



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

April 4, 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 (Remote), Mayor Siddiqui

Also Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent
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: Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Hunter PRESENT; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

Member Wilson joined the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan, Monahan, Lexington Ave, spoke regarding the FY24 Budget, **#23-071**, and the presentation from the OSS office.
- Missy Page, Gore Street, spoke regarding the FY24 budget updates
- Flavia Geaf Reardon, Beethoven Street, spoke regarding the FY24 budget
- Anne Coburn, Otis Street, spoke regarding the FY24 budget
- Claire Yu, Cambridge St, spoke regarding the FY24 budget
- Tina Lieu, Huron Avenue, spoke regarding the FY24 budget
- Nora Grodzins, Parker Street, spoke regarding the FY24 Budget
- Maggie Berryman-Vetcher, Massachusetts Ave, spoke regarding the FY24 Budget
- Fabiane Noronha, Leighton Street, spoke regarding the FY24 Budget
- Katie Ng-Mak, Hancock Street, spoke regarding **#23-067**
- Shelli Wortis, Berkshire Street, spoke regarding **#23-071**
- Kate Skubecz, Thorndike Street, spoke regarding **#23-067**
- Kathy Greely, Erie Street, spoke regarding **#23-071**
- Tony Clark, Elm Street, spoke regarding **#23-071**
- Maria Daniel, Cushing Street, spoke regarding the FY24 Budget and the support of Math Circle

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Clemente provided a few updates that included a recap of her and fellow Student Member Es-camilla-Salomon's experience attending the National School Board Association (NSBA) conference with the School Committee members. **Student Member Clemente** also shouted out to all of the students at CRLS who are taking mid-terms this week and announced that the Global Studies Certificate program is still accepting applications for sophomores and juniors until May 5th.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- March 14, 2023, Special Meeting (FY24 Budget Presentation)
- March 14, 2023, Special Meeting (Charter Review)
- March 21, 2023, Regular Meeting
- March 21 2023, Special Meeting
- March 23, 2023, Budget Workshop
- March 24, 2023, Special Meeting
- March 28, 2023, Budget Workshop

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

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: FY24 Budget Update

The Superintendent presented an update to modifications and adjustments to her proposed FY24 school department budget based on feedback from the March 28th Budget Workshop that included:

- Continued Extended Learning Time (ELT) program at FMA & M.L.K. Schools in FY24
- Reinstatement of the Design Lab Coach Position
- More funding for summer program scholarships
- The elimination of the proposed .5 FTE HRIS Coordinator position and 1.0 FTE Executive Director of College and Career Pathways position.
- Addition of a 1.0 paraprofessional FTE to the Kennedy Longfellow School
- Additional funding for strategic tutoring in the general fund to support sustainability
- Additional funding to School Improvement Plan budgets to schools with a high needs percentage above the district average of 51.5%

After the update, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor up to the Committee for questions and discussion:

Member Weinstein inquired about the process for reimbursement for educators and employees in the district. Dr. Greer clarified the reimbursement process and teachers have a set amount of funds that is allocated to them yearly to spend on classroom supplies.

Member Fantini inquired about the number of coaches in the district. Ms. Spinner responded that each elementary school has a literacy and a math coach. At a district level, there are two coaches for each department.

Member Fantini inquired about school improvement funds and strategies along with a desire that the district partner with Math Circle. Dr. Greer responded that the district should not enter a district partnership with Math Circle, however, each school has discretionary funds and they can use those funds if they like to implement a math circle program. Schools can use school improvement funds to pay for Math Circle if the school feels like the program can aid in student improvement.

Vice Chair Rachel inquired about the administrative positions that were eliminated and what are the impacts of the elimination and whether it will affect internships. Dr. Greer responded that there are no implications for internships as the College and Career Pathways Manager is still implemented in this budget. **Vice Chair Rachel** also inquired about strategic tutoring. Dr. Edwards and Dr. Grace both provided further details on the district's strategic tutoring goals which include: before and after-school tutoring, a scheduling audit (to determine how minutes in the school day are allocated), in-school time tutoring, and equitable resources for all schools. The goal is that teachers will lead strategic tutoring and in-school time strategic tutoring will be implemented as a "win block" which is a dedicated intervention block for in-school tutoring for students. The strategic tutoring program will be renamed Excel and will fall under the MTSS division.

Member Hunter expressed interest in the facilities allotment for schools that need repairs and asked if there were adequate funds in the budget for furniture, abatements, etc. Ms. Spinner responded that the district has a robust operating budget for facilities management and the district has adequate funding for capital projects. The issue that the district runs into frequently is the timing of facilities repairs and modifications due to the fact these things can only happen in the summer months when the buildings are not occupied.

Member Rojas inquired about the \$700K that was reallocated for the extended learning time and asked the administration how it will fund universal free lunch. Ms. Spinner mentioned that the progress in the state government proposals regarding universal lunch is promising and the district has not allocated funding for the FY24 budget. If there is state funding for universal free lunch then it would be specifically allocated in the budget for that purpose.

Member Weinstein inquired about the capacity to support advanced learning needs and how is the district ensuring that we have enough educators for out-of-school time components. Dr. Greer and the administration will follow up on these questions in the Weekly.

Member Hunter discussed that in 1986/1987 the Concerned Black Staff recommended Algebra at the 8th-grade level and wanted to research School Committee orders on the matter as Algebra is the basis of learning a lot of other sciences including biology, chemistry, and physics.

Mayor Siddiqui acknowledged the comments made about the Kennedy-Longfellow and mentioned that it speaks to a larger issue that some things need to be discussed further including controlled choice. Dr. Greer reiterated that the district is not eliminating interventionalist positions and every K-5 school has an interventionalist and a coach.

7b. Presentations:

There were two presentations for the evening. The first presentation was a presentation by Dr. Karyn Grace and Kim Huffer from the Office of Student Services: SEL & MTSS. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#)

Following the presentation, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor for questions and discussions from the prompt below:

- What resonates with you the best about what has been shared?
- What wonderings do you still have?

Vice Chair Rachel inquired about mental health literacy in tier 1 and wondered if there was a possibility to provide mental health first aid training for secondary students and if the district considered mindful methods such as yoga, meditation, etc. as part of tier 1 support. She also wondered if Ms. Huffer or any other staff in the OSS office participate in Safety Net Training.

Member Rojas expressed that the tying of social-emotional learning and mental health resonates with him and wondered if the initiatives listed in tier 1 were initiatives that require the most action and support whereas, initiatives in tier 2 were already things that were implemented but the district is looking to strengthen. He asked for the district to elaborate more on tier 1 and tier 2 initiatives and efforts.

Member Fantini inquired about SEL measuring and evaluation and asked how the district measures SEL and who are the go-to staff for SEL inquiries. Dr. Greer responded that the Teen Health and School Culture & Climate surveys will aid the staff in measuring and evaluating its SEL programs. Ms. Huffer responded that the district is in the process of creating a walkthrough tool for the three-to-five high-leverage practices. The walkthrough tool will be used alongside school leaders and curriculum coordinators to provide more alignment and support for schools.

Member Weinstein expressed his interest in how the district is supporting social-emotional learning as an infrastructure.

Member Wilson shared that the tier 1 services resonated with her the most as a community partner and social worker. Her wonderings from the presentation were if there were any additional resources for educators.

The meeting continued with the evening's second presentation, the Superintendent's Formative Evaluation. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

Following the presentation, there was a robust discussion amongst the Committee regarding the Summative Evaluation and some of the evidence that was highlighted in the presentation.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Vice Chair Rachel pulled **#23-067**. Member Faninti pulled **#23-068**. On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, items **#23-065, #23-066, and #23-069** were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-065 Contract Award: IDSC Holdings, LLC: Calibration Machine be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor to purchase an Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) calibration machine for the Rindge School of Technical Arts Automotive Program. 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:

IDSC Holdings, LLC, dba Snap-on Industrial, 2801 80th Street, Kenosha, WI for the period of April 20, 2023, to December 31, 2023, in the amount of \$31,725.73.

#23-066 Contract Award: Systematic Special Education Support LLC: Consulting Services be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract to the following vendor to expand the workload analysis of CPS special education staff currently underway. 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:

Systematic Special Education Support, LLC, 1701 Colquitt Street, Houston, TX, for the period of March 28, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$30,000.00.

#23-069 Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

1. \$855.00 made by the Cambridge Rotary Education Fund to the Kennedy Longfellow School for their garden project.
2. An in-kind donation of five treadmills, two elliptical machines, two Body Arc machines, nine sets of free weights, ten stationary bicycles, five exercise mats, six stability balls, eight foam rollers, one set of equalizer

bars, sixteen steps, one-speed kit, four medicine balls, one set of minibands, one functional training and one back extension made by 100 Cambridge Park Drive, LLC to the Athletics Department.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#23-067 Contract Award: Imagine Learning: Instructional Materials & Professional Development be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract for a new district-wide Math Curriculum for Grades K-5. See attached [supplemental information](#) for additional details. 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:

Imagine Learning, 8860 E. Chaparral Road, Scottsdale, AZ, for the period of May 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$556,873.50.

A discussion followed on **#23-067**.

Vice Chair Rachel discussed the curriculum and the committee's role when it comes to curriculum. How do we approach math and the reason why we choose this curriculum?

Member Rojas wondered if the curriculum from the contract will be translated into different languages and suggested the district walk the committee through it to better understand the curriculum from the contract.

Member Wilson inquired about the longevity of the contract award and an evaluation process once the contract reaches expiration.

The committee along with Dr. Gittens had a robust discussion on the curriculum review, particularly regarding the math and algebra curriculum. The Mayor and the Vice Chair will convene with the Superintendent on the next steps regarding the math curriculum based on the discussion from the members at the meeting.

The Superintendent shared the significance of the contract award to have alignment in the curriculum throughout the district and agrees that curriculum review is a very robust discussion and will find ways to ensure that the school committee can be involved in the curriculum review process.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, **#23-067** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-068 Contract Award: Cambridge College: Professional Development be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract for professional development services for CPS employees. This contract will support 12 CPS paraprofessionals pursuing their master's degrees and licenses in Special Education. 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:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cambridge College	7/1/22 – 6/30/23	\$ 24,864.00
500 Rutherford Avenue	7/1/23 – 6/30/24	\$132,936.00
Boston, MA 02129	7/1/24 – 6/30/25	<u>\$ 87,024.00</u>
		\$ 244,824.00

Background Information:

The district's Educator Pathway Program is expanding to include a partnership with Cambridge College. Cambridge College will provide a master's degree and licensure program in special education.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-068**.

Member Fantini inquired about more information on the contract award (i.e. its implementation, etc) and the increased number of participants from twelve to a higher number for the best success and outcomes.

Member Wilson inquired about the differences in the fees per year in the proposed contract award. Ms. Spinner clarified that the first year of the contract is only for a spring semester, three semesters in 2023-2024, and two semesters in 2024-2025 which is the reason why the fees change year after year.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-068** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

#23-070 Joint Motion by Member Fantini and Vice-Chair Rachel

WHEREAS: Travel opportunities and field trips provide significant learning opportunities for Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) students; and

WHEREAS: These exceptional learning opportunities should be available to students regardless of their financial ability to cover the costs of such trips; and

WHEREAS: Travel opportunities and field trips may be most convenient and preferable to take place outside of the school calendar year; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee direct the Superintendent to redraft CPSD Field Trip Policy to allow for reasonable financial support for overnight, out-of-state or out-of-country travel for our students, particularly those who would not otherwise be able to access such travel; and be it further

RESOLVED: That certain criteria be established to ensure that such trips are safe, equitable, and provide for significant learning experiences; and be it further

RESOLVED: That such travel opportunities and field trips may take place during the summer, outside of the school calendar year.

A discussion followed on **#23-070**.

Member Rojas inquired about school-sponsored trips for students who cannot travel internationally and suggested that the committee omit the language regarding "out-of-country travel". Motion makers, **Vice Chair Rachel** and **Member Fantini** clarified that the main objective of this motion was the support of international travel so they do not want to omit that language. **Member Rojas** mentioned that he cannot support the motion's being written. **Vice Chair Rachel** asked Member Rojas what he would like the outcome to be and he mentioned that if we are providing opportunities it should be for the entire student body because some students cannot travel internationally. **Member Wilson** shared that since the motion includes several options like "overnight, out-of-state, or out-of-country" is inclusive to the entire student body.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, **#23-070** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-071 Joint Motion By Member Weinstein, Vice Chair Rachel, and Member Fantini

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts State Legislature is considering passage of H.495/S.246, "An Act empowering students and schools to thrive" also known as "the Thrive Act" (see full text here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD3162> and here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD2067>); and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would end the use of MCAS scores as a graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a new process for identifying and supporting schools "designated as in need of comprehensive support and improvement"; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would maintain MCAS assessments and related reporting and accountability requirements to the extent mandated by federal law; and

WHEREAS: The use of MCAS scores as a graduation requirement has not catalyzed the closing of opportunity gaps in Massachusetts and the test can be a barrier to graduation for students who do not perform well on standardized tests despite their understanding of a subject; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a modified graduation requirement based on coursework rather than high-stakes standardized testing, and implement a new 'comprehensive support and improvement' system designed to empower local communities to give students the tools and resources they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a commission to study and make recommendations for a "more authentic and accurate system for assessing students, schools and school districts,"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee supports H.495/S.246, "An Act empowering students and schools to thrive" also known as "the Thrive Act" and will send a copy of this motion to the Cambridge state delegation and Governor Healey.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-071**.

Member Weinstein provided an overview of the motion and its significance to students and the district.

Member Hunter suggested an amendment to the motion to include:

"It is recommended that all study commission members, consultants, and scholars be representative of those constituents and communities who bear the brunt of MCAS policy, especially students, parents, and their representative community organizations, using the rubric of Sen. Ayanna Pressley to "Bring the people closest to the pain, closer to the power."

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, **#23-071** was adopted as amended: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts State Legislature is considering passage of H.495/S.246, "An Act empowering students and schools to thrive" also known as "the Thrive Act" (see full text here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD3162> and here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD2067>); and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would end the use of MCAS scores as a graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a new process for identifying and supporting schools "designated as in need of comprehensive support and improvement"; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would maintain MCAS assessments and related reporting and accountability requirements to the extent mandated by federal law; and

WHEREAS: The use of MCAS scores as a graduation requirement has not catalyzed the closing of opportunity gaps in Massachusetts and the test can be a barrier to graduation for students who do not perform well on standardized tests despite their understanding of a subject; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a modified graduation requirement based on coursework rather than high-stakes standardized testing, and implement a new 'comprehensive support and improvement' system designed to empower local communities to give students the tools and resources they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a commission to study and make recommendations for a "more authentic and accurate system for assessing students, schools and school districts"; and

WHEREAS: It is recommended that all study commission members, consultants, and scholars be representative of those constituents and communities who bear the brunt of MCAS policy, especially students, parents, and their representative community organizations, using the rubric of Sen. Ayanna Pressley to “Bring the people closest to the pain, closer to the power.” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee supports H.495/S.246, “An Act empowering students and schools to thrive” also known as “the Thrive Act” and will send a copy of this motion to the Cambridge state delegation and Governor Healey.

#23-072 Joint Motion by the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee: Co-Chairs David Weinstein and Fred Fantini and Member Ayesha Wilson

WHEREAS: School Councils play a critical and valued role in the Cambridge Public Schools by assisting school principals in planning for and implementing best practices that enhance the achievement of all students; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee seeks to support our schools and our School Council members by ensuring School Councils in CPSD:

- follow uniform policies and practices while being able to adopt practices that best serve each school community;
- are inclusive, diverse, and equitable spaces that reflect the diversity of our students, with representation from parents/guardians, caregivers, secondary-level students, teachers, and community members; and
- function as they should under state law and regulations and are supported to do so; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is grateful for the work from March - June of 2021 of the School Council Working Group, which included a diverse group of parents/guardians/caregivers, students, family liaisons, teachers, and administrators, listed by name in the Handbook, in partnership with the then-newly formed CPSD Family Engagement Office, and is grateful for the subsequent review of the handbook by the CPSD administrative team and for the additional input and feedback of members of the CPSD community who reviewed draft versions of the Handbook; and

WHEREAS: The Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee of the School Committee has convened multiple meetings to review and revise proposed versions of the Handbook resulting from this process and is satisfied that the attached version is ready for full implementation, with regular review with the aim of continuous improvement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee approves the attached [School Council Handbook](#); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Committee notes that at the time of this motion being submitted, current law related to extending certain state emergency accommodations, which, among other things, extends the provision allowing public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the body physically present at a meeting location and to provide “adequate, alternative” access to remote meetings until March 31, 2023, has not yet been further extended, and therefore the language in this handbook will be adjusted to ensure compliance with Open Meeting Law as in effect of April 1, 2023, if this provision is not further extended.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-072**.

Member Weinstein provided context on the motion which is for the committee to approve the school council handbooks.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, **#23-072** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-073 Joint Motion by Vice Chair Rachel, Member Fantini, and Member Rojas

WHEREAS: Hungry children struggle to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS: School meals provide a critical source of nutrition for students in our city, state, and across the country; and

WHEREAS: According to Project Bread, 20% of households in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are food insecure, with Black, Latino, and multiracial families disproportionately impacted; and

WHEREAS: The federal government provided universal free meals through School Year 2021-22, and the Commonwealth continued school meals for all through School Year 2022-23; and

WHEREAS: Roughly 400,000 students in Massachusetts are in danger of going hungry if universal free schools are not continued; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools are committed to closing opportunity gaps; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee strongly urges our state delegation to enact School Meals for All legislation – including H. 603, S. 261, and a budget that includes funding for universal free meals for School Year 2023-24 – and make such funding permanent; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary to the School Committee forward copies of this resolution to each member of the state delegation on behalf of the entire School Committee. will be included on the district website and in annual registration materials at each school site.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Fantini on the following roll call vote, **#23-073** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

10. Resolutions:

#23-074 Joint Resolution by Vice-Chair Rachel and Member Fantini

WHEREAS: Kristen Joy Emack has been named a 2022-2023 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow in photography, one of the highest honors an American photographer can earn; and

WHEREAS: Kristen has been a beloved and integral staff member of the Cambridgeport School since 2000, as a Community Schools staff member, paraprofessional, and currently as the Family Liaison, and has lived in Cambridge for 26 years and raised two children here; and

WHEREAS: Kristen has two ongoing bodies of work that explore girlhood, kinship, and visibility, as well as a finished series that explores the theme of grief; and

WHEREAS: Kristen has won numerous awards and is also a MacDowell Fellow, a Mass Cultural Council Fellow, a Saint Botolph Fellow; and

WHEREAS: Kristen has accomplished this honor while working full time at Cambridgeport School, and modeled for students that pursuing passions outside of work is an important part of life; and

WHEREAS: Kristen has built positive and lasting relationships with countless children and families at the Cambridgeport School and works to ensure that all members of the community feel welcome, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee goes on record congratulating Kristen on her recognition as a Guggenheim Fellow and her many accomplishments in photography; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary to the School Committee forwards suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to Kristen Joy Emack and the Cambridgeport School on behalf of the entire School Committee.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-074**.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote, **#23-074** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

11. Announcements: None

12. Communications from City Officers: None

13. Late Orders: None

Email communications:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| ✓ Dan Monahan | ✓ Claire Yu | ✓ Shelley Rieman |
| ✓ Richard Goldberg | ✓ Laura DeMarco | ✓ Heather Dwyer |
| ✓ Jennifer Richards | ✓ Jodi Ekelchik | ✓ Tegegnetwork Gabre |

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Fantini on the following roll call vote, the School Committee voted to enter into an executive session for the purpose of hearing Level III grievances (CEA Units A&B) as part of collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation strategy positions of the School Committee: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, it was to adjourn the open meeting and enter an executive session: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA. (11:03 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee