

**Cambridge School Committee**  
**(Official Minutes)**

Called for 6:00 PM 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: Mayor Siddiqui, Vice-Chair Bowman (ABSENT), Mr. Fantini, Ms. Rachel, Mr. Rojas, Ms. Weinstein, Ms. Wilson

Student School Committee Members: Sophia Green, Hersh Kanner

Also Present: Superintendent Salim, Ms. Spinner, Mr. Maloney, Ms. MacFarlane, Ms. Allen, Ms. MacDonald, Dr. Madera, Mr. Monahan

Mayor Siddiqui asked for a moment of silence for CRLS Student Dekari Rodrigues-Spencer.

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair. A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and announced that Vice Chair Bowman had her baby girl, Zyla on Feb. 18, 2020.

**1. Public Comment (3 Minutes):**

Dan Monahan, CEA President: Supports **#20-31** the MTEL Motion (on file in the School Committee office). Mr. Monahan takes issue with the language in the motion that it “is predictive of teacher performance and student achievement”. He would like to see the research that correlates and urge you to remove the statement from the Motion that MTEL is not an acceptable gateway to being a teacher. I urge you to push DESE beyond their proposal in the content and measures of success and that does not mention analysis of racial bias. Strong evaluation must be included in the DESE proposal. The DESE proposal is only for educators that already passed the MTEL, have a job, obtained a waiver and already passed the communications and literacy skills MTEL which is the most significant barrier for teachers of color. More alternatives are needed but this pilot is not sufficient. I urge you to remove the statement about the predictive power of MTEL, add a resolution to push DESE to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilots with regard to increasing educator diversity and add a resolution to push DESE to consider a wider range of alternatives, particularly other alternatives to the Communication and Literacy Skills MTEL.

Ruth Ryan Allen: Supports Motion **#20-23** regarding the RSTA program. The RSTA program needs to be reassessed. The majority of kids go to the path of college but where do the kids go if they aren't going to college. We need to support them. We are part of the SOLVED contingent but those programs are not doing justice for our kids. Look at the Minuteman Programs. There is a program there that when kids leave the school they are certified to go right to work.

Peter Mitros, Michael Way: supports the 2 late motions on Corona virus. Mayor Siddiqui asked for a Motion from Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Wilson to suspend the rules, on a voice vote the rules were suspended to allow Peter Mitros to speak on two late motions. Mr. Mitros stated we are in the middle of a public health crisis with the corona virus. It may not be that high right now at our school but it could be.

William Hanage, Amory Street, Harvard Professor on Infectious Disease: Supports the 2 late motions on Covid19: He just returned from Israel where he was advising on Covid19. Since I wrote to the School Committee a few days ago, Rhode Island has reported imported cases from Italy concentrated around a high school. Children are less likely to be showing signs of the virus; this is accurate but not relevant to the transmission roles of the virus. 365 infected people in Chen Zen between January and February where 13% of the cases were under 15 years old from people who traveled. At 5:00 p.m. today a student in London tested positive which shows kids can be infected and contributors. School Closings are an extremely effective way to limit transmission. I urge you to work with the public health agencies. I recommend that kids learn remotely. This is a pandemic; it will not disappear in the coming months.

Motion by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Rachel, to close public comment. On a voice vote public comment was closed.

- 2. **Student School Committee Report:** Mr. Kanner reported that the Student Government is working on a mental health survey. The spoon game will be next week where there are tricks and the winner gets money to donate to charity.

Ms. Green we have been working on our incident reporting support liaison position and are meeting on Saturday about the proposal with administrators.

Ms. Rachel asked if the proposal is for K-12 or 9-12. Mr. Kanner reported that he spoke to Ramon DeJesus and it sounded like it would be for K-12 with shared liaisons. Ms. Rachel asked is this a public meeting? Mr. Kanner answered no but all age groups are represented from all the schools. Superintendent Salim added this work is done under the design process and one step is for others to connect with stakeholders. Mr. Kanner stated this is not the final meeting. There will be additional discussions with different age groups.

3. **Presentation of the Records for Approval:**

- January 25, 2020, Budget Community Meeting #2
- January 28, 2020, Budget Retreat
- February 6, 2020, Budget Retreat

On a Motion by Ms. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on a voice vote the records were approved as presented.

4. **Reconsiderations: None**

5. **Unfinished Business/Calendar: None**

6. **Awaiting Reports: None**

7. **Superintendent’s Agenda:**

Dr. Salim introduced the panel that are giving the presentation (on file in the School Committee office) on summer academic and enrichment programming. He thanked Maggie Rabidou for her help with this.

**7a. Presentations:**

Community Partnership (Objective 4) - Summer Academic And Enrichment Programming	Maryann MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education Michelle Farnum, Assistant Director, Children Youth & Families City of Cambridge Dept. of Human Services Telesha Mervin, Director, Kennedy/Longfellow Extended Day Dr. Joanna A. Christodoulou, Associate Professor Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders MGH Institute of Health Professions & Research Affiliate at MIT
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Superintendent Salim reviewed the Agenda and Priorities (on file in the School Committee office) the CPS District Plan Strategic Initiatives and definition of Equity. He turned the meeting over to Ms. MacDonald who stated we are here to share the Summit Program and give an overview of the current program for elementary and middle school students. Research shows that during the summer students who are identified as low-income can fall behind academically in reading and math. She gave an overview of the eleven summer programs available for grades JK-8. In addition we host several programs through Community Schools, and the Dept. of Human Services and Private/Partnerships. The Summit Program was a collaboration to create a meaningful program for our students.

Dr. Christodoulou stated we organized this for kids completing grade 1 or 2 and invited collaboration from the Principals and Teachers who identified students at risk in reading. The goal was not to wait for a diagnostic label to step in. Early intervention pays off. Parents and students both elected in to the research project and optional attendance was not a part of the research project. We focused on reading words so students see print and know how to break them down and read them. For reading we had three activities tailored to their needs; working with a teacher, small group instruction and hands on activities. There were ten students per class. We hired teachers and paraprofessionals from the district that were experienced with the King Open Extended Day model. We used the Lexia Reading Program curriculum. For Math we used STMath and RightStart Math Programs. Every school had equal representation in the groups.

Ms. Farnum stated DHSP runs 15-20 summer programs. Our after school program had activities for the students to decompress. We had community activities that revolved around math and used the community as a classroom. We were able to offer a backpack program to a few families that needed them.

Dr. Christodoulou stated we had an extremely high attendance rate of 90%. We focused on reading and math so there was no summer slide. We boosted math skills in the math program. We offered training to the teaching staff. We did an anonymous student exit survey and got a positive response from over half the kids. Parents were happy with the wrap around services.

Ms. MacDonald mentioned this was the first free, full day summer program in partnership with MIT, CPS and DHSP. We wanted to provide fun for the kids. Knowing the families was good because they knew what students needed. This summer we are going to continue at the Kennedy/Longfellow but it will look a little different. We are working with Title 1 grades 1 and 2 and MIT will do staff development and program evaluation. We are going to expand the program to 80 students this year.

The Operational improvements were coordinated by Senior Secretary, Ms. Rabidou who communicated with the families. She coordinated collaboration between CPS, DHSP and MIT; problem solved, provided master documents for each site and provided logistical support including a nurse and communication with ICTS and custodial staff.

We are developing a guide of all CPS summer programs, expanding reading intervention programs and data analysis to understand gaps in service and the impact on student outcomes. We will collaborate with DHSP, identify students in need of academic support, coordinate application and waiting lists, and align start, lunch and dismissal times. Planning and Communication – we will start planning earlier, improve communication strategy, have a building site coordinator and options to pilot programs providing meals and transportation.

Mr. Fantini asked will we be running the program. Ms. MacDonald answered we will be hiring the teachers and MIT will offer professional development. Mr. Fantini asked does the program need to be bigger. Dr. Christodoulou answered we invited the teachers to recommend which students would benefit. We screened 123 recommended students and 83 were performing below expectation. Reading comprehension was not focused on. Forty seven students were eligible and thirty eight actually attended. On average about 10% meet the criteria for dyslexia of word level skills. Mr. Fantini inquired when were these children invited to participate in the program. At each school there was a liaison that MIT hired to facilitate that. We had the families and children sign a consent form. Mr. Fantini asked when we know the students had some gains; do we follow up with them? Ms. MacDonald replied yes, when schools do their screening in the fall they will be flagged and will be monitored. Some may be flagged to come back this year or for another program. Mr. Fantini asked were there any surprises? Dr. Christodoulou answered we had so many moving pieces and are proud of the team with how much we did with what we had. Having pulled this off we hope it will be a national model.

Ms. Rachel asked is DHSP doing a coordinated process to have one application. Ms. Farnum answered we did align our preschool lottery to this. DHSP has many programs and hopefully we have learned a way to do the cross system. We have been collaborating on a middle school math program for three years and we hosted an afternoon session in a fun way using STEAM. Ms. MacDonald added this summer the program will be at the King Open School from 8-5 and Compass is from 8-3.

Mr. Rojas inquired is this for low income students or is it for all students. Dr. Christodoulou answered the research shows if you separate students in higher SES students continue to make gains, mid SES students hold steady and low SES students continued to slide. If you fast forward to high school and accumulate all the gaps 80% benefitted. Mr. Rojas asked did students assigned only get math or reading. Dr. Christodoulou responded yes, across the groups it prevented the summer slide. Some cities found when you boost math it translates to reading. Mr. Rojas stated close to 50% of the kids were bilingual, were the teachers bilingual too? Dr. Christodoulou all students were required to be native English speakers.

Mr. Weinstein asked will the criteria that all students be native English speakers for this year. Ms. MacDonald that is what we are talking about and are continuing to evaluate and work with Dr. Christodoulou. Dr. Christodoulou added some parents were not native English speakers so we hired translators so all students that were eligible could participate.

Ms. Green asked is there a guide being developed for CRLS. Ms. MacDonald replied at this point we focused on elementary schools and we have a middle schools guide.

Mr. Kanner inquired do you think the current model of 3:1 ratio will be viable. Ms. MacDonald answered the model in the morning of 3:1 is high staffing, this summer we will evaluate that and what the right size is. As far as the research of having a teacher and 2 Para's in each classroom, I don't want to commit to that. Mr. Kanner asked how do you interpret if the students like math or reading more. Dr. Christodoulou answered we wanted to boost their confidence so all the kids were doing the same things because the classrooms were organized by achievement level.

Mayor Siddiqui stated on page 12 the parent survey had a low participation rate, are you thinking about how to raise that. Dr. Christodoulou answered yes, it was mailed for their convenience but we will think about having them complete it in front of us. Mayor Siddiqui asked can you clarify about the translations. Ms. Mervin replied the family did not know we had a translator but once we realized what the issue was it was resolved. Mayor Siddiqui inquired are we thinking about offering the guide in different languages? Ms. Mervin answered the Dept. of Human Svcs. does have some translations by Google translate. Our preschool lottery this year was in three different languages. What were the July and August dates? Ms. MacDonald responded July 8-August 16. We are going to continue the six weeks but this year we will have five weeks of the model we described and the sixth week we want to identify strong teachers but it is hard to get teachers to commit for six weeks in the summer.

**7b. CPS District Plan:** None

**7c. Consent Agenda:** None

Motion by Mr. Rojas, seconded by Mr. Weinstein, to bring the Superintendent's Consent Agenda forward, on a voice vote the Superintendent's Consent Agenda was brought forward.

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| <b>#20-21</b> | Recommendation: Day & Residential Services Not Available from the Cambridge School Department |
| <b>#20-22</b> | Recommendation: Contract Award: Integration Partner: Telecommunication Services               |
| <b>#20-23</b> | Recommendation: Contract Award: Donnegan Systems: Records Management Services                 |
| <b>#20-24</b> | Recommendation: Contract Award: Interstate Food Equipment: Equipment Repair Services          |
| <b>#20-25</b> | Recommendation: Contract Award: Language Connections Inc.: Written Translation Services       |
| <b>#20-26</b> | Recommendation: Contract Award: Gov Connections: Computer Software                            |

**#20-27** Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts

**#20-28** Recommendation: Grant Award: FY20 OSE Targeted (SC20165)

Mr. Fantini motioned to approve and adopt the Superintendent's Consent Agenda. On a roll call vote the Superintendent's Consent Agenda was brought forward, approved and adopted. Mr. Weinstein (YEA), Mr. Fantini (YEA), Mr. Rojas (YEA), Ms. Rachel (YEA), Ms. Wilson (YEA), Mayor Siddiqui (YEA), Ms. Bowman (ABSENT)

**8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

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

**#20-29 Motion by Mr. Fantini:** That the date of the Public Hearing on the FY21 Budget be rescheduled from March 19, to March 17, at 6:00 P.M.

**Mr. Fantini amended his Motion: #20-29** That the School Committee Budget calendar be amended as follows; the public hearing on the CPS FY21 Budget is rescheduled from March 19 to March 17, a joint meeting with the City Council is scheduled on March 24 and the Budget Workshop scheduled for March 24 is rescheduled to March 26.

Motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Rojas, to adopt the amended Motion **#20-29** on a voice vote the Motion was adopted as amended.

**#20-30 Motion by Mr. Fantini, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Weinstein:** Whereas the Cambridge Public School District is committed to preparing students to thrive in their careers; and  
Whereas the Rindge School of Technical Arts aims to provide the best technical education for high school students in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and  
Whereas CPSD, RSTA and CRLS leaders value workplace learning and seeing students obtain credentials that ensure they are highly employable upon graduation from high school; and  
Whereas the CPSD budget process outlines the priorities and resources for the coming school year;  
Therefore be it Resolved: that as part of a budget workshop prior to adoption of next year's budget, the Superintendent's administration will organize a conversation on the achievements and opportunities for strengthening RSTA, including how student enrollment in career and technical education pathways compares with the general CRLS population, how many students are provided with workplace learning experiences, how many Cambridge students are accessing career technical education in other Shared Occupational Learning Vocational Education Division (SOLVED) partnership districts, and how many students graduate with state or industry credentials.

**Discussion on #20-30 followed:**

Mr. Fantini stated Ms. Wilson and Ms. Rachel visited the Minuteman Vocational School with me and they showed high level quality educational programs all to serve the best interest of students. We are at a critical point in the Commonwealth. Most vocational programs are full and have waiting lists so students have few options. There are 50 Ch. 74 programs. Cambridge has 14 quality programs but it leaves a giant void on construction trades; welding, plumbing, electrical, heating/ventilation and we know there are tons of opportunities out there. This is an urgent matter and would like to express it to the Superintendent to see what plans we have to provide opportunities for our children.

Ms. Wilson added that the trip to Minuteman showed what robust training looks like so students can be employable once they graduate. We have underutilized these programs in Cambridge and we need to encourage children to take advantage of them. Our kids need to be certified when they leave high school. Ms. Rachel agrees we need to take a look at RSTA and likes the 9<sup>th</sup> grade rotation through all of the programs. Giving our young people credentials when they leave the high school and we should be the model for that in this building. In this Motion we are asking to meet with the RSTA administrators during the budget process. Mr. Weinstein agrees we should be looking at our technical vocational programming in house that benefits the kids straight into a career but it complements their overall education.

Ms. Green asked about the data, how many students go into those fields for a job? Superintendent Salim responded the data is part of the Perkins Grant across the country and RSTA gathers information on post high school plans. I will speak to the RSTA administration.

Mr. Fantini stated only 60% went onto 4 year colleges. The Perkins Grant requires an investment in middle schools. The opportunities for kids to go outside of Cambridge are almost non-existent because there are no spots to go to.

Motion by Ms. Rachel, seconded by Mr. Fantini to amend **Motion #20-30** to include data around the Perkins Grant, on a voice vote the Motion was amended to include data around the Perkins Grant.

Mayor Siddiqui thinks it is great we are looking at other models and the City Council hears from unions that there is a huge demand for people from Cambridge. We can have a conversation on the gaps that exist. Many of the trades' people I spoke to have a career and save enough to go to a 2 or 4 year college to get a degree for a higher paying job in the construction industry.

**#20-30 Amended Motion by Mr. Fantini, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Weinstein:** Whereas the Cambridge Public School District is committed to preparing students to thrive in their careers; and Whereas the Rindge School of Technical Arts aims to provide the best technical education for high school students in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and Whereas CPSD, RSTA and CRLS leaders value workplace learning and seeing students obtain credentials that ensure they are highly employable upon graduation from high school; and Whereas the CPSD budget process outlines the priorities and resources for the coming school year; Therefore be it Resolved: that as part of a budget workshop prior to adoption of next year's budget, the Superintendent's administration will organize a conversation on the achievements and opportunities for strengthening RSTA, including how student enrollment in career and technical education pathways compares with the general CRLS population, how many students are provided with workplace learning experiences, how many Cambridge students are accessing career technical education in other Shared Occupational Learning Vocational Education Division (SOLVED) partnership districts, how many students graduate with state or industry credentials **and how many graduates with credentials enter related fields.**

Motion by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Ms. Wilson, to adopt the amended motion **#20-30**, on a voice vote the Motion was adopted as amended.

**#20-31 Motion by Mayor Siddiqui and Vice Chair Bowman:** WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) was initiated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in 1998 as part of statewide education reform initiative for educators seeking PreK to grade 12 academic licenses; and WHEREAS: The MTEL includes a test of communication and literacy skills as well as tests of subject matter knowledge and performance on MTEL is predictive of teacher performance and student achievement; and WHEREAS: There are disparate pass rates for candidates of color on the MTEL and there are teachers in the field who have not been able to pass the MTEL and this pool includes more teachers of color; and WHEREAS: Standardized tests have historically under-assessed the knowledge and professional capabilities of students and professionals of color; and WHEREAS: A more diverse workforce has a positive effect on student success and at Cambridge Public Schools, the district plan has identified a goal to 30 percent of all teachers be teachers of color by the end of 2020; and WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Board is considering conducting a pilot of alternative assessments that are rigorous and comparable to MTEL to assess candidates' skills and content knowledge and is taking comments on regulatory amendment until March 13; and THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record in support of DESE adopting pilot alternatives to the MTEL; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Committee submit a letter to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in support of pilot alternatives to MTEL during the public comment period.

**Discussion followed on #20-31** Mayor Siddiqui has seen the lack of diversity during her visits to schools. The National Council of Teacher Quality estimated that about 8,600 candidates of color each year are unable to enter the classroom because of the licensing test barrier resulting in a national teaching force that is 80% White and 7% Black and 9% LatinX. DESE is considering a pilot program on March 14<sup>th</sup> and we need to go on record to support it.

Moved by Mr. Fantini, seconded by Mr. Rojas, to delete the second Whereas line in Motion **#20-31**, on a voice vote **#20-31** was adopted to amend **#20-31**.

On a Motion by Ms. Rachel, seconded by Ms. Wilson, to adopt the Motion as amended, on a voice vote Motion **#20-31** was adopted as amended.

**#20-31 Amended Motion:** WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) was initiated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in 1998 as part of statewide education reform initiative for educators seeking PreK to grade 12 academic licenses; and WHEREAS: There are disparate pass rates for candidates of color on the MTEL and there are teachers in the field who have not been able to pass the MTEL and this pool includes more teachers of color; and WHEREAS: Standardized tests have historically under-assessed the knowledge and professional capabilities of students and professionals of color; and WHEREAS: A more diverse workforce has a positive effect on student success and at Cambridge Public Schools, the district plan has identified a goal to 30 percent of all teachers be teachers of color by the end of 2020; and WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Board is considering conducting a pilot of alternative assessments that are rigorous and comparable to MTEL to assess candidates' skills and content knowledge and is taking comments on regulatory amendment until March 13; and THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record in support of DESE adopting pilot alternatives to the MTEL; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Committee submit a letter to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in support of pilot alternatives to MTEL during the public comment period.

Mayor Siddiqui asked the Dr. Salim to update plans regarding the corona virus. Dr. Salim has been working with the Cambridge Department of Public Health to coordinate, communicate and has been in contact on a daily basis with Claude Jacobs, Chief Communication Officer. We have sent another document to reiterate the importance of hand washing and not to rely on hand sanitizer. The Facilities Dept. has met with all Senior Custodians to re-emphasize how to sanitize our schools and steps to take if issues arise. If there is a need to have school's close for a period of time what are the remote opportunities. We have engaged with ICTS Dept. What are the tools that exist? At the high school we have Chromebooks. In Grade 3-8 we have the capacity for students to take the computers home and what kinds of tools can be utilized. Our Cambridge Education and CCTV can also be used. Any kind of remote education can not replace the 6-hour school day but we want to have the license for online tools that can be used as well as speaking to colleagues across the Commonwealth. Years ago when there was significant snowfall the DESE approved blizzard bags with assignments to complete is being explored. The Commissioner and state Superintendent's Association are working on it in terms of preparation. We don't have all the information of what might happen. We have strong collaboration and communication with the school nurses, working with families that might be returning from abroad or sabbatical so we can make the best decisions.

Mr. Weinstein stated that his Motion overlaps with Ms. Wilson's can we combine them. Mayor Siddiqui suggested leaving them separate.

Ms. Rachel asked how the decision will be made if the school needs to close. Dr. Salim answered any decision will be done with close collaboration with public health and guidance from the CDC and the state. We will take into consideration risk and all the information we have. Anytime school is closed is a hardship for many families.

Mr. Maloney added we are such an interconnected community that it is complex. We have families that have students in 2-3 different schools, there are bus issues and we have multiple after school programs. It is not an easy decision to close schools.

Mr. Weinstein stated this Motion is to have a conversation not that the district is not doing anything. How would a closure affect employees financially? If someone has to quarantine themselves and has to use their sick time or if they won't be paid don't let that be a barrier. Think about it being more extended than a snow day. What steps do we take for the kid's nutrition program? Internet access is not universal. There are many layers to this. The basics of hand washing will benefit us if the virus comes to Cambridge. Ms. Rachel is underscoring the urgency for proactive measures. Ms. Wilson added proper signage around the buildings could be preventative across all our schools. Make sure we have the resources to keep our community safe. Mr. Fantini hopes we speak with one voice with the City for a plan of action so it is not difficult to understand, make sure we are being responsible and move this city in the direction it should.

Mr. Rojas asked what would we do if we decide to close. I appreciate you will be in coordination with other agencies but Superintendent it will be you that makes the decision. In 1918 in Philadelphia they were told not to have a parade and decisions were made against the advice they got. Superintendent Salim stated there are other considerations to be made about large public gatherings or travel plans for students or April vacation week planning.

Mayor Siddiqui added it is a coordinated effort with the City Council. This situation changes everyday and how we respond day to day and how do we prepare. We may have a month or two and need to closely monitor the situation.

Motion by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Wilson, to refer the two late Corona Virus Motions to the Superintendent on a voice vote it was voted to refer the two late motions regarding the Corona Virus to the Superintendent.

**LATE MOTION by Mr. Weinstein, Vice-Chair Bowman, Ms. Rachel:**

Whereas: The local and global impact of novel corona virus Coved-19 is evolving, and the ultimate impacts on residents of Cambridge and students and employees of the Cambridge Public Schools and others working, volunteering or visiting CPS schools – and their families – is unknown; and

Whereas: Public health authorities are recommending various measures to prevent infection and transmission and to detect infection; and

Whereas: Many of the measures known to be effective at halting the spread of Covid-19 are also recommended measures to prevent infection and transmission of influenza, colds and other infections, which are currently more widespread in the community, including ensuring hand washing and sanitizing infrastructure is in place and children have adequate time and sufficient guidance and reminders to take recommended steps; and

Whereas: If in the future Covid-19 is determined to be present and/or widespread in or near Cambridge the impacts could be significant, including quarantines of individuals or groups and/or closure of one or more Cambridge Public Schools; and

Whereas: There are Cambridge Public Schools students who rely on school meals for required nutrition; and

Whereas: There are caregivers of Cambridge Public Schools students who do not have feasible backup childcare options for unscheduled extended school closures; and

Whereas: With an extended, unscheduled closure of the schools the CPS may inadvertently leave hourly employees who are not typically compensated when schools are closed without the financial resources to cover routine costs of living unless arrangements are made now, and other employees may not have enough paid leave to cover an extended closure and other needs; and

Whereas: There have been reports of bias towards people of Asian descent in the United States in connection with the advent of Covid-19; and

Whereas: The Superintendent, administration, teachers and other staff of the Cambridge Public Schools have already begun to address the current and potential impacts of Covid-19 on the Cambridge Public School District;

Now Therefore be it Resolved: That the Superintendent will ensure on an ongoing basis that all appropriate administrative staff are coordinating fully with the City of Cambridge and all relevant local, state and federal agencies on prevention and response preparation measures; and

Be it Further Resolved: That the School Committee will hold a special meeting or subcommittee meeting to brief the public on the district's preparedness effort in collaboration with the City Of Cambridge Public Health Department; and

Be it Further Resolved: That the Superintendent and all appropriate administrative staff coordinate with the City and appropriate local agencies to establish a plan to meet nutritional needs of students in the event of an extended school closure; and

Be it Further Resolved: That the Superintendent and all appropriate administrative staff coordinate with the City and appropriate local agencies to determine if there is any possible backup child care plan for those who would need it in the event of an extended closure of CPS Schools; and if such a plan cannot be established with current knowledge (e.g. limitations on quickly screening for Covid-19 to determine who can safely be gathered together) that options are continually re-evaluated as knowledge and technologies evolve; and

Be it Further Resolved: That this planning will include consideration of ensuring compensation for hourly employees if schools must be closed or they or a member of their household is recommended to quarantine, and special allowance for missed days if salaried employees must quarantine or a member of their household is recommended to quarantine, so that those recommended to quarantine will not hesitate to do so for fear of loss of needed income, and those who cannot work because of CPS closures do not lose the pay they rely on and would otherwise receive; and

Be it Further Resolved: That the Cambridge Public Schools will maintain its commitment to anti-racism and anti-bias, will proactively educate students in developmentally appropriate ways that dispel myths about this and other diseases, and will be alert to and responsive to any incidences of race-based bias related to Covid-19; and

Be it Further Resolved: That the Superintendent will report to the School Committee and the public at the next regular School Committee meeting on the plans that have been established and updates on the status of the implementation of those plans that are active, and will provide updates at each subsequent meeting and more frequently if circumstances require and will maintain easily accessible and updated information for the public.

**Late Motion by School Committee Member Wilson, Member Rachel, Chair Siddiqui**

Ms. Wilson stated three of our teams are in the semi finals and there are fan busses to attend the games and the cost of MIAA is \$5.00 for each student to attend and cheer our teams on. It would be good to subsidize it to get many students to attend. Ms. Rachel stated this came from the community and we heard there were fan busses and to get the word out and the potential subsidy for the cost.

Superintendent Salim appreciates the Motion and reducing the barriers for students to attend. How do we subsidize this because the MIAA collects the admission fees, some are on line tickets. There are certain financial procedures that we have to follow and can't do this at this late date. We request the Committee consider amending this Motion to explore this and work with the Athletic Dept and MIAA about any subsidy. When there are fan busses we need to collect permission slips.

Mr. Fantini added the boys did not win tonight. Maybe the Friends of CRLS athletics can help out.

Ms. Rachel suggested the following amendment: That the CPSD consider the feasibility of covering admission costs for students in partnership with FOCA for fan busses for semi final games, assess the cost benefit outcomes and plan accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Wilson to amend the late Motion regarding fan busses, on a voice vote the late Motion was adopted as amended.

On a Motion by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Wilson the late Motion regarding fan busses be referred to the Superintendent, on a voice vote the following was referred to the Superintendent.

Whereas: The Cambridge Public School District works to create a joyful environment inclusive for all; and

Whereas: Research shows that students who participate in athletic activities have more self-confidence, are better prepared to work collaboratively with peers, and are more connected to their schools; and

Whereas: The Cambridge Rindge and Latin Athletic department provides a fan bus to and from CRLS free of charge to students who return a permission slip to watch the game; and

Whereas: Three sports teams - girls basketball, boys basketball and boys hockey - are presently in the MIAA state tournament semi finals: and

Whereas: The admission cost of \$5 per game for may be challenging for some students; therefore be it Resolved: ***That the Cambridge Public School District consider the feasibility of covering admission costs for students in partnership with FOCA for fan busses for semi-final games (and, if relevant, finals), will assess the cost-benefit outcomes and plan accordingly for future games; and***

Be it further Resolved: That the Athletic Department and CRLS administration will make strenuous efforts to publicize the fan buses and admission ticket support to students.

**Late Motion by School Committee Member Ms. Wilson**

This Motion was referred to the Superintendent:

Whereas the Cambridge Public School District works to create a safe environment for all; and

Whereas the Administration is in ongoing communication with the Public Health Department, City, and State regarding the Corona virus/ COVID-19 and preventative measures; and

Whereas many of the bathrooms in our schools either lack hot water, working soap dispensers, and paper towels; and whereas the facilities department will be conducting an inventory of hand sanitizing stations at all schools; therefore be it

Resolved that every child and staff bathroom and every kitchen/break room has hot water, soap, and paper towels, and to create a plan to rapidly address the bathrooms and kitchens/break rooms that don't have this immediately; and

Be it further resolved, we should have signage posted throughout all of our schools. With simple, preventative steps recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

- Wash your hands with hot, soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using household cleaning sprays or a wipe.
- Avoid touching frequently-used public objects with your hands like elevator buttons, doorknobs, and public transportation handles.
- Get a flu shot, not because it will prevent the spread of COVID-19, but so that you stay healthy and out of the hospital.

10. **Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolence):** Send a condolence letter to the family of CRLS student Mr. Rodrigues. Motion by Ms. Rachel seconded by Mr. Fantini, on a voice vote it was adopted.

Mr. Fantini asked for a letter of condolence be sent to the family of Lloyd Merriman passed away last week and graduated from CRLS in 1969 and was recognized as an MVP. He will get the information to the Secretary.

11. **Announcements:** Ms. Wilson stated that the semi finals for girls and boys basketball team and the boy's hockey team this week and wish them luck.

Mr. Rojas announced that registration is open for the City 5K race on Sunday April 5, to benefit the CRLS sports teams.

Mayor Siddiqui announced that there is a free show on 3/11 in the CRLS Fitzgerald Theatre. They have passed preliminary rounds of competition.

12. **Late Orders: (see late Motions above)**

13. **Communications and Reports from City Officers:** None

Ms Wilson Moved, seconded by Mr. Fantini, on a voice vote the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

On a roll call vote, it was voted to enter Executive Session, Mr. Weinstein (YEA), Mr. Fantini (YEA), Mr. Rojas (YEA), Ms. Rachel (YEA), Ms. Wilson (YEA), Mayor Siddiqui (YEA), Ms. Bowman (ABSENT)

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Gist  
Interim Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Documents on file in the School Committee Office:

Agenda

School Committee Presentation: Summer Programming

Comments from Dan Monahan, CEA President

Email from Bill Hanage, Harvard Professor