



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

January 17, 2023

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.

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

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Gittens, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; Linda Radzvilla; Director of RSTA; Damon Smith, Principal at CRLS, Lynn Williams, Guidance Coordinator; Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer

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 Fantini PRESENT; Member Hunter PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

1. Public Comment:

No one spoke during Public Comment.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson on a voice vote, public comment was closed:

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Clemente and **Student Member Escamilla-Salomon** provided updates on the recent happenings and updates which included the National Honor Society project (a survey surrounding student mental health, a Mock Student School Committee event (a collaboration with OEIB Student Advocacy Specialists and Tufts Action on February 10th), an orientation for rising ninth graders and caregivers, and the student budget meeting that will be held on January 31st from 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Vice Chair Rachel asked for calcification regarding the National Honor Society's mental health survey. **Student Member Escamilla-Salomon** shared that earlier in the year, a survey was sent out to students

on focus topics and priorities and the survey resulted in students' interest in mental health and access to resources

Member Hunter inquired about more information on the upcoming mock student school committee event. Dr. Greer will include additional information in the weekly and the event. The event will be held on February 10th at 3:30 pm.

Member Rojas asked the Student Members about their feelings for the second half of their senior year. Both **Student Member Clemente** and **Student Member Escamilla-Salomon** expressed excitement, and ease of stress now that college applications are complete.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- January 3, 2023, Regular Meeting
- January 10, 2023, Special Meeting

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson on a voice vote, the records were approved as written and placed on file.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports:

C22-311 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein and Mayor Siddiqui

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) is reviewing and revising bus service schedules; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) students and their families rely on public bus service to attend school and to participate in out-of-school time opportunities including extracurricular activities, sports, jobs, and internships; and

WHEREAS: CPSD does not provide school bus transportation to students in grades 9 to 12; and

WHEREAS: Proposed changes to MBTA bus routes serving the City of Cambridge include reductions and changes in routes and/or schedules that would greatly impact the ability of CPSD students to access school and other activities; and

WHEREAS: Many issues with the proposed route modifications and recommendations have been brought forward by the community, including:

- **Route 68** Harvard - Kendall / MIT (travels down Broadway between Kendall Sq. and Harvard Sq.). MBTA proposes reducing service to weekdays only 6:00 am- 9:00 am and 4:00 pm-7:00 pm every 30 minutes. Afterschool activities and sports need evening rush hour frequency service extended to 3:00 pm-8:00 pm;
- **Route 69** Harvard - Lechmere (travels down Cambridge St. between Lechmere and Harvard). MBTA proposes a reduction from every 15 mins to every 30 mins;
- **Route 83** (Rindge Ave to Central Sq. via Porter Sq.). MBTA proposes a reduction to every 30 minutes from the current 20 minutes. Current frequency should be maintained, or increased to every 15 minutes to make the bus usable between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm;

- **Routes 69 and Route 83** are being cut drastically; the frequencies of both routes should be increased to account for the needs of students;
- **Route 78** (78 Arlmont Village - Harvard via Garden St., Concord Ave to Cambridge Highlands). MBTA proposes a reduction from every 25 minutes to every 60-90 minutes (6:00 am-1:00 am). Students on this line need more frequent service to access school and afterschool activities and sports need evening rush hour frequency service extended to 3:00 pm-8:00 pm. Cuts to Route 78 also reduce access to Neighborhood Nine, Cambridge Highlands, Concord Ave between Huron and Blanchard Rd, including assisted care and medical facilities; it is also the only connector between West Cambridge and Arlington;
- **Route 75** (The dedicated CRLS route on school mornings) provides essential transportation services for high school students to get to school on time and should be reinstated and additional dedicated CRLS routes considered for other areas of the City;
- **Routes throughout the City** need to be assessed in light of new and planned housing units including affordable housing and the potential future needs of students living in that housing; therefore, be it
RESOLVED: That the Superintendent and Mayor Siddiqui send a letter and forward this policy order along with emails from the community to representatives at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Cambridge state delegation on behalf of the entire School Committee, and be it further
RESOLVED: That this letter will detail the MBTA bus routes and schedules that are critical for the needs of CPSD students, with particular attention to those students and families who rely the most on MBTA busses; and be it further
RESOLVED: That CPSD will review student needs and the most recent MBTA proposals before submitting the letter and will add to or modify the list noted above if needed, and be it further
RESOLVED: The Cambridge School Committee goes on record in support of changes that improve access and in support of further changes to address the concerns of residents as summarized above, and be it further
RESOLVED: That this letter will be delivered to the MBTA, the state delegation, and the Governor-Elect Maura Healy as soon as possible with a request for a response.

There was no response and no update on the awaiting report, so this item will remain an awaiting report

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Superintendent's Update: Dr. Greer introduced the new Director of Facilities, David Murphy. Mr. Murphy spoke briefly and gave an overview of himself and expressed his excitement to join Cambridge.

7b. Presentations:

Mayor Siddiqui passed the floor to the administration for a presentation on College and Career Readiness. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

After the presentation, Mayor Siddiqui opened up the floor for questions and discussions.

Member Weinstein expressed his excitement in that the district is doing so much in terms of college and career readiness. He inquired about the types of support are students getting to get be better prepared for the Harvard Extension School. Dr. Gittens responded that it is important to understand the definition of what it means to be "prepared". Being clear and intentional with goals for students is extremely important

to ensure students are getting the adequate skill needed to be successful after graduation. **Member Weinstein** also inquired about built-in support systems for students enrolled in Early College and the cost of early college programs (i.e. Harvard Extension School and Lesley University. Ms. Williams provided more detail on support systems which include academic support which includes a ninth-grade on-ramping program (for a better understanding of the Early College Program and how to be successful) and weekly meetings. Early College at Lesley is free and there is a full scholarship available for seniors at Harvard Extension School if they meet the scholarship criteria. For sophomores and juniors, there is a \$900 scholarship. Principal Smith shared that the district approved and set aside funding for the Bunker Hill Dual College program.

Student Member Escamilla-Salomon shared her excitement about the early college initiatives that the district is currently offering and asked about student preparation (primarily for 10th-grade students). Both student members took the Social Welfare Policy course. Dr. Gittens mentioned that one of the learnings the district has made from the first semester was personal advocacy (and preparation for students to be able to visit and attend courses on campus and find the classrooms or ask questions if they cannot locate them).

Member Hunter inquired about ENROOT and equitable access for families regarding the information that was presented as well as scholarship opportunities for some of the early college programs. Ms. Williams clarified that ENROOT is a support system for ELL students. Principal Smith shared examples of outreach that the district and CRLS have made over the past year to provide more information to families regarding college and career readiness opportunities. **Member Hunter** also inquired about the student who is attending Mass Maritime (Is the student attending the organization full time and is the student taking the course online and/or in-person) and for additional information on the Ben Franklin program and eligibility for RSTA students. Dr. Gittens responded that current students attending the Ben Franklin Cummins Institute of Technology (BFCIT) are current students at the Extension School. The BFCIT program will be implemented next year which will be a pathway. Dr. Greer mentioned that the district is still in the process of obtaining a grant and working on an MOU with BFCIT. The pilot starts this year with a goal for implementation next year.

Vice Chair Rachel asked the student members about the student perspective regarding the Falcon Block. **Student Member Escamilla-Salomon** mentioned that she thinks a lot of students are happy to engage in activities outside of the normal curriculum as they provide a good break into their schedules. She shared her Falcon Block experience (where Thursdays are structured, and Fridays are more relaxed) and thinks the district can provide more clarity on the goals for Falcon Block. **Student Member Clemente** thinks that the opinions of Falcon Block are dependent on grade level. As a senior, she is used to Community Meetings so she uses the time to be productive but other students may have some struggles with it as they are used to a different structure with Community Meetings overall, she has not heard students say they “do not like” Falcon Block.

Vice Chair Rachel inquired about the participation numbers for early colleges in the spring and fall, as the enrollment numbers in the spring are significantly lower than the fall enrollment numbers. Student Member Escamilla-Salomon responded that a lot of students were unaware that spring courses were being offered and student schedules are set the previous spring, so it is difficult for them to modify these schedules in the school year. Ms. Williams mentioned that it is important for CRLS and Lesley to work

together for better course planning. **Vice Chair Rachel** also inquired about ways the district can increase enrollment for young men and non-binary students for early college. Dr. Gittens shared that the district is still working to determine the root cause for the reason why the male and non-binary enrollment numbers in early college are low and is working on strategies to increase enrollment numbers in those two groups.

Member Wilson shared her excitement in the district and the “rich-resource” city that is Cambridge. She expressed her disappointment with the students not being able to utilize the early college program in the spring due to scheduling and planning conflicts since students plan their school-year schedules in the spring. **Member Wilson** asked Ms. Williams about her thoughts on the course planning process and how to better align that process with early college. Ms. Williams shared her thoughts and different ways she thinks the district can better improve both the course scheduling and the early college process. **Member Wilson** asked if the district has done any exit interviews for early college students who are not returning to the program and if the district can aggregate data on student enrollment and interest in the Harvard Extension School. Dr. Gittens said that Mr. O’Shea has exit interview data. Principal Smith responded that the Harvard Extension School is currently an opportunity and not an offered pathway, but it should be something that can be explored in the future.

Member Fantini inquired about the Harvard Extension credits. Ms. Williams responded that students do receive high school and college credit, but it is their liberty to turn in a transcript. **Member Fantini** asked about the status of the MYCAP program. Ms. Williams shared that the district is still working on MYCAP expansion along with work base learning experiences through MYCAP.

Mayor Siddiqui inquired about an evaluation of MYCAP. Principal Smith mentioned that the evaluation of the MYCAP program will be the post-graduation student outcomes. **Mayor Siddiqui** closed the discussion by encouraging the Committee to reach out to the superintendent with any lingering questions

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Member Rojas pulled **#23-013** and **#23-017**. Member Weinstein pulled **#23-014**. Vice Chair Rachel pulled **#23-018**/ Member Fantini pulled **#23-019**.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, items **#23-011**, **#23-012**, **#23-015**, and **#23-016** were adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#23-011 Approval of Global Revisions to Policies in the School Committee Policy Manual (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the following global revisions to the policies in the School Committee Policy Manual in order to ensure clarity and accuracy throughout all of the policy documents.

#23-012 Approval of Family and Medical Leave, Parental Leave, And Small Necessities Leave Policy (Second Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Family Medical Leave, Parental Leave and Small Necessities Leave Policy as detailed

in the attached document.

#23-015 Contract Award: NCS Pearson: Assessment Materials & Software be adopted as follows:

That the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor for the software and student assessment materials for the Office of Student Services. Funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference below. Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

NCS Pearson, Inc, PO Box 599700, San Antonio, TX for the period of September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$74,016.91.

#23-016 Contract Award: Republic Services: TY23 Dumpster Services be adopted as follows:

That the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor for dumpster and cardboard disposal services. Funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference below. Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Republic Services, 848 Adams Street, Abington, MA, for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$80,000.00.

#23-017 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)	(\$205,000)
Travel & Training (TT)	
Extraordinary Expenditures (EE)	\$205,000
NET TOTAL	\$ 0

Description: During the course of the school year, transfers between statutory categories may be necessary to meet the educational and operational needs of the School Department. The net effect of these transfers on the General Fund Budget is \$0.

1. Vehicle: To purchase a new vehicle for Facilities Management. The cost to repair the 2008 Hybrid Ford Escape is more than the value of the car. The transfers requested to fund this expense are a reduction to Other Ordinary Maintenance of \$75,000 and an increase to Extra Ordinary Expenditures of \$75,000.
2. King Open & CRLS Garage Doors: To purchase and install two replacement garage doors for each location. The transfers requested to fund this expense are a reduction to Other Ordinary Maintenance of \$100,000 and an increase to Extraordinary Expenditures of \$100,000.
3. Crew Sculling Boat: To purchase a 4+ Crew Sculling boat to replace a boat in the fleet that is at the end of its cycle. The transfers requested to fund this expense are a reduction to Other Ordinary Maintenance of \$30,000 and an increase to Extraordinary Expenditures of \$30,000.

#23-018 Approval of Revisions to the School Entrance Age Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Entrance Age Policy as detailed in the [attached document](#).

#23-019 Approval of Revisions to the School Admissions Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Admissions Policy in order to ensure clarity and accuracy throughout all of the policy documents.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#23-013 Contract Award: Leadership Academy: Professional Development

A brief discussion followed on **#22-013**.

Member Rojas asked for more clarity on the recommendation as it is for capacity building for the School Committee. Dr. Greer responded that she is intending in pulling the recommendation to get a revised number of sessions because the number of sessions in the contract award will not be able to happen as we are in the second half of the school year. The contract award is for professional learning sessions that include equity and anti-bias training and alignment work with the administration and school committee. The recommendation was pulled by the Superintendent to get a revised scope of work.

#23-014 Approval of Creation of 1.0 FTE Certified ASL Interpreter Position be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the creation of a 1.0 FTE Certified Educational ASL Interpreter position. The proposed annual salary range for the new position is \$58,078 to \$66,375. The position will be a full-time, 10-month position. The funding source for this new position will be through the reduction of a 1.0 FTE reserve (vacant) paraprofessional position. **The net impact on the FY 2023 Adopted Budget is \$0.00.**

Description: CRLS has two full-time American Sign Language teachers who are Deaf and require interpretation to participate in a variety of required meetings and activities. A detailed workplace accommodation plan for both ASL teachers lists events throughout the year that require interpretation. The proposed new position will provide the required interpretation services for these staff members

A brief discussion followed on **#23-014**.

Member Weinstein expressed his excitement for the recommendation and the creation of a 1.0 FTE Certified ASL Interpreter Position

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, **#23-014** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#23-017 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.

Statutory Coding

Increase/(Decrease)

Salaries, Wages & Benefits (SW)	
Other Ordinary Maintenance (OOM)	(\$205,000)
Travel & Training (TT)	
Extraordinary Expenditures (EE)	\$205,000
NET TOTAL	\$ 0

Description: During the course of the school year, transfers between statutory categories may be necessary to meet the educational and operational needs of the School Department. The net effect of these transfers on the General Fund Budget is \$0.

1. Vehicle: To purchase a new vehicle for Facilities Management. The cost to repair the 2008 Hybrid Ford Escape is more than the value of the car. The transfers requested to fund this expense are a reduction to Other Ordinary Maintenance of \$75,000 and an increase to Extra Ordinary Expenditures of \$75,000.
2. King Open & CRLS Garage Doors: To purchase and install two replacement garage doors for each location. The transfers requested to fund this expense are a reduction to Other Ordinary Maintenance of \$100,000 and an increase to Extraordinary Expenditures of \$100,000.
3. Crew Sculling Boat: To purchase a 4+ Crew Sculling boat to replace a boat in the fleet that is at the end of its cycle. The transfers requested to fund this expense are a reduction to Other Ordinary Maintenance of \$30,000 and an increase to Extraordinary Expenditures of \$30,000.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-017**.

Member Rojas inquired about the garage doors for the King-Open School that was listed in the recommendation and asked the Superintendent if this was something typical for a new building. Dr. Greer mentioned there has been an issue with the garage doors of the building and she will follow up with Interim Facilities Director Vedad Konjic for more information

Mayor Siddiqui inquired if the new vehicle listed in the recommendation is an electric vehicle. Ms. Spinner clarified that the vehicle will be an SUV for hauling and will be a hybrid vehicle but the district will make efforts to get electric vehicles in the future.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, **#23-017** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-018 Approval of Revisions to the School Entrance Age Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Entrance Age Policy as detailed in the [attached document](#).

A discussion followed on **#23-018**.

Vice Chair Rachel shared that the policy seems confusing and ask if we can have a consistent threshold for pre-k and kindergarten which included: consistency in the threshold for Pre-K and Kindergarten, modification in the September date, and clarity regarding mixed delivery.

Member Weinstein also asked for clarification regarding the mixed delivery model – is CPSD among one of the mixed delivery options and are spaced limited at each option?

Member Fantini inquired about more clarity surrounding the entrance age policy for better understanding. Dr. Greer clarified that this policy is only for the CPSD entrance age policy. It does not reflect the entire mixed delivery for the City's Universal Pre-K. Mayor Siddiqui mentioned that there should be clarity regarding the school entrance age policy. Universal Pre-K applications implementation will begin this fall and implementation of the Universal Pre-K program will start the following school year (2023-2024). Dr. Greer clarified that **#23-018** is the entrance age policy for the district and does not apply to Universal Pre-K.

#23-019 Approval of Revisions to the School Admissions Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Admissions Policy in order to ensure clarity and accuracy throughout all of the policy documents.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-019**.

Member Fantini inquired about further clarification and the possibility to add additional language to the policy.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call votes **#23-018** and **#23-019** were adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information): None

10. Resolutions:

#23-020 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Caroline Hunter, and Vice-Chair Rachel

WHEREAS: The Creative Design students at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School recently participated in a contest to create a flowchart poster that highlights our online incident reporting system, [Speakfully](#); and
WHEREAS: The goal of the poster project was to create a visually engaging design to educate fellow students on how a report can be made and how reports are processed; and

WHEREAS: CRLS administrators and the Title IX Aurelia Advocates Working Group created the Sexual Misconduct Incident Reporting Poster Contest guidelines, which were designed under the direction of the Rindge School of Technical Arts Teacher Michele Watson Maxwell and the Creative Design Program, which offers RSTA students real work experiences; and

WHEREAS: Sexual Misconduct Incident Reporting Poster Contest [winning posters](#) are online and on display at the high school and upper schools; and

WHEREAS: Congratulations to the winners: Charlotte Joly- a Senior in 1st Place, James Blanc -a Junior in 2nd Place, Evan Garvey -a Senior in 3rd Place, and Charlotte Joly a Senior in 4th Place; and

WHEREAS: The community can learn more about how the contest was created on our [website](#); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee extends congratulations to student winners and CRLS teachers involved; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to each of the student winners.

#23-021 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Weinstein, and Member Rojas

WHEREAS: Cambridge Rindge and Latin School music teacher Guillermo Nojehowicz composed the music for a documentary film called “Jazz Saved My Life,” which premiered in December 2022 at the Coolidge Corner Theater in Brookline; and

WHEREAS: The film was directed by Justin Freed, and included Grammy Award winner Maria Schneider, and composer and pianist Donal Fox, who joined CRLS music teacher Guillermo Nojehowicz at the premiere event; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record congratulating Guillermo Nojehowicz on this wonderful accomplishment; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Guillermo Nojehowicz on behalf of the entire School Committee.

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Member Hunter **#23-020 & #23-021** were adopted unanimously by the committee as co-sponsors and were adopted via a voice vote

11. Announcements:

Mayor Siddiqui shared her condolences to the family of Sayed Arif Faisal, who was recently killed in a shooting with the Cambridge Police earlier this month. **Mayor Siddiqui** also announced that the City Council will be conducting a charter review via a Charter Review Committee. The Charter Review Committee will hold three Public Forums in the upcoming weeks on January 24th and February 4th. The Mayor’s Office is also celebrating International Mother of Language Day on February 21 with multi-language poems on display at City Hall and Cambridge Public Library branches. There will be a Bridge to Invention and Inclusive Innovation Workshop will begin soon. The workshops are a 10-week program, held on Saturdays from 10 am-2 pm for high schoolers.

Budget Co-Chairs **Member Rojas** and **Vice Chair Rachel** announced that there will be three Budget Community Workshops on January 18th, January 21st, and January 26th.

Member Hunter announced that the Black History Project will be presenting Trailblazer Bookmarks at the Cambridge Public Library. She also announced that she will be a guest speaker and honored at the King Open as a local hero in celebration of MLK. She will also be participating in the Mass Black Law Makers Session at Tufts on January 21st.

Member Weinstein announced that on January 18th, there will be a jazz performance at CRLS and that the next meeting of the Curriculum & Achievement Subcommittee will be held on January 19th.

Member Wilson announced that will be a Special Education and Students Supports Subcommittee on January 23rd. She also announced that the NAACP’s annual MLD brunch will be held on February 11th/ Scholarship Workshops for seniors are currently underway and the application portal is open until February 17th. The 37th NAACP annual MLK brunch will be on February 11th.

Member Rojas announced that there will be a Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee on January 25th.

12. Late Orders:

WHEREAS: The School Committee was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Kathleen Naomi Walcott, former teacher and guidance counselor in the Cambridge Public Schools, who passed away on Saturday, December 31, 2022, at the age of 93, at her home in Somerville, MA. Ms. Walcott served as faculty at CRLS for many years.

WHEREAS: Kathleen Walcott was a native of Cambridge, MA, and the youngest of nine children; the daughter of the late James Walcott and Kamiah Anne (Cummings) Walcott from Barbados.

WHEREAS: Kathleen earned her B.S. from Northeastern University. While in school, she worked in the welfare department of Boston, helping children and families. After graduating, she became an English teacher at Cambridge High & Latin, now Cambridge Rindge & Latin.

WHEREAS: Kathleen continued her education, earning her M.A. in Education from Suffolk University and a Fellowship at the University of St. Andrew in Scotland. After her graduation, she transitioned from a teacher to a guidance counselor, which was one of her true passions in life helping people children of all backgrounds to become their best selves. As a guidance counselor, she can be a true advocate, especially for the disadvantaged guiding these young souls to true life's pursuits.

WHEREAS: Kathleen was an advisor to the Black Student Union, and co-founder of the Ethnic Foundation, whose mission is to promote the legacy of Black History: Lost and Found. Kathleen continued as a supporter of Black History as a speaker/lecturer, and joined the Cambridge African American Heritage Alliance, partnering with the former Mayor Denise Simmons. This Alliance helped to illuminate the contributions that African Americans had made in Cambridge, specifically honoring the abolitionists, authors, educators, and public holders.

WHEREAS: Kathleen's love of history continued as she, along with her Somerville neighbors conducted interviews and traced historical points that help document the significant involvement in Somerville, which later became a display at the Somerville Museum in 2000.

WHEREAS: In 2009 Kathleen participated in an interview with Sarah Boyer for her book, "Common Cause, Uncommon Courage – WWII and The Home Front in Cambridge, MA." She spoke about her late brother David Walcott who was a private in the first class, 104th Air Force Base Unit, 477th Bomber Group, 99th Squadron, US Army Air Force.

WHEREAS: In 2016, Kathleen published and co-authored, "We are the Port – Stories of Place, Perseverance, and Pride in the Port/Area 4". Despite her declining health, Kathleen continued to collaborate with community members and organizations serving as a valuable resource on forgotten Black Cantibrigians' contributions to the city.

WHEREAS: Kathleen was a resident of Somerville for the past 59 years. Along with her sister, she formed a women's investment group in addition to her boutique apartment building in Cambridge. She loved to travel and learn about the cultures of those areas

WHEREAS, Kathleen was a life-long member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Cambridge, where she served as the church's historian and was co-chair of the DP Hughes Memorial Fund.

WHEREAS: Kathleen's passing will leave a void in the lives of her surviving family. Kathleen Walcott is survived by a nephew, Raymond Lovell (Patricia) of Atlanta, GA, and his four children: Mark, Michael, Nick, and Brittany of Atlanta, GA. Kathleen is also survived by her grand-nephew William T Bethune (Christina) from Washington, DC, and his two children: Kennedy and Ariel. Cousin Elsie Hallett. Kathleen is also survived by her special nieces G'tanya Small and Irma Sullivan who were truly a blessing in aiding Kathleen's needs and comfort in the past years. Also, a special thanks to Charlene Reese and Rachel

(Pedro), and Sam Jordan who helped in her care as well. Kathleen is also survived by a host of cousins, extended family, and loving friends.

WHEREAS: Kathleen's legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone she interacted with as well as those she reached but never met because her stories have a life of their own

RESOLVED: That The School Committee go on record extending its deepest sympathy for the family of Kathleen N. Walcott at thus the time of such personal loss, and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Walcott Family on behalf of the School Committee.

Member Hunter motioned for a late order for adopting a resolution to former CRLS educator Kathleen Walcott who recently passed away. She also motioned for the motion to be unanimous by the Committee.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Fantini, the late order was adopted on a voice vote.

13. Communications from City Officers: None

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel seconded by Member Rojas on a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned. (8:41 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee