



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

August 8, 2023

Called for 5:00 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 (Remote), Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui

Also, Present: Dr. Greer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Claire Spinner, Chief Financial Officer; Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel; Dr. Edwards, Chief of Academics and Schools; Dr., Gittens, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools; Dr. Madera, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools; David Murphy, Chief Operations Officer; Corey Dotson, Chief Talent Officer, Siobhan Mulligan, Director of Mathematics

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 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: Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Hunter PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

### 1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Jacob Barandes, High Street, spoke regarding motion **#23-200**.
- Rebecca Bowie, Hastings Square, spoke regarding motions **#23-199 & #23-200**.
- Amber Fisher, Griswold Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Rayna Jhave, Magazine Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Kathy Greely, Erie Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Noor Johnson, Hamilton Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Andrew King, Chilton Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Judy Lazrus, Brookline Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Becca Lester, William Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Rose Levine, Wendell Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Patricia Nolan, Huron Avenue, spoke regarding motions **#23-199 & #23-200**.
- Eleanor McNeal-Lewis, Spring Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Elizabeth Stapleton Hill, Richdale Avenue, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.

- Tony Clark, Mass Ave, spoke regarding motions **#23-199 & #23-200**.
- Sam Cohen, Erie Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Caitlin Dalton, Prince Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Elizabeth Hudson, Walden Street, spoke regarding motion **#23-200**.
- Chad Leahy, Linnaean Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Alexandra Micolini, Decatur Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Avenue, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Katie Ng-Mak, Hancock Street, spoke regarding motion **#23-200**.
- Leigh O'Sullivan, Granite Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Amina Sheikh, Erie Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Update on 8<sup>th</sup>-grade math and the elementary school schedules.
- Vivek Sikri, Allston Street, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Laura Clawson, Richdale Avenue, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Alyssa Tyler, Medford, spoke regarding the CPS Math Update presentation and the elementary school schedules.
- Christopher Montero, Warren Road, spoke regarding the elementary school schedules.
- Kenneth Reeves, Harvard Street, spoke regarding motions **#23-199 & #23-200**.

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

**2. Student School Committee Report:** None

**3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:**

- June 20, 2023, Regular Meeting
- June 27, 2023, Special Meeting
- July 11, 2023, Special Meeting

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

**4. Reconsiderations:** None

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:** None

**6. Awaiting Reports:** None

**7. Superintendent's Agenda:**

**7a. Superintendent's Update:**

There were two presentations for the evening. The first presentation was led by Superintendent Dr. Greer who provided updates on the following: Universal Pre-K, Student Success Planning, and the Elementary School Schedules. She was accompanied in the presentation by Harvard Intern/Liaison Terrance Mitchell. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#)

**Member Rojas** asked how the current student success planning correlates with out-of-time instruction (i.e., internships, etc.). Mr. Mitchell responded that the moment the team has a chance to collaborate with the Office of Academics then conversations about implementing more out-of-time instruction can happen.

**Member Fantini** inquired about the definition of a “navigator” and asked for more clarity on it. Mr. Mitchell defined a navigator as a “caring adult” who can support the wants needs and desires of every student. A navigator can be counselors, executive leaders, community stakeholders, etc. The goal is for every student to have a navigator.

Following the presentation there was robust discussion on the recommended elementary school scheduling guidelines.

**Member Weinstein** asked for clarity on the policy updates for the implementation of Universal Pre-K. Dr. Greer shared that the first readings of the policies will be brought to the School Committee at its September 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting. The district is also working on a communications plan to inform the community of the changes in the policies.

**Member Fantini** inquired about students who are not able to register for their desired school if they were not enrolled in Universal Pre-K. COO Murphy mentioned that the district estimated the capacity of students in Universal Pre-K is four hundred.

**Vice Chair Rachel** mentioned that the Committee knew that there was a scheduling audit on the way but was unaware of the significant changes and impact of the new scheduling. She asked what the scheduling framework does and what it means for how schools schedule and utilize community partners. **Vice Chair Rachel** shared two requests; 1.) finding time for community meetings and 2.) morning and end-of-day meetings. Dr. Madera briefly addressed “transition times” and mentioned that the district has never had transitional times built-in as they occur more naturally.

**Member Hunter** inquired about the process – i.e., time spent in schools including the quantitative and qualitative data and other details about the scheduling audit and process. The process was highlighted which included feedback, insight, and participation from principals and curriculum leaders, analytical data of the current and past schedules, and staff interviews.

**Member Weinstein** inquired if the proposed schedule was set to be implemented in September 2023. Dr. Edwards clarified that the proposed implementation for elementary schools would be in September 2023. Dr. Gittens clarified that the schedule for middle school would be implemented in September 2024.

**Member Weinstein** asked for clarity on the recess and mealtimes and if there are any changes. Dr.

Madera clarified that the proposed schedule changes do not alter the recess, meal, and break times for students.

**Member Fantini** addressed that one of the things we need to do as a district is to attack misinformation, so parents and families have a better understanding of what is going on and not wait for answers at School Committee meetings.

**Member Rojas** inquired about the reasoning why there has not been a scheduling audit/framework previously done in the district. Dr. Turk explained that there was never a real desire to have a scheduling framework in the past. In the last ten years, there was work done to create a framework and recommendations were made based on time spent per subject, but it was never mandated.

**Mayor Siddiqui** expressed the importance of having common schedule structures. She inquired about clarity in the JK/K scheduling based on concerns from public comments. The auditor mentioned that some concerns arose about the JK/K schedule such as the public unawareness or surprise on what was being done previously.

The second presentation for the evening was a CPS Math Update presented by Dr. Nicole Gittens, Assist. Superintendent of Secondary Education and Siobhan Mulligan, Director of Mathematics. The full presentation can be found on the [website](#).

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel and seconded by Member Rojas on the following roll call vote, the rules were suspended to bring motions **#23-199** and **#23-200**, forward, for discussion and adoption following the discussion of the presentation: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson PRESENT, Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Following the CPS Math Update presentation, there was a robust discussion on the topic.

**Member Rojas** inquired about the compression of algebra into the upper school curriculum. Ms. Mulligan responded that the school district has been thinking of bringing algebra down so students can take AP Calculus. There is a desire to not take two math classes per given year. **Member Rojas** expressed his excitement for the CAM program that brings algebra instruction to the middle school level.

**Member Weinstein** asked about the capacity and what would happen if demand exceeded the space. Ms. Mulligan shared that she is hoping to partner with Harvard and MIT to get a better analysis of numbers. During the summer months, there are approximately sixty and eighty students with adequate staffing to support them.

**Member Fantini** inquired about the math curriculum that was recently purchased and about the upper school math curriculum (6-8). Although Algebra 1 is a high school curriculum we can bump it down to the

middle school level in various ways. The current curriculum we purchased for 6-8 is just a standard state curriculum.

**Member Hunter** asked for clarification on the CAM program – who are the instructors, etc. Ms. Mulligan shared some context on the program and the instructors which includes mostly educators outside of the Cambridge Public School district. Every educator who is a facilitator in the program has a background and/or specialty in mathematics instruction. **Member Hunter** asked how long the program has been in existence. The program has been around for three years.

**Member Wilson** inquired about the district's initial Algebra implementation plans that were derailed due to the pandemic. Ms. Mulligan shared that before the pandemic classes were detracted so any outside Algebra programs were asked to stop because the district felt it was inequitable to offer Algebra 1 in different places. At that time, Illustrative Math was implemented in the upper schools. There was an attempt to offer Algebra 1 in the lower grades around 2018. There was a school that expressed that the ways the rollout was offered was not equitable.

**#23-199 Joint Motion by Member Rojas, Member Wilson, and Member Hunter**

WHEREAS: The challenges of how Algebra 1 is being taught in the US, with more students now taking AP Calculus in high school than students taking Calculus in college, but more students now taking remedial Algebra 1 in college than taking Algebra 1 in high school; and

WHEREAS: That we should spend more time going deeply into the most important mathematics, which comes earlier not later in secondary school; and

WHEREAS: That moving to heterogeneous math classes in middle school initially increased the number of students placed in geometry instead of algebra 1 in 9th grade in high school; and

WHEREAS: That the need to truncate content in all subjects during the height of the pandemic reversed that trend; and

WHEREAS: That new mathematics standards implemented in 2010 shifted content previously taught in high school to 8th grade, making middle school mathematics less repetitive and more demanding and exciting; and

WHEREAS: That we want students to be challenged in every subject and every grade level; and

WHEREAS: There is more than one option to compress mathematics courses, from the Common Core approach of compressing 7, 8 and 9-grade mathematics into the two years of 7th and 8th grades, to compressing Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus in high school, to provide an optional year-long course like CAM in 8th grade that covers Algebra 1 outside of school hours in parallel with the 8th-grade mathematics course; and

WHEREAS: Different approaches to compressing mathematics courses all allow students the option to take more advanced mathematics in high school, but each of them involves considerable tradeoffs that will affect students' ability to take advantage of their knowledge of mathematics after high school; and

WHEREAS: This motion does not interfere with the district's ongoing revisions of how we teach mathematics in CPSD, as that is an operational decision that does not involve School Committee policymaking; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That School Committee hold a roundtable discussion with community partners focused on mathematics, like the Algebra Project, Math Talk, the Young People's Project, Calculus Project, Math Circle, Illustrative Math, and Cambridge STEAM Initiative, and with CPSD mathematics teachers in primary and secondary schools, and middle school principals, on the cost vs. benefit analysis to the students of the different approaches to compressing mathematics in middle school and high school; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Committee use the discussion from that roundtable, along with other information, to make decisions on how it might want to change current policies that affect the teaching of mathematics to better challenge all students across all grades.

A discussion followed on **#23-199**.

**Member Rojas** provided context and background on the motion which is to determine tactical and operational practices and approaches based on our current policy to implement algebra at the middle school levels. He also shared some additional context including the district's policy and what is being offered in neighboring districts.

**Member Wilson** asked to amend the motion to include Math Circle.

**Vice Chair Rachel** asked to amend the motion to include Illustrative Math.

**Mayor Siddiqui** mentioned that the earliest the Roundtable may occur will be October.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Hunter on the following roll call vote, **#23-199** was adopted as amended and referred to the Superintendent: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-200 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Vice-Chair Rachel, and Member Hunter**

WHEREAS: The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics defines algebra as "a way of thinking and a set of concepts and skills that enable students to generalize, model, and analyze mathematical situations" ([National Council of Teachers of Mathematics \[NCTM\], 2008](#)).

WHEREAS: Algebra I is an important gatekeeper course for STEM careers, as demonstrated by Bob Moses' Algebra Project, and Algebra is usually the first domain in school mathematics that encourages students' abstract reasoning; and

WHEREAS: The opportunity to complete Algebra I prior to 9th grade, with needed supports, must be available to all CPSD children without requiring individual families to seek out opportunities outside of CPSD; and

WHEREAS: CPSD has a history of successfully offering Algebra I prior to 9th grade at multiple CPS schools at various points; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is on record with policies calling for CPSD to offer Algebra I instruction in 8th grade in 1992, 1998, 2010, 2012, and 2013; and

WHEREAS: CPS has recently adopted and is in the process of rolling out the Illustrative Math curriculum in K-12, and the CPS Upper School Mathematics plan, which includes the integration of three Algebra I units into the 8th-grade curriculum; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That, by 2025, the Cambridge Public Schools will provide equitable in-school, school-year opportunities to all students to complete Algebra 1 before 9th grade. This includes broad outreach to engage families, caregivers, and educators; and be it further.

RESOLVED: That, beginning in fall 2023, the Superintendent will offer a program that supports all students to prepare to enter Algebra I in 8th grade and expands and enriches learning for those who are already performing above grade level in math; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this plan will include an annual review of implementation that will include feedback from representative groups of educators, students, and families/caregivers, specifically including families who represent communities of color and multilingual families; and will include data that captures all student groups on math mastery to determine if all students' needs are being met, so that we can make adjustments as needed to ensure that there are no unintended inequities in math mastery and in completion of Algebra I before 9th grade; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, from 2023-2026, the Superintendent will prioritize providing math educators with coaching and support for effectively implementing the Illustrative Math curriculum in heterogeneous groups, to guarantee that all math classrooms provide rigorous math instruction that meets the differentiated needs of students; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this plan will not track students in math; and be it further

RESOLVED: That there will be multiple pathways for individual student needs to be met whether they need more time and support to master the content or to advance in the content through means such as differentiated instruction, personalized supports, or targeted intervention; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this plan will be communicated and coordinated with CPSD elementary, upper school, and high school administrators, elementary and math educators, and curriculum leaders.

A discussion followed on **#23-200**.

**Member Weinstein** provided an overview and context of the motion which is to ensure a timeline of when Algebra 1 will be offered on an equitable basis and an annual review of implementation to ensure it remains equitable. **Member Weinstein** mentioned that he and his co-motion makers are considering revising the motion to reflect the Math Update that was presented earlier in the meeting to be updated as:

*RESOLVED: That, by 2025, the Cambridge Public Schools will provide equitable in-school, school-year opportunities to all students to complete Algebra 1 before 9th grade. This includes broad outreach to engage families, caregivers, and educators; and be it further.*

to *RESOLVED: That, by 2025, the Cambridge Public Schools will provide in-school, school-year Algebra 1 to all students before 9th grade. This includes broad outreach to engage families, caregivers, and educators; and be it further.*

**Vice Chair Rachel** shared that the alignment between the presentation and the motion was purposeful as it was a collaboration between the motion makers and the Superintendent. The motion also calls for significant professional development and learning of staff and Illustrative Math over the course of three years to ensure that students are well-prepared for the implementation.

**Member Fantini** mentioned that if the motion is passed it would devalue the purpose of a Roundtable unless the Superintendent feels strongly about the motion and thinks it aligns with what we need to do to move forward, the committee can adopt it. Dr. Greer believes that a Roundtable would be beneficial.

**Member Fantini** exercised his charter right on the motion. It will remain on the next School Committee Agenda under Unfinished Business

**7c. CPS District Plan:** None

**7d. Consent Agenda:**

**Vice Chair Rachel** pulled #23-167. **Member Fantini** pulled #23-168 & #23-188. **Member Rojas** pulled #23-173 through #23-177. **Member Hunter** pulled #23-178, #23-181, #23-184 through #23-185 and #23-191. On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, items #23-139 through #23-145, #23-149 through #23-158, and #23-160 through #23-164 were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-169 Approval of Physical Restraint Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Physical Restraint Policy (First Reading) that are detailed in the attached redline document. These revisions seek to clarify the limitations on the use of physical restraints consistent with Massachusetts state regulations and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidance regarding the administration of physical restraints.

**#23-170 Approval of Inoculation of Students Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Inoculation of Students Policy (First Reading) that are detailed in the attached redline document. These revisions seek to bring the policy into line with the current Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations.

**#23-171 Approval of Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, & Tobacco and About Family Life/Sex Education Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco and About Family Life/Sex Education Policy (First Reading) that are detailed in the attached redline document. These revisions seek to bring the policy into alignment with the current Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements.



**#23-172 Day & Residential Program Services not Available from The Cambridge School**

**Department be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

**Description:** SY23-24 Placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

Program	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts	10	\$879,753.95
Residential Program Tuition Contracts	3	\$749,478.08
45 Day Program		
Total	13	\$1,629,232.03

**#23-179 Contract Award: Curriculum Associates LLC: Computer Software 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.

Curriculum Associates, LLC, 153 Rangeway Road, N. Billerica, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$171,051.72.

**#23-180 Contract Award: Savvas Learning Company Instructional Materials 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.

Savvas Learning Company, 15 E. Midland Ave, Suite 502, Paramus, NJ for the contract period of July 10, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$33,687.50.

**#23-182 Contract Award: Cambridge School Volunteers: Student Support Services 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 School Volunteers, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$246,365.00.

**#23-183 Contract Award: City Sprouts: Educational Services 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.

City Sprouts, 1034 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$145,000.00.

**#23-186 Contract Award: Precision Human Resources: Special Education Staffing Services 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.

Precision Human Resources, 950 Haverford Road, Suite 100C, Bryn Mawr, PA for the contract period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$55,000.00.

**#23-187 Contract Award: Interpreters & Translators Inc.: Translation Services 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.

Interpreters & Translators, Inc., 232 Williams St E, Glastonbury, CT, for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$70,000.00.

**#23-189 Contract Award: Easy Access DBA Nimbello: Computer Software 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.

Easy Access dba Nimbello, 7321 Heritage Square, Suite 2140, Granger, IN for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$33,300.00.

**#23-190 Contract Award: Follett School Solutions: Computer Software 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 \$48,504.00.

**#23-192 Contract Award: Public Consulting Group: Medicaid Reimbursement 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.

Public Consulting Group, 148 State Street, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$97,500.00.

**#23-194 Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

1. \$1,220.17 from Shutterfly to the Morse School as a commission for student portraits. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
- 2.

**#23-195 Grant Award: FY24 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (SC24605) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY24 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (SC24605) in the amount of \$2,971,981.00 for the period of September 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

**Description:** The purpose of the IDEA grant is to provide funds to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs. The largest portion of the IDEA grant is allocated for out-of-district tuition (\$2,239,009). In addition, the grant will fund a health curriculum for students with significant disabilities (\$30,000). To meet the requirement of a proportionate share for eligible students attending private schools, a set-aside of \$247,776.73 is included. There is also \$3,500 for membership in the MA Urban Collaborative. The remainder of the grant (\$451,695) will be for activities under the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), including professional learning on universal design learning, research-based interventions/curricula, and social/emotional learning; a 1.0 FTE lead teacher of English Language Arts; a partial (0.3) FTE for the MTSS Director who is also partially paid on the FY23 IDEA grant; iReady intervention system and personalized learning; and an MTSS dashboard. As of SY21-22, the district has been required to implement a plan for CCEIS in order to mitigate the disproportionate identification of the subset of African American/Black students for special education services.

**#23-196 Grant Award: FY24 Food & Nutrition Services Appropriation (SC00402) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY24 Food & Nutrition Services Appropriation (SC00402) in the amount of \$1,600,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

**Description:** The FY 2024 projected budget for the Food and Nutrition Services Department is

\$4,100,000. The budget is supported through revenue generated throughout the year from school breakfast and lunch programs, including Federal and State reimbursements and receipts from paid meals, and through reimbursement from the City and a CPS general fund subsidy.

**#23-197 Grant Award: FY24 Biogen Foundation STAR Data Grant (SC24159) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY24 Biogen Foundation STAR Data Grant (SC24159) in the amount of \$38,500.00 for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

**Description:** Biogen Foundation's STAR Initiative increases access to STEM resources and opportunities for students most underrepresented in STEM college programs and careers through funding in Cambridge and Somerville. These funds will support a 0.4 FTE data manager position (12 months) who will continue to work in collaboration with the STAR liaison data and evaluation committee, Root Cause, and a parallel position at Somerville Public Schools to set and measure outcomes related to the STAR Initiative. For this grant, CPS is the sub-awardee of the Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF), which serves as the non-profit fiscal agent for a 10% administrative fee (\$3,500).

#### **8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

**#23-167 Approval of Agreement Between and Among the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Family Liaisons Invested in Families & Education, AFSCME/AFL-CIO (LIFE/AFSCME), and the Cambridge Professional Safety Specialist Association be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee approve the attached agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Family Liaison Invested in Families & Education, AFSCME/AFL-CIO (LIFE/AFSCME) and the Cambridge Professional Safety Specialists Association with respect to accreting the bilingual liaison coordinators who are currently members of the Safety Specialists union into the members of the Family Liaison Union.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-167**.

**Vice Chair Rachel** shared that this agreement moves the Bilingual Coordinators from the Safety Specialists Union to the Family Liaison Union.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-167** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-168 Approval of Student Attendance Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Attendance Policy (First Reading) that are detailed in the attached redline document. These revisions seek to bring the policy into alignment with the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary

Education as to when a student is considered chronically absent and to clarify what constitutes an excused and unexcused absence from school.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-168**.

The recommendation is a first reading of the Student Attendance Policy. **Member Fantini** asked for the removal of the ten-point reduction stated in the policy and clarified by who will notify families of a student's absence.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-168** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**23-173 Contract Award: Agassiz Baldwin Community: Student Tuition 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.

Agassiz Baldwin Community 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge MA, for the contract period of July 3, 2023, to August 25, 2023, in the amount of \$30,800.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-173**.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-173** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-174 Contract Award: Buckingham Brown & Nichols School: Student Tuition 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.

Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, 80 Gerry's Landing Road, Cambridge, MA, for the contract period of June 26, 2023, to August 11, 2023, in the amount of \$56,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-174**.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-174** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-175 Contract Award: Community Art Center: Student Tuition 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.

Community Art Center, 119 Windsor Street, Cambridge, MA, for the contract period of July 3, 2023, to September 1, 2023, in the amount of \$39,690.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-175**.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-175** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-176 Contract Award: East End House: Student Tuition 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.

East End House, 105 Spring Street, Cambridge, MA, for the contract period of July 3, 2023, to September 1, 2023, in the amount of \$35,910.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-176**.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-176** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-177 Contract Award: Lesley University: Professional Development 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.

Lesley University, 29 Everett Street, Cambridge, MA, for the following contract periods and amounts:

<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/1/23 – 6/30/24	\$159,000.00
7/1/21 – 6/30/22	\$171,190.00
7/1/22 – 6/30/23	<u>\$ 76,710.00</u>
	\$406,900.00

A brief discussion followed on **#23-177**.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote **#23-177** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-178 Contract Award: Center for Educational Development (CEL) Professional Development-Amended be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee approve an amended 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 Educational Development (CEL) for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amended amount of \$110,680.00

**Description:** The contract is for the professional development services for CPS to develop strategies and skills to strengthen instructional partnerships.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-178**.

**Member Hunter** inquired if this was a continuing contract from last year or a new vendor. Dr. Greer mentioned that is a new vendor, although it was previously brought to the Committee in June. The revised amount reflects the addition of professional development opportunities for the High School Deans, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, and the Academics & Schools Leadership.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote **#23-178** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-181 Contract Award: Breakthrough Greater Boston: Educational Services 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.

Breakthrough Greater Boston, c/o CRLS, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$96,910.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-181**.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote **#23-181** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-184 Contract Award: Tutoring Plus of Cambridge Inc: Educational Support 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.

Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc., 225 Windsor Street, Cambridge, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$43,120.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-184**.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote **#23-184** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-185 Contract Award: Boston Behavior Learning: Special Education Services 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.

Boston Behavior Learning Center, 119 Oak Street, Newton, MA for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$72,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-185**.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote **#23-185** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-188 Contract Award: Fantini Baking Company: Bread Products 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.

Fantini Baking Company, 375 Washington Street, Haverhill, MA, for the contract period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$125,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-188**.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel; on the following roll call vote **#23-188** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.



**#23-191 Contract Award: Cambridge Community Outreach Tabernacle: Lease of Parking Lot 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 Cambridge Community Outreach Tabernacle, 190 Harvard Street,  
Cambridge, MA IL for the following contract periods and amounts below:

<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
8/15/23-6/30/24	\$23,350.00
7/1/24-6/30/25	\$24,175.00
7/1/25-6/30/26	\$25,000.00
7/1/26-6/30/27	\$25,825.00
7/1/27-6/30/28	\$26,650.00
7/1/28-6/30/29	\$27,475.00
7/1/29-6/30/30	\$28,300.00
7/1/30-6/30/31	\$29,125.00
7/1/31-6/30/32	\$29,950.00
7/1/32-6/30/33	\$30,775.00

**Description:** This contract is for the lease of a parking lot for use by the Fletcher Maynard Academy staff.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-191**.

**Member Hunter** asked for clarification on the contract – is it paid monthly, or yearly or is the district prepaying for the entire ten-year duration of the contract? Ms. Spinner clarified that the district has signed a ten-year lease and pays monthly from August through June.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote **#23-191** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

**#23-193 Contract Award: Aretex Consulting Group: Professional Services 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.

Aretex Consulting Group, 14354 Cypress Island Circle, Palm Beach Gardens, FL for the contract period of August 15, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$38,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-193**.

**Member Hunter** asked for clarification of the contract and its benefits. Dr. Greer shared that salary schedules for union members are set when union contracts are negotiated. Non-aligned staff do not have set salary increases so the purpose of this contract is for assistance in creating salary schedules for non-aligned staff.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote **#23-193** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

**#23-198 Joint Motion by Vice Chair Rachel, Mayor Siddiqui, and Member Wilson**

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools value health and wellness education; and

WHEREAS: The district is committed to providing students with curricula that are inclusive, accurate, and trauma-informed; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Rindge and Latin School students and educators have worked together to strengthen consent culture and address sexism and gender-based violence at the school; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee has repeatedly passed policies to address menstrual awareness and access to supplies; and

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth's proposed Health and Physical Education Framework aligns with Cambridge's local values and approaches; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record supporting the Healey-Driscoll Administration and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's [proposed Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework](#); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary sends formal copies of this motion to Kristen McKinnon at DESE and the state delegation before the August 18, 2023, deadline for public comment.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-198**.

**Vice Chair Rachel** gave context on the motion to support the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework. The request was brought from the Board President of Transition House. **Vice Chair Rachel** motioned to amend the motion to include:

*WHEREAS CPS is on record as aspiring to be an anti-racist district and addressing social determinants of health; and*

*RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record supporting WITH A GREATER EMPHASIS ON RACE the Healey-Driscoll...*

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Hunter, on the following roll call vote, **#23-198** was adopted as amended: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools value health and wellness education; and

WHEREAS: The district is committed to providing students with curricula that are inclusive, accurate, and trauma-informed; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Rindge and Latin School students and educators have worked together to strengthen consent culture and address sexism and gender-based violence at the school; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee has repeatedly passed policies to address menstrual awareness and access to supplies; and

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth's proposed Health and Physical Education Framework aligns with Cambridge's local values and approaches; now, therefore, be it

WHEREAS CPS is on-record as aspiring to be an anti-racist district and addressing social determinants of health; and

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record supporting WITH A GREATER EMPHASIS ON RACE, the Healey-Driscoll Administration and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's [proposed Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework](#); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary sends formal copies of this motion to Kristen McKinnon at DESE and the state delegation before the August 18, 2023, deadline for public comment.

#### **10. Resolutions:**

##### **#23-201 Joint Motion by Member Wilson, Member Hunter, and Member Weinstein**

WHEREAS: The School Committee expresses its most profound sorrow upon learning of the passing of former City Councilor and State Representative Saundra M. Graham; and

WHEREAS: Graham was born on September 5th, 1941, in Cambridge, MA, and was raised as one of eleven children by her parents, Charles B. Postell and Roberta (Betts) Postell; and

WHEREAS: Graham's contributions extended beyond her elected roles, as she served as a friend, mentor, teacher, mother, and a source of inspiration to those around her, offering guidance and wisdom in various aspects of life while excelling as a single mother to her five children; and

WHEREAS: Graham pursued her primary and secondary education through Cambridge Public Schools and continued her academic journey at The University of Massachusetts, Boston, and The Harvard Extension School; and

WHEREAS: Graham played a significant role in advocating for the preservation of rent control in the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS: Her public service journey commenced in 1968 with her involvement on the board of directors of the Cambridge Community Center and her subsequent tenure as president of the Riverside Planning Team in 1970; and

WHEREAS: Graham's dedication to public housing resulted in extensive renovation and modernization efforts for a substantial portion of public housing in Cambridge during her tenure as chairwoman of the housing and land use committee from 1972-1983; and

WHEREAS: Graham's leadership was instrumental in the establishment and successful operation of the Riverside Cambridge Community Development Corporation, providing housing options for low-income individuals and families in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Graham's efforts led to the interruption of Harvard University's commencement proceedings in 1970, which led to Harvard's acknowledgment and responsibility in building housing for families and older adults, thus preventing the displacement of long-term Riverside residents; and

WHEREAS: Graham was the first black woman elected to the Cambridge City Council, serving from 1971 until 1989 and serving as Vice Mayor from 1976 to 1977 and later made history as the first Black woman from Cambridge elected to the State Legislature, representing the 4th Middlesex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1977 to 1988 and serving as a chair for the Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus and as a member of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, securing substantial federal funding for the revitalization and modernization of public housing in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Graham founded the Massachusetts Childcare Coalition in 1979 on the belief that "daycare is not a luxury, it's essential"; and

WHEREAS Graham was the namesake, along with Rosa Parks, of Cambridge's Graham & Parks School which in 1981 was named as a tribute to these two remarkable leaders, whose impacts and profound contributions to society continue to inspire and uplift future generations in Cambridge and beyond, and Sandra Graham's legacy serves as a beacon of hope and empowerment for Cambridge students, encouraging them to follow in her footsteps and make a positive difference in the world; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: The Cambridge School Committee and Superintendent go on record recognizing Sandra M. Graham's unwavering commitment to the fight for affordable housing has transformed the lives of countless individuals, families, and the city of Cambridge. Graham's compassion, resilience, and leadership made her an exceptional individual who touched the lives of many, leaving a lasting legacy of kindness, strength, and service; and be it further.

RESOLVED: That a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and forwarded directly to the Graham Family.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-201**.

**Member Weinstein** and **Member Hunter** expressed their condolences on the passing of Sandra Graham and eulogized her impactful life as a City Councilor in Cambridge, State Representative, and one of the namesakes of the Graham & Parks Schools.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Hunter, on the following roll call vote, **#23-201** was adopted: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#### **11. Announcements:**

- **Member Hunter** expressed her condolences to Robert Travers and his family on the passing of his mother Mary Travers. **Member Hunter** also announced that on August 9<sup>th</sup> she will be speaking at the African American Film Festival in Martha's Vineyard. The College Board will be present at the film festival, and she will present there supporting the AP African American Studies

course. She will present the College Board with a copy of the **C23-068** which recognizes CRLS as one of the 60 schools that offer AP African American Studies.

- **Mayor Siddiqui** announced that there will be Community Fairs on August 26<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>. She also announces that Harvard and MIT will be contributing \$50,000 towards the Cambridge Promise Pilot Program.

**12. Communications from City Officers: None**

**13. Late Orders: None**

**Email communications:**

- ✓ Dan Monahan
- ✓ Lauren Cosulich
- ✓ Diana Paolitto
- ✓ Ashley Owens Wood
- ✓ Piotr Mitros
- ✓ Andrew Richman
- ✓ Eugenia Schraa
- ✓ Noor Johnson
- ✓ Maria Arlotto
- ✓ Scot Martin
- ✓ Jankai Kibe
- ✓ Katie Starbuck
- ✓ Gabriel Robinson
- ✓ Lucy Budman
- ✓ Joe Blitzstein
- ✓ Rachael Cobb
- ✓ Maria Collins
- ✓ Amy Bates Markham
- ✓ Jill R Crittenden
- ✓ Andrea Love
- ✓ M.G. Arlotto
- ✓ Jennifer Donnelly
- ✓ Alex Gourevitch
- ✓ Lauryn Zipse
- ✓ Jennifer Richards
- ✓ Erika Abbas Hanna
- ✓ Tony Eng
- ✓ Rachel Wax
- ✓ Eileen McCullough
- ✓ Alain Ondias
- ✓ Juan Carols Serna

- ✓ Peter Lubetsky
- ✓ Sanjiv H. Mirchandran

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas on the following roll call vote, it was voted to adjourn the meeting: Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson ABSENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Hunter YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA. (11:36 p.m.).

Attest:

*Ariel B. Kennebrew*

Ariel B. Kennebrew  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee