



**C A M B R I D G E
S C H O O L C O M M I T T E E**

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

June 6, 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 Hunter PRESENT; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein ABSENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

Member Weinstein joined the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Elaine Wen, Rindge Avenue, spoke regarding **#23-072**

On a motion by **Member Fantini**, seconded by **Member Wilson**, on a voice vote, public comment was closed.

On a motion by **Member Fantini**, seconded by **Vice Chair Rachel**, to suspend the rules to change the order of the agenda and bring forward the presentation on the Vassal Lane Renaming Process on a voice vote, the rules were suspended.

Dr. Greer introduced and passed the floor to Principal Coplon-Newfield to lead the presentation on the renaming of the Vassal Lane Upper School. The presentation can be found on this [website](#). Principal Coplon-Newfield introduced the student presenters, The students' remarks and reflections highlighted the various research processes that were undertaken and their engagement with students, staff, and family members soliciting feedback in creating a short list of candidates to inform the school's new

name. Following their presentation, **Mayor Siddiqui** opened the floor for comments and questions from the School Committee.

Vice Chair Rachel thanked the students and adults who were involved in the process. She highlighted their work in leadership, justice, and making positive change. She looks forward to following the students' lead in educating the School Committee and community. **Member Hunter** thanked the students and adults for a great history lesson and believes their process will serve as a model. **Member Rojas** thanked the presenters and asked if the students thought about naming the school after quality rather than a person. A student presenter shared that the group thought of concepts but did not explore the idea further. **Member Fantini** thanked the group for their in-depth homework and encouraged students to continue their involvement. Student members Clemente and Escamilla-Salomon thanked the students, shared their enthusiasm for these important conversations, and encouraged their continued commitment. **Member Wilson** thanked the students and highlighted the diversity of their shortlist.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Clemente and **Student Member Escamilla-Salomon** gave their final student report for the school year. They provided a few updates that included a voter registration event at CRLS on May 31st, senior prom that took place on June 3, student government elections, and the Boys' Volleyball Team advancing to the tournament. Both **Student Member Clemente** and **Student Member Escamilla** also reflected on their year as Student Representatives and will be graduating from CRLS on June 9th. School Committee members, Dr. Greer and Dr. Turk shared their warm wishes and gratitude for the students' partnership and dedication.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- May 9, 2023, Special Meeting
- May 16, 2023, Regular Meeting
- May 30, 2023, Special Meeting

On a motion by **Member Rojas**, seconded by **Member Wilson** 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**.

Dr. Greer shared that the Motion was ready to be voted on. As the main motion maker, Member Weinstein was not present for the discussion, the motion will remain under Unfinished Business until the June 20th meeting.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Superintendent's Update: None

7b. Presentations

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The second presentation of the evening was led by Dr. Lendozia Edwards (Chief of Academics and Schools) and focused on Instructional Framework. She was joined by Dr. Nicole Gittens (Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools), Dr. Karyn Grace (Interim Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Student Services), and Dr. Michele Madera (Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools). The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

Dr. Greer opened the discussion sharing that the findings of her entry report highlighted the district's inconsistent instructional practices resulting in inequitable opportunities across the district. Dr. Edwards underscored that the Instructional Framework aligns with CPSD's strategic initiatives with the goal of reaching all learners and providing support. She shared that moving forward the Instructional Framework will be named the Teaching and Learning Framework. Dr. Gittens asked Committee members to share their personal experiences related to their successful student learning experiences. **Member Rojas** noted his experiences learning Spanish and English. **Student Member Escamilla-Salomon** noted her self-guided learning opportunities. Member Hunter shared a high school science project. Member Wilson highlighted her experience on a dance team. Student Member Clemente shared her experiential learning experiences outside of the classroom. **Mayor Siddiqui** and **Member Fantini** highlighted their challenges and growth opportunities in learning geometry. **Vice Chair Rachel** highlighted her growth opportunities by participating in team projects outside of the classroom.

Following the presentation, **Mayor Siddiqui** opened the floor for questions and asked about the Portrait of a Graduate intersects with the Framework. Dr. Gittens shared the alignment of ensuring that learners are critical thinkers and the importance of equity.

Vice Chair Rachel shared her enthusiasm for the joyful learning aspect of the Framework and asked about how its implementation will impact strong teachers who are already implementing these strategies. Dr. Gittens that the Framework provides alternative support systems and encourages strong teachers to elevate their teaching and serve as peer models. Dr. Madera highlighted that the Framework would provide consistency in curriculum implementation and help ensure that all students have equitable access.

Member Fantini inquired about the following: the availability of a best practice school system; the role of instructional coaches and interventionists within the Framework; the goal of everyone reading a grade level in elementary school; and the timeline for seeing results. Dr. Gittens shared that many schools are partaking in the Framework, but she was unsure if there was a model system. Coaches and interventionists would be included in the Framework. She highlighted that the Framework emphasizes that every student will receive high-quality Tier 1 instruction and that Framework will provide consistency across the school. Dr. Greer shared that the data teams would operate in their current model and would not be replaced. She underscored that the Framework would create consistency and professional development would align with the Framework with the goal of creating synergies and improving student achievement. Dr. Madera and Dr. Grace concurred that the Framework is a tool to guide and align.

Member Hunter asked for the assessment progress. Dr. Edwards shared that i-Ready, MCAS, and departmental benchmarks would provide some of the assessment tools.

Student Member Escamilla-Salomon shared that she participated in the Engage to Learn session and that student voices were elevated. Dr. Grace confirmed that student input was made a priority throughout the process.

Member Rojas asked about the current disparities that came to light in the initial phase of the Framework process. Dr. Gittens shared that there were disparities across classrooms and a scheduling audit shed light on students with IEPs being pulled from the classroom. Dr. Madera highlighted that scheduling across schools looks different including instructional time devoted to ELA and science. Dr. Greer underscored that principals are given guidelines for instruction and that Cambridge has one of the shortest instructional days across the state. Dr. Gittens shared an example of a classroom that was dedicated to 1-hour of math a day which resulted in measured improvement in i-Ready data. **Member Rojas** cautioned that the slide outlining the rollout plan is misleading and illustrates that a review happens in Year 4 which seems too long of a waiting period.

Member Wilson has the following inquiries: the evaluation process happening in the moment and how do we pivot if needed? accessing Portrait of a Graduate; and leveraging model educators. Dr. Greer cited instructional rounds as an opportunity for immediate feedback and principals' teacher evaluations. Dr. Gittens noted transparency with teachers, focused support, and the intentional sharing of best practices. Member Hunter asked about departmental exams at the middle schools and CRLS and where the data is captured. Dr. Gittens that outside of i-Ready and MCAS, exams are graded by hand and not organized. Dr. Madera noted that teachers meet in clusters to review unit assessments to help determine if students have learned particular content and inform instructional practices.

Member Hunter highlighted that as a former CPSD math educator, the department used data to adjust courses. She cited the history of some teachers recommending students to course levels that were inaccurate. She noted her desire for the district to collect more data. Following the discussion, **Mayor Siddiqui** thanked the presenters.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Member Hunter pulled **#23-109, #23-110, #23-111, #23-112, and #23-114**. Member Fantini pulled **#23-115, #23-117, and #23-132**. Member Rojas pulled **#23-118 and #23-125**.

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, items **#23-108, #23-113, #23-116, #23-119, #23-120, #23-121, #23-122, #23-123, #23-124, #23-126, #23-127, #23-128, #23-129, #23-129, #23-130, and #23-131** were adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-108 Contract Award: Fishtank Learning: Professional Development & Computer Software Licenses be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-108, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approved a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided following the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Fishtank Learning, 769 Centre, Suite 208, Boston, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$31,500.00.

#23-113 Contract Award: Learning A-Z: Computer Software (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-113, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approved 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.

Learning A-Z, 1840 East River Road, Suite 320, Tucson, AZ for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$59,680.96.

#23-116 Contract Award: PJ Systems dba HiQ Computers: Computer Hardware (FY24 Contract be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-116, 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 d/b/a HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$500,000.00

#23-119 Contract Award: WW Grainger: FY24 Facilities Equipment & Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-119, 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.

WW Grainger, 100 Grainger Parkway, Lake Forest, IL for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#23-120 Contract Award: Johnstone Supply: FY24 HVAC Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-120, 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.

Johnstone Supply, 358 Industrial Parkway, Woburn, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$30,000.00

#23-121 Contract Award: F.W. Webb: FY24 HVAC Supplies (FY24 Contract be adopted as follows:

That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-121, 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.

F.W. Webb, 160 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$125,000.00.

#23-122 Contract Award: Filter Sales & Services FY24 HVAC Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted

as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-122, 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.

Filter Sales and Services, 15 Adams Street, Burlington, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#23-124 Contract Award: Next Gen Supply Group FY24 Custodial Supplies (FY24 Contract be adopted as follows:

That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-124, 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.

Next Gen Supply Group, 11 Norfolk Street, Mansfield, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$450,000.00.

#23-126 Contract Award: Republic Services: FY24 Dumpster Services (FY24 Contract) be adopted

as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-126, 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.

Republic Services, 848 Adams Street, Abington, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$80,000.00.

#23-127 Contract Award: Pasek: FY24 Locks, Keys & Hardware (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-127, 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.

Pasek, 9 West Third Street, South Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$125,000.00.

#23-128 Contract Award: NorthEast Electrical: FY24 Electrical Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-128, 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 period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$125,000.00.

#23-129 Contract Award: New England School Services: FY24 Doors & Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-129, 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 School Services, 98 Hicks Avenue, Medford, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$125,000.00.

#23-130 Contract Award: Metropolitan Pipe: FY24 Plumbing Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-130, 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.

Metropolitan Pipe, 30 Inner Belt Road, Somerville, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#23-131 Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-131, approval of Gifts to the Cambridge Public Schools, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the following donation as described:

17 copies of *The Streets of Newtowne: A Story of Cambridge* by Suzanne Preston Blier made by the author and the book's publisher Steven Wilson of Imagination and Wonder to the Library Media Services department for each school library.

#23-109 Contract Award: Lexia Learning Systems: Professional Development (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-109, 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.

Lexia Learning Systems, 300 Baker Avenue, Suite 320, Concord, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$105,180.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-109**.

Member Hunter inquired about the grades that the contract will be supporting and more information regarding the cohort. Dr. Madera shared more information on the cohort which was the lower elementary grades.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-109** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-110 Contract Award: Center for Educational Development (CEL) Professional Development (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-110, 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.

Center for Educational Development (CEL), 9709 3rd Avenue NE, Suite 505, Seattle, WA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$84,945.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-110**.

Member Hunter inquired about district-level leaders that the contract award will be supporting. Dr. Greer gave more information on the district-level readers.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-110** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-111 Contract Award: Wilson Language Corporation: Professional Development be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-111, 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.

Wilson Language Corporation, 47 Old Webster Road, Oxford, MA for the period of June 9, 2023, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$37,550.00.

Member Hunter inquired about the number of teachers and the grade levels it supported. Dr. Grace shared more context on the contract award. The staff it includes are private school staff (30 staff members) and the grade levels.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-111** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-112 Contract Award: Mind Research Institute: Computer Software (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-112, 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.

Mind Research Institute, 5281 California Ave, Suite 300, Irvin, CA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$94,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-112**.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, **#23-112** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-114 Contract Award: McGraw Hill Education: Computer Software (FY24 Contract):

That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-114, 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.

McGraw Hill Education, PO Box 182605, Columbus, OH for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$30,582.72.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-114**.

Member Hunter inquired about the accessibility of the system and how it is being utilized in the schools. Dr. Gittens shared that the district has been using Illustrative Math software for about five years and all students have access to it. The goal is to use the software in school during in-classroom instruction, so all students have equitable access. **Member Hunter** shared that she is hearing from parents that they do not know how to access some of the necessary software to keep updated on their children and their academic progress. **Member Rojas** shared his experience as a parent in the district with the software.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Weinstein, **#23-114** was adopted on the following roll call vote. Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-115 Contract Award: Renaissance: Computer Software: (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-115, 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.

Renaissance, PO Box 8036, Wisconsin Rapids, WI for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$46,547.94.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-115**.

Member Fantini inquired about the contract and was wondering what types of data SchoolCity can assist the School Committee on policy work, etc. **Member Rojas** asked how teachers and the administration are currently accessing the data. Dr. Greer responded that she would provide more information regarding SchoolCity and its utilization in the upcoming Weekly. Dr. Greer also responded that Jen Amigone visits schools to analyze and collect data and SchoolCity is where that data is stored. Dr. Greer stated that the district needs one uniform "data warehouse" to ensure accessibility for everyone. **Member Rojas** reflected on a district in California that presented their data sharing during a presentation at the NSBA CUBE conference.

On a motion by member Fantini, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel **#23-115** was adopted on the following roll call vote. Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-117 Contract Award: Ace Endico New England: Groceries: Amended be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-117, Contract Award Amendment, 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.

Ace Endico New England, 171 St Augustin Street, Woonsocket, RI for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, for the amended amount of \$875,000.00.

Background Information: An increase to the original contract is required to continue to cover the cost of purchasing food ingredients for school meals. The sustained high cost of food supplies compounded with an 18% increase in meal participation caused CPS to exceed the initial forecasted food cost. (Original contract amount: \$700,000.00)

A brief discussion followed on **#23-117**.

Member Fantini inquired about the amendment in the contract and if it was budgeted in the upcoming budget. COO Murphy shared that this current contract is an amendment to the current contract for the FY23 school year.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote **#23-117** was adopted on the following roll call vote. Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-118 Contact Award: B & G Food Service Equipment & Supply: Food Service & Culinary Arts Program Equipment be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-118, 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.

B&G Food Service Equipment & Supply, 369 University Avenue, Westwood, MA for the period of June 9, 2023, to December 31, 2023, in the amount of \$754,134.37.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-118**.

Member Rojas inquired about the contract and if this was a maintenance that we planned for and how often do we expect the maintenance expense. COO Murphy shared that the current contract is part of an anticipated series of maintenance projects that were budgeted into the FY23 budget with the expectation it will be completed in the summer months. He does not expect this type of expense in the future for this particular school, but it can come up as a maintenance project for another school in the future.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Rojas on the following roll call vote **#23-118** was adopted. Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-123 Contract Award: Aramsco, Inc., dba Casey EMI: FY24 Custodial Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-123, 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.

AramSCO, Inc. d/b/a Casey EMI, 1480 Grandview Ave, Paulsboro, NJ for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$300,000.00.

On a motion by Member Wilson seconded by Vice Chair Rachel on **#23-123** was adopted on the following roll call vote. Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-125 Contract Award: Home Depot: FY24 Carpentry & Maintenance Supplies (FY24 Contract) be adopted as follows: That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-125, 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.

Home Depot, 11 Dan Road, Canton, MA for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$300,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-125**.

Member Rojas inquired about the reasoning of using a national chain versus a local supplier. COO Murphy and CFO Spinner clarified that the facilities departments utilize a lot of local vendors in the Cambridge area for supply procurement under \$10,000. When ordering a large supply of multiple items, it is often inefficient to bid with multiple local vendors.

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Vice Chair Rachel on **#23-125** was adopted on the following roll call vote. Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-132 Grant Award: FY24 Popplestone Foundation (SC24695) be adopted as follows:

That Superintendent's Recommendation #23-132, Grant Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below from the Popplestone Foundation (SC24695) in the amount and for the period indicated:

Amount: \$296,337.00 Period: 9/1/2023 – 8/31/2024

Source: Foundation Administrator: Andrea Zuniga

Expense Category	FY23 Budget	FY23 FTE	FY24 Budget	FY24 FTE
Permanent Salaries & Benefits	\$303,644.00	2.4	\$295,587.00	2.4
Temporary Salaries	-		-	
Other Expenses	750.00		750.00	
Total	\$304,394.00	2.4	\$296,337.00	2.4

A brief discussion followed on **#23-132**.

Member Fantini provided more context about this grant and its impact on school children and he hopes it can be expanded. He noted the foundation's connection to the 2016 documentary, *Can We All Become Geniuses* which featured CPSD students.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-132** was adopted. Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information): #23-133 Report of the May 18, 2023, Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Meeting

A brief discussion followed on **#23-133**.

Member Weinstein provided a summary of the May 18, 2023, Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Meeting which continued the discussion from the May 9th Roundtable meeting regarding Illustrative Math and the implementation to reintroduce 8th-grade algebra.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Wilson on a voice vote, **#23-133** was adopted.

#23-134 Report of the May 22, 2023, School Climate Subcommittee Meeting

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on a voice vote, **#23-134** was adopted.

#23-135 Report of the May 24, 2023, Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on a voice vote, **#23-135** was adopted.

#23-136 Report of the May 25, 2023, Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee Meeting

A brief discussion followed on **#23-136**.

Member Weinstein provided a summary of the May 25, 2023, Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee Meeting which was a discussion regarding the ParentSquare application and its impact on CPSD students and families.

On a motion by Member Weinstein seconded by Member Wilson on a voice vote **#23-136** was adopted.

#23-137 Motion by Vice Chair Rachel, Mayor Siddiqui, and Member Hunter

WHEREAS: The 2022 Teen Health Survey documented that “the proportion of high school students who experienced depression (37%), hurt themselves (17%), or considered attempting suicide (20%) reached their highest levels since 2012;” and

WHEREAS: The percentages of students experiencing anxiety in the past year was nearly half (48%) of high school students and more than a third (38%) of upper school students, with Genderqueer and female students most impacted; and

WHEREAS: Educators and staff also are reporting increased levels of anxiety and depression coming through the pandemic years; and

WHEREAS: These local mental health crises are reflected in national trends; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Youth Council has launched a [Youth Headspace Campaign](#) created by young people in order to centralize mental health resources for young people; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools continues to identify and refine interventions to support student and staff mental health, including but not limited to increasing the number of social workers in our schools, providing access to virtual therapists, and emphasizing relationship-building through advisories or Falcon Block; and

WHEREAS: CPS is fortunate to be a community in which students and staff want to show up for one another, but individuals may not know what mental health distress looks like or how to help; and

WHEREAS: In August, all Health and Wellness teachers will take Mental Health First Aid, an evidence-based program that shows individuals how to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent will explore offering Youth Mental Health First Aid to additional educators as well as caregivers and students and will bring a recommendation to the School Committee no later than October 31, 2023.

A discussion followed on **#23-137**.

Vice Chair Rachel shared the context regarding the motion which stems from the results of the current Teen Health Survey which revealed a number of students revealing grappling with mental health issues.

Member Hunter referenced the national mental health crisis and the importance of training educators.

Member Wilson also recognized the importance of this motion and asked if the recommended date can be pushed sooner than the October 31, 2023, date to sometime in September.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Hunter, on a voice vote, **#23-137** was adopted.

10. Resolutions: None

11. Announcements:

Student Member Escamilla-Salomon announced that there will be a Juneteenth event on June 17th that includes mural making, and a basketball tournament, the event starts at 10 am-7 pm

Member Hunter announced that Youth Uncensored event occurs on June 12th. On June 14th there will be a district celebration for the CPSD retirees. There will also be a Bob Moses event on June 14th.

Member Rojas announced that on June 7th will be an orienteering event at Danehy Park.

Member Fantini shouted to the Shrek musical at an upper school.

Mayor Siddiqui announced that RISE UP Cambridge applications are open, there will be a Pride Brunch on June 10th and a Juneteenth event on June 18th.

Member Wilson announced that the Special Education and Student Supports Subcommittee will meet on June 12th.

12. Communications from City Officers: None

13. Late Orders:

- Vice Chair Rachel: Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline

Vice Chair Rachel shared the updated timeline for the Superintendent's Summative Evaluation which includes a new evaluation date of July 11th.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, the timeline was placed on file.

- Member Fantini, Member Hunter, and Member Weinstein: Resolution for Mary Grassi

WHEREAS: Mary Grassi is retiring as Title I Coordinator following 49 years of service to the City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools; and

WHEREAS: Mary is a lifelong Cantabrigian who has committed herself to public education and giving back to her community; and

WHEREAS: Mary began her career with the Cambridge Public Schools being hired as a substitute teacher in September 1974 after graduating from Lesley College, and held roles as a classroom teacher, Title 1 teacher, and Title 1 coordinator; and

WHEREAS: Mary has established Family Literacy Fun Day, Title 1 Summer Support Camps, served as the McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison established The Spot for gently used clothing, and Reading Recovery Site Coordinator to ensure that children with diverse needs in Cambridge Public Schools have access to what they need to be successful scholars; and

WHEREAS: Mary has received numerous accolades including the Andrew J. Mountain Award from Massachusetts Title I administrators, the NAFEPA Award for federal education administrators, the SAGE Award, and the 2019 Excellence in Literacy Award from the Reading Recovery Council of North America; and

WHEREAS: Mary will be able to enjoy her retirement with family and dear friends spending time in both Cambridge and Maine and continue her affiliations within her neighborhood of East Cambridge and her Parish of St. Francis of Assisi; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record expressing its gratitude to Mary Grassi for her tireless work and ensuring that each student in Cambridge can thrive in Cambridge Public Schools and beyond as lifelong learners; and be it further;

RESOLVED: The Executive Secretary to the School Committee forwards suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to Mary Grassi on behalf of the entire School Committee.

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

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. (9:25 p.m.).

Attest:



Katherine Christo

Confidential Secretary to the School Committee