



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting

March 29, 2022

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of a Budget Workshop on the FY23 Proposed Budget.

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

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent of Schools; Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Anais Killian, Student School Committee Representative; Nuriel Vera-DeGraff, Student School Committee Representative; Michelle Madera, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary and Early Education; Barbara Mullen, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Student Services; Ivy Washington, Assistant Director, Budget & Financial Operations

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Chair read the call of the meeting and explained that this meeting is being televised, votes will not be taken and there will be no public comment.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with the following roll call of members present: Member Fantini PRESENT; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein ABSENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Bhambi PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT. Member Weinstein joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Mayor Siddiqui passed the floor over to the Superintendent who gave an overview of the recent adjustments to the FY2023 Proposed Budget.

The adjustments to the proposed budget include:

1. Addition of a part-time Assistant Program Manager to the Family Engagement Office.
2. Allocation of \$50,000 in the district's targeted school support budget for the development of a BRYT program for upper school students
3. Addition of the 4th SEL Social Worker to CRLS.

Dr. Greer reported that the district felt the adjustments were needed based on feedback from the previous budget workshop and feedback from the community engagement meetings earlier this year.

The full memo of the proposed adjustments can be found on the [website](#).

Vice-Chair Rachel expressed her enthusiasm for all three adjustments to the budget and inquired about new budget amount numbers for family partners. Dr. Greer responded that she does not have the actual budget amount for family partners but one of the drivers for the adjustments was meetings with Ms. Harris

and The Cambridge Families of Color Coalition who recommended a part-time program manager to support the Family Engagement Office.

Member Wilson expressed her gratitude for the inclusion of a third Social Worker at CRLS. She inquired about the outcomes of African-American children (specifically in reading) and how this proposed budget will meet their needs of them. Dr. Greer responded that the General Budget assists in the needs of the African-American students but believes that the district will have to target support to improve Tier 1 practices to become more culturally responsive to improve outcomes. With the inclusion of the MTSS Director and the collaboration of the OEIB office, she believes this will become a huge driver in changing the trajectory and outcome of students of color at CPSD.

Member Wilson also asked how the proposed budget supports students with special needs. Dr. Greer responded that when the proposed budget and district planning goals are two-fold with the biggest drivers for student success being reading, mathematics, and SEL. In the district planning process, specific outcomes and goals for targeted student groups will be identified.

Member Fantini praised the budget for its contribution to student success. He mentioned that for the FY24 proposed budget, there should be a focus on the Kennedy Longfellow school and is optimistic that the administration will make adjustments to improve the Kennedy Longfellow school.

Member Rojas asked the Superintendent if there were any adjustments she would have proposed if “balance budgeting” was not an issue. Dr. Greer responded that she did not feel like the budget had financial constraints, but thinks that there can be improvements in the strategies that the district can leverage, that include better partnerships to push student learning beyond the classroom.

Member Weinstein inquired about the adjustment that included the Assistant Project Managers for the Family Engagement Offices, extra-curricular after-school programs (including Visual Performing Arts) and robust before-school programs and if this is something that will be a part of the next strategic conversations. Dr. Greer responded that the district planning work included robust before-school programs and the current goal is for all students would have a more robust after-school program.

Mayor Siddiqui addressed afterschool programming for students in special education and inquired about the next steps the district has to do to provide more opportunities for those students. Dr. Greer responded that this is an ongoing need for families and efforts the district is trying to make to offer more opportunities. The district will partner with the Department of Human Services Programs (DHSP) to coordinate meetings and discussions to implement more opportunities.

Mayor Siddiqui discussed the desire for more AP programs at the middle school levels. She also discussed ongoing themes and comments made by the students about AP programs, college readiness, and math projects and programs. She reiterated that the Committee and the Superintendent are listening and will have conversations and discussions on these ongoing themes soon.

Member Wilson discussed the possibility of implementing plastic sanitary products in school bathrooms. Currently, the sanitary products in the school bathroom are cardboard.

With no further questions or comments from the Committee, Mayor Siddiqui entered a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion by Member Fantini seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Attest:



Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee