



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

April 5, 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 discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee. The School Committee will also vote on the adoption of the FY 2023 Proposed School Department Budget.

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

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Anais Killian, Student School Committee Representative; Nuriel Vera-DeGraff, Student School Committee Representative (ABSENT)

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair provided a statement to the public regarding Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order on guidelines for remote participation and then read the call of the meeting.

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

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Karen Engels, Wendell St, spoke in support of #22-46
- The Cambridge Youth Council spoke in support of #22-56
- Duncan McLaury, Dover St, spoke about motion #22-46
- Irene Hill, spoke in support of #22-56
- Karen Engels, spoke about #22-46, in particular, educator feedback on i-Ready spending

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to suspend the rules for the purposes of allowing multiple students in the Cambridge Youth Council to speak during public comment Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Killian shared student feedback on the lift in mask restrictions. She also reported on her and Student Member Vera-DeGraff's experience attending the National School Board Association (NSBA) conference over the weekend. Some highlights of the conference included a trip to a local school district and high school, informational sessions on student achievement, governance, and school board/superintendent relationships. Student-athlete consent workshops will occur this month for

approximately 464 students participating in spring sports. **Student Member Killian** also discussed the recent hate-based incidents occurring in the state as well as the “colonization worksheet” from a CRLS history class that was spread on social media platforms

Member Wilson asked for an update regarding the spectator policy at visual performing art productions and sporting events. She also inquired about an update regarding the “colonization worksheet” from the Superintendent and the CRLS principal.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- March 15, 2022, Regular Meeting
- March 17, 2022 Special Meeting
- March 22, 2022 Budget Workshop
- March 24, 2022 Special Meeting
- March 25, 2022 Special Meeting
- March 29, 2022 Budget Workshop

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, the records were approved as written.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to suspend the rules to bring forward recommendations **#22-46** and **#22-56**: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

The Committee Members each spoke about the budget process and thanked the administration for including students, staff, and community partners in the proposed budget

#22-46 Approval of the Fiscal Year 2023 Recommended Budget, be approved as follows: that the School Committee receive and approve the FY 2023 General Fund Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools in the following Statutory Categories:

Salaries, Wages & Benefits:	\$ 191,453,280
Other Ordinary Maintenance:	\$ 39,425,580
Travel and Training:	\$ 1,383,280
Extraordinary Expenditures:	\$ <u>127,000</u>
Total	\$ 232,389,140

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call votes for **#22-46**, the FY23 Budget was adopted:

Salaries, Wages & Benefits: \$191,453,280.00: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Other Ordinary Maintenance: \$39,425,580.00: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Travel & Training: \$1,383,280.00: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Extraordinary Expenditures: \$127,000.00: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Total FY2023 Recommended Budget: \$232,389,140.00: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Fantini, it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of moving reconsideration of the foregoing vote on all budget related items: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

The Rules having been suspended, a motion to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, failed of adoption: Vice-Chair Rachel NAY; Member Rojas NAY; Member Weinstein NAY; Member Wilson NAY; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini NAY; Mayor Siddiqui NAY.

#22-56 Joint Motion by Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui, and Member Fantini in collaboration with Student Member Killian and Student Member Vera-DeGraff

WHEREAS: Most of the high school and upper school students are responsible for commuting themselves to and from school every day; and

WHEREAS: There are approximately 742 students or 40% of the total student body at CRLS currently using the M7 transit cards which are designated for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch benefits; and

WHEREAS: Students are continually penalized for being tardy their first period regardless of transportation circumstances; and

WHEREAS: Many high school students hold summer jobs through the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP) or other job opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The city of Somerville, Massachusetts has started a pilot program to give students preloaded monthly Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) passes, or CharlieCards, so they have a reliable source of transportation to and from school regardless of economic status; and

WHEREAS: Somerville High School's enrollment is similar to CRLS at roughly 1,400 students compared to roughly 1,800 students; and

WHEREAS: Somerville's FY2022 budget estimated at 99.6 million dollars for their education system compared to Cambridge's FY2022 budget at 223.7 million dollars and has managed to implement this pilot program; and

WHEREAS: Larger cities, such as Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, California have implemented programs for free public transit for every student enrolled in their public school system and at a community college; and

WHEREAS: The MBTA has a program to provide students on free/reduced lunch with free M7 CharlieCards through the months of September through June; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) had a proposed budget of 232,389,140 dollars for the 2022-23 school year; and

WHEREAS: The proposed CPSD budget allocates 12,207,028 dollars towards transportation (or five percent of proposed total budget); and

WHEREAS: Students deserve a safe and reliable means of transportation to and from school; and

WHEREAS: Students should avoid the financial burden to pay 17 dollars a week on transportation to school; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Youth Council (CYC) has been actively working on this resolution since October of 2021; and has been active in the issue since 2018 when they rallied to establish free M7 CharlieCards for free/reduced lunch students; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee do serious research in conjunction with the MBTA and the City of Cambridge to consider implementing a program to distribute free M7 CharlieCards to all students at CRLS, regardless of free/reduced lunch status; and be it further

RESOLVED: That due to participation in MSYEP or other summer job opportunities, that these CharlieCards remain activated throughout not only the school year but the summer as well; and be it further

RESOLVED: That upon an agreement with the MBTA, CPSD will distribute free yearly M7 CharlieCards to all high school and upper school students; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this motion be referred to the Superintendent, for the Superintendent and Mayor to share an update with the School Committee by June 1, 2022.

A discussion followed on **#22-56**.

Member Wilson gave more context to the motion. **Member Rojas** asked for the reasoning behind the motion and why it was not a part of the budget discussions. **Member Wilson** specified that the funds do not come out of the school budget but rather the city budget. **Member Rojas** mentioned that students who cycle should also be included in the motion (i.e. maintenance tune-up for bicycles). **Member Wilson** reported there have been 2,000 CharlieCards distributed to students at the high school level this school year. She recommended sending a survey out to students to get better insights into all student commuting methods.

Vice-Chair Rachel, Member Weinstein, Member Fantini, and Student Member Killian each spoke briefly on their support of the motion.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice-Chair Rachel, **#22-56** was adopted via voice vote and will be referred to the Superintendent.

The Chair returned to the regular order of business.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Mayor Siddiqui passed the floor to the administration for a presentation on the RSTA program review. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

At the end of the presentation, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor to the Committee members for questions and discussions.

Vice-Chair Rachel discussed the initial motion for the RSTA review which was brought forward by herself, Member Wilson, and Member Fantini, and Member Fantini's motion from last year about eliminating the SOLVED Collaborative which was referred to the Superintendent). **Vice-Chair Rachel** acknowledged the efforts made regarding the initial first steps for a review of the RSTA program and is proposing to create an ad-hoc sub-committee to get a deeper dive into more data analysis of the program.

Member Weinstein inquired "how does the RSTA vision support a liberal arts model" (i.e. a student who is still unsure about their career path upon graduating high school) and inquired the district's plan with

integrating students with disabilities into the RSTA/CTE model. Dr. Greer responded that if CTE programs are implemented correctly, they provide excellent resources for students with diverse learning needs. She responded that part of the design work for the district is to create a framework for students with liberal art interests or with interests that are available with the current offerings from the district.

Dr. Brown mentioned that the goal of the RSTA program is to have students explore career pathways instead of “locking” them into a specific field of study.

Member Fantini discussed MYCAP and the significance it can have on students enrolled in an RSTA program. Dr. Greer responded that the district has a goal to leverage MYCAP to students in the upper schools so they can have that guidance before entering high school. Principal Smith responded that the district and high school will need to keep the momentum of MYCAP going and one of the challenges the high school is having is scalability and reiterated that the goal is to leverage the program sooner for students – particularly at the ninth-grade level. **Member Fantini** mentioned that there is a total of fifty-seven CTE programs in the state and that vocational education is becoming more and more prominent as people are starting to realize the benefits. He discussed some of the programs offered through Somerville and that the city focuses on offering programs that lead to greater salaries for students who graduate from their vocational program. **Vice-Chair Rachel** explained the reasoning why students in Cambridge have not been able to benefit from the SOLVED program. **Member Fantini** inquired about the availability of students in Cambridge being able to utilize other programs in Somerville, Waltham, and Boston through the SOLVED program.

Member Rojas discussed the importance of introducing career programs to students as early as Kindergarten and inquired about student eligibility in the co-op program for RSTA and non-RSTA students. Dr. Ananis mentioned that the co-op program for the RSTA program is exclusively for 12th graders, due to state regulations. However, non-RSTA 11th graders are eligible for co-op opportunities. **Member Rojas** asked the Superintendent about her thoughts on internships being available exclusively for eleventh and 12th graders. Dr. Greer responded that having internships at the 11th and 12th-grade levels is too late and should be done sooner as she believes skill-building in students can be extremely beneficial for adolescents if these programs are offered earlier.

Student Member Killian discussed programs not offered by the district (i.e. innovative pathways, college and career academies, 9-13/9-14 programs) and if the district has ever considered implementing those or similar programs. Dr. Turk gave background on the history of the RSTA program implementation. **Student Member Killian** also inquired about the possible expansion of RSTA programs at the upper schools. Dr. Greer responded that the first would be to create an opportunity for exploration and usage of MYCAP. Dr. Gittens responded that one of the major drivers is to ensure students and caregivers have a vast knowledge of the RSTA program. Dr. Brown mentioned that survey data will be another important driver in how the district can create best practices regarding the expanding RSTA to the upper-level schools.

Member Wilson stated that she wanted to see the student demographics of the program but she appreciates the idea to have exploratory options for younger students at the upper schools. **Member Wilson** also discussed MYCAP and Student Success Plans and asked about the differences and similarities between them. Dr. Brown responded that MYCAP is an existing tool of the student success plan. The difference is that the student success plan can consist of many factors and tools which include MYCAP.

Mayor Siddiqui expressed her excitement about the progress surrounding early college and the improvements the district is making to the RSTA program. **Mayor Siddiqui** also discussed the importance of implementing these programs early and urged the district to utilize the City Council as a partner.

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

On the following roll call vote, items **#22-47** through **#22-55** were adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#22-47 Approval of the Amendment to Agreement between American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, Council 93, Local 1611 & Cambridge School Committee Regarding COVID-19 Testing, be adopted as follows: That the School Committee ratify and approve the Amendment to the Agreement between the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 93, Local 1611 that was made and entered into on February 15, 2022.

#22-48 Approval of SY2022/2023 Cambridge Public Schools District Calendar be adopted as follows: that the School Committee Approve the SY2022-2023 Cambridge Public Schools District Calendar.

#22-49 Day & Residential Program Services not Available From Cambridge Public Schools be adopted as follows: that the School Committee contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Program	#	Amount
Day Program	1	\$52,631.92
Residential Program		
45 Day Program		
Total	1	\$52,631.92

#22-50 Contract Award: Scholastic, Inc., Instructional Materials be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Instructional Materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Scholastic, Inc., 5 Broadway, New York, NY, for the period of April 5, 2022 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$30,653.69.

#22-51 Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

1. A gift of \$1,000.00 to CRLS for the Microsoft TEALS program and the CLRS Computer Science Program made by Microsoft through the Friends of CRLS.
2. \$887.00 made by the Microsoft Workplace Giving Program as a match for employee volunteers' time in the TEALS program at CRLS to support computer science programs at CRLS.
3. \$710.36 to the Kennedy Longfellow School made from HELPSY, in return for items collected in the school's clothing/book collection box. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
4. \$672.54 to the Morse School made from Shutterfly as commission for student portraits. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
5. An in-kind donation of a photo enlarger made by an individual donor to the Visual & Performing Arts Department.

#22-52 Grant Award: FY22 Early College Support Grant (SC22831)-INCREASE be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY22 Early College Support Grant INCREASE, for the period of January 4, 2022 to June 30, 2022 in the increased amount of \$7,350.00. Grant SC22831.

Description: The increase will be used for textbooks for the fall, Early College T-shirts, program coordinator at Lesley University, and stipends for social media content. *Original text:* This

grant will support the planning process to complete the district's application for the MA Early College Program Designation. The costs will include stipends for CRLS to work with the Early College coordinator and a consultant to complete the district's Plan B application, including planning for internship opportunities, on-ramping programs, and accessibilities plans. The grant will also fund Early College promotional materials and events

#22-53 Grant Award: FY22 ARP Special Education IDEA (SC22610)-INCREASE be adopted as

follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY22 ARP Special Education IDEA INCREASE, for the period of October 4, 2022 to June 30, 2022 in the increased amount of \$2,715. Grant SC22610.

Description: The increase of \$2,715 is disturbed as follows: \$2,205 for tuition, \$407 for stipends for CCEIS, and \$103 for the proportionate share services. *Original text:* The purpose of the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) IDEA is grant to provide additional funds beyond the district's IDEA allocation grant in order to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs. A with the allocation grant, the largest portion of the ARP IDEA grant will be used for out-of-district tuition. To meet the requirement of proportionate share for private schools, a set aside of \$20,487 will be used to provide consultant services to private school students and staff. The remainder of the grant (\$88,248) will be used for activities under the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), including a consultant in culturally responsive behavioral interventions, and Extended Learning Time teacher stipend for pre-school class at Fletcher Maynard Academy, and stipends for staff to attend trainings outside normal working hours.

#22-54 Grant Award: FY22 Special Education IDEA Allocation (SC22605)-INCREASE be adopted

as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY22 Special Education IDEA Allocation INCREASE, for the period of September 23, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the increased amount of \$12,871. Grant SC22605.

Description: The \$18,781 increase is distributed as follows: \$10,452 into tuition, \$1,931 into salary and benefits for CCEIS position, and \$488 into proportionate share services. *Original text:* The purpose of the IDEA grant is to provide funds to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs. The largest portion of the IDEA allocation will be used for out-of-district tuition. To meet the requirement of propionate, share for private schools, a set-aside of #123,329 will be used to provide services (teachers and consultant) to private school students and staff. The remainder of the grant (\$426,926) will be used for activities under the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), including the 1.0 FTE Coordinator's position. As of this year, the district is required to implement a plan for CCEIS in order to mitigate the disproportionate identification of the subset of African American/Black Students for special education services. The district's plan includes a review and possible revision of assessment practices, Student Support Teams and Individual Student Support plans, as well as steps to strengthen the implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). There is also \$3,000 for membership in the MA Urban Project.

#22-55 Grant Award: FY22 Title 11A Educator Quality (SC22731)- INCREASE be adopted as

follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY22 Title IIA Educator Quality INCREASE, for the period of September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the increased amount of \$1,543.00. Grant SC22731.

Description: The Increase will be used for CPS mentor stipends; the rest of budget has been adjusted to reflect private school plan changes. *Original text:* As part of a comprehensive district initiative that focuses on preparing, training, recruitment, a retention of highly qualified

educators, Title IIA funds in FY22 will continue to support a .5 Instructional Coach for history/social studies teachers in grades K-5; the temporary salaries line will fund teacher stipends for mentoring (to be supplemented by Title IV funds); other expenses include professional development contracts for Math and the required allocation to participating private schools.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

#22-57 Joint Motion by Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui, and Member Fantini

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) only offers printed versions of high school transcripts for former students and electronic copies to current students to send colleges, universities, and employers; and

WHEREAS: Many former students may not have time or access to free technology in order to make copies, scan, and upload or mail transcripts; and

WHEREAS: User-friendly online services allow students to receive an electronic copy of their transcript to send to as many places as they would like; and

WHEREAS: E-transcript delivery services allow students to have a PDF file of their transcript and avoid requesting from CPS each time; and

WHEREAS: E-transcript delivery services will make students' lives easier and will significantly cut work time for employees coordinating handling said transcript logistics; and

WHEREAS: E-transcript delivery services offer free professional training on how to use their software and allow for other record digitization outside of transcripts; and

WHEREAS: An e-transcript delivery service would likely be more cost-effective and environmentally conscious than having paper and ink printed hard-copy transcripts, creating less cost-burden on both the school and the students; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That CPS records staff and relevant others attend necessary training from expert staff on e-transcript delivery services; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CPS commits to using an e-transcript delivery service to cut cost and effort burdens placed on both former and current students trying to pursue post-secondary options.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-57**.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Fantini, **#22-57** was adopted via a voice vote.

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

#22-58 Joint Motion by Member Wilson, Vice Chair Rachel, and Member Weinstein in collaboration with Student Member Killian and Student Member Vera-DeGraff

WHEREAS: Thirty-one students (see: [Appendix A](#)) from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) attended the National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN) Conference in New York City from March 18 through March 21, 2022; and

WHEREAS: Students have been conducting research and doing other preparation for this conference since October of 2021; and

WHEREAS: Students represented several specialized agencies and countries at this year's MUN Conference, such as Afghanistan, Argentina, China, and more; and

WHEREAS: The CRLS MUN delegation was presented with six different awards for their individual and overall performance (see: [Appendix B](#)) in committees that discussed topics like international security, gender equity, migration, criminal justice, and more; and

WHEREAS: CRLS student Nicolas Valayannapoulos-Akrivou was invited to speak in front of the entire NHSMUN Conference during the plenary session to present his committees' research and work; and

WHEREAS: These students deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication to the CRLS MUN team; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee go on record honoring and congratulating these scholars on their hard work and dedication; 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 the students listed in the appendix.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-58**.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice-Chair Rachel, **#22-58** was adopted via a voice vote.

11. Announcements:

Member Weinstein announced that student artwork is on display in East Cambridge. He also recognized the CRLS students who participated in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild competition, who advanced to the final round of the competition.

Member Wilson congratulated Student Member Killian and other student-athletes who received sportsmanship awards through the MIAA.

The Superintendent announced that the Eid al-Fitr holiday previously observed on the district calendar on May 3rd has been moved to May 2nd. The district will now be closed on May 2nd and there will be no school.

Mayor Siddiqui announced on April 13th at 6 PM, there will be a community Iftar at the Cambridge Street Upper School. She also congratulated the winners of her women's history month art contest.

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications from City Officers: None

Email communications:

- ✓ Dan Monahan
- ✓ Ella Velkova
- ✓ Cambridge Youth Council

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein, it was voted, on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting (8:57 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee