



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

**Special Meeting**

**November 1, 2022**

Called immediately after the Regular Meeting, held and broadcast from the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge, and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of approving the contract for Dr. Victoria Greer, Superintendent of Schools.

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

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 pm.

The Chair read the call of the meeting and explained that this meeting is being televised, votes will be taken, and there will be 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 PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Bhambi PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment:

No one spoke in public comment.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Bhambi, 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 YEA; Mayor Siddiqui PYEA.

**Mayor Siddiqui** provided background on the contract process and Dr. Greer. Dr. Greer began her role as the Interim Superintendent in July 2021 during the pandemic and transitional challenges. In February 2022, the School Committee voted to amend her interim contract and make her the permanent Superintendent of Schools. In June 2022, the School Committee notified Dr. Greer that they were interested in extending her contract as the Superintendent of Schools. In the last several months the Committee has been in contract negotiations with the Superintendent and held some Executive Sessions on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, and October 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Greer has worked on several core initiatives including developing the budget for the 2022-2023 school year, throughout work to find a solution for after-school transportation and programs along with developing the CPS district plan and the committee is confident she will lead the district in improving key challenges the district faces with the implementation of the district plan.

**Mayor Siddiqui** discussed the proposed contract. The contract extends Dr. Greer's terms as the Superintendent of the School through the 2022-2023 school year to June 30, 2025. The contract also details changes in the Superintendent's salary to \$260,000 with a 2.5% annual increase as well modifications to the evaluation process for the Superintendent.

**Vice Chair Rachel** spoke in support of the proposed contract of Dr. Greer and believed the Superintendent has shown her ability to take action and her appreciation and dedication to students in the district.

**Member Fantini** praised the Mayor and Vice Chair for leading the contract negotiations and believes that not only is Dr. Greer a strong Superintendent, but she also puts students first. This contract continues a collaborative team with the Superintendent and the School Committee.

**Member Rojas** said the decision is a complicated one due to the fact he does not want to oppose the contract as Dr. Greer has done a great job supporting the community and School Committee, However, he believes the Committee needs to keep their promise to do a national search for a permanent Superintendent. Regardless of the vote the Committee makes, he will continue to collaborate with both Dr. Greer and the School Committee in the upcoming years.

**Member Wilson** acknowledged the complexity of the Cambridge Public School District which can be a challenge, however, she believed a leader like Dr. Greer is important to the community and the district as she elevates a lot of needs and is transparent in her goals for improvement and consistency in the district. She looks forward to continued collaboration with Dr. Greer as the Superintendent of Schools.

**Member Weinstein** expressed his excitement about taking the next steps and extending the contract of Dr. Greer. He acknowledges his confidence in Dr. Greer to take an aggressive approach to attain goals, and in Dr. Greer's short time in the district, the Committee and the Superintendent have gotten a lot done.

**Member Bhambi** also expressed her support of the contract extension for Dr. Greer and expressed her gratitude to the Vice Chair and Mayor for collaborating with Dr. Greer to agree to a contract extension,

**Mayor Siddiqui** brought forward **#22-260**.

**#22-260 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui and Vice Chair Rachel**

That the School Committee adopt and ratify the [proposed contract extension](#) for Dr. Victoria Greer, Superintendent of Schools.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#22-260** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Member Fantini moved, and Member Wilson seconded, for suspension of the rules for purposes of reconsideration, hoping the same will not prevail on the following roll call vote; the rules were suspended: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Member Fantini moved, seconded by Member, on the following roll call vote for reconsideration: Member Fantini NAY; Vice-Chair Rachel NAY; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein NAY Member Wilson NAY; Member Bhambi NAY; Mayor Siddiqui NAY.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote, it was voted to authorize the Mayor to sign the negotiated contract as presented for Dr. Victoria Greer as the Superintendent of Cambridge Public Schools on behalf of the Committee: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**Mayor Siddiqui** stated that the contract would be made public after ratified and available on the School Committee website and a statement will be made to the community on the contract vote.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to adjourn the meeting: Member Fantini YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Bhambi YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA. (9:33 pm).

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Attest:

*Ariel B. Kennebrew*

Ariel B. Kennebrew  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee