



**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

November 21, 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, Retired Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Grace, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Office of Student Services; Maureen MacFarlane, Legal Counsel; Dr. Madera, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools; David Murphy, Chief Operations Officer; Corey Dotson, Chief Talent Officer, Ivy Washington, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel to suspend the rules to take the meeting out of order, and seconded by Member Wilson on a voice vote the rules were suspended to bring forward **#23-279**.

#23-279 Joint Motion by Vice Chair Rachel, Member Wilson, and Member Fantini

WHEREAS: Last year the [School Committee decided to rename](#) the Vassal Lane Upper School to honor Black Cantabridgian(s) rather than someone who enslaved others; and

WHEREAS: The Superintendent and Principal engaged the staff, students, and families at VLUS in a process to suggest potential names; and

WHEREAS: [Students shared their thoughts](#) about the qualities they wanted in an honoree, including someone who was a local leader, made a positive change, is a person of color, is inclusive, and humble; and

WHEREAS: Students presented numerous possibilities for school names without a specific recommendation; and

WHEREAS: Community members, particularly representatives from the Slave Legacy History Coalition and Cambridge Black History Project, reached out to the School Committee to suggest renaming the school after Darby Vassall; and

WHEREAS: After securing his liberty from enslavement with the Vassall family, Darby Vassall went on to be a civil rights and educational justice leader, petitioning the state legislature for funding to educate Black children; and

WHEREAS: Darby Vassall was outspoken about human rights his entire life, including as a six-year-old declining unpaid work for General George Washington and through his work founding the African Society and with the New England Anti-Slavery Society; and

WHEREAS: Students and staff at VLUS have been offended by attending and working in a school with the enslaver's name (Vassall); and

WHEREAS: Roughly a century after Darby Vassall's death, Carolyn L. Turk grew up close to Vassal Lane in Cambridge, in a predominantly Black neighborhood; and

WHEREAS: Carolyn L. Turk was in the first cohort of Cambridge Public School students to be educated in the building that became the Tobin Montessori/Vassal Lane Upper School; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Carolyn L. Turk went on to [dedicate her career](#) to students in Cambridge Public Schools, including as a teacher and Vice Principal at the Tobin School, and ultimately Deputy Superintendent of the district; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge has previously named schools after two civil rights leaders, namely Sandra Graham and Rosa Parks; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Vassal Lane Upper School be renamed the Darby Turk Upper School; and be it further

RESOLVED: That students at the school will learn about the history behind their school's name; and be it further

RESOLVED: That formal copies of this resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee to be presented to the Slave Legacy History Coalition and Dr. Carolyn L. Turk.

Vice Chair Rachel shared that she and the motion makers would like to withdraw **#23-279**. She provided additional context on the reasoning for withdrawing **#23-279**: in 2022, the Committee voted to rename Vassal Lane Upper School, and the VLUS community and the Superintendent began the process. Motion **#23-279** was a continuation of the motion to rename the school from Vassal Lane Upper School to Darby Turk. With respect to the Cambridge community and the family of Darby Vassall and there being no person named Darby Turk, the motion makers would like to meet with the community and the family of Darby Vassall with a possible motion of a new name for VLUS in December and a building to honor Dr. Carolyn L. Turk. **Member Fantini** and **Member Wilson** also shared that the sentiments of the motion were to honor both Darby Vassall and Carolyn L. Turk and with the feedback of the community, they hope to honor both individuals.

Member Rojas asked for the reasoning behind the motion to rename the school without the feedback of the full School Committee to determine a new name for the school. **Vice Chair Rachel** responded that the protocol is to bring a motion and recommendations to the full Committee for discussion and the motion makers reviewed the feedback from the VLUS community when they created the motion to rename the school.

Member Weinstein also shared and suggested that the Committee work with the City Council to rename the street that VLUS is on.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, **#23-279** was withdrawn.

On a motion by Member Fantini, to suspend the rules to take the meeting out of order to bring **#23-278** forward for discussion, adoption, and Public Testimony and seconded by Member Weinstein, on a voice vote, the rules were suspended.

#23-278 Joint Motion by Member Fantini, Vice Chair Rachel, and Member Rojas

WHEREAS: The American Montessori Association Accreditation team recently recommended that we explore the possibility of a more traditional three-year Upper Elementary program. Currently, the Tobin School has been granted a variance for the non-traditional grouping of the Upper Elementary Program; and

WHEREAS: Our current model consists of a Children's House and Lower Elementary program where children spend three years in each program while in our Upper Elementary Program children only spend two years; and

WHEREAS: The Tobin Montessori School has a solid track record of preparing Cambridge Public School students academically and socially, thanks to strong leadership and committed staff; and

WHEREAS: Allowing students to remain in Upper Elementary for three years, as opposed to two, allows children to develop their leadership skills further, build deeper academic skills using the Montessori materials, and take on larger, long-term projects that would help them develop stronger executive functioning and long-term planning skills; and be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record to explore the recommendation of the accreditation team to extend the Upper Elementary Program to three years; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee refer the matter to the Superintendent for further review of the recommendations from the Accreditation team to explore implications of such a change including but not limited to the budget impact, upper school enrollment, and feeder patterns; and be it further

RESOLVED: The Superintendent will provide a report and recommendation to the committee a plan of action for the possible next steps.

The following individuals were heard during the public testimony for **#23-278**:

- Nina Mitchell, Hillard Place, spoke in support of **#23-278**.
- Sushama, Gore Street Place, spoke on behalf of former School Committee Member Manikka Bowman in support of **#23-278**.
- Jacob Barandes, High Street, spoke in support of **#23-278**.
- Punitee Garyali Fawcett Street, spoke in support of **#23-278**.

- Marcia Hern-Lacey, Union Street, spoke in support of **#23-278**.
- Marc Hodes, Massachusetts Avenue, spoke in support of **#23-278**.
- Vera Hoffman, Prentiss Street, spoke in support of **#23-278**.
- Sonia Kowal, Market Street, spoke in support of **#23-278**.
- Zeenat Potia, Hamilton Street, spoke in support of **#23-278**.
- Sajjan Saini, Henry Street, spoke in support of **#23-278**.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, the rules were suspended to bring forward **#23-278** for discussion and adoption.

Following public testimony, a discussion followed on **#23-278**.

Member Fantini summarized the motion which is for the Superintendent to do additional research including budgeting implications to bring a recommendation to the School Committee on an expansion to add additional grades to the Tobin Montessori School. **Member Rojas** also added that another implication is the newly constructed building of the school.

Each member of the Committee expressed the importance and value of the motion and the expansion of the Tobin Montessori and highlighted the school's great program and educators.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on a voice vote **#23-278** was adopted and referred to the Superintendent.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Anna Shin, Sidney Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation presentation.
- Paula Paris, Fayerweather Street, spoke regarding the **#23-279**.
- Niusha Summers, Fairmount Street, spoke regarding **#23-276**.
- John Summers, Fairmount Street, spoke regarding **#23-276**.
- Anne Colburn, Otis Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's presentation.
- Shawdee Eshghi, Walden Street, spoke regarding the Superintendent's presentation.

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Alailima gave a student update on happenings at CRLS which included a recap of Homecoming Week and Falcon Pride Day on November 22nd. Student Member Alailima also thanked the School Committee candidates for attending the student-hosted School Candidate panel in October and shared information regarding a cell phone campaign on recommendations to increase student

engagement in the classroom and decrease cell phone usage during the school day. Student Member Anjaria was not present.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- October 17, 2023, Regular Meeting
- October 17, 2023, Special Meeting

On a motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Hunter on a voice vote, the records were approved as written and placed on file.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#23-259 Report of the Special Education and Student Supports Subcommittee

Member Wilson shared the Subcommittee report is still in the process of being updated and is not yet ready for adoption.

#23-259 will remain on the calendar to be discussed at the next meeting, scheduled for December 5, 2023.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Superintendent's Update: CPS Partnership Assessment

Dr. Carolyn L. Turk led the first presentation of the evening which focused on the CPS Partnership Assessment. The complete presentation can be found on the [website](#).

Member Hunter inquired about a list of current partners whom the district funds and doesn't fund. Have we used the assessment for our current partners and what do we do about our partners who only want to work with students? Dr. Turk shared that the partnership assessment is on a soft launch and gave examples of when the assessment was used. **Member Hunter** shared that she would like to see the list and the funding and that there are wonderful partnerships but the district needs some amazing ones. She believes the information can assist the district and the committee in acquiring new partnerships. Dr. Greer shared that she is happy to provide the list with Member Hunter and she highlighted that the assessment tool could be implemented as part of the decision-making process during the budget season.

Student Member Alailima asked how the partnerships are measured and if there was an opportunity for students to weigh in on the types of partnerships they would like. Dr. Turk responded that the resources document she shared is a rubric for impact, relevancy, and ongoing evaluation and as the district, schools, and teachers are thinking about partnerships, they should also reflect on the needs of the students.

Member Weinstein asked if the district is looking for support for potential partners. Dr. Turk shared that the initial soft launch has aided the district in identifying any potential supports needed going forward.

Member Rojas shared that career readiness resonates with him and inquired about the budget request form and how useful is that form in the partnership planning stages and asked how the district hopes to capture the data for the partnerships that are not requesting funding.

Vice Chair Rachel asked the Superintendent who will be taking the lead in the partnerships now that Dr. Turk has retired. Dr. Greer shared that Dr. Turk has agreed to continue taking the lead on the partnership agreements and work going forward.

Member Wilson inquired about the partnership proposal process. Dr. Turk shared that process which usually starts with an initial interest email. **Member Wilson** also asked the district what their intended thoughts are on utilizing the portal for community partners, etc.

Member Fantini suggested that the partnerships should not be a “partnership for life” and to remain competitive to have the best partnerships with an RFP and formal bidding process.

Member Hunter suggested the agreements should have an evidence section for qualitative feedback from students, families, and other stakeholders.

7b. Presentations: The Superintendent led the second presentation for the evening. The brief presentation was focused on updates and revisions the Superintendent has made based on School Committee feedback on her 2023-2024 Draft Goals and Focus Indicators. The updated and revised presentation can be found on the [website](#).

Dr. Greer shared that a major component of her evaluation is the impact of the overall school system.

After the presentation, Mayor Siddiqui opened the floor for discussion for any additional feedback from the committee based on the updates to the Superintendent’s draft goals.

Student Member Alailima asked if the Superintendent had any thoughts and recommendations on how to engage with other families and folks in the community who aren’t as involved. Dr. Greer shared that she has thought about ways to increase community engagement that also include ways to incorporate and include affinity groups.

Vice Chair Rachel commented on Goal 4 and shared that the committee would love for the district administration to provide information to families.

Member Weinstein also shared thoughts on Goal 4 and was wondering if there can be a focus indicator that focuses on feedback from caregivers, stakeholders, etc. on the processes. Dr. Greer asked if this type of feedback is requested that it be more of sampling feedback on specific topics and ideas. He suggested that one of the focus indicators include representative feedback summaries on the processes including caregivers, and families.

Member Hunter discussed Goal 4 if there would be any summaries of the meetings where those members can provide their feedback through those summaries and asked if any of those meetings can be designated for middle and high school students.

Member Wilson asked if the Superintendent could disaggregate the number of students she is targeting in her goals regarding Goal 1 – Chronic Absenteeism. Dr. Greer provided additional clarity on the data regarding chronic absenteeism. **Member Wilson** also asked if the same data can be made for Academic Achievement. Dr. Greer shared that she can provide and share that data in reports rather than her goals. **Member Wilson** clarified that she would like to see the data and numbers of high-needs students who are not proficient and advanced to ensure we are targeting them to be proficient and advanced in the areas they need to improve in. **Member Wilson** shared that it is important to add the number of high-needs students to the Superintendent's Goal on Academic Achievement.

Mayor Siddiqui summarized the discussion and feedback from the committee which includes adding representative feedback as a focus indicator for Goal 4.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, to modify the Superintendent Draft Goals and Indicators to include respective feedback for Goal 4 and seconded by Vice Chair Rachel; on a voice vote, the goals and focus indicators were amended.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Hunter, on a voice vote, the Superintendent's Draft Goals and Focus Indicators were approved by the Committee.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

Mayor Siddiqui pulled **#23-263**. Vice Chair Rachel pulled **#23-264**. Member Fantini pulled **#23-265**. Member Rojas pulled **#23-266**, **#23-269**, **#23-271** and **#23-273**. Member Hunter pulled **#23-270** and **#23-274**. On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote, items **#23-267**, **#23-268**, and **#23-272** were adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-267 Contract Award: MAG Retail Holding dba McGovern Commercial HQ: Ford All-Electric Vehicle 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.

MAG Retail Holdings-FFD, dba McGovern Commercial HQ, 1200 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA, for the contract period from October 20, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$55,008.00.

#23-268 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.

Saavas Learning Company, 15 E. Midland, Ave, Suite 502, Paramus, NJ for the contract period from November 10, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$48,608.01.

#23-272: PJ Systems DBA Hi-Q: Computer Hardware be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PJ Systems dba HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, MA, for the contract period from November 1, 2023, to October 31, 2024, in the amount of \$500,000.00.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#23-263 Recommendation: Approval of the Appointment of the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services.

A brief discussion **#23-263** followed on the motion.

According to Chapter 2, Section 17 of the Rules of the School Committee - *“No appointment or promotion shall be made or recommended and no increase in salaries of any of the personnel shall be granted after the date of the biennial election to hold anyone beyond the term of the present School Committee. Further, this rule shall not apply to the appointment of teachers.”*

Given this, and under the guidance of Attorney MacFarlane, the Superintendent pulled the recommendation and will resubmit the recommendation in January.

#23-264 Approval of Cambridge Public Schools Youth Mental Health First Aid Plan be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the Cambridge Public Schools Youth Mental Health First Aid Plan in response to the School Committee Order #23-148.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-264**.

Vice Chair Rachel thanked the district for the recommendation which was based on feedback from the committee from a previous meeting and suggested that the district provide a report at the end of the year, and she would like to see more student feedback.

Member Fantini asked for the reasoning why certain staff (custodians, clerks, security personnel) were not included in the recommendations. **Member Hunter** suggested that the **#23-264** should note that staff not mentioned in the recommendation are welcome to attend.

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas on the following roll call vote, **#23-264:** was adopted by Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-265 Day and Residential Program Services Not Available from the Cambridge Public

Schools 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.

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	5	\$333,983.22
Residential Program Tuition Contracts 45-Day Program	1	\$287,674.44
Total	6	\$621,657.66

A brief discussion followed on **#23-265**.

Member Fantini inquired about the expenditures of the contract given the current amount we are at during this time in the school year. He also asked for projection feedback. Dr. Grace provided additional context and shared that she is confident in the district's expenditures for the tuition contracts for the remainder of the school year.

On a motion by Member Fantini and seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, **#23-265** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-266 Contract Award: IHealth Labs, Inc.: COVID Self-Test Kits 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.

iHealth Labs, Inc., 880 W. Maude Ave, Sunnyvale, CA for the contract period from October 16, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$107,840.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-266**.

Member Rojas asked if the expenditures of the contract and if are we spending the same amounts are we did during the COVID years. Dr. Greer stated that this is something that the district will reassess in the upcoming school year, but the district has made a commitment with the Health Department that they are fulfilling this recommendation.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Hunter on the following roll call vote, **#23-266** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-269 Star Dance School, LLC: Dance Program 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.

Star Dance School, LLC, 323 Washington St., Brighton, MA for the contract period from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$28,200.00.

A brief discussion followed by **#23-269**.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#23-269** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-270 Contract Award: TeachTown: Subscription & Peripherals 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.

TeachTown, 2 Constitution Way, Woburn, MA for the contract period from October 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$42,435.00.

A brief discussion followed by **#23-270**.

Member Hunter inquired about the training and asked if paraprofessionals would be included in the training as well. Dr. Grace shared that paraprofessionals are included in the recommendation, and it is not just limited to teachers only and shared that teaching teams need to be inclusive to teachers and paras.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Weinstein, on the following roll call vote, **#23-270** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-271 Contract Award: CCS Presentation: Interactive Display Hardware 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.

CCS Presentation Systems, 132 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, NH for the contract period from November 7, 2023, to November 6, 2024, in the amount of \$750,000.00.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-271**.

Member Rojas inquired about the expenditures of the contract. Dr. Greer shared that this contract is a recurring one for equipment upgrades for CRLS.

Member Wilson asked how often the district sees repairs like this recurring. Dr. Greer shared that ITCS stores all equipment and staggers recycles over 5 years in phases, across all schools.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, **#23-271** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

23-273 Grant Award: FY24 Circuit Breaker Allocation (SC24776) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accepts and approves the increased grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY24 Circuit Breaker Allocation (SC24776) from State, Allocation in the amount of \$7,109,390.00 for the period of October 13, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

Description: The purpose of this grant is to provide reimbursement for a portion of CPS costs of educating high-needs special education students.

- The state's Special Education Circuit Breaker program reflects the district's reimbursement for prior year expenses educating high-needs special education students in excess of the per-student threshold.
- In FY23, the per-student threshold was \$49,494.
- The allocation for FY24 is based on a reimbursement rate of 75% for instruction and tuition claims and 57% for transportation claims made in FY23.
- The district uses Circuit Breaker to fund out-of-district tuition and transportation expenses.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-273**.

Member Rojas asked for more information on the circuit breaker allocation. Interim CFO Ms. Washington also provided additional clarity on the increase.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Vice Chair Rachel, on the following roll call vote, **#23-273** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#23-274 Grant Award: FY24 Broad Institute Coding Clubs (SC24153) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the increased grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

Broad Institute Codings Clubs (SC24153) from Private, Allocation in the amount of \$2,250.00 for the period of September 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

Description: The purpose of this grant is to provide resources to host after-school coding clubs at three schools. The Broad Institute provides all of the materials and staff to implement the program. FY24 grant funds will support:

- After-school coding clubs at Amigos School, Cambridge Street Upper School, and Putnam Avenue
- Upper School: stipends for a teacher at each school to serve as club advisor.

Member Hunter asked for the reasoning of the three schools and why VLUS was not included.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Wilson on the following roll call vote, **#23-274** was adopted: Member Hunter YEA; Vice-Chair Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

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

#23-275 Report of the Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee on October 11, 2023

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote **#23-275** was adopted.

#23-276 Report of the School Climate Subcommittee on October 12, 2023

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote **#23-276** was adopted.

#23-277 Report of the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee on October 24, 2023

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote **#23-277** was adopted.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences):

#23-280 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein and Member Fantini

WHEREAS: The entire Cambridge Public Schools family was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Michael R. Brennan on November 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS: Michael Brennan was a long-time West Cambridge Little Baseball League parent and coach, who loved the game of baseball and getting involved to help players become the best they can be; and

WHEREAS: Michael Brennan was deeply committed to many things in life, but his family and friends were his highest priority, particularly his wife Elizabeth and his son Patrick, a Cambridge Public Schools student; and

WHEREAS: Michael Brennan while traveled extensively and had made Cambridge his new home, he stayed closely connected to his Philadelphia area roots and the people there who shaped him. Intensely loyal, Mike managed to maintain his relationships across the miles because he always made time to go home to be with his friends and family; and

WHEREAS: Michael R. Brennan was born in 1967 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late Robert F. Brennan and Elizabeth M. (Balkonis), and was the beloved husband of Elizabeth R. Brennan (Maloney) of Cambridge, the loving and proud father of Patrick M. Brennan of Cambridge, the dear brother of Elizabeth Mills and her husband Richard of FL, Nancy DiMeo and her husband Ralph of NJ, and the late Robert M. Brennan, and the loving brother in law of Linda Brennan, and is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and dear friends; and

WHEREAS: A proud season ticket holder, Michael Brennan spent many of his fall weekends in Philly, cheering on his beloved Eagles after tailgating with his friends; and

WHEREAS: Michael Brennan's Cambridge roots were set down in Paddy's, where he became affectionately known as "Philly Mike." There, he found true friendship, and it was also there that he met his loving wife of 20 years; and

WHEREAS: Michael Brennan's ultimate joy in life was his son Patrick. They shared a love of sports which led to their participation in the West Cambridge Little Baseball League, Michael Brennan enjoyed coaching the kids in Cambridge for many years and he held the other coaches in the highest esteem and was so proud to be a member of their community; and

WHEREAS: The Michael Brennan Scholarship Fund has been established to assist West Cambridge Little Baseball League players in need to ensure that baseball remains an option for them to enjoy; and

WHEREAS: Michael Brennan will be missed by his peers and colleagues at Bright Horizons Family Solutions where he worked for 20 years. He was dedicated to his profession and truly loved going to work every day. His work ethic was admirable, and he was committed to the growth of Bright Horizons; and

WHEREAS: Michael Brennan will sorely be missed by all whose lives he touched; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Michael Brennan at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Brennan family on behalf of the entire School Committee.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-280**.

Member Weinstein and Member Fantini expressed their condolences to the family of Michael Brennan during this difficult time.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote **#23-280** was adopted.

#23-281 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Fantini, and Member Hunter

WHEREAS: It is with a heavy heart that we extend our condolences to Linda A. Emde's family; and

WHEREAS: Her love for learning led her to pursue a degree in education at Framingham State College; and

WHEREAS: After graduating, Linda became a full-time teacher in the Cambridge Public Schools, where she found joy in educating middle school students; and

WHEREAS: Linda was known as a dedicated educator, always striving to inspire her students to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS: Linda's laughter will echo in the hearts of her family, her generosity knew no bounds, and her love was unconditional; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee formally go on record in expressing its deepest condolences to Linda Emde's family; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Linda Emde's family on behalf of the entire School Committee, Superintendent, and Cambridge Public Schools.

A brief discussion followed on **#23-281**.

Mayor Siddiqui expressed her condolences to the family of Linda Emde.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote **#23-281** was adopted.

11. Announcements:

- **Member Weinstein** announced that the CRLS play "*Head Over Heels*" will be performing starting on 12/1.
- **Member Hunter** thanked the Student Members for organizing the candidate forum and announced that she attended an event by the My Brother's Keeper L.I.F.T. Program and MIT-Lemelson. She also shared that Member Fantini was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award by MASC.
- **Member Rojas** shared feedback from DESE during the conference regarding the MCAS.
- **Member Wilson** thanked the Ace Mentoring program for hosting a "Trade Day" at CRLS over the past weekend and congratulated all of the committee members for their successful campaigns.
- **Vice Chair Rachel** shared that applications for the Kimbrough Scholars are open and encouraged educators to join the 2024 cohort to learn about the civil rights movement.
- **Member Fantini** shared that the annual high school Football game between Cambridge and Somerville will occur on Thanksgiving Day (11/23).
- **Mayor Siddiqui** shared that there is a CRLS alumni event at LaFabrica on 11/22 and she will be hosting an ice-skating event on 12/16.

12. Communications from City Officers: None

13. Late Orders: None

Email communications:

- ✓ Bliss Spooner
- ✓ Peter Sturges
- ✓ Rachael Cobb
- ✓ Julie Croston
- ✓ June Doliber
- ✓ Kat Kaufman
- ✓ Sally Peterson
- ✓ Maura Kohl Gould
- ✓ Polyxane Cobb
- ✓ Sarah Block
- ✓ Meghan Lockwood
- ✓ Sharon Bober
- ✓ Dina Zelleke
- ✓ Jean Cummings
- ✓ Jean Cummings
- ✓ Rowan Larson

On a motion by Vice Chair Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson on the following on a voice vote, it was voted to adjourn the Meeting. (9:37 p.m.).

Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the School Committee