



**CAMBRIDGE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**(Official Minutes)**

**Special Meeting**

**January 1, 2024**

Called for 4:00 p.m. at the King Open School Auditorium, 850 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing organization in accordance with Chapter 43, Section 32 of the General Laws.

Members Present: Member Harding, Member Hudson, Member Rachel, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Naseem Anjaria and Jeanne Alailima, Student School Committee Representatives

Mayor Simmons in the Chair

The Chair read the call of the meeting and proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call vote for the purpose of a soundcheck and attendance: Member Harding PRESENT; Member Hudson PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Mayor Simmons PRESENT.

**Mayor Simmons** turned the meeting over to Student Members Anjaria and Alailima who presented opening remarks for the inaugural meeting and swearing-in ceremony by welcoming in-person guests and guests tuned in via Zoom, congratulating Mayor Simmons on becoming the new Mayor of Cambridge and introducing the 2024-2025 School Committee-Elect:

Richard Harding Jr.  
Elizabeth Hudson  
Caroline Hunter  
Jose Luis Rojas  
David Weinstein  
Rachel B. Weinstein

Following the opening remarks, the audience was invited to stand and join in saluting the flag led by the two Student Members. The audience remained standing for a rendition of the National Anthem sung by CRLS student, Gita Drummond, followed by an invocation from Pastor Jeremy D. Battle of the Western Avenue Baptist Church, Massachusetts State Senator Patricia Jehlen gave an inspiring speech to the Committee Elects, that was followed by a song selection of Lift Every Voice and Sing by CRLS student Ashmita Prajapati.

Following the song rendition, City Clerk Diane LeBlanc, assisted by Deputy City Clerk, Paula Crane, was introduced to administer the Oath of Office to the present Members-Elect.

**Mayor Simmons** shared that Member-Elects Caroline Hunter and Jose Luis Rojas were unable to attend the inaugural meeting and given that, she recommended postponing the vote of the Vice Chair and the adoption of the 2024-2025 Rules of the School Committee until they are officially sworn in. **Mayor**

**Simmons** also shared that the School Committee will discuss logistics surrounding the election of a Vice Chair and the official adoption of the School Committee Rules at the next Regular School Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein, on a voice vote, it was voted to postpone the election of a Vice Chair and rule until all member-elects are sworn in.

**Mayor Simmons** thanked everyone for attending the inaugural meeting.

On a Motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Hudson on a voice vote, it was voted to adjourn the meeting. (4:43 p.m.)

Attest:

*Ariel B. Kennebrew*

Ariel Kennebrew  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee