



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

**Special Meeting**

**September 13, 2022**

Called for 6:00 pm held in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of a Retreat to discuss Outlining priorities and planning for SY22-23.

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; Dr. Edwards, Chief of Academics and Schools; Dr. Gittens, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; Dr. Brown, Chief Strategy Officer; Dr. Madera, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education; Dr. Mullen, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services; Manuel Fernandez, Chief Equity Officer; Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Sujata Wycoff, Director of Communications; Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel; Corey Dotson, Chief Talent Officer; Ammarah Rehman, Mayor's Education Liaison and Aba Taylor, Facilitator

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

The Chair read the call of the meeting and explained that this meeting is not being televised, votes will not be taken, and there will not be public comment.

**Mayor Siddiqui** explained the purpose of this Retreat is a professional development opportunity for the Members and Dr. Greer to focus on best practices to work together along with outlining priorities and planning for SY22-23.

**Vice Chair Rachel** also provided context on the goals for the evening's retreat which include getting to know more about the staff and new members of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and introduced the evening's facilitator Aba Taylor. After a brief introduction of herself and the facilitator began the meeting right away with an ice-breaker.

After the icebreaker, Facilitator Taylor began a discussion on the goals and objectives for the Retreat meeting. The meeting objectives are:

- Build rapport between School Committee Members and the Executive Leadership Team
- Define Committee and Subcommittee priorities for the school year
- Agree about two-way communication

**Aba Taylor** began her process by highlighting three dimensions of success and asked everyone about the three dimensions and which of the three is most applicable to them.

The meeting then transitioned into an exercise by dividing everyone into sub-groups to tackle a "mini project". The mini-project was a short team-building exercise that consisted of two tasks – the first task was a word puzzle and the second task was a "values" poem or story created by each sub-group. The purpose of these activities was to lead more discussions about the three dimensions of success and effective collaboration between all members of the ELT and the School Committee.

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Following the group activity, Facilitator Taylor turned the meeting over to the Superintendent, who discussed alignment and framework in conjunction with the CPSD District Plan. A conversation began on policy review and Subcommittee work for the 2022-2023 school year. Small groups were formed by Subcommittee and ELT liaisons convened to discuss goals for the 2022-2023 school year for about twenty-five minutes. The small groups then reconvened for a larger group discussion regarding the Subcommittee goals and equity works that align with them. Each Subcommittee Chair or ELT liaison discussed what was discussed in their group.

Facilitator Taylor passed the meeting over to the Superintendent who gave an overview and lead a discussion about Superintendent and/or ELT Communications with the School Committee. After a robust discussion surrounding communication, Facilitator Taylor, wrapped up the meeting by asking all of the meeting participants one word in which they feel like this retreat can ensure a great school year ahead.

Mayor Siddiqui adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Attest:



Ariel B. Kennebrew  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee