachel opened the meeting to educators.

Amatul Mahmud discussed how at her school they did home visits/check-ins which created a genuine sense of community and her hope for the check-ins to be that. Wanted to bring up there should be reconsideration for students matched with the wrong person.

Betsy Preval talked about relationship building and the importance of the first six weeks of school, she urged School Committee members to think about what can be taken off of educators plates now such as evaluations or MCAS.

Janie Lupica shared her experience as a kindergarten teacher and the challenges of young learners utilizing technology for school.

Rose Levine echoed the need to take something off of educator's plate and advocated for in-person check-ins and for those check-ins not to feel like an evaluation.

Kini Udovicki talked about how families did not understand how to navigate all the different problems and outreaching in an effective for support. Advocated for small group check-ins.

Member Rachel opened the meeting to other School Committee members.

Vice Chair Bowman discussed the importance of structuring these check-ins around students who fundamentally need it the most and implementing these check-ins in a feasible way. She noted her appreciation of the opt-out mechanism. She talked about the importance of the matches and how educators are not psychiatrists/social workers and there should be infrastructure in place to pivot to someone with the skill set to help. She talked about how there should be multiple strategies to engage families and using Robin Harris to find the right approach to this.

Member Wilson asked for clarification on how the administration plans to engage with teachers.

- Dr. Brown confirmed that ASPEN will be used for reporting and that the next phase of the conversation will include more details.

Member Wilson emphasized the need for this not be a burden on educators and use for best practices. Member Wilson asked for clarification on student self-assessments and what age group would that be?

- Dr. Brown confirmed that they will be using the SAEBRS assessment and provided background information on the assessment.

Member Rachel extended the meeting.

Alice Cohen provided further context on the SAEBRS assessment.

Member Wilson discussed the importance of matching and how we are framing these phone calls because some families have a negative connotation from hearing from the schools.

Member Weinstein talked about how teachers are mandated reporters and have training for that. There needs to be best practice training for remote teaching. Member Weinstein wants to orientate check-ins on what we can offer.

Member Rachel commended everyone at the meeting and how we are trying to create communities and authentic relationships. Member Rachel agreed that the early weeks are important for setting up the dynamics and this motion isn't rooted in COVID, it's about trust. Not focusing on just students who are in distress. Gave context about the check-in program that Chelsea has implemented.

Member Rachel talked about next steps. Dr. Brown's intention is to come back in August with an update.

Member Rachel solicited feedback about the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:16 pm.

#21-46 Report of the January 12, 2021 Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee Meeting

January 12, 2021

CURRICULUM & ACHIEVEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-46

**Virtual Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee Report
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA**

Called for the purpose of discussing the success, challenges, learnings and opportunities and needs of remote learning in CPSD this spring, looking ahead to the fall semester.

Present: Member Weinstein, Chair; Member Rachel; Member Rojas

Others Present: Member Wilson, Member Vera-Degraff, Member Killian, Dr. Michelle Madera, Dr. Carolyn Turk, Ms. Robin Harris

The meeting started at 5:30 pm. Member Weinstein is the chair.

Member Weinstein provided context for the meeting and emphasized the importance of focusing on remote learning too as well as in person.

Dr. Turk provided an update from the outdoor learning working group. She wants to be intentional with the language from outdoor education to outdoor learning. How can we use the outdoor spaces in Cambridge to expand opportunities, to COVID times and beyond? She wants to include the educators in a meaningful way to solicit feedback.

Robin Harris presented the [December 2020 Feedback Findings and Emerging Recommendations](#). She covered what was working in regards to health and safety, staff well-being, student well-being and what's not working.

Member Weinstein discussed the importance of identifying needs to support the work for educators and then opened the meeting to the educators for a presentation "[Feedback on Remote Learning.](#)"

Sarah Rosenberg provided an update on the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, they meet once a month. Kristin Newton went into educator feedback from remote learning and what has been successful and aspects that need improvement.

Rachel Williams showed examples of remote learning and talked about the importance of having Wednesday for planning and reforming what our professional development is going to look like. We need to be looking ahead to the fall semester in order to be prepared. We need a Professional development day.

Sarah Rosenberg provided a perspective from ITCS that there should have been more training for educators in using virtual classrooms. There are a lot of subscriptions to many different programs, but it's not useful unless we are training teachers on how to use them. She discussed the importance of having time to collaborate and train.

Jen Mason Scott, a librarian, echoed Sarah Rosenberg's sentiments and pointed out the amount of resources that have been dedicated to in-person learning such as PPE. She talked about the importance of having Wednesdays just to plan and investing more time in the tools.

Member Weinstein opened the meeting for scholars.

Member Vera-Degraff provided a perspective from the students and what challenges they are currently facing. One salient issue is community building and the lack of social connection students are feeling with their fellow classmates. They also feel disconnected from teachers due to the decrease of class time. And there needs to be an understanding that some students have legitimate issues for not using zoom. He commented that the successes of this time has been some joyful learning, the creativity of educators across the board, having Wednesday off has worked well and the technology aspect has been working especially on the high school level.

Member Killian discussed the importance of listening to educators and echoed Member Vera-Degraff sentiments.

Member Weinstein opened the meeting to the community.

Zakkiyya Witherspoon, speaking on behalf of Cambridge Families of Color Coalition, asked for an update about what mental health resources are being provided to the students and families, advocated for equitable anti-racist and informed mental services. Also wanted to know what the plan was for re-entry.

Gardite Fougy talked about the need for CPSD to invest in anti-racism, equity and mental health in practice and throughout the curriculum.

Jackie Jones provided her perspective of her children's challenges with remote learning such as teacher's non-compliance with the accommodations of their IEP and voiced her concerns about the curriculum.

Ena Valenzuela discussed her concern about the hybrid model of in-person learning and remote and the need to increase resources for educators.

Rua Kelly brought up mental health issues that are making it impossible for kids in remote schooling and advocated for increased mental health resources.

Elena Fagotto, a member of the Cambridge Coalition for Public Education, also discussed the mental health crisis of students in remote learning.

Kate Skubecz discussed the academic portion of the issue and the lack of instruction time and how CPSD is going to meet the regulations.

Hope Perrine, a CRLS student, emphasized the benefits of having Wednesdays off.

Solona Herron-Smith, FMA teacher, wanted to emphasize the parent concerns about student's mental health, and the correlation between student and teacher mental health. Advocated for increased resources for educators.

Chloe Duncan Wald, a CRLS student, echoed the importance of having Wednesdays off and that assistance with post-secondary plans have not been well resourced.

Jillian Kalen, special educator at Kennedy Long-Fellow, talked about her personal positive experience with remote learning.

Betsy Pravel discussed the issues of different academic timelines for the different models and the importance of increased investment in social emotional learning.

Janet Forte discussed the issues of remote learning in regards to preschoolers.

Jo Quest-Neubert discussed their concerns of the hybrid teaching model.

Jennifer Martin discussed her personal positive experience with remote learning and emphasized the importance of creativity in regards for meet ups.

Member Weinstein ended the meeting at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee office

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

#21-47 Motion by Member Fantini

WHEREAS: The School Committee was deeply saddened at learning of the death of **CAROL ANN CORREIA** on January 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS: **CAROL** was born in Somerville on September 9, 1946 and was the beloved daughter of the late Francis and Rita; and

WHEREAS: **CAROL** was a beloved member of the Cambridge School Department for 24 years and was the Executive Assistant to the former Mayor of Cambridge, David Maher; and

WHEREAS: **CAROL** loved spending time with family, cruising, dinner with friends and most of all: laughing; and

WHEREAS: **CAROL** will long be remembered for her contagious smile and great sense of humor; and

WHEREAS: **CAROL** was predeceased by her cherished brother Thomas and dear nephew Jason; and

WHEREAS: **CAROL**'s passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving family; her dear husband Eduardo; her cherished daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Blaine; her dear son and daughter-in-law, Edward and Andrea; her loving grandchildren Connor and Jenna, Matthew, Jason, and Jordan; her beloved sister and brother-in-law Ellen and Kevin; her devoted brother and sister-in-law Michael and Shirley; her beloved sister-in-law Nancy; and many other loving relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS: **CAROL** will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of **CAROL CORREIA** at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the family of **CAROL ANN CORREIA** on behalf of the entire School Committee.

On the following roll call vote **#21-47** was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

11. **Announcements:** None

12. **Late Orders:**

Joint Late Order by Member Wilson and Member Rachel

Whereas the Cambridge Public School District is committed to rigorous, joyful, and culturally responsive learning and has committed to implementing racial equity through the strategic objective in the district's plan focusing on equity and access; and

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools are fortunate that American-born Blacks, immigrants from several African countries, and many children of the African diaspora constitute more than one quarter of the district population; and

Whereas a national movement of educators, families, administrators, and scholars have come together to proclaim a "Black Lives Matter at School Year of Purpose," as well as a "Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, Affirmation, and Solidarity;" and

Whereas [Black Lives Matter at School](#) Week of Action will take place every year on a selected and consistent date to coincide with, and augment Black History Month; and

Whereas Black Lives Matter at School emphasizes that schools should be places for the practice of equity, for the building of understanding, and for the active engagement of all in creating pathways to freedom, and justice for all people; and

Whereas Black Lives Matter at School is intended to highlight, uplift, and affirm the rich history and contributions of the Black community for all students to learn, and to cultivate in Black students a sense of pride, self-worth, and self-love; and

Whereas Black Lives Matter at School is further intended to encourage ongoing critical reflection and courageous conversations concerning systemic racism and recent movements regarding police

brutalities, social injustices, disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color, racial and ethnic bias, and to affirm the right of Black students to be treated with respect and dignity within schools and communities; and

Whereas Black Lives Matter at School will offer a variety of educational opportunities such as workshops, teach-ins, cultural events, instructional activities, and expressions of unity; and

Whereas numerous Cambridge Public School educators have participated and endorsed Black Lives Matter at School, including the CEA Educators of Color Coalition; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Cambridge Public Schools welcome and encourage the participation of educators, staff, and students in community-based activities and events related to the Black Lives Matter at School February 1-5, 2021 and in future years; and be it further

Resolved that the Cambridge Public Schools invite educators across grade levels and content areas to use resources that are inclusive of all of our diverse learners to enrich instruction throughout the entire year; and be it further

Resolved that the educators, staff, and students who participate in Black Lives Matter at School, in alignment with all CPSD policies, will not face repercussions, punishment, reprisal, or reprimand; and be it further

Resolved that the Cambridge Public Schools intend for meaningful activities and events related to the Black Lives Matter at School to take place in all virtual school environments as well as in-school environments appropriate with COVID-19 Health and Safety protocols.

Discussion followed on the Late Order.

Member Wilson stated that this motion is to acknowledge Black Lives Matter at School week; it has been active nation-wide and several schools have been participating in this opportunity. She would like to see this be an ongoing activity for our schools.

Mayor Siddiqui explained that the public does not get to comment on Late Orders and they should be brought forward early enough to be on the Agenda.

Dr. Gittens asked to know exactly what Member Wilson and Member Rachel are looking for. She asked for clarification about what the ask is across the district. She would like to be very detailed about what extra work will be required for teachers to do.

Member Wilson re-read the Resolved to make it clear that there is a curriculum on line about this motion and there are a bunch of teachers that are already engaged in this since last year; she is trying to make this effort more district wide.

Member Rachel stated that they are not bringing in a new curriculum with this motion, some teachers faced push back from the community last year, so they want to protect the educators that are bringing this into the schools.

Dr. Madera responded there are resources rather than curriculum on BLM and our teachers adhere to it, it is embedded throughout.

Member Wilson responded that if educators need more training, there needs to be more conversation about that on all levels. She wants this particular campaign to continue.

The Rules were suspended to extend the meeting. On the following roll call vote, the meeting was extended for 15 minutes to 10:15 p.m.: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

Vice Chair Bowman suggested the language in the 2nd resolved needs to be changed. She offered an amendment to recommend this Late Motion to the Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee. There was no second.

Member Wilson thanked everyone for their feedback, if there is a need for training for educators, it should be provided in general not just on this issue. Understanding these are resources that educators can bring into their classrooms, this campaign should be encouraged.

Dr. Turk spoke on hearing a distinction between having resources available and implementation of a full curriculum. The desire is to make sure the resources are available, which is fine. Implementing a full curriculum on the Black Lives Matter movement is an entirely different undertaking.

Member Wilson clarified that this motion is to uplift tools and resources not to create curriculum. She asked if teachers need supports in this area, where do they go?

Dr. Gittens answered that Social Studies teachers would go directly to their Department Heads for support if they don't know where to get the desired resources. She wonders if this motion is designed to prevent the backlash that teachers have experienced. She is pretty sure that teachers are already including this in their curriculum.

Member Rojas stated that we are having a rich conversation, he would like to acknowledge it and motioned to calendar it until the next Regular Meeting. There was no second.

Member Wilson reiterated that she is not trying to issue a mandate with this motion, only offering support.

Member Fantini motioned to refer it to the Superintendent and let him work with the administrators and the motion makers. There was no second.

Dr. Madera would like to look at this motion better and align it with age appropriate levels.

At 10:15, the Rules were suspended to add an additional 15 minutes to the meeting. On the following roll call vote, the meeting was extended to 10:30 p.m.: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Member Rachel suggested that we amend the language. There was no second.

Vice Chair Bowman stated that she appreciates the conversation, however as a late order, this motion cannot get the attention it deserves. Vice Chair Bowman placed the Late Order on the Calendar so it can have the rightful discussion at the next Regular Meeting.

Late Order by Mayor Siddiqui Resolution for Alexander Joseph Bard

Whereas Alexander Joseph "Zandy" Bard passed away suddenly on January 15th, 2021 in San Jose, California, at the age of thirty-two; and

Whereas Zandy, the beloved son of Joel and Betsy Bard, grew up in Cambridge and was excited to be moving back home; and

Whereas Zandy remained close to his countless friends from the Baldwin Elementary School and the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, where he was a star basketball player; and

Whereas his loved ones will always remember his kindness, generosity, and warmth as he brought so much positivity and support into their lives; and

Whereas everybody who knew him, loved to be in his presence—even homeless, feral cats, who would appear out of nowhere to be with him, wherever he lived; and

Whereas Zandy is survived by his parents, his sister Emilie Bard, his nephews Eman and Ezra, and many, many loving friends; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Cambridge School Committee and Superintendent go on record recognizing the loss of Alexander Joseph Bard; and be it further

Resolved that a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and forwarded to his family.

On the following roll call vote, Alexander “Zandy” Bard Resolution was adopted: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

13. Communications from City Officers: None

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

- Agenda
- Spring 2021 Instructional Plan PowerPoint Presentation

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

- Giulia Fulci, Camb. Coalition for Public Education re in person school accommodation
- Camb. Coalition for Public Education, Budget Process
- CCFPE, Transparency on Covid-19 and remote learning
- Janina Matuszeski, Hancock Park, in support of Cambridge teachers.
- Rebecca Bowie, in support of remote learning

E-Mail communications:

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, it was voted, on the following roll call vote, to adjourn the open session: Member Weinstein YEA, Member Wilson YEA, Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA, Member Rachel YEA, Member Rojas YEA, Mayor Siddiqui YEA.
(10:25 p.m.)

Attest:



Dosha Beard
Executive Secretary
to the School Committee