



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

May 16, 2023

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee.

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

Also, Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent
Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

The Chair provided a statement to the public regarding Governor Charlie Baker's Executive Order on guidelines for remote participation and then read the call of the meeting.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call vote for the purpose of a soundcheck: Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Hunter PRESENT; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

Member Wilson joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Avenue, spoke regarding #23-089
- Joel Patterson, Reed Street Terrace, Bolton Street, spoke about #23-089

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on a voice vote, public comment was closed.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Clemente and **Student Member Escamilla-Salomon** provided a few updates that included a recap of the Spring Dance Show from the Modern Dance Company and announced a few events including Scholarship Night on May 18th, Junior Prom, and Senior Sunset on May 19th, and workshop hosted by the Student Color Coalition. Both **Student Member Clemente** and **Student Member Escamilla** also reflected on their year as Student Representatives.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- May 2, 2023, Regular Meeting

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on a voice vote, the records were approved.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#23-072 Joint Motion by the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee: Co-Chairs Member Weinstein and Member Fantini and Member Wilson (Second Reading)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Member Weinstein shared that he Committee will need to delay the vote of the second reading to ensure that the council handbooks are completely updated and accessible. This will remain on the calendar for the next scheduled Regular Meeting,

#23-082 Recommendation: Contract Award: Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology: Instructional Services

A brief discussion followed on **#23-082**.

Member Fantini, who exercised his charter right at the May 2nd Regular Meeting to pause the vote of the recommendation, motioned to refer the recommendation back to the Superintendent for review, consideration, and a memorandum of understanding.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel on a voice vote, **#23-082** was referred back to the Superintendent for more information. The Superintendent will bring the recommendation back at another date.

6. Awaiting Reports:

C22-311 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein and Mayor Siddiqui

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

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

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

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

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

- **Route 68** Harvard - Kendall / MIT (travels down Broadway between Kendall Sq. and Harvard Sq.). MBTA proposes reducing service to weekdays only 6:00 am- 9:00 am and 4:00 pm-7:00 pm every 30 minutes. Afterschool activities and sports need evening rush hour frequency service extended to 3:00 pm-8:00 pm;
- **Route 69** Harvard - Lechmere (travels down Cambridge St. between Lechmere and Harvard). MBTA proposes a reduction from every 15 mins to every 30 mins;
- **Route 83** (Rindge Ave to Central Sq. via Porter Sq.). MBTA proposes a reduction to every 30 minutes from the current 20 minutes. Current frequency should be maintained, or increased to every 15 minutes to make the bus usable between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm;
- **Routes 69 and Route 83** are being cut drastically; the frequencies of both routes should be increased to account for the needs of students;
- **Route 78** (78 Arlmont Village - Harvard via Garden St., Concord Ave to Cambridge Highlands). MBTA proposes a reduction from every 25 minutes to every 60-90 minutes (6:00 am-1:00 am).

Students on this line need more frequent service to access school and afterschool activities and sports need evening rush hour frequency service extended to 3:00 pm-8:00 pm. Cuts to Route 78 also reduce access to Neighborhood Nine, Cambridge Highlands, Concord Ave between Huron and Blanchard Rd, including assisted care and medical facilities; it is also the only connector between West Cambridge and Arlington;

- **Route 75** (The dedicated CRLS route on school mornings) provides essential transportation services for high school students to get to school on time and should be reinstated and additional dedicated CRLS routes considered for other areas of the City;
- **Routes throughout the City** need to be assessed in light of new and planned housing units including affordable housing and the potential future needs of students living in that housing; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent and Mayor Siddiqui send a letter and forward this policy order along with emails from the community to representatives at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Cambridge state delegation on behalf of the entire School Committee, and be it further

RESOLVED: That this letter will detail the MBTA bus routes and schedules that are critical for the needs of CPSD students, with particular attention to those students and families who rely the most on MBTA busses; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CPSD will review student needs and the most recent MBTA proposals before submitting the letter and will add to or modify the list noted above if needed, and be it further

RESOLVED: The Cambridge School Committee goes on record in support of changes that improve access and in support of further changes to address the concerns of residents as summarized above, and be it further

RESOLVED: That this letter will be delivered to the MBTA, the state delegation, and the Governor-Elect Maura Healy as soon as possible with a request for a response.

Given that the Committee has not received a response and no update on the awaiting report, on a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, C22-311 was placed on file and removed from Awaiting Reports.

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Superintendent's Update: Dr. Greer shared a district update on the strategic areas of focus. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

Following the Superintendent's update, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor up to the Committee for discussion.

Member Weinstein inquired about the process of the instructional framework and the portrait of a graduate and how are students and families are involved in the process. Dr. Greer shared that the district has invited families, caregivers, and other various stakeholder groups to give feedback on the draft of both the instructional framework and the portrait of a graduate. At the moment, the district is working on a

final draft, in which there will be more involvement of families, students, and stakeholders in August.

Member Weinstein also inquired about the school improvement process and the involvement of school councils as the process begins in the summer months when school councils do not meet. Dr. Edwards (Chief of Academics and Schools) and Dr. Madera (Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education) provided clarification on the involvement of the school councils in the instructional framework and portrait of a graduate project. Principals will work on a draft of school data in the upcoming month to ensure that ELA, math, and social-emotional learning are rooted in both student work and information. Principals will also need to work with the ILT and staff on the data. Once the school year begins, the school councils will be involved in the draft work. Dr. Greer shared that Mr. Porch is working on the implementation of a training with the school councils in the upcoming year.

Vice Chair Rachel asked for clarity on the Superintendent's draft of the instructional framework and if there will be an opportunity for the Committee to provide feedback on it. Dr. Greer shared that the instructional framework is more of instructional academic practice and not a policy, so the district will update the Committee on the process as the work on the draft continues. **Vice Chair Rachel** asked if the timeline would shift in future years, so the process will not begin in the summer months when families aren't always available. Dr. Madera shared that the school improvement process is a 2-year process, so next year will be more like a review and not the implementation of a new plan. The new plan after the one implemented this school year will be 2025-2026. Dr. Edwards shared that the review process will also be a continuous cycle with reviews every 90 days.

Member Fantini shared that with two more months in the school year, there may be an opportunity to get parent engagement before the implementation process in the summer.

Member Rojas inquired about individual success plans and asked for the reasoning why the district anticipates these plans will not be ready for the upcoming school year. Dr. Greer mentioned that the cohort for the individual success plans takes about a year.

Member Hunter inquired about the school council elections and when is the cycle for reelections. Dr. Greer and Mr. Fernandez responded that each school has differing election cycles.

7b. Presentations:

The second presentation of the evening was led by the Office of Student Services and highlighted the English Language Learner (ELL) and Bilingual Services program over the 2022-2023 school year. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

The presentation was led by Dr. Karyn Grace (Assistant Superintendent of Student Services) and Beth Kershner (Director of Multilingual Learner Education) and highlighted initiatives and efforts made by the English Language Learner and Bilingual Services throughout the past year.

After the presentation, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor up to the Committee for discussion.

Member Rojas inquired about the change of the department name to be more inclusive. He inquired about students in immersion programs and wondered how many students who are not in dual-language

immersion programs should be in them and perhaps look at the ability to expand. He also discussed the growth at the Amigos school and how we can utilize growth like this to expand our programs. **Member Rojas** inquired about WIDA and asked for more information regarding it. Ms. Kershner responded that WIDA distributes the ACCESS test (which is an MCAS equivalent for dual-language learners). The district used the WIDA model to determine any deficiencies as they address content and continuum of English proficiency at different levels. **Member Rojas** also inquired about the benefit of expanding the district's multi-language learner programs. Ms. Kershner responded that the state is highly encouraging of dual-language programs as studies show that multi-language learners benefit greatly from dual-immersion programs.

Vice Chair Rachel inquired about the SLIFE coordinator at the Graham and Parks School and if other schools will have the opportunity to have a SLIFE coordinator. Ms. Kershner explained that a SLIFE coordinator was piloted at Graham and Parks was mainly due to other schools having other support systems such as Math Interventionists. **Vice Chair Rachel** inquired about the recruitment of students whose native language is not English. Ms. Kershner shared that the enrollment at the Amigos school is 50/50. Native Portuguese speakers have declined in recent years but students who are native speakers are encouraged to join Ola.

Member Wilson inquired about common challenges seen regarding African-American students and students with disabilities. Ms. Kershner responded that students with disabilities and who are not native language speakers are more challenged, however, there is a heavy focus on their continuum process for improvement. **Member Wilson** also inquired about the training of staff and the support for the educators in the pathway for ESL certification through the CREATE grant. Ms. Kershner shared that UMass Boston created a multi-faceted program that allows educators to attend five free graduate courses that focus on English language development or bilingual education endorsements. The program also has an opportunity for families to provide coaching for the educators in the program.

Member Fantini inquired about program evaluation. Ms. Kershner shared that she thinks there can be a more cohesive vision of the immersion programs and she feels that an evaluation of the immersion programs can assist with that. **Member Fantini** also inquired about the Seal of Biliteracy. Ms. Kershner announced that the program is headed by the World Language Department and in recent years it has been proven successful. Dr. Greer shared that every year about 10% of students from the graduating class at CRLS receive a seal of biliteracy.

Member Rojas inquired about the expansion of the immersion conference. At the NSBA conference, a district in Maryland shared how they implemented dual-language immersion programs in all of their schools and wondered if theoretically, the possibility of the district providing a dual-language classroom.

Mayor Siddiqui asked how many parents were participating in the ESL class. Ms. Kershner shared that there were about fifteen parents who participated this year but next year the district is anticipated to run two classes.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Member Wilson pulled **#23-091**. Member Hunter pulled **#23-094, #23-095, #23-099, #23-104, #23-106, and #23-107**. Member Weinstein pulled **#23-103**. On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, items **#23-089, #23-090, #23-093, #23-096, #23-097, #23-098, #23-100, #23-101 and #23-102** were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-089 Approval to Retain the Law Firm of Morgan, Brown, & Joy, LLP be adopted as follows:

That the School Committee retain the law firm of Morgan, Brown & Joy, LLP to provide, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, §§37E & 37F, legal services for labor and employment matters for the period through June 30, 2024; and further, that the Superintendent of Schools to be authorized to take the necessary steps to effectuate the retention of these services in an amount of not to exceed \$85,000 (eighty-five thousand dollars).

#23-090 Contract Award: Creative Bus Sales: Ford E-Transit Electric Van for RSTA be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-090, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Creative Bus Sales, 13 Rebel Road, Hudson NH for the contract period of May 19, 2023, to September 1, 2023, in the amount of \$105,645.00.

Description: This contract is for a 2023 Ford E-Transit 350 14-passenger Electric Van for the CRLS Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA). This purchase meets the City's clean fleet policies.

Background Information: This vehicle will be used to transport RSTA students to and from CRLS and cooperative education clinical worksites. It will replace the current van used by RSTA that is nearly 21 years old.

#23-093 Contract Award: Amplify: Student Assessment Software (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-093, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Amplify, 55 Washington Street, Suite 500, Brooklyn NY, for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$131,377.90.

Description: This contract is for a Grade K-2 literacy screener and diagnostic software.

#23-096 Contract Award: CDW Government LLC: Computer Software (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-096, Contract Award, be adopted as follows:

that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

CDW Government LLC, 230 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills, IL, for the contract period of September 16, 2023, to September 15, 2024, in the amount of \$36,000.00.

Description: This contract is for G-Suite enterprise version licenses for the Cambridge Public Schools Google domain.

Background Information: The G-Suite for Education Enterprise version provides enhanced administrative & management tools as well as additional educator functionality, specifically in Google Meets to address online curriculum needs.

#23-097 Contract Award: Follett School Solutions: Computer Software: (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-097, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Follett School Solutions, 1340 Ridgeview Drive, McHenry, IL, for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$65,540.62.

Description: This contract is for the Aspen student information system that includes teacher, administrator, student, and parent interfaces; teacher grade book; master schedule builder; and full interactive reporting.

#23-098 Contract Award: PJ Systems dba HiQ Computers: Computer Software (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-098, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PJ Systems dba HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$506,979.00.

Description: This contract is for the ongoing maintenance of core networking and cyber security services.

#23-100 Contract Award: New England Center for Children: Computer Software (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-100, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in

accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

New England Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA, for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$47,000.00.

Description: This contract is for autism curriculum software.

#23-101 Contract Award: Perkins School for the Blind: Special Education Services (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-101, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Perkins School for the Blind, 175 North Beacon Street, Watertown, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$70,000.00.

Description: This contract is for consultation, assessment, and direct vision services as required by students' individual education plans.

#23-102 Contract Award: Baystate Interpreters: Translation Services (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-102, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Baystate Interpreters, 55 Lake Street, Gardner, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$260,000.00.

Description: This contract is for translation services as required by the Office of Student Services

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#23-091 Contract Award: Gerry's Music Shop: Musical Instruments be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-091, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Gerry's Music Shop, 80 Lamb Street, South Hadley, MA for the contract period of May 19, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$207,718.80

A brief discussion followed on **#23-091**.

Member Wilson inquired about the purpose of the contract and how often they review the need for additional instruments in the district. Ms. Spinner has more clarity on the contract award and the district reviews instruments annually but does not necessarily purchase new instruments annually.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-091** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-092 Contract Award: University Instructors, LLC: Professional Development be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-092, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

University Instructors, LLC, P.O. Box 3074, Staunton, VA for the contract period of May 19, 2023, to May 18, 2024, in the amount of \$33,500.00.

A discussion followed on **#23-092**.

Member Hunter asked for more clarity surrounding the recommendation and how are participants selected and once they are selected what is their commitment and support. Mr. Dotson provided more clarity on the contract award which is to provide support for teachers who were hired in the district with emergency licenses and who need to pass the intel exam.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote **#23-092** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-094 Contract Award: Aperture Education: Computer Software (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-094, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Aperture Education, P.O. Box 1279, Fort Mill, SC for the contract period of October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024, in the amount of \$30,635.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-094**.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote **#23-094** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-095 Contract Award: ConvergeOne: Computer Network Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-095, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ConvergeOne, 12 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$138,728.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-095**.

Member Hunter asked if this contract award is an annual contract or if it is a one-time agreement. Dr. Turk provided background on the contract as it is a tool that allows computers to talk to the server. Depending on eligibility schools can be reimbursed up to 90% but CPSD is eligible to receive 60%.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote **#23-095** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-099 Contract Award: Cartwheel Health Services P.C.: Mental Health Services (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-099, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Cartwheel Health Services, P.C., 625 Massachusetts Ave, Floor 2, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$110,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-099**.

Member Hunter inquired about the timeline of the contract award. Dr. Grace shared that the reasoning for the contract award was to provide mental health services for students in the district for the 2023-2024 school year.

Vice Chair Rachel inquired about cultivation data for Cartwheel services and asked if that data can be shared with the Committee. Dr. Grace shared that the vendor is doing great at supporting our students and can provide the utilization data in an upcoming weekly.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote **#23-099** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-103 Contract Award: Cambridge Center for Neuropsychology & Learning: Special Education Services (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-103, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Cambridge Center for Neuropsychology & Learning, 2464 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 230, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$180,000.00.

Description: The contract is for comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations as requested by the CPS Office of Student Services.

A discussion followed on **#23-103**.

Member Weinstein inquired about how the neuropsychologic evaluations are accessed by families in the district. Are there situations where families are seeking neuropsychologic evaluations? Dr. Greer shared the context as to why neuropsychological evaluations are done for students which is based on students with exceptionalities. There are times when the district may not agree that an evaluation is not needed.

A robust discussion followed on the evaluation process.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote **#23-103** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-104 Contract Award: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-104, approval of Gifts to the Cambridge Public Schools, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the following donation as described:

1. \$3,500.00 made by Spring Point Schools to CRLS to cover costs associated with staff participation in the Transformative Leaders of Massachusetts fellowship.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-104**.

Member Hunter inquired about the contract award and asked for more information on Spring Point. Dr. Gittens shared that Spring Point is a year-long professional development initiative. Once one person applies, half of the funds go to mentorship and the other half is to support substitute funding so it will not be a burden on the district.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote **#23-104** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-106 Contract Award: The Stepping Stones Group: Special Education Staff Services be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-106, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Stepping Stones Group, 2568 Trailridge Drive East, Suite 100, Lafayette, CO for the contract period of January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$100,000.00.

Description: This contract is for the provision of certified professionals to fill school-based vacancies of the Office of Student Services temporarily as required in students' education plans. The service is utilized on an interim basis when a need is immediate and/or when a qualified candidate is not able to be identified through the job posting/hiring process.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-106**.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-106** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-107 Contract Award: NorthEast Electrical: Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Batteries be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-107, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

NorthEast Electrical, 560 Oak Street, Brockton, MA for the contract period of May 19, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$29,814.60.

Description:

This contract is for the replacement of UPS batteries that serve as an emergency backup for the Martin Luther King School (MLK).

Background Information:

The MLK building, a green, net zero building does not have an emergency generator which would require combustion of diesel fuel. Instead, batteries are used to power life safety systems, such as exit lights, fire alarms, and fire pumps in case of an electrical failure. The building cannot operate without these systems in place and backup power (batteries) to keep them on at all times.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-107**.

Member Hunter inquired if this contract is an annual cost and if there is an ability to install a generator in this building. COO Murphy responded that he isn't 100% sure if this contract was an annual cost but he provided additional clarity on the motion which is a battery for the exit lights, fire alarms, and fire pumps in the MLK building. This is intended to be the permanent sustainable cost.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Weinstein on the following roll call vote, **#23-107** was adopted. Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

#23-105 Motion by Member Fantini and Vice Chair Rachel

WHEREAS: In 2021, the School Committee requested a plan for transporting students to after-school programs ([C21-311](#), Members Wilson and Fantini); and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools provided additional funding to community partners that year to address the transportation needs of their participants; and

WHEREAS: Last year, the School Committee requested that the district work with the contracted transportation company to address student transportation to afterschool programs ([C22-230](#) Vice Chair Rachel, Mayor Siddiqui, and Member Fantini); and

RESOLVED: Cambridge Public Schools was able to accommodate transportation for all families who are attending Department of Human Services (DHSP) sponsored after-school programs at a location other than their home school in the 2022-2023 school year; and now, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED: That given the increase in after-school slots created by the Department of Human Services (DHSP), the School Committee and district administration confirm to continue its practice of bussing students to after-school sites that are less than a mile away from their home schools.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-105**.

Member Fantini provided clarity on the motion, which is to continue after-school transportation for students in after-school DHSP programs in the upcoming school year. Dr. Greer shared that DHSP will be expanding afterschool seats at schools so most students will have the opportunity to stay at their home school so they are not anticipating any additional rises in needed transportation

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on a voice vote, **#23-105** was adopted.

10. Resolutions: None

11. Announcements:

Member Weinstein announced that there will be a Virtual Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee on Thursday, May 18th at 5:00 p.m.

Member Hunter announced that there is Spring Concert on May 17th is a Spring Concert, a 2-Block Summit at the Foundry on May 18th, a Middle School Summit on May 19th, a Virtual School Climate Subcommittee on May 22nd at 6 pm, a Civics Showcase on May 22nd, a Healthy Children's Task Force on May 31st, and a Social Media community workshop on May 31st.

Member Wilson announced that CRLS Scholarship Night is on May 18th.

Mayor Siddiqui announced that Cambridge RISE UP applications open on June 1st. There will be an Asian American Festival on May 19th and May 20th at the Foundry. The Mayor's office is hosting an ice cream social on Wednesday, May 31st at CRLS.

12. Communications from City Officers:

- [Vice Chair Rachel: Memorandum re 2023 Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline](#)

Vice Chair Rachel shared the timeline for the Superintendent's Summative Evaluation.

13. Late Orders: None

Email communications:

- ✓ Dan Monahan

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Fantini on the following voice vote, it was voted to adjourn the meeting. (8:59 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee