



**C A M B R I D G E
S C H O O L C O M M I T T E E**

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

August 23, 2022

Called for 5:00 p.m., broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee.

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;

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 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: Member Fantini PRESENT; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Anna Gosline, Chestnut Street, spoke regarding after-school program transportation
- Lilly Havstad, Granville Road, spoke regarding covid mitigation strategies for the upcoming school year

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Fantini on the following roll call vote, public comment was closed: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- August 9, 2022, Regular Meeting

On a motion by Vice-Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein on the following roll call vote, the records were approved as written: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports:

#C22-230 Joint Motion by Vice Chair Rachel, Mayor Siddiqui, and Member Fantini

WHEREAS: The Superintendent and School Committee have been working with the Department of Human Services Programs to expand access to afterschool programs; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools have increased access to space for programs within school buildings, and have recruited district staff to apply for DHSP afterschool positions; and

WHEREAS: A waiting list of over two hundred families remains for city-run after-school programs this school year; and

WHEREAS: Many students attend afterschool programs run by community partners; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools transportation policy has made extended considerations for students in grades 6-8 beyond the state requirement; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee requested a plan for transporting students to after-school programs last year (21-311, Members Wilson and Fantini); and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools provided additional funding to community partners last year to address the transportation needs of their participants; and

WHEREAS: The administration has examined options for bus routes and policies, including those outlined in the Student Transportation Assessment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge Public Schools will work with the contracted transportation company to address student transportation to afterschool programs, including but not limited to allowing students to ride buses that have the capacity, and exploring adding stops along/near existing routes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the administration will provide the School Committee with an update on related efforts no later than October 31, 2022.

The Superintendent provided an update on the awaiting report during her presentation, This item will remain as an awaiting report for the next meeting.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

Mayor Siddiqui passed the floor to the administration for a presentation on the COVID-19 mitigation strategies for the 2022-2023 school year. The 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 regarding the presentation. The Committee members, the administration, and the Cambridge Public Health Department led a robust discussion on the presented covid mitigation strategies for the upcoming school year.

With no further questions from the Committee, Mayor Siddiqui passed the floor to the Superintendent for a presentation on the upcoming 2022-2023 school year and an update on after-school program transportation. The presentation can be found on the website. The Committee members engaged in another robust discussion regarding the update on implementing after-school program transportation,

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

Vice-Chair Rachel pulled #22-207. **Member Wilson** pulled #22-212.

On the following roll call vote, items #22-208 through #22-211, and #22-213 through #22-217 were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#22-207 Approval of Family & Medical Leave, Parental Leave Small Necessities Leave Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Family Medical and Leave, Parental Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy as detailed in the attached document.

#22-208 Approval of the Policy Regarding Use of Electronic Signatures (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the policy on the use of electronic signatures as detailed in the attached document

#22-209 Approval of FY22/23 General Fund Budget Statutory Transfers be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the following statutory transfers of appropriation within the General Fund budget for FY 2022-2023.

<u>Statutory Coding</u>	<u>Increase/(Decrease)</u>
Salaries, Wages & Benefits (SW)	
Other Ordinary Maintenance (OOM)	(\$180,000)
Travel and Training (TT)	\$180,000
Extraordinary Expenditures (EE)	
Total	\$0

#22-210 Contract Award: Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute Of Technology: Instructional Services be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, 41 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA for the period of September 1, 2022, to May 30, 2023, in the amount of \$65,000.00

#22-211 Contract Award: Enroot: Educational Services be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Enroot, 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$55,000.00.

#22-213 Grant Award: FY23 Expanded Learning Time (SC23829) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY23 Expanded Learning Time (SC23829) in the amount of \$763,100.00 for the period of September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Description: This grant will provide 300 additional hours of instruction for all students at the Fletcher Maynard Academy and the Dr. M. L. King School. The funding supports stipends for additional working hours for administrators, teachers, and assistant teachers plus a 0.54 FTE position of project coordinator at the FMA and a 1.0 FTE paraprofessional at the King School. There is also \$20,865 available for field trips.

#22-214 Grant Award: FY22 ARP II Homeless Children & Youth Increase (SC22711) 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 II Homeless Children and Youth INCREASE (SC22711) in the amount of \$56,204.00 for the period of November 23, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Description: The increase of \$13,343 will be used to provide stipends for support and teaching staff to attend training, to provide additional tuition funding for summer and after-school programs, and cover contractual increases in the FTE cost of the social worker, and for additional emergency supplies. *Original text:* The second FY 2022 Homeless grant is funded by the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP), this grant will fund 0.33 of the salary of the social worker to provide services for unhoused children, youth, and their families. ARP I and Title I will each fund another third of the salary of this social worker, and the benefits will be split between Title I and this ARP II grant. In addition, the grant will fund emergency supplies and MBTA passes for these

families as well as partial scholarships for unhoused students to attend community non-profit summer and after-school programs.

#22-215 Grant Award: FY23 Special Education IDEA Allocation (SC23605) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated

FY23 Special Education IDEA Allocation (SC23605) in the amount of \$2,811,374.00 for the period of September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Description: 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 is for out-of-district tuition. In addition, the grant will fund a workload audit (\$40,000) and translations (\$73,000). To meet the requirement of a proportionate share for eligible students attending private schools, set aside \$132,384 will provide services by CPS teachers and a consultant. There is also \$3,500 for membership in the MA Urban Collaborative. The remainder of the grant (\$427,269) will be for activities under the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), including the 1.0 FTE Director or Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). As of SY21-22, the district has been 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 professional learning in SEL, cultural and linguistically responsive practices, and coaching and leadership development for OSS staff, all part of a comprehensive program of MTSS.

#22-216 Grant Award: FY23 Title IIA Educator Quality (SC23731) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY23 Title IIA Educator Quality (SC23731) in the amount of \$182,363.00 for the period of September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Description: As part of a comprehensive district initiative that focuses on the preparation, training, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified educators, Title IIA funds in FY23 will continue to support a 0.5 FTE Instructional Coach for history/social studies teachers in grades K-5. The temporary salaries line will fund teacher stipends for mentoring (supplemented by Title IV funds); other expenses include the required allocation to participating private schools for professional development activities

#22-217 Grant Award: FY23 Title IV Student Support & Academic Enrichment (SC23732) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY23 Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SC23732) in the amount of \$78,108.00 for the period of September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Description: Part of the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Title IV grant for FY23 will be flexed into the district's Title IIA program to provide 0.5 FTE of the salary and benefits for an ELA coach at Putnam Ave Upper School. The \$19,866 in temporary salaries will provide for mentor stipends.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#22-207 Approval of Family & Medical Leave, Parental Leave Small Necessities Leave Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Family Medical and Leave, Parental Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy as detailed in the attached document.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-207**.

Vice Chair Rachel motioned to amend the language in the Family Leave Policy to be gender neutral and replace "son/daughter" in the policy with gender-neutral pronouns.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, **#22-207** was amended: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, **#22-207** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

22-212 Contract Award: Youth Guidance: Educational Support be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Youth Guidance, 1 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 900, Chicago, IL for the period of September 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$272,888.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#22-212**. Given her line of work as a community partner, Member Wilson recused herself from voting on the contract award.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, **#22-212** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information):
#22-218 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Wilson, and Member Weinstein**

WHEREAS: A joint ad-hoc of City Councilors, School Committee members, Cambridge Public Schools employees, and Department of Human Services employees are working towards implementing universal pre-kindergarten; and

WHEREAS: Universal pre-kindergarten refers to government-funded programs that are accessible to all regardless of income, children's abilities, or other factors; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge and the School Committee are working to address questions regarding enrollment and eligibility for four-year-olds and three-year-olds; and

WHEREAS: A Cambridge Early Childhood Pulse Survey with the Early Learning Study at Harvard University collected over 200 responses from 113 early childhood programs in Cambridge to understand the strengths and needs of the early education workforce to implement policies that better support the important work early educators do; and

WHEREAS: As of 2022, CPS is currently serving approximately 373 4-year-olds in Special Start, JK, Tobin Montessori, and Fletcher-Maynard Academy and 112 3-year-olds through Special Start, Tobin Montessori, and Fletcher-Maynard Academy; and

WHEREAS: As of 2022, the city supports the enrollment of approximately 306 preschoolers in high-quality programs, including its own city-run preschools, B3 scholarship programs, and Head Start; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 1/2, or 153 students, are 4-year-olds; and

WHEREAS: Currently, the eligibility for enrollment for junior kindergarten is 4 years old if the child's birthday is on or before March 31st and if a child is 5 on or before August 31st then they are eligible to enroll in kindergarten; and

WHEREAS: There is enough capacity in Cambridge Public Schools and community-based programs as a mixed-delivery system to lower the enrollment age for all four-year-old children to enroll; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent collects information regarding lowering the enrollment age to allow students who are four years old on or before August 31st to enter junior kindergarten, (across a mixed delivery system) and to separate kindergarten and junior kindergarten, and share updates with the School Committee by fall 2022. In addition, the School Committee will review any related policies to the enrollment age of students enrolling in junior kindergarten.

A robust discussion followed on **#22-218**.

Following the discussion Vice Chair Rachel motioned to amend the language in the motion to read the following:

WHEREAS: A joint ad-hoc of City Councilors, School Committee members, Cambridge Public Schools employees, and Department of Human Services employees are working towards implementing universal pre-kindergarten; and

WHEREAS: Universal pre-kindergarten refers to government-funded programs that are accessible to all regardless of income, children's abilities, or other factors; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge and the School Committee are working to address questions regarding enrollment and eligibility for four-year-olds and three-year-olds; and

WHEREAS: A Cambridge Early Childhood Pulse Survey with the Early Learning Study at Harvard University collected over 200 responses from 113 early childhood programs in Cambridge to understand the strengths and needs of the early education workforce to implement policies that better support the important work early educators do; and

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WHEREAS: There is enough capacity in Cambridge Public Schools and community-based programs as a mixed-delivery system to lower the enrollment age for all four-year-old children to enroll; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent collects information regarding lowering the enrollment age to allow students who are four years old on or before August 31st to enter junior kindergarten, (across a mixed delivery system) and to separate kindergarten and junior kindergarten, and share updates with the School Committee by fall 2022. In addition, the School Committee will review any related policies to the enrollment age of students enrolling in junior kindergarten.

On a motion by Member Wilson seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, the amended were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

On a motion by Member Wilson seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, **#22-218** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

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

11. Announcements:

Mayor Siddiqui announced that there will be community fairs on the following dates: August 24th outside CRLS (5 pm – 7 pm), August 27th outside King Open (10 am – 12 pm), and September 10th (10 am -11am) outside Peabody/Rindge Upper School. All information regarding the Community Fairs can be found online at www.cpsd.us/communityfairs2022.

12. Late Orders:

Late Order by Member Fantini

WHEREAS: Jean Spera retired on July 31, 2022, after 36 years of dedication to the students, families, and staff of the Cambridge Public Schools; and

WHEREAS: Jean is a lifelong resident of Cambridge and graduate of the Cambridge Public Schools who committed herself to public education and giving back to her community; and

WHEREAS: Jean is currently serving as a board member of the East Cambridge Scholarship Committee and was recently elected to serve as a board member of the East Cambridge Planning Team; and

WHEREAS: Jean began her career with the Cambridge Public Schools on February 14, 1986, being hired as an Extended Term Substitute and quickly hired as a School Psychologist in November; and

WHEREAS: During her tenure with CPS, Jean held several key positions within the Office of Student Services as Assistant Director, Interim Executive Director, and Interim Assistant Superintendent; and

WHEREAS: Jean has been asked and served on various committees for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and has been recognized by her peers at the state level by the Massachusetts School Psychologist Association receiving the 2018 Friend of Children Award; and

WHEREAS: Jean will join her sister, Anna Spera, a long-term dedicated classroom teacher at the Harrington and Peabody schools, in retirement, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee go on record expressing its gratitude to Jean Spera for her tireless work and ensuring that each student in Cambridge has the optimal conditions to receive high-quality instruction and thrive and wish her a happy and healthy retirement; now be it further

RESOLVED: That a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee to be presented to Jean Spera.

Member Fantini gave a speech recognizing Jean Spera for her dedication and commitment during their tenure with the Cambridge Public School District.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, the late order was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

13. Communications from City Officers:

- [Vice Chair Rachel: Draft SC Meeting Presentation Calendar](#)

Vice Chair Rachel provided context on the draft School Committee Meeting Presentation Calendar which included the schedule for Regular, Special, Retreat, and Roundtable meetings, Subcommittee scheduling for the year, and revised administration liaison for the Subcommittee, and recommended policies for the Subcommittees to focus on this upcoming school year.

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel on the following roll call vote, the draft School Committee Meeting Presentation Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year was placed on file: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Email communications:

- ✓ Lilly Havstad
- ✓ Eugenia Schraa
- ✓ Brian O'Neill
- ✓ Guilia Fulci

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote, the School Committee voted to enter into an executive session to discuss strategy for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Superintendent) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the and negotiating positions of the School Committee. No votes will be taken, and the Committee will not reconvene in open session upon completion of the Executive Session: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, it was to adjourn the open meeting and enter an executive session: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui YEA (7:54 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee