



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

April 6, 2021

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 Bowman, Member Fantini, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui

Also Present: Student Member Vera-DeGraff, Student Member Killian, Dr. Dr. Salim

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 sound check: Vice Chair Bowman PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT

1. **Public Comment:**

The following individuals were heard:

- Shirley Kuhlmann on the school calendar
- Karen Engels, in support of #21-97 suspending MCAS
- Suzanne Russell, in support #21-97 suspending on MCAS
- Tyler Andujar on DESE Guidelines
- Adaline Lining, in support of #21-97 on suspending MCAS
- Katie Bruno in support of #21-97 on suspending MCAS
- Sam Musher in support of #21-97 on suspending MCAS
- Tina Lieu in support of \$21-97 on suspending MCAS
- Rose Levine in support of #21-97 on suspending MCAS
- Dan Monahan on the school calendar and in support of #21-97 on suspending MCAS
- Katie Ehresman in support of #21-97
- Donna Peruzzi in support of #21-97 on suspending of MCAS
- Andrew King in support #21-97 on suspending MCAS

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to close public comment: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

2. **Student School Committee Report:**

Member Killian provided different updates about CRLS and the current school climate for students. She shared that there have been recent issues of misogyny at CRLS on social media and what the response from the administration has been.

Member Vera-DeGraff discussed how going forward there is a needed response from the administration about misogyny. He also shared that the students felt confused about the schedule. He shared student concerns about possibly losing the asynchronous Wednesdays. He shared updates about the National Honor Society and the change in SAT dates.

Mayor Siddiqui thanked the Student Members for sharing and discussed the importance of listening to student voices and there are further conversations to be had. On the schedule, she thanked everyone for their patience and they are still trying to work this.

Vice Chair Bowman discussed the importance of sharing information and thanked the Student Members for setting an example on sharing information effectively.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- July 21, 2020 Special Meeting
- March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting
- March 25, 2021 Public Hearing on FY22 Budget
- March 25, 2021 Special Meeting

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to accept the minutes: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports:

#21-27 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Rojas and Vice Chair Bowman

Whereas: Providing the best education and ensuring the wellbeing of our scholars are the highest priorities of the Cambridge School Committee and CPS Administration; and

Whereas: The data shows extreme negative consequences of school closures on scholars' mental, physical, and academic wellbeing; and

Whereas: There is growing evidence that more students can and must be brought back in-person with urgency; and

Whereas: The School Committee and Administration are committed to adaptability and quickly pivoting plans as necessary amid the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas: CPSD must continuously revisit conditions and plan for further expansions; and

Whereas: While the current reopening model recommendation allows families to opt into in-person learning, not all scholars in the district are eligible due to staffing and space constraints; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent work with his team to provide a report on what is and is not working with the existing model and the possibilities for subsequent expansions by Friday, April 2, 2021; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent provide an update on the impact of vaccine rollouts on further in-person expansion planning by Friday, April 2, 2021.

The Committee received a memo last week on vaccines, enrollment, staffing, local vaccine distribution, information for fully vaccinated people and will be hearing further about this in tonight's presentation.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman and seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to remove **#21-27** from awaiting reports and to place **#21-27** on file: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations:

The Mayor turned the meeting over to Superintendent Salim for a [presentation](#). Dr. Doberteen and Ms. Rose Tynes provided updates as well.

Mayor Siddiqui shared that Pfizer believes their vaccine to be ready for children ages 12-15 in late summer/early fall and the expectation on children ages 5-11 in early 2022. This is subject to change. She opened the meeting to the members for questions.

Vice Chair Bowman emphasized the importance of the CPSD to continue maintaining mitigation strategies, she emphasized that only one portion of our community has protection.

Member Weinstein commented that we will need to double down on our communication about what our health and safety measures are and asked how much of our staff has been vaccinated.

- Mayor Siddiqui shared that Dan Monahan will be sending out a voluntary survey to gauge how many staff members have been vaccinated.
- Dr. Salim discussed the expectations for staff testing

Member Rojas asked Dr. Doberteen to provide an update about staffing.

- Dr. Doberteen talked about because of the intense partnership with CHA, they are strongly staffed with people.

Member Fantini shared that on April 5, 100 vaccines were made available to the school department and they were not fully used and that would suggest that would a lot of our staff have been vaccinated, he asked if that is a fair conclusion?

- Dr. Doberteen talked about how that is a reasonable conclusion.

Member Wilson talked about the difficulty of finding out where we are with staff vaccinations and asked for an update on consent forms for children for testing.

- Dr. Brown talked about how they are getting the forms out.
- Ms. Rose-Tynes talked about how there is a consensus that more people are going to be vaccinated. She urged residents to get their child consent' forms signed

Dr. Salim continued with the presentation and the plans for summer 2021.

Member Fantini asked the administration to touch upon Cambridge non-profits and recognized the important work they have been doing for the students during this time.

- Khari Milner discussed the different non-profits in Cambridge.

Member Fantini asked what the recruitment process will be for students to get into different programs.

- Dr. Salim provided an update on recruitment.

Member Fantini asked for clarification on how the summertime programming will be managed

- Dr. Salim provided an update on how it will be managed.

Member Fantini asked if every student will know where they are academically, whether or not they are on track.

- Dr. Salim clarified that they are using different benchmark assessments and the use of screeners. And then on a more qualitative level, they are looking to build on best practices.

Member Rachel asked for further clarification on how the administration is identifying students for summer programs.

- Dr. Salim provided an update on how they are trying to do this and the importance of SEL program component for the summer.

- Member Rachel asked the administration to think about allowing remote learners opportunities at the school over the summer.

Member Rojas asked about the increase in person learning. Member Rojas asked if the district at least thinking of setting up a target date of bringing students in.

- Dr. Salim shared an update on scheduling.
- Dr. Gittens talked about how there is more work to be done with the team and there is a schedule that needs to be allowed for remote learning and it is in line with what the state expects.

Member Rojas asked about “recovery and thrive plan”, are we going to see that later on?

- Dr. Salim shared that there will be a discussion on ESSER funds at next week’s meeting.

Member Rojas asked about Mayor Siddiqui about summer programs

- Mayor Siddiqui shared that Councillor McGovern will be having a Human Services Sub-Committee on Thursday, April 8.

Vice Chair Bowman asked about partnering with non-profit providers and how “Find It” Cambridge can be leveraged.

- Khari Milner provided an update about find-it.
- Mayor Siddiqui shared that this under the purview of the family policy council

Member Wilson asked about how we are leveraging the Mayor’s summer youth employment program.

- Mayor Siddiqui shared that it’s going to run from July 6 to August 30 and that online registration starts on May 3. It will be hybrid and she will be getting more information on the sites.
- Khari Milner added that more opportunities can be created.

Member Wilson asked if we are asking students why they are continuing to be remote vs joining in person and finding themes on why.

- Dr. Salim shared that they are launching listening sessions.

Member Weinstein asked about the outdoor component learning and shared that Curriculum and Achievement will be having a meeting about this on Monday.

Member Wilson asked Khari Milner if he could elaborate on the DHSP programs.

- Khari Milner discussed how there will be more information at the City Council presentation tomorrow. And they can use the youth centers. They are not currently planning on running indoor programming at the moment.
- Member Wilson asked about high school students
- Khari Milner discussed how they do not have information on high schoolers yet.

On a motion by Member Wilson seconded by Vice Chair Bowman, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to suspend the rules to bring forward **#21-97**: Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Dr. Salim discussed how MCAS is a requirement and that is frustrating, it is part of both state and federal law. Dr. Salim shared that there was a waiver last year. He shared that this year the waiver has not been made available yet. He discussed about how there are changes on the length of the test/timing of the test. Dr. Salim shared that last Thursday they found out that there was going to be a remote option for testing and he further shared what they know currently about state requirements.

Mayor Siddiqui asked if the motion makers of #21-97 had any questions.

- Vice Chair Bowman asked the motion makers to read the resolved.
- Member Weinstein read the resolved out loud and shared how to determine whether or not children are performing at grade level.

Member Weinstein asked if there are any MCAS that will be part of the graduation requirement

- Dr. Salim clarified that it will be dependent on the class and shared an update on the requirements.

Member Weinstein provided context about the motion and how we can't force DESE to cancel MCAS. He said that what we can do is that every caregiver in public schools knows what the options are and to make sure that we are supporting teachers.

Member Rachel discussed about how for standardized testing is that the district holding ourselves accountable. She discussed how we can build trust and collaboration with families. She asked for further clarification about CPS assessments on which are district-wide.

Dr. Salim shared different considerations on assessments and how not to unintentionally stigmatize student who do decide to take the MCAS and warned against unintentional consequences.

Member Rachel discussed how they want to amend #21-97. She asked for further clarification on assessments or are just progress reports and report cards we are getting.

- Dr. Brown discusses how there should be a follow up with the assessment teams and have the right follow up conversation with the folks to do the work, she talked about how the more important conversation is how we are using that information.

Member Rojas recommended removing the RESOLVED about removing the second to last resolved.

Member Weinstein shared that the intention was not to put an additional burden but rather ensure that those not taking MCAS won't be an afterthought. He reiterated the Superintendent's considerations.

On a motion by Member Rachel and seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to amend #21-97 and remove the second to last resolved, on the amendment: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA

Whereas: The Cambridge School Committee and Superintendent urged the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to suspend MCAS for school year 2020-21; and

Whereas: That the Cambridge School Committee passed a motion (#20-204) on September 15, 2020 resolving, in part, that, "if DESE does not suspend MCAS this year, the Cambridge School Committee and Superintendent will discuss how to enable educators to have the capacity to focus on developing pedagogy adapted to this new context and to focus on teaching, assessing student progress, and other scholar support"; and

Whereas: Many Massachusetts school committees have joined the Cambridge School Committee in publicly opposing administering MCAS in the 2020-21 academic year; and

Whereas: The Urban Superintendents' Network of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, including Superintendent Salim, has sent a letter to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education requesting that Commissioner Riley and Secretary Peyser petition the US Secretary of Education to waive the federal requirement for state testing this year; and

Whereas: DESE has expressed the intention to administer MCAS in the 2020-21 academic year; and

Whereas: CPSD families and caregivers may not be aware that MCAS will be administered in-person for all students this year, including those attending school remotely, and on what timeline that will be; and

Whereas: CPSD families and caregivers may not know that DESE has decided that in 2020-21 academic year students in grades three through eight who do not take this year's MCAS will not face consequences for their grades or graduation and this year their school and school district will also not face consequences related to student MCAS participation rates; and

Whereas: CPSD is committed to “rigorous, joyful, and culturally responsive learning for all students,” and assessments are part of a strategy for ensuring rigor; and

Whereas: There are district-wide assessments that can give educators and families the information needed for supporting students during the 2020-21 school year; therefore be it

Resolved: That prior to April 15, 2021, if DESE does not suspend MCAS this year, per motion #20- 204, the Superintendent will update the School Committee how the district is enabling educators to focus on teaching, assessing student progress, and other scholar support; and be it further

Resolved: That prior to April 15, 2021, the Superintendent will update the School Committee on plans to administer the MCAS in the least disruptive way possible while supporting the needs of all students taking MCAS; and be it further

Resolved: That prior to April 15, 2021, the Superintendent will provide updated information to CPSD families and caregivers about MCAS administration and timeline, including information about what any consequences will and will not be for students who do not take MCAS this year, with timely updates in the event of changes to DESE plans; and be it further

~~Resolved: That the Superintendent will ensure that any scholars who do not take MCAS this year will be provided with an appropriate alternate learning experience and environment while MCAS is being administered; and be it further~~

Resolved: That prior to June 1, 2021, the Superintendent will provide CPSD families and caregivers with information about assessments the district is using to assess student learning during the 2020-21 school year and how to determine whether their children are performing at grade level expectations.

Vice Chair Bowman shared her perspective on the MCAS and discussed the importance of systematic conversations on how this district is failing black children and how the scores show that. She discussed how she will support the motion as amended.

Member Wilson discussed how MCAS has historically failed our black children. She expressed her disappointment in district plan that was approved in 2017 where it was 47% for black children to be proficient. She discussed how we are going to utilize other assessment tools. Member Wilson asked Dr. Salim if there is an opt-out mechanisms for MCAS.

- Dr. Salim provided an update on the opt-out mechanism-there is not a formal opt-out process
- Member Wilson asked for further clarification on what the process would be.

Mayor Siddiqui discussed how she would be happy to call a roundtable on the district plan.

Member Rojas commented that we should not make comments about individual School Committee members.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, **#21-97** was adopted as amended: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

Whereas: The Cambridge School Committee and Superintendent urged the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to suspend MCAS for school year 2020-21; and

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Whereas: The Urban Superintendents' Network of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, including Superintendent Salim, has sent a letter to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education requesting that Commissioner Riley and Secretary Peyser petition the US Secretary of Education to waive the federal requirement for state testing this year; and

Whereas: DESE has expressed the intention to administer MCAS in the 2020-21 academic year; and

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Whereas: CPSD is committed to "rigorous, joyful, and culturally responsive learning for all students," and assessments are part of a strategy for ensuring rigor; and

Whereas: There are district-wide assessments that can give educators and families the information needed for supporting students during the 2020-21 school year; therefore be it

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Resolved: That prior to April 15, 2021, the Superintendent will provide updated information to CPSD families and caregivers about MCAS administration and timeline, including information about what any consequences will and will not be for students who do not take MCAS this year, with timely updates in the event of changes to DESE plans; and be it further

Resolved: That prior to June 1, 2021, the Superintendent will provide CPSD families and caregivers with information about assessments the district is using to assess student learning during the 2020-21 school year and how to determine whether their children are performing at grade level expectations.

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

Member Siddiqui removed **#21-88**.

On the following roll call vote, items **#21-89** through **#21-95** were adopted: Vice Chair Bowman YEA, Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#21-89, Contract Award be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for furniture removal & recycling services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Institution Recycling Network IRN-The Reuse Network, 26 Pleasant St, Suite 2A, Concord, NH, for the period April 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$29, 994.00.

#21-90, Contract Award be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for professional development, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Lesley University, 29 Everett Street, Cambridge, for the period February 18, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$134,450.00.

#21-91, Approval of in-kind donation of \$5,000 made by Harvard University for a CRLS teacher or administrator to lead the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) an online youth membership initiative focused on gender and leadership that pairs students with Harvard University undergraduate mentors be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the above donations as described.

#21-92, Grant Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY21 Massachusetts Cultural Council-STARs for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$5,000.00. Grant SC21894.

Description: The MCC STARs grant will support a theater experience at Cambridgeport School with a remote theater residency with Central Square Theater in which third graders will write and perform a play about science and ecosystems.

#21-93, Grant Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY21 IDEA Targeted for the period March 19, 2021 to August 31, 2021 in the amount of \$5,645.00. Grant SC21165.

Description: This grant will support professional development in the effective implementation of Student Support Teams (SSTs) and the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), an approach which utilizes an array of assessments to construct a picture of the whole child, including their cultural background and past experience. Through the use of a comprehensive array of tiered interventions targeted to each student's individual profile, we will be able to prevent the inappropriate referral of students to Special Education and ensure equity for members of marginalized subgroups.

#21-94, Grant Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY21 GLEAM: Growing Literacy Equity Across MA for the period February 3, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$6,000.00. Grant SC21169.

Description: This grant will support the development of a proposal for the state's GLEAM grant program (Growing Literacy Equity Across MA). GLEAM provides support for districts in the effective use of formative assessment data to build a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), an approach which utilizes an array of assessments to construct a picture of the whole child, including their cultural background and past experience. CPS will focus the GLEAM program at the Upper School level. Through the use of comprehensive array of tiered interventions targeted to each student's individual profile, we will be able to ensure equity for members of marginalized subgroups.

#21-95, Grant Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

FY21 Title II Educator Quality INCREASE for the period September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$1,376.00

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 FY21 will continue to support a new .5 Instructional Coach for history/social studies teachers in grades K-5; the temporary salaries line will fund teacher stipends for mentoring (to be supplemented by Title IV funds); other expenses include professional development for Math and the required allocation to participating private schools.

The increase of \$1,376 on Title IIA will be used for Mentor stipends (Temporary Salaries line). The benefits for the .5 History coach were adjusted to reflect the full actual costs, and the reduction in Other Expenses is due to reduced costs of PD in math.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#21-88, Approval SY2021-2022 Cambridge Public Schools District Calendar

Discussion followed on **#21-88** followed.

Dr. Salim provided context on the calendar and shared the analysis that they did and the complexities of creating the calendar.

Member Weinstein shared that he is frustrated with the calendar and he asked whether we can just move the calendar two days.

- Dr. Salim discussed how if school is in session on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, the absentee rate has been on par or lower than a typical day. And that is the analysis they used to arrive at this calendar proposal, and they are still continuing to observe the Yom-Kippur holiday. Our current collective bargaining agreement does not allow for starting school before Labor Day. Dr. Salim said that we are one of the few districts that do Eid as a holiday.
- Member Weinstein discussed on how there has been clarity on the calendar decisions and he said that we owe apology to the community.

Member Rachel discussed how this is an unusual year that Rosh Hashanah would fall in the two days. Have school on Yom Kippur. It avoids the first day of school issue. She said that people should be given.

Mayor Siddiqui provided context on this calendar proposal and said that we asked them to use a non-secular analysis. She discussed how there should be more conversations on the considerations of the calendar. She's happy to establish a working group on the fall, an ad-hoc committee etc.

- Dr. Salim confirmed Mayor Siddiqui's assessment and that Eid was given a similar analysis.

Member Rojas that we start school the week before and then have school on September 7 or September 8. Why can't we discuss with the CEA?

- Dr. Salim discussed how they have heard from a lot of their members, starting school before Labor Day is not a small change. It would push the professional development days earlier and that is something that is a significant change and that Dan Monahan talked about how it's on different units such as food services, transportation
- Dr Salim agreed that having a group to look at the calendar would be something that the community and the Committee look at going forward.

Mayor Siddiqui said that we should adopt this and that we have a working group on the Calendar. She looked to the Vice Chair on how to achieve this.

Vice Chair Bowman said that this conversation gets to church and state and that as a district we need to have a robust conversation and what does that mean in the context of our school district. She recommended having a Sub-Committee on this.

Member Weinstein asked if there is a legal barrier to establishing as September 8th having a professional development day.

- Dr. Salim confirmed that is in conflict with our collective bargaining agreement.
- Dr. Salim said that they had preliminary conversations about this and they are amenable to this and they still need 180 days.
- Member Weinstein proposed having on the 8th have a professional development day and have our final calendar date be June 30th.
- Dr. Salim said that it's inappropriate for the Committee to vote for another workday for staff.

Mayor Siddiqui suggested that for future calendars we can have this conversation. This was a calendar that was moved forward to us after analysis.

Vice Chair Bowman called to question, on the following roll call vote, **#21-88** failed of adoption: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas NAY; Member Rachel NAY; Member Weinstein NAY; Member Wilson NAY; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

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

#21-96 Joint Motion by Member Fantini, Mayor Siddiqui and Member Rachel

Whereas: The SOLVED collaborative (Shore Occupational Learning and Vocational Educational Division) consisting of the following communities: Cambridge, Medford, Somerville, Waltham, and Boston were formed to offer opportunities to engage students in Chapter 74 Career and Technical programs not offered in their home community; and

Whereas: The SOLVED collaborative began as a recommendation from the Superintendent of Schools in 2003 with the goal of providing more opportunities at no cost to member communities, providing out of district cost savings by allowing students to only attend SOLVED collaboration schools; and

Whereas: Our RSTA program has 12 approved Chapter 74 programs and an exploratory program while there are approximately 47 available Chapter 74 programs, broken down by 11 cluster groupings, offered for students to attend, many of which are in high demand and offer a family wage; and

Whereas: Acceptance to a Chapter 74 program in our collaborative is contingent upon their being available space in the receiving community; and

Whereas: Cambridge promoted the collaborative program in all our middle schools trying to recruit students; and

Whereas: In most situations, availability was slim, resulting in only eight students participating in programs in other SOLVED communities during the 16 years since inception (seven of our students attended the Cosmetology Program in Medford, and one attended the Metal Fabrication Program in Somerville), while 37 students from other schools attended our programs; and

Whereas: Because of this lack of success, our students are being denied the opportunities that would lead to a meaningful career and living wage, and taking advantage of the city's economic expansion, denying the opportunity for a student to pursue the subject area of their choice; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent be directed to notify the Superintendents in the other SOLVED districts of Cambridge's withdrawal from the SOLVED collaborative by April 30, 2021; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent begin an assessment of CPSD program offerings to ensure high demand programs, meaningful internships, apprenticeship programs, offering teachers externships in key industries, early college opportunities, and further creating opportunities for our students to attend high demand, high wage Chapter 74 programs, beginning as ninth graders; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent shall explore opportunities for students to participate in regional technical vocational high school programs until the Cambridge Public Schools are able to graduate a greater number of students with industry recognized credentials.

Discussion on **#21-96** followed.

Member Fantini provided a detailed explanation on the last seventeen years only seventeen of our children. It is proof enough that the collaborative is not working. Member Fantini discussed the goal of thinking creatively out of the box and give our kids opportunities to access high demand high paying jobs. There are no vocational charter schools and to give those kids an opportunity to participate in that work right in Kendall square. He recommends to pass this and refer it to the superintendent.

Member Rachel echoed Member Fantini's sentiments.

- Dr. Salim did agree with the premise of looking at the RSTA review. Dr. Salim recommended that this be referred to the Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee.
- Dr. Turk provided further background.

Member Rojas asked for further clarification on the impact of the budget and if this were to pass what would be the time frame of this taking effect.

- Dr. Turk discussed how it was almost two million to send the students out. She does not currently know what the number is. She thinks that tuition is now 15/14 million.

Member Rojas discussed how if we did decide to leave formally tonight, it wouldn't take effect for a year.

Vice Chair Bowman discussed how she wants more data and how many kids have participated and if we decided to leave it what programs are we replacing this with. She suggested a friendly amendment just to explore leaving.

- Mayor Siddiqui shared that it's eight students over fifteen years

Member Fantini gave further context on the order and was open to the amendment.

Vice Chair Bowman asked for more information.

Dr. Salim talked about the complexities of this decision, all the different pathways, if we are not part of the SOLVED collaborative, we would be paying.

Dr. Gittens provided further context talked about the RSTA review and they haven't had the time to do this because they are doing this all the time and if we say we don't want to be a part of it based on what we find out through the review.

Member Rojas asked for further clarification on timing.

Member Wilson asked for a timeframe on when we could have an update.

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to amend **#21-96**, on the amendment: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas NAY; Member Rachel NAY; Member Weinstein NAY; Member Wilson NAY; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Whereas: The SOLVED collaborative (Shore Occupational Learning and Vocational Educational Division) consisting of the following communities: Cambridge, Medford, Somerville, Waltham, and Boston were formed to offer opportunities to engage students in Chapter 74 Career and Technical programs not offered in their home community; and

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Whereas: Acceptance to a Chapter 74 program in our collaborative is contingent upon their being available space in the receiving community; and

Whereas: Cambridge promoted the collaborative program in all our middle schools trying to recruit students; and

Whereas: In most situations, availability was slim, resulting in only eight students participating in programs in other SOLVED communities during the 16 years since inception (seven of our students attended the Cosmetology Program in Medford, and one attended the Metal Fabrication Program in Somerville), while 37 students from other schools attended our programs; and

Whereas: Because of this lack of success, our students are being denied the opportunities that would lead to a meaningful career and living wage, and taking advantage of the city's economic expansion, denying the opportunity for a student to pursue the subject area of their choice; now therefore be it Resolved: That the Superintendent explore leaving the SOLVED collaborative ~~That the Superintendent be directed to notify the Superintendents in the other SOLVED districts of Cambridge's withdrawal from the SOLVED collaborative by April 30, 2021;~~ and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent begin an assessment of CPSD program offerings to ensure high demand programs, meaningful internships, apprenticeship programs, offering teachers externships in key industries, early college opportunities, and further creating opportunities for our students to attend high demand, high wage Chapter 74 programs, beginning as ninth graders; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent shall explore opportunities for students to participate in regional technical vocational high school programs until the Cambridge Public Schools are able to graduate a greater number of students with industry recognized credentials.

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui and seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, #21-96 was adopted as amended: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Whereas: The SOLVED collaborative (Shore Occupational Learning and Vocational Educational Division) consisting of the following communities: Cambridge, Medford, Somerville, Waltham, and Boston were formed to offer opportunities to engage students in Chapter 74 Career and Technical programs not offered in their home community; and

Whereas: The SOLVED collaborative began as a recommendation from the Superintendent of Schools in 2003 with the goal of providing more opportunities at no cost to member communities, providing out of district cost savings by allowing students to only attend SOLVED collaboration schools; and

Whereas: Our RSTA program has 12 approved Chapter 74 programs and an exploratory program while there are approximately 47 available Chapter 74 programs, broken down by 11 cluster groupings, offered for students to attend, many of which are in high demand and offer a family wage; and

Whereas: Acceptance to a Chapter 74 program in our collaborative is contingent upon their being available space in the receiving community; and

Whereas: Cambridge promoted the collaborative program in all our middle schools trying to recruit students; and

Whereas: In most situations, availability was slim, resulting in only eight students participating in programs in other SOLVED communities during the 16 years since inception (seven of our students attended the Cosmetology Program in Medford, and one attended the Metal Fabrication Program in Somerville), while 37 students from other schools attended our programs; and

Whereas: Because of this lack of success, our students are being denied the opportunities that would lead to a meaningful career and living wage, and taking advantage of the city's economic expansion, denying the opportunity for a student to pursue the subject area of their choice; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent explore leaving the SOLVED collaborative; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent begin an assessment of CPSD program offerings to ensure high demand programs, meaningful internships, apprenticeship programs, offering teachers externships in key industries, early college opportunities, and further creating opportunities for our students to attend high demand, high wage Chapter 74 programs, beginning as ninth graders; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent shall explore opportunities for students to participate in regional technical vocational high school programs until the Cambridge Public Schools are able to graduate a greater number of students with industry recognized credentials.

On a motion by Member Wilson and seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote it was voted to adopted #21-98 through #21-103: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

#21-98 Report of the June 30, 2020 Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee

June 30, 2020

CURRICULUM & ACHIEVEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-98

Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of discussing curriculum planning for the fall, including remote, in-person and hybrid, with focus on emerging models.

Present: Member Weinstein, Chair; Member Rachel; Member Rojas

Also Present: Student Member Killian; Student Member Vera-DeGraff; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Madera, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

The meeting started at 1:00 pm. Chair Weinstein opened the meeting to members of the COVID task force for an update.

Tony Clark spoke of his experience as an uncle to an elementary school student and the onboarding has been tough. One challenge that he saw, how do we onboard families in this new space? He also asked how are preparing remote learning and advocated for not giving the students busy work.

Kiki Nakamura-Koyama spoke on her experience as an educator, there is a concern of policing student bodies and reminding them to wear their masks. She discussed how there are a lot of households who have lost family members to COVID and the trauma they could potentially feel in sending their kids back. She asked what appropriate rigor is and advocated for not overloading students. She stated how there is potential and advocated for pods.

Leo Austin-Spooner, a student, spoke on using this time to make it work for students. We should be thinking about how regardless of whether we are remote, how this can be equitable. He also shared how a lot of families have experienced lay-offs and students have had to take on extra shifts in their jobs.

Alehna, a student, spoke on the importance of remote learners not getting left behind.

Chair Weinstein discussed the importance of racial equity.

Emie Michaud-Weinstock from Cambridge Families of Color Coalition reiterated the points that students made and stated the current system is based on white supremacy. She talked about how we can't have learning if a student feels unsafe. She discussed utilizing other spaces in Cambridge to make it safe for students and faculty.

Student Member Killian discussed decreasing class sizes and advocated for more support for students.

Student Member Vera-DeGraff discussed the importance of community meetings, and what was lost in remote learning. He advocated for moving forward with a focus on anti-racist curriculum.

Chair Weinstein discussed that there are many reasons for students to turn off the camera and to make sure they are connecting. The concern for domestic abuse and they are not going to be noticed in the same way. Adults should be trained in best practices for recognizing signs of abuse in remote settings as they are trained for recognizing it in person.

Student Member Vera-DeGraff shared how students wished there was more emotional support.

Chair Weinstein opened the meeting to educators.

Kini Udovicki shared her experience as a mental health counselor and the overwhelming schedule. In addition to seeing her scholars, she did a lot of extra paperwork. She discussed the need for better planning in regards to remote learning. She explained how COVID-19 exposed the inequities of CPSD and used this time to dismantle things that have not been working. She suggested: families come back at

the end of August in small groups and explain complexities of remote learning, creating project-based learning. She discussed how OSS students are suffering in terms of regression.

Amatul Mahmud, special educator 2-3 at FMA, discussed how the facilities should be used for students who have to be there. She discussed how remote learning went in the spring and with google classrooms. She shared that FMA had a family liaison to help with google chrome and Wi-Fi. The cons were that it was stressful. She discussed how implementing flex scheduling with remote learning could help. There was trauma with COVID. She suggested not doing data collection at the beginning of the year. She also spoke on the importance of SEL.

Karen Dobak (parent and SE-PAC) discussed how students with disabilities really struggled with remote learning. Many students with disabilities have a lack of executive function skills. They need repetition. She emphasized the need for social and emotional support and anti-racist curriculum. She talked on the importance of truly developing a curriculum that meets the needs of the students.

Amatul Mahmud iterated the importance of having educators be part of conversations.

Kathryn Fenneman, Executive Director of Tutoring Plus, discussed educational equity. She explained what they have been doing and plan on continuing virtual programming. She would like to partner with schools. In terms of review in the spring, there should be a continuation of best practices and how we lift that teachers have been doing well across the school and provide tech support for families because technology was a challenge.

Chair Weinstein discussed "Caregiver University."

Meg Ramsdell from Cambridge School Volunteers talked about her experience working during this time and that for tutoring the more specific information they can get on what skills the student need help, the more effective the tutoring would be. She advocated for a better facilitation of this type of information.

Chair Weinstein extended the meeting for fifteen minutes. On a vote to extend the meeting, Chair Weinstein YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA

Chair Weinstein opened the meeting for public comment.

Marya Wegman, a teacher at CRLS, summarized three main themes: the need to stay remote, the need to redesign the curriculum to focus on abolitionism, and social emotional learning. The resources we need are here. She expressed her confusion on the number of working groups.

Member Rachel and Member Rojas shared calendar updates.

Jean Cummings wanted to ask Kini Udovicki a question. She discussed how because we will not be back in school full-time, we should be focusing on remote education, and asked how we can support student's mental health. Kini suggested having OSS students back to school.

Caitlin O'Donnell discussed how young children are being harmed by remote learning, they have lost the most, they haven't been able to use google classroom and can't access anything by themselves and really rely on parents.

Andrea Parker discussed utilizing youth centers.

Obi Carrion talked about her concerns with policing students on wearing masks and how households who have been affected by COVID may not feel comfortable sending their kids back to school. She expressed concern about the September update.

Kanku Kabongo, high school teacher, shared her concerns that there is no need for an outside consultant and that there should be more help with having educators connect. She stated this is teaching in a crisis.

Chair Weinstein extended the meeting.

Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah echoed the need to look within the district and build with one another.

Duncan MacLaury shared his concern over time constraints and the School Committee needs to be making decisions sooner rather than later.

Nella LaRosa-Waters, former teacher who now works at Lesley University, shared that there has been a bill to put in by legislators to suspend MCAS and high stake testing for three years. She also advocated for meeting with Lesley to assist with changing the curriculum.

Betsy Preval discussed her concerns about the fact that we as a district haven't taken initiative and we have the tendency to do a one size fits all.

Karolyn, Cambridge upper school teacher, echoed sentiments for abolitionist training and social emotional learning.

Chair Weinstein thanked the educators and adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Attest:

Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee Office

#21-99 Report of the July 8, 2020 Building and Grounds Sub-Committee

July 8, 2020

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-99

Virtual Building & Grounds Sub-Committee Report
Wednesday, July 8, 2020
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of being able to continue to discuss the facilities plans in general and in response to the COVID-19 recovery plan in particular. The meeting started at 5:30 pm.

Members: Member Rojas, Chair; Member Fantini; Vice Chair Bowman

Also Present: Member Weinstein, James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, Joanne Johnson, Operations Assistant, Maisha Rounds, Fletcher Maynard Principal, Dan Monahan; Victoria Harris; Vedad Konjic, Director of Facilities

Member Rojas outlined the meeting:

- Continue to share brief updates on the facilities plans in general and in response to the COVID-19 recovery plan in particular, responding to some frequently asked questions.
- Hear an update on the status of operational items related to reopening the schools.
- Provide opportunity for community members to ask questions and/or share concerns and ideas on these topics to Administration and Public Health Representatives.

Member Rojas flagged three policy orders: Parent/Caregiver Meetings and Visits to the School - Looking for more guidance from SC, community and health providers

- Face Coverings and Masks - Normally could be seen as an administrative decision, but would be good to have School Committee agreement/approval
- Ventilation - Good to see that air scrubbers will be provided to rooms that do not have access to outdoor air.

Member Rojas brought up questions to discuss from the community: Take opportunity to address rodent problems at CRLS

- Use of tents to expand available space?
- Would it be helpful to have access to space at Harvard/MIT/Other partners?
- Would 9th grade at CRLS fit in swing space on Broadway? Positive prior experience doing so.
- What would be the impact on capacity if we kept the 6' distancing requirement, rather than 3'?

James Maloney provided context on the election commissioner request. It would require closing schools for that day. Make up that day in June.

Victoria Harris from the Election Commission discussed mail-in and one week before the primary, two weeks before November and finally thirty-four polling locations open. Just asking for November 3, set up can be done after school closes. School custodians will be on site.

Vice Chair Bowman talked about what if they said yes to closing schools, could we accommodate school taking place in another way. James Maloney said the Committee has already voted to close schools. Vice Chair Bowman said can it be a remote day and trying to get that before the Committee of the whole.

Victoria Harris talked about how ideally it would be September 1 and November.

Member Fantini recommended favorably recommendation to use the facilities in September 1 and November 3, the sooner the better. Vice Chair Bowman agreed and wanted to do them as remote days.

Dan Monahan discussed if we are having a remote day in November, we are trading off a potentially in person day in June.

Sarah Marrero discussed how she's fine with either with a remote day or a day in June.

Member Rojas turned the meeting to discussion of the facilities manual.

James Maloney provided context on the manual and pass it on to whole to the full Committee. The biggest piece about testing/masks/three foot vs six foot.

Member Rojas asked about using outdoor space. James Maloney talked about how that is still in consideration.

Vedad Konjic gave an update on what they've ordered.

James Maloney talked about how the CDC guidelines are changing and the air quality standards.

Vice Chair Bowman asked: 1) inquired about leveraging building spaces that's not typically used during the week such as religious 2) we need to keep in mind that with the federal guidelines coming out, we need to center our decision making in science.

Jamie Lichtenstein talked about the change from six feet to three feet, she's comfortable with the guidelines if people are wearing a mask. There needs to be built six foot bubble if they can't get it.

Jill Crittenden asked for clarification on the air filtration system. Vedad gave an update on the air filtration system. Jill Crittenden asked about CO2 monitoring-discussed how newer buildings

Helen Jenkins talked about how community spread is going to be a huge factor.

Member Fantini talked about Harvard University came out with their safety and facilities management, they have a section on healthy buildings.

Mayor Siddiqui echoed Vice Chair Bowman's sentiment to go with the science and on the Harvard/MIT piece and was briefed with their reopening plans, it would be difficult to ask for space.

A lot of the work that James Maloney has done has been grounded with the experts. They talked about having a COVID case in the school, would close for 48 hours, but if we are able to monitor and keep them in pods.

Incorporating the scientists with collaboration just to hear their voice.

Member Rojas discussed how we are going to have to get ready to close buildings.

Liza Gosselin discussed how she is getting a feedback from substantially separated teacher, the health and safety committee on a day-day and the expectations, they are still toilet training, and they rely on facial expressions for communication. Minimum of a surgical mask and a face shield.

James Maloney discussed how there will be an expected classroom enrollment and the capacity.

Member Rachel discussed the DESE guidelines are asking for three plans and understanding the inventory of district outside spaces, we are going to need pods for scholars who can't stay home all day.

Member Rojas summarized the meeting: that the safety manual needs to be before the Committee of the whole. James Maloney discussed about how the one area that the possibility of not needing to close the whole school. Have time to deliberate between the 14th and the 21st. Member Rojas adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee Office

#21-100 Report of the July 13, 2020 Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee

July 13, 2020

CURRICULUM & ACHIEVEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-100

Virtual Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee Report
Monday, July 13, 2020
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of discussing the success, challenges, learnings and opportunities and needs of remote learning in CPSD this spring, looking ahead to the fall semester.

Present: Member Weinstein, Chair; Member Rachel; Member Rojas

Also Present: Mayor Siddiqui; Member Wilson; Student Member Killian, Dr. Michelle Madera, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Dr. Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Robin Harris, Director Family Engagement

The meeting started at 5:00 pm. Member Weinstein is the chair. Chair Weinstein shared the agenda for the meeting. Chair Weinstein turned the meeting over to Dr. Turk for a presentation .Dr. Michelle Madera also presented and gave context on the Toolkit Components. At the end of the presentation Dr. Turk talked about the importance of having educators be part of the conversations and for the district to "walk the walk" on their commitment to anti-racism.

Chair Weinstein turned the meeting over to Member Rojas to provide context on how the Curriculum & Achievement Sub-Committee fits in with the work from other Committees. Member Rojas discussed how

there needs to be a huge change in the curriculum. In that spirit, he went on to highlight the curriculum development being done with experts.

Chair Weinstein opened the meeting by sharing his screen about goals to the public asking what we should be thinking about as we develop curriculum for the year.

Goals shared on screen:

- An update on curriculum development
- An overview of this subcommittee's role
- Discuss the vision for schooling/curriculum in the coming year, and prioritize categories and questions to discuss regarding the curriculum
- Discuss curricular changes for the coming year

Chair Weinstein reviewed and shared on screen Categories and Questions for Revisions and Discussion (listed at end of these minutes)

In our discussion we would like to

1. Discuss our mission and vision for this unprecedented year -- a vision that responds to our circumstances and anticipates need to be nimble; is focused on racial equity, is aligned with our ongoing mission to prepare all scholars for success in life after CPS (school, career, and beyond). Your insights would be appreciated.
2. Discuss a set of categories and questions we are looking at (see the list below). These are more than we can possibly address fully in one meeting. We would ask if you can help us to prioritize/sequence categories of questions, suggest categories we are missing, and/or add key questions to each category -- in particular the "curricular changes" category
3. Move to begin answering these questions in the "curricular changes" category, one at a time. We anticipate this may lead to proposals/policies -- and may take the entire meeting. If there is time, we would move on to the "equity" or "remote learning" category and do the same.

Chair Weinstein opened the meeting to the following four guests:

- **Sue Cusack**, Program Director, Technology in Education, Lesley University, Director, Lesley STEAM Learning Lab -- *CPS Taskforce member*
- **Dan Monahan**, Parent of CRLS alum, President, Cambridge Education Association
- **Justin Reich**, Director, MIT Teaching Systems Lab -- *CPS Taskforce member*
- **Bridget Rodriguez**, CRLS parent; Managing Director, Education Redesign Lab, Harvard Graduate School of Education -- *CPS Taskforce member*

Susan Cusack discussed the importance of curriculum and shared that she is working with 65 educators with Cambridge educators with remote learning, they have a lot to say and finding ways to incorporate educator voices is huge. She advocated for project based learning and emphasized the importance of authentic and relevant, culturally responsive curriculum.

Bridget Rodriguez echoed Ms. Cusack's points and the operational piece offloading the operational elements as much as we can at this point is imperative and the economy of scale, She further discussed the idea of engagement and classroom management because it is easy for kids to tune out. She advocated for breaking up the school year into chunks.

Chair Weinstein asked about the individualized success plans model.

Bridget Rodriguez provided context on the plan and the growth and development of this. She discussed how an important component of this work is the adult navigator role and she would be happy to share her work.

Dr. Turk talked about individualized success plans, and shared that the administration has been having meeting with principals about it.

Dr. Madera talked about how they are looking for opportunities to provide live support during remote learning.

Dan Monahan talked on the importance of including upper schools in these conversations. He further elaborated on three specific things he wants to the School Committee to do: advocate for educators to be part of conversations, for there to be thoughtful standards and no MCAS.

Chair Weinstein extended the meeting for 15 minutes.

Karen Dobak, co-chair of the Cambridge SE-PAC shared that there is currently a grant that DESE has to put out and she wanted the district to apply. She also wants the district to purchase i-Ready.

Justin Reich discussed the importance of collaboration and the limitations on what this Sub-Committee can achieve just by itself. He also talked about how there shouldn't be a lowering of standards. He stated that honesty and transparency going forward is key. He further emphasized the importance of looking at curriculum through an equity lens.

Bridget Rodriguez discussed the importance of staying away from language that we are accepting less from kids.

Member Rojas asked Dr. Turk how often the collaborative have been meeting every week.

Dr. Turk provided an update. She further discussed how changing the standards has not been a formal recommendation yet.

Dr. Madera shared how they been looking at the standards and shared the steps they have been taking in implementing anti-racist curriculum especially in social studies.

A teacher shared her experience as a JK-5 educator. She further discussed the need for there to be an anti-racist/ anti-biased lens while looking at the standards. She expressed her disappointment on educators being brought in earlier.

Member Killian discussed how that an online switch in the spring was possible because they already built the relationships when they were in the building. She discussed how starting all online will be a challenge. Member Killian advocated for the administration to provide technical training for teachers and families.

Chair Weinstein further elaborated on idea of "Caregiver University" and that it will be discussed in the Communications & Community Relations Sub-Committee.

Chair Weinstein extended the meeting for 15 minutes.

The members discussed possible recommendations going forward: educator collaborative should be driving curriculum change, abolitionist lens for curriculum and the elimination of MCAS.

Dr. Madera provided that power standards have been part of the conversations.

Chair Weinstein shared that there is another Curriculum and Achievement Sub-Committee scheduled on July 17, 2021 where this conversation will be continued. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Categories and Questions for Revisions and Discussion

Curricular Changes

- What are the competencies scholars need to master at each grade, and by graduation? How do these standards support preparation for successful life (college, career) upon graduation?
- What are the priority standards for this remote/hybrid year?

- How are we implementing an individualized student success plans model for every scholar?
- How are we embracing project-based learning in this unique time?

Equity

- How will we ensure academic rigor and hold ourselves accountable for the same expectations for Black students, all students of color and white students? For students with IEPs? English learners?
- How is this process of updating curriculum and instruction centering the perspectives and needs of those most impacted, i.e. scholars, educators and caregivers? Who else do we need in this conversation?

Building Capacity for Remote Learning

- What adjustments are we making to remote learning (so less reliant on executive functioning, family support...)?
- What support are we providing ALL educators (teachers, paras, specialists, etc.) to master remote instruction? How are we using July and August to prepare everyone?

Learning, Participation and Attendance Assessment/Policy

- How are we using competency or mastery-based assessment in SY20-21?
- What happens when a scholar does not gain grade-level competencies?
- What are our attendance versus participation definitions?
- What policies are in place for children who opt for remote when buildings are available? Will they be able to re-enter their previous school community?
- Graduation and grade promotion policy?
- How do we maintain communities of learners and educators while some or all learners and educators are remote? (Building-level strategies? Grade-level strategies? Cohort strategies that include an adult “on call” for a limited number of scholars?)

August 21, 2020

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-101

Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio

Called for the purpose of discussing the COVID 19 Safety and Facilities manual and the ventilation audit/recommendations in particular.

Members Present: Chair José Luis Rojas Villarreal, Member Fantini

Also Present: Mayor Siddiqui, Member Rachel James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, Joanne Johnson, Operations Assistant, Vedad Konjic, Facilities Director, Maisha Rounds, Fletcher Maynard Principal, Chris Gerber, Kennedy Longfellow Principal (standing in for Principal Sarah Marrero of Amigos), Robin Harris, Family Engagement and Partnerships, Rowan Marcus, IT, Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel, Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer, B Kim, Educational Liaison & Policy Advisor to Mayor’s Office, Tracy Rose-Tynes, Nurse Manager for School Health Services, Interim Associate Chief, Dr. Allen (author of Pandemic resilient teaching & learning spaces), Dr. Jill Crittenden and Dr. Jaime Liechtenstein, Dan Monahan

Chair Rojas began the meeting at 12:30pm with reading the notice to participate as well as going over the agenda.

He proceeded to give a synopsis and context around the meeting: That Adoption of the Safety & Facilities Manual is a key component of the contingencies for the approved reopening model to move forward. A central component of this analysis is agreeing on clean air standards for each room and only using rooms that meet those criteria.

Review topics to discuss and community questions

- Review COVID-19 Safety & Facilities Manual
 - and first impressions by Dr. Allen.
 - Key takeaways by the Administration
 - Other questions on Safety & Facilities Manual
- Community questions:
 - Is the room ventilation data being gathered through in-person assessments?
 - Ideas on how to bring anxieties down?
 - Invite small groups of staff, family representatives, health experts and the engineering firm to do walk-thru of each school building before it opens to ask/answer questions about measurements and mitigations?
 - Other?

Chair Rojas introduced Carlos DeSousa, principal from GARCIA • GALUSKA • DESOUSA Consulting Engineers and Jim Maloney introduced Caitlin Taylor from Mass Design, who had previously done an evaluation of two Cambridge Buildings in developing pandemic resilient infrastructure.

Carlos DeSousa presented on ventilation assessments and recommendations. Fifteen schools were evaluated for their HVAC systems and after the initial review, they were deemed were very well maintained and operational a procedure was put in place after review to have the most effective ventilation system.

Carlos DeSousa introduced an executive summary and explained in depth to the audience the breakdown of all the schools in the district and detailed every school's capabilities and the recommendations of the consulting engineers.

AIR EXCHANGE
CALCULATORS - COM

Dr. Danielle Allen wanted clarification on the Ashrae (ASHRAE guidelines provide specific details on ventilation for acceptable indoor environmental quality) standard for classrooms, is that a COVID specific for classrooms.

- Carlos Sousa answered yes that was the standard for classrooms, two air changes per hours are a typical for facilities that are non COVID emergency facilities.

Chair Rojas asked for Dr. Allen's first impressions.

- Dr. Allen acknowledged the importance of the work and the variability and equity across the buildings and ventilation challenges and the collateral that goes with it. Questioned about noise and the potential for learning. Wonders about the spaces with the ventilation issues and possibly be proactive with outdoor learning spaces. The issues of equity across the schools regarding the standards of health and outdoor activity to be brought into the picture.

Jim Maloney followed up after Dr. Allen's assessment with letting the participants know that the district has purchased 550 HEPA filters, there are 650 classrooms at the max. Wondered to Dr. Allen if that were enough?

- Dr. Allen Wanted to know what that learning space looked like and then deferred to Dr. Lichtenstein. Schools do not need to be the same standards as hospitals.

- Dr. Jill answered It depends on the architecture on each individual classroom. Remarked on the air moving through the classes and their averages are insufficient. ACH is a very general measurement to what is needed.
- Dr. Jaime Lichtenstein spoke about 5-6 air changes per hours range, with opening windows and spoke of supplementing what else could be utilized.
- Caitlyn emphasizes the size layout of the room, HEPA filter, opening the window and the direction of the air are all important considerations. They are midway through analysis for a couple of schools.

Jim Maloney spoke to the lack of size and the mitigation that is in place to have a limited numbers of scholars in the building. Outdoor learning is not a cost issue but a safety and security issue. What is a sufficient replace if HEPA filters are not suitable?

Dr. Danielle Allen clarified that she does not know what the rooms looks like with said filters.

Carlos DeSousa remarked the about the ventilation effectiveness. Systems are not all the same. The use of a HEPA filter within the space is vital and in the report.

Chair Jose summarized that the numbers that are seen are based on current ventilation system and that there is need for HEPA filters and opening windows with the need for future mitigates.

Jim Maloney spoke of the completed safety and facilities manual and the time and efforts of all involved for the reopening and all that it entailed, which he then listed. Broke down the student population that will be returning on October 13. Compared other districts and what Cambridge has succeeded in doing for COVID mitigation.

Dr. Lichtenstein wanted clarification on the Amigos air quality numbers.

- Jim Maloney answered that the typical Amigos classroom is 2.1

Chair Rojas asked for an explanation what the balancing contractor would be doing.

- The Balancing Contractor replied with the column of ventilation air and would be measuring the quantity of outside air coming into the space through the duct work and filter. Determines the air changes per hour. Sited King Open as an example.

What is the feasibility of the implementing the recommendation of the report?

- Jim Maloney answered that it is very high.

Member Fantini wanted to know what the next steps were and deferred to Dr. Crittenden and Lichtenstein?

Dr. Jill Crittenden inquired about ceiling height and was that factored in to the analysis? Referenced the ACH numbers. Could they be increased? A room by room evaluation needs to be accomplished.

- Carlos DeSousa answered that yes and went into deep discussion to all the factors and calculations involved. Sited the King Open as an example. That is called natural ventilation and the system may overcome that. An open window would increase the effectiveness of what has been calculated. Windows can be opened during the winter. Room by room evaluation, typical classroom does not change the standard. It is based on the design and what is needed.

Dr. Lichtenstein clarified that Mass Design is doing a room by room examination in two buildings. Could there be a waiver to modify the opening the windows by inches.

- Jim Maloney answered that would be a complicated ask as it is a regulatory issue.

Jim Maloney reflected on what is the mitigation? As you go up it is a less efficient return. The current level of 4 air exchanges and the potential of level 6 and that it is untenable goal. Reminded that there will be buildings who will not get to said level.

Chair Rojas commented on the need to introduce the mitigations recommendations and the calculations from the engineering firm and present what the adjusted equivalent is for the air changes.

Principal Gerber wanted to know about the noise level of the HEPA filters and it especially matters with the scholars coming in?

- Carlos DeSousa and Jim Maloney answered that it is 45 decibels which is equal to an air conditioning unit. Vedad Konjic simplified that there is a variable speed that can be adjusted.

Member Rachel thanked all for their information and reflected that regardless of the money spent, safety is the priority. Commented that there needs to be a room by room assessment for a transparency and trust of the process.

Jim Maloney asked the engineering firm how a room by room assessment would be done.

- Carlos DeSousa replied that it is a tremendous amount of time and effort to have that work done, normally a percentage of the rooms not all would be accomplished.

Dr. Lichtenstein stated that she has a comfort level of 3 to 4 air changes per hour for the school buildings.

Jim Maloney concurred that was their goal and then spoke to the bid process and stated that it would be a couple of more months.

Sarah Rosenberg asked if it was a possibility to focus on the rooms being used now for the grades coming back. From a public health point of view does 3 or 4 air changes work if COVID is present.

- Dr. Lichtenstein stated that they can't say the risk is zero, however brought up the value of masks and air exchanges and other safety protocols.
- Tracey Rose Tynes followed up with classroom will be move all day and keeping in mind looking at obvious symptoms it may not be possible when COVID could be present.

Principal Gerber asked about the samples of the smaller offices with no windows?

- Carlos DeSousa answered, there was no natural ventilation taken into effect, they are all mechanical system, the CFM was looked at for the rooms.
- Jim Maloney followed up with remarking about the additional staff that has been added and the space that has been taken.

Dr. Lichtenstein asked the engineering firm, when preparing the report, the exclusion of rooms from the report did that help or hurt the report?

- Carlos DeSousa replied that those spaces have high ventilation rates. If those were kept in the report it would not be a true number.

Member Fantini asked about the get well rooms and have they been identified and if the additional sinks are installed. Member Fantini, Vice Chair Bowman's behalf asked about drinking fountains also is there a mandate for children's masks.

- Jim Maloney replied that in theory yes, there is probably two get well rooms left that need to be identified and all rooms ID's are based on the recommendation by the engineers. The additional sinks have a completion date by Labor Day. The water filling stations will be left open, the drinking fountains have been covered. Masks are mandated and the district has purchased 30K.
- Dr. Lichtenstein stated the water filling station are theoretically touchless and they are asking children to bring their own water in.

Chair Rojas asked about the building closure policy, has it been determined?

- Jim Maloney stated there had been much discussion from various stakeholders and advisory groups. In the end it was determined that it would be a case by case basis.
- Dr. Lichtenstein followed up with the background for cases by case for the classroom. A single case based on the latest CDC guidance would not close a school, just quarantine the class. A wider exposure would shut the school down. Each case could be very nuanced.
- Dr. Jill Crittenden echoed want her colleague impressed. Clarified contact transmission is does not seem to be the major mode of transmission. The City has thresholds set for benchmarks and information to make determinations.

Mary Elizabeth Cranton asked about eating in the classroom and if the floor should be washed daily and what if the thought process?

- Jim Maloney referred to the manual that cleaning will be done a regular basis.
- Dr. Lichtenstein weighed in on the cleanliness thought or a viral transmission issue.

Principal Gerber wanted definition around the pod and its overreaching aspect because of the many teachers that have access to the pod, keeping in mind specialists.

- Jim Maloney remarked that Supt. Salim addressed this issue at the previous school committee meeting. There will be more information to follow.

Chair Rojas reviewed next steps: Consider recommending adoption of Safety & Facilities Manual to the School Committee, acknowledging that it is a living document. It will be amended as time goes on and more information is available.

Adjourned 2:15pm

Attest:

Jennifer Dever Wood
Cambridge School Committee

September 18,
2020

BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-102

Virtual Building and Grounds Sub-Committee Report
Friday, September 18, 2020
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of discussing the COVID-19 Safety & Facilities Manual, and the ventilation metrics and recommendations in particular.

Members Present: Chair José Luis Rojas Villarreal, Member Fantini,

Also Present: Mayor Siddiqui, Member Weinstein, Member Rachel James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, Joanne Johnson, Operations Assistant, Vedad Konjic, Facilities Director, Maisha Rounds, Fletcher Maynard Principal, Chris Gerber, Kennedy Longfellow Principal (standing in for Principal Sarah Marrero of Amigos), Robin Harris, Family Engagement and Partnerships, Rowan Marcus, IT, Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel, Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer, B Kim, Educational Liaison & Policy Advisor to Mayor's Office, Tracy Rose-Tynes, Nurse Manager for School Health Services, Interim Associate Chief, Dr. Jill Crittenden and Dr. Jaime Liechtenstein, Dan Monahan, Dr. Joseph Allen, Brendan Roy, Construction Manager

Chair Rojas began the meeting at 12:00pm with reading the notice to participate as well as going over the agenda.

He proceeded to give a synopsis and context around the meeting: That Adoption of the Safety & Facilities Manual is a key component of the contingencies for the approved reopening model to move forward. A central component of this analysis is agreeing on clean air standards for each room and only using rooms that meet those criteria. Important to agree on metrics for air ventilation and measures taken to meet/exceed those metrics.

Review topics to discuss and community questions

- COVID-19 Safety & Facilities Manual
 - Ventilation metrics and recommendations to achieve and exceed them.
 - Experiments using dry ice: mechanical air exchanges + air exchanges through windows and fans (+ air exchange equivalents through air filters).
 - Additions to masks and other slight changes
 - Living document, that once adopted by SC, will continue to be updated.

Ventilation_
Mitigation with open

Chair Rojas yielded the floor to Jim Maloney who gave a thorough history and status update as to where the District is with the COVID-19 Safety & Facilities Manual, and the ventilation metrics and recommendations.

Dr. Jaime Lichtenstein presented to the group on Ventilation Mitigation with open windows going in depth to the breakdown of the Air Changes per hours for specific classrooms, citing examples and modification strategies.

Jim Maloney updated the group that the District has engaged an engineering firm to do the specification for the balancing of all the building. They have ID'd room that have been reclaimed and if they are not properly ventilated they will not be used.

Chair Rojas introduced Dr. Joseph Allen, Assistant Professor of Exposure Assessment Science and Director of the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Who proceed to present, "Healthy Buildings, a program from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health." Which broke down, COVID 19, healthy school, 9 foundations of healthy buildings, COGFX study, climate co benefits. Noting that he has been advising multiple stakeholder of reentry and safety.

Schools_ForHealth_U
pdatedJan21.pdf

Brendan Roy asked about the air exchange rate and wanted clarity. Do you factor out the larger space when calculating rates for classrooms.

- Dr. Allen answered it is, typically it spoken about air exchanges rate in home, now we are talking about clean air also through filters. Typically, they are talking about outdoor air we are talking about clean air. We are speaking about COVID and there is a larger conversation to be have about higher ventilation rates and its benefits. Clean air removes delusion and filtration. We are talking about smaller volume spaces.
- Dr. Lichtenstein added that she was quoting the classrooms from the study.

Dr. Lichtenstein asked what is the best way to use the Carbon Monoxide monitor filter.

- Dr. Allen answered that a monitor will give you a really good outdoor air ventilation rate, count number of scholars, volume of the space and get your data and what outdoor ventilation rate but it doesn't count filtration.

Dr. Jill Crittenden inquired where should the HEPA filters be placed in order to avoid dead zone?

- Dr. Allen replied that the general Guidance you want in central to the classroom. The ones that are sized correctly are circulating the air enough. Dead Zones won't be an issue. Mask wearing will be the most helpful in addition to this safety protocols. You want to manage air flow.

Dan Monahan asked how does the AHS rates interact with the occupancy in the classroom? Reminded the panel that social distancing is risky with teachers and students.

- Dr. Allen replied that we have built in protective factors, derived (4 to 6 AHS per hour) assumed typical occupancy density as defined by ASHRAE standards, if you de densify you are getting the benefit. It is optimal to keep it at this rate. Reminded that the code for school is 3 exchanges per hour. From an exposure risk standpoint. He is for the lesser distance when universal masking and handwashing are used.

Jim Maloney wanted clarity about the 6 feet distancing that is currently in place for the cohort that will be returning on October 13 and thinking about the future with relaxing the social distancing to 3 feet for a larger amount of students to return.

- Dr. Allen replied that with the other safety controls and universal masking in place distancing matters less and there still can be protection, the risk calculus is low and manageable, doesn't make sense from the mechanistic or epidemiological literature.

Tracey Rose Tynes asked about contact tracing and the 6-foot distancing and wanted input about the potential to lessen the distancing.

- Dr. Allen responded that you are managing the exposure risk and if there is a probable case, is being cautious with the interactions and slow the spread. Contact tracing and setting up a classroom are things to keep in mind.

Member Fantini what is your recommendation for co2 testing protocols? Asked about first floor windows and their safety standards with the specific opening requirements.

- Dr. Allen answered that based on current ventilation rates, sounds like there will be no issue and good shape, as well as the other safety protocols in place, in terms of verifying, if you are getting your units balanced and measured, you have information at hand with their readouts, the monitor can be used as a screening tool. If there is a pressure differential air will move with the more inches open will make a difference.

Vedad Konjic asked about the pending seasons, specific winter to exhaust our systems, should the district consider the ratio of 28 fresh/outdoor air.

- Dr. Allen answered that the priority is bringing in the freshest air outdoor as possible. Go as long as you can to maximize the freshest air possible, the reliance of Merv 13 filters and portable air cleaners would be ok to par that back go as long as you can. Keep prioritize the outdoor air. It is reasonable to count 80% is protective.

Dr. Jaime Lichtenstein asked if he had an opinion on Box Fan placement?

- Dr. Allen answered the further apart the better, right near each other could short the out. That air will find its way out.

Chair Rojas asked what is our threshold number for air exchanges per hour for comfort to send children back?

- Dr. Allen answered Target 5 is the what is stated. However, he would be comfortable with a 4 with universal masking and low community spread and with other considerations.

Dr. Jill Crittenden asked about the latest data in terms of transmission for people who are more than a few feet apart? Is there safety in your own office?

- Dr. Allen replied fundamental confusion about particle sizes, the viral particles can extend beyond 6 feet. Airborne transmission beyond 6 feet, the distance is still going to matter, the aerosol plume will be greater, end of the room will be diluted. The masking is going to stop the concentration further away in the room. There is no evidence that people can be affected through the mechanisms. Shared spaces is the outlier.

Mayor Siddiqui thanked Dr. Allen for his time and information and commented on the District plans in place and would like to have a follow up.

Tracey Rose Tynes asked about cumulative exposure for people and COVID, she used the example exposure of maybe three to five minutes with an affected person?

- Dr. Allen answered that lot of what is happening is our best assumptions and risk reductions principles.

Jim Maloney addressed that the Facility and Safety manual is a living document, noted that setting the right standards is appropriate for the type of mask to wear for safety purposes. Clarified that Field trips would only be allowed to local parks.

- Dr. Jaime Lichtenstein The standard in the medical field has been N95 mask, echoed what Jim Maloney said. There should be a minimum standard and this change sets it.

Tracey Rose Tynes remarked that the get well room should have the teachers always be in contact with the school nurse. The nurse needs to make assessment over the phone.

Jim Maloney went on to thank all involved, various stakeholders and said that conversation has already begun about expanding the cohort of students. Remarked that Cambridge is incredibly fortunate for all its resources. Working on a best practices manual for educators for frequently asked questions and information.

Dr. Lichtenstein spoke about equivalent air exchanges per hour, and that language is important for clarification to manual.

Dan Monahan thanks for the best practices manual for the teachers and remarked the way the manual is written is important for the 6-foot distancing, but liked what Dr. Allen thoughts on also how important masking and ventilation is.

Dr. Helen Jenkins remarked that good PPE, good ventilation and having a mask mandate works.

Member Fantini asked about the viability of a flu clinic?

- Tracey Rose Tynes answered that there are flu vaccinations are mandated and flu clinics are scheduled with the anticipation of vaccinating 10K residents.

Chair Rojas reviewed next steps: Consider recommending adoption of Safety & Facilities Manual to the School Committee, Metric ventilation numbers, the best practice manual for the teachers.

Adjourned 12:15pm

Attest:

Jennifer Dever Wood
Cambridge School Committee

#21-103 Report of the October 30, 2020 Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee

October 30, 2020

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-103

Virtual Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Report
Friday, October 30, 2020

Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of discussing the COVID-19 Safety & Facilities Manual and the health metrics of the reopening data dashboard. It is anticipated that this meeting will end no later than 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chair José Luis Rojas Villarreal, Vice Chair Manikka Bowman, Member Fantini

Also Present: Mayor Siddiqui, Member Weinstein, Member Wilson, Member Rachel, James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, Joanne Johnson, Operations Assistant, Vedad Konjic, Facilities Director, Maisha Rounds, Fletcher Maynard Principal, Principal Sarah Marrero of Amigos, Robin Harris, Family Engagement and Partnerships, Rowan Marcus, IT, Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel, B Kim, Educational Liaison & Policy Advisor to Mayor's Office, Tracy Rose-Tynes, Nurse Manager for School Health Services, Interim Associate Chief, Dr. Jill Crittenden and Dr. Jaime Liechtenstein, Dan Monahan, Caitlin Taylor, Mass Design Group, Dave Armstrong, CPSD, Anna Kaplan, Cambridge Public Health and Dr. Helen Jenkins

Chair Rojas began the meeting at 11:00am with reading the notice to participate and introductions as well as going over the agenda.

He proceeded to give a synopsis and context around the meeting: Revise the current health metrics of the Reopening Dashboard and consider updating them based on new knowledge and the availability of more detailed data, and discuss the language around lunch in the COVID-19 Safety & Facilities Manual. Provide opportunity for community members to ask questions and ideas on these topics to Administration, Scientists and Public Health Representatives. As well as community questions:

- What metrics related to higher risk populations can we consider?
- Should we continue to open windows during winter, even if just for a couple of minutes each hour?
- What can we do to close other sectors of the economy in order to provide a better chance for schools to remain open?
- What new metrics are we considering to bring more students into the classrooms safely? - Ask Jim when the working group will next meet to discuss this.

Chair Rojas yielded the floor to Jim Maloney, Chief Operating Officer, CPSD to speak about the potential metrics change.

Jim Maloney gave a brief history on the proposed conversation and informed the panel that there is conversation to expand in person learning as well. Asked Tracey Rose Tynes to speak on testing.

Tracey Rose Tynes remarked that testing is going well. No students have tested positive. Only one in-person student has tested positive, but happened outside school. There have been a couple of remote students that have also tested positive. Informed the panel that 1600 COVID test have been done in schools, 28 for symptomatic students. None have not come back positive. Very encouraged by the results and shares that schools are a safe place to be. There are a handful of positive cases with the remote students. The masking, washing hands and social distancing are working.

Vice Chair Bowman asked a clarifying question about the one positive case and its context.

- Tracey Rose Tynes answered that the positive test was not tested in school and happened outside of school.

Dr. Helen Jenkins wanted to highlight the difference, cases will come up, the point is that they are being identified. There needs to be a reminder that is different from than transmission. Goes on to speak in depth on the letter, written with Bradley Bernstein, MD PhD; Jill Crittenden, PhD; Helen Jenkins, PhD; Jamie Liechtenstein, PhD; Keith Marzilli Ericson, PhD, that will be used to explain the updated metric proposal.

Dr. Jaime Lichtenstein echoed what Dr. Jenkins explained to the group and praised her summary. Encouraged staff to take advantage of surveillance testing. Over all it seems that this program is successful. Complements the Public Health Department for their diligence and hard work.

Dr. Jill Crittenden agreed with what her colleagues have said and reminded that safety measures are in place in the schools.

Catherine Reilly, a parent, commented that schools are not spreading COVID 19, wanted to know how the in person learning will be expanded.

Member Fantini spoke on the timeliness on the metric change. He proceeded to ask about wastewater testing and when is the timeframe? Followed up with greater testing of older students? There needs to be discussions of a return to school plan. Was curious that some schools have a fourth metric would Cambridge consider that?

- Jim Maloney broke down the metrics of Cambridge and surrounding communities. The has been the beginning process of getting the working group together to start speaking about the expansion of in person learning.

Tracey Rose Tynes, introduced Anna Kaplan to speak on the metrics

- Anna Kaplan answered and reminded the panel of the oscillating between the categories of cases. We need to look at who is getting testing and that included the college students and there are some nuances to these numbers.
- Mayor Siddiqui answered that the City is very close to the project being off the ground, working with MWRA to have this happen. The analysis will be happening hopefully early next week.
- Dr. Lichtenstein answered that the High School students should be the population. It should be a target based on the metrics of the day and could implement self-swab testing. A deeper conversation on what is the perfect age cutoff? That possibility of a fourth metric should be a community based discussion.

Dr. Jill Crittenden wanted to add to the conversation one of the additional metrics that we have is surveillance testing and is a crucial metric.

Vice Chair Bowman wanted a clarity on the following does it make sense to have Cambridge Based Metrics as opposed to a regional based system? Aligning resources and have a better picture of risk from the other communities represented by staff? Wanted to clarity on a metric of focusing on the children of BIPOC and making determination of when schools are safe, is concerned for internal bias.

- Dr. Lichtenstein answered that the ideal way if we were thinking of weighing the proposal to list the testing of the scholars and compare to the surrounding cities and town and compare. There is consideration that should be incorporated and that overall numbers are broken down by count way. Not driven by Boston. A super spreader even in another town could impact the numbers. Reminds the average person may not infect people, a super spreader could affect multiples and that would drive transmission. As for the concern for BIPOC potential metric it's possible that communities that may feel disenfranchised. Would always like to see more testing in impacted communities. Thinks about the degrees of the metrics and the publicizing of them
- Dr. Helen Jenkins commented on that Cambridge's data is such good quality data, as well as the resources provided by the City, that we can keep up with our information.
- Dr. Crittenden reminded that wastewater testing is not looking at the bias and testing 95% of the Cambridge population that live and work. By having Cambridge based metrics we can evaluate the danger of the work place for the teacher.
- Anna Kaplan remarked that it is a challenge for creating and observing data and definitely worth a conversation to expand on this topic.

Chair Rojas clarified that people that are of higher risk be tested.

Vice Chair Bowman wanted a recommendation to the School Committee to separate out the conversation about broader metrics related to COVID 19 speak of community centric metrics that larger metrics do not stigmatize cohorts of individuals.

Jim Maloney remarked on the over 1200 employees trying to tie in where employees reside. There needs to be a conversation before we consider weighing other communities.

Chair Rojas wanted to speak about the potential language revision about encouraging people to eat outside.

- Dr. Lichtenstein stated lunch outdoors unless it is not safe to do so would be her proviso.

Member Weinstein advocated for more outdoor activity and reminding of its benefits.

Vice Chair Bowman wanted discretion when speaking about the lunch and outdoors. It should be determined by the Principals.

- Principal Rounds agreed that there should be flexibility in taking into consideration what the weather conditions are.
- Tracey Rose Tynes suggested the same protocol that is in place for recess?
- Jim Maloney questioned the weather and the differences between 30/40 degree and eating.
- Dr. Crittenden there needs to be a balance and always proper ventilation. Reminded that the teachers breakroom is a concern for her.

Member Wilson asked about the 1600 tested and are they repeating testing or are they being tested just once?

- Tracey Rose Tynes does not have that information but observed that more people are getting tested twice weekly.
- Anna Kaplan answered that people on an average are getting tested twice a week. Accessing results are much easier once registered.
- Jim Maloney anecdotally commented on the ease and the noninvasive process of testing.

Abigail Klima, parent, wanted clarity on the process and timeline to changes to the metrics for the City.

- Chair Rojas explained that the recommendation would come from the committee and would have a follow up meeting Mayor Siddiqui and then it would be brought to the School Committee.

Dan Monahan expressed thanks to the committee members and commented that the timing of the meeting is problematic for teachers. Asked about the proposals, could they be public, is the only change to use Cambridge only data? There needs to be a very clear rationale for the reasoning for the proposal of the metrics change. Would like better data on what percentages of teachers are being tested.

- Dr. Lichtenstein answered that change is to the first two metrics, the third (wastewater) metric would be based on seven day averages.

Sarah Rosenberg, CEA Health Safety Committee, asked could the number of cases be put on our dashboard, better the transparency and who is reporting the numbers? Remarked about the timing of the meeting and the inconvenience to their schedules.

Vice Chair Bowman acknowledged the timing is not advantageous and agreed.

- Jim Maloney explained that the number comes from the Superintendent's Office which comes from the MWRA and the Cambridge Department of Public Health. Reminded the panel the balance of privacy and notification.
- Dr. Lichtenstein strongly suggested that CPSD add the cases to the dashboard, DPH could potentially add to the dashboard.
- Tracey Rose Tynes agreed to adding the information to the dashboard for clarity and the positive outlook for the community. Acknowledged the privacy issue.

Member Weinstein wanted clarity for the proposed revision, we know it is based on surveillance testing is there a threshold for that?

- Dr. Jenkins answered she does not have that information.
- Dr. Crittenden expressed the importance of the teacher testing.
- Dan Monahan and Sarah Rosenberg agreed and expressed an interest to push the teacher testing.

- Jim Maloney gave a brief synopsis for the past several weeks of testing.

Chair Rojas asked the members if they were in agreement to recommendation to have the School Committee look at the revised metrics.

Sub-Committee Members agreed to the recommendations to send forth to the School Committee.

Dr. Lichtenstein spoke about linking these metrics not just to schools, but on a city wide enterprises and those levels be indicative for determinations for other buildings.

Dr. Helen Jenkins echoed what Dr. Lichtenstein expressed.

Mayor Siddiqui informed the panel of the City's testing efforts and how it will be expanded.

Dan Monahan echoed Dr. Lichtenstein's concerns with the rise of numbers and the effect on other business and advocated that the Governor take action to close other business based on the numbers in order to keep schools open.

Letter_from_External_
Scientific_Advisors_m

Chair Rojas asked the committee members to revise the language concerning the language regarding lunch.

Chair Rojas reviewed next steps: Recommend approval of local health metrics to the School Committee. Recommend change to the language around lunch in the safety & facilities manual to recommend eating lunch outside, but not require it. Set up Building & Grounds Subcommittee meetings after school hours to discuss impact of metrics on people of color and metrics to consider bringing more students into classrooms safely.

Adjourned 1:00pm

Attest:

Jennifer Dever Wood
Cambridge School Committee

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to extend the meeting: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

10. **Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolence):**

#21-104 Joint Motion by Member Wilson and Mayor Siddiqui

Whereas: The Cambridge Public Schools Community was deeply saddened to learn of the recent, tragic passing of 19-year-old Cambridge resident, Xavier Louis-Jacques, alum of the Peabody School, Rindge Ave Upper Campus, and Cambridge Rindge and Latin Class of 2020, on Saturday, March 27, 2021; and Whereas: Xavier Louis-Jacques was a Learning Community C scholar who was well-known and strongly connected to scholars and staff in our community and many in our community watched him mature over the years; and

Whereas: Xavier Louis-Jacques participated in the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Football program in both his junior and senior year, had an interest in computers—he started building his own computers at age 11— and was an overall gifted and talented young man honing his love of the arts, even having one of his pieces featured in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts; and

Whereas: Xavier Louis-Jacques was recently accepted to Xavier University, a private and historically

Black Roman Catholic University in New Orleans, and he hoped to one day become an engineer; and Whereas: The loss of Xavier Louis-Jacques will be forever felt by his community, and his memory shall be forever cherished by all those who were fortunate enough to know him; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Cambridge School Committee, Superintendent, and Cambridge Public Schools Community formally go on record in expressing its deepest condolences to the family of Xavier Louis-Jacques for their tremendous loss; and be it further

Resolved: That the Executive Secretary to the School Committee be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Rayschell McCants, mother of Xavier Louis-Jacques, on behalf of the entire Cambridge School Committee.

Member Wilson shared the resolution and discussed how she will share information about services.

On the following roll call, number **#21-104** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

11. Announcements:

Member Weinstein shared that 23 Cambridge students received the Scholastic award.

Member Rachel discussed how the Interim Superintendent Finalist panelist will be on Thursday.

Member Wilson shared that SKIP will be participated and do SAT prep and get your college essay done and completed.

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications from City Officers:

Distributed Back-up Documents (copies on file in the School Committee office):

- Agenda
- PowerPoint Presentation

Statements from Public Comment (copies on file in the School Committee office)

- Statement re:

E-Mail communications:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ✓ Dan Monahan | ✓ Susan Soroka | ✓ Joanne Dermody Mullan |
| ✓ Lea Lortie | ✓ Jenine Turner-Traruig | ✓ Rachel Kelsey |
| ✓ Piotr Mitro | ✓ Tina Lieu | ✓ Lindsey Slotnick Yamaguchi |
| ✓ Karen Engles | ✓ Katie Bruno | ✓ Jaime Lichtenstein |
| ✓ Amanda Beatty | ✓ Greta Fox | ✓ Peter Squires |
| ✓ Monica Raymond | ✓ Lori Thomas | ✓ Emily Greenstein |
| ✓ Lucia Mindell | ✓ Susan Gellar | ✓ Panella Mindell |
| ✓ Shelley Rieman | ✓ Michelle Potashman | ✓ Jill Shulman |
| ✓ Sara Sikowitz | ✓ Joan Epstein | |

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, the School Committee entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing strategy for collective bargaining (CEA Units A&B, C, D and E; AFSCME Council 93, Local 1611; Family Liaisons; Safety Specialists and Food Service) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on bargaining strategy of the School Committee. The School Committee will not reconvene in open session and votes will not be taken except to adjourn the executive session: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to adjourn the meeting: Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA. (10:11 p.m.).

Attest:

Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee