



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

September 17, 2024

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: Member Harding, Member Hudson, Vice Chair Hunter, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Dr. Lendozia Edwards, Chief of Academics and Schools; Mr. Manuel Fernandez, Chief Equity Officer; Vedad Konjic, Director of Facilities; Dr. Chad Leith, Director of Professional Learning and Leadership; Mr. David Murphy, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Attorney Maureen MacFarlane, General Counsel; Ms. Desiree Phillips, Coordinator for Upper Schools and High School Services, OSS; Mr. Damon Smith, Principal of CRLS

NuVu Innovation School: Nada Elsonni, Creative Director; Karen Sutton, Chief of Staff & Director of Admissions; Jon Turnquist, Dean of Students

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and 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 Weinstein ~~ABSENT~~; Vice Chair Hunter PRESENT; Member Harding PRESENT; Member Hudson PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Mayor Simmons PRESENT

Member Weinstein arrived at 6:08 p.m.

1. **Public Comment:**

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave., spoke regarding **#24-206, #24-207, #24-227** and the Facilities Presentation
- Ross Benson, Richdale Ave, spoke regarding **#24-227**
- Laura Clawson, Richdale Ave, spoke regarding **#24-227**
- Ann Coburn, Otis Street, spoke regarding the Facilities Presentation
- Owen Cornell, Upland Road, spoke regarding **#24-227**
- Lily Havstad, Granville Road spoke regarding **#24-227**
- Brook Hopkins, Cottage Park Avenue, spoke regarding **#24-227**
- Becca Lester, William Street, spoke regarding **#24-227**

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Rojas to extend the public comment time of the CEA President by an additional three minutes: The motion failed on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein YAY;

Vice Chair Hunter NAY; Member Harding PRESENT; Member Hudson NAY; Member Rachel YAY; Member Rojas YAY; Mayor Simmons NAY (3-3-1).

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Barua and Student Member Shimelis shared the following highlights:

- CLRL Club week was a success
- CRLS Football team won their recent home game
- Overview of Senior Sunrise and Senior Sunset
- Freshmen are doing well acclimating to CRLS
- Curriculum Night – September 26

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

No records were put forth for approval.

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#24-100 Meeting Registration – Motion by Member Rachel

May 7, 2024

WHEREAS: School Committee [policy ABA](#) notes the Committee’s commitment to seeking and encouraging public participation in the body’s decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS: The body’s Rules do not specify when meeting registration opens to the public, but past practice has been two days before the meeting; and

WHEREAS: The Committee intends to remove barriers to participation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That meeting registration and public comment sign-up will be available to all members of the public beginning at the time a meeting is officially noticed with an agenda or designated purpose.

REVISED September 10, 2024

WHEREAS: School Committee [policy ABA](#) notes the Committee’s commitment to seeking and encouraging public participation in the body’s decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS: The body’s Rules do not specify when meeting registration opens to the public, but past practice has been two days before the meeting; and

WHEREAS: The Committee intends to remove barriers to participation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That registration and public comment sign-up for regular Committee meetings will be open to the public when the agenda is posted; and be it further

RESOLVED: That sign-up for subcommittee meetings will begin when a meeting is officially noticed with an agenda/designated purpose or two weeks before the subcommittee meeting, whichever is later.

Member Rachel provided additional background on her research which led to her revised motion. The group discussed the importance of ensuring that the public could register for a meeting closer to the meeting time (30 minutes prior to meetings' start times) and exploring operationalizing a push notification to remind registrants of meeting details.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Vice Chair Hunter on a voice vote, **#24-100** was adopted.

Late Order 2024 Superintendent Search Timeline
Joint Motion by Member Rojas and Member Rachel
June 17, 2024

REVISED September 17, 2024

#24-227 Joint Motion by Member Rojas, Member Rachel and Member David

That the School Committee discuss the following and other timeline options for the Superintendent Search

CPSD Superintendent Search 2024-2025

Timeline - By when to target making a job offer	Pros	Cons
By Dec 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In line with Mass Association of School Committees (MASC) recommendation - Take advantage of larger pool of candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less time for community input and development of job description
By April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow focus on starting school year well - Provide more time for community input and development of job description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenge of having a smaller pool of candidates
By Dec 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modified MASC recommendation - Take advantage of larger pool of candidates - Provide more time for community input and development of job description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Longer period for interim superintendent OR - Need for 2nd interim superintendent - Possible delays in hiring other leadership positions

Attachments:

- Model Timeline from Mass Association of School Committee's "A Vacancy in the Superintendency, Key Decisions for School Committees Planning for a Transition"
- Timeline for Dr. Salim's hire
- Timeline for Dr. Young's hire
- Mayor's Communication re: Plan of Work for Superintendent Search, September 10, 2024

Model Timeline from Mass Association of School Committee’s “A Vacancy in the Superintendency, Key Decisions for School Committees Planning for a Transition”

DRAFT SEARCH TIMELINE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH - Model Timeline

This timeline can take from 2-5 months depending the level of “process” and the size of the search committee. It is important to be flexible, allowing sufficient time to make up for unanticipated delays. The most likely delays would be on the search committee end because of the number of potential member schedule conflicts. A, earlier start date, such as over the summer, allows more time to plan, recruit, and interview. A late start will still work well if the school committee expedites the process. A very late start (March/April) would require expediting the process and imposing sharp deadlines.

October 1 – 15, 2023	School Committee receives preliminary documents, approves draft timeline, sets focus group meetings, makes decisions about recruiting search committee, etc. Search Committee Appointed and Orientation (Set Fixed Date) Focus surveys planned and on-line survey developed; materials development completed and ready for distribution
October 15	Advertisements/E-Mail and General Mail distribution of materials. Also, distribution of search information to recruitment networks. Materials mailed and distributed. Candidate recruitment is ongoing.
By November 19	Focus Groups will take place Search Committee will organize to prepare for screening of candidates, scheduling of interviews, and preparation of questions.
November 30, 2023	Deadline Set for Filing Applications (3:00 p.m. EST via mail, e-mail, fax or personal delivery to search coordinator)
Immediately After Deadline	Applications are compiled and prepared for the Search Committee to review during school vacation. Review begins immediately. Search Committee begins initial screening, selection and initial interviews. Process culminates with recommendations to the School Committee.
Week of December 10	School Committee receives report and recommended finalists. Interviews candidates, conducts site visits, and other due diligence steps are scheduled.
December 12-19, 2023	School Committee interviews finalists are completed. Site visits take place.
Mid-January, 2024	School Committee makes hiring decision.
July 1, 2024 or Sooner	Superintendent takes office <u>or before if so needed and negotiated.</u>

Timeline for Dr. Salim’s Hire

Superintendent Search 2015-2016: Dr. Kenneth Salim	
DATE	MEETING/ACTION ITEM/ANNOUNCEMENT
April 7, 2015	SC selects Executive Director of HR (Barbara Allen) official Superintendent Search Liaison Designee (Order C15-091)
April 7, 2015	Supt. Search Ad Hoc Subcommittee be comprised of the Committee of the Whole (Order C15-090)
April 7, 2015	Draft Supt. Search Timeline (Order C15-089)
April 7, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Discuss Supt. Search Timeline
April 28, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Review & Approval of RFP for Search Firm
May 21, 2015	Request for RFPs Supt. Search Firm
June 9, 2015	SC Special Meeting/Exec. Session Minutes: Evaluate Search Firm Proposals
June 16, 2015	SC establish Special Meeting schedule with Exec. Search Firm (Order C15-196)
June 16, 2015	Executive Search Contract Awarded to Hazard, Young, Attea Associated (HYA) (Order C15-165)
July 1, 2015	Planning Meeting with HYA (HYA Binder located in SC Office)
July 1, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Meeting with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) Search Firm
July 14, 2015	Framework with Updated Search Timeline (Order C15-207)
July 14, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Discuss Supt. Search Interview Committee Make Up
July 28, 2015	Amended Composition of Supt. Search Interview Committee to include 3 SC members (Order C15-208)er C15-208)
August 20, 2015	Supt. Search Community Survey from Barbara Allen
August 26, 2015	HYA Leadership Profile Meeting Schedule
August 26, 2015	Supt. Search Focus Group & Community Forum Schedule
September 9, 2015	Public-facing Schedule of Community Meetings from Barbara Allen
September 16, 2015	Leadership Profile Report from HYA
September 16, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Meet with HYA to discuss Leadership Profile Report
October 1, 2015	Supt. Search Interview Committee Listing
October 13, 2015	Press Release of Supt. Finalists
October 14, 2015	Final Candidates Itinerary
October 15, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Community Forum/Town Hall to meet the Supt. Final Candidates
October 16, 2015	Draft Interview Questions for Finalists
October 16, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: SC Interviews with Final Candidates
October 22, 2015	Supt. Site Visit Protocols
October 27, 2015	SC appoints Dr. Salim as Supt. contingent on reaching negotiated agreement (Order C15-329)
October 27, 2015	SC Special Meeting: Consider Appointment of Supt. (Vote taken to appoint Dr. Salim.)
December 15, 2015	Executive Session Meeting Minutes - Negotiating Contract and Vote
December 15, 2015	Regular Meeting Minutes - Vote to Approve Contract
December 15, 2015	Consider Adoption of Dr. Kenneth Salim Contract (Order C15-290)
January 5, 2016	Dr. Salim contract ratified (Order C16-009)
January 12, 2016	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Dr. Salim's Learning-based Entry Plan
March 24, 2016	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Discuss Transition Planning for Dr. Salim
June 13, 2016	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Review & Monitor Dr. Salim's Onboarding Plan
July 1, 2016	Dr. Salim begins at CPSD
September 22, 2016	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Prioritize Short-Term Issues for Dr. Salim
January 12, 2017	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Review Findings from Supt. Listening/Observing Tours

Timeline for Dr. Young’s hire

Superintendent Search 2008-2009: Dr. Jeffrey Young	
DATE	MEETING/ACTION ITEM/ANNOUNCEMENT
July 15, 2008	SC Meeting Minutes: Glenn Koocher (MASC) Presentation re: Search Process
July 31, 2008	Special Meeting Minutes: Discuss Process of Supt. Search
July 31, 2008	SC authorize School Dept. to draft RFP for Search Firm (Order C08-291)
August 12, 2008	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt. Search Minutes: Establish Calendar for Supt. Search
September 8, 2008	Memo from City Manager: Procurement Process for Search Firm
September 9, 2008	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt. Search Minutes: Supt. Search Timeline
September 16, 2008	Draft Supt. Search Timeline by Barbara Allen
November 8, 2008	Search Process and Timeline by Ray & Associates (search firm)
November 18, 2008	Search Firm Contract Awarded to Ray & Associates (Order C08-438)
November 18, 2008	Consultant’s Contacts: HR Director Allen and SC members Mayor Simmons & Schuster (Order C08-485)
December 1, 2008	Supt. Search Advertising Opportunities (undated)
December 1, 2008	Supt. Search Advertising Flyer (undated)
December 1, 2008	Suggested Interview Questions (undated)
December 1, 2008	Evaluation Process of Candidates by Ray & Associates (undated)
December 11, 2008	Supt Search Update Memo from Barbara Allen
January 9, 2009	Supt. Job Description
February 10, 2009	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt Search Minutes: Update on Supt. Search
March 11, 2009	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt Search Minutes: Preliminary Screening of Candidates
March 19, 2009	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt Search Minutes: Preliminary Screening of Candidates
March 20, 2009	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt Search Minutes: Preliminary Screening of Candidates
March 30, 2009	Special Meeting Minutes: Town Hall to Meet Supt. Finalists
March 31, 2009	Special Meeting Minutes: Interviewing Finalists
April 7, 2009	SC Offer Supt. Position to Dr. Jeffrey Young (C09-097)
April 23, 2009	Ad-hoc Committee Created to Assist with Supt. Transition Plan (C09-123)

Mayor’s Communication re: Plan of Work for Superintendent Search, September 10, 2024

September 10, 2024

Re: School Committee Plan of Work for Superintendent Search

Dear Members of the School Committee,

As we move forward with the search for our next permanent School Superintendent, I want to outline a clear process to ensure a thorough, collaborative, and focused effort. Our commitment to selecting the right leader for Cambridge Public Schools is critical, and this Plan of Work is designed to guide us in that effort. Below, please see my proposed plan that includes the following key steps:

School Committee Visioning Session

The School Committee shall engage in a visioning session to align our goals for the Superintendent role. This will take place at a retreat on September 26th at a location to be determined in order to dive deeper into discussions about the leadership qualities and priorities we wish to emphasize moving forward.

Guidance on the Search Process

In October, we shall meet with Glenn Koocher for an in-depth session on best practices for conducting an effective Superintendent search. This session will provide valuable insights on the search process structure and help us refine our approach.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Focus

DEI training for the School Committee will be essential to ensure that equity and inclusivity are at the forefront of our search. This will reinforce our commitment to finding a leader who can uphold these principles in Cambridge Public Schools.

Implementation of the Superintendent Search

Following these preparatory steps, we will then move into the implementation phase, ensuring that all key considerations, including our district's needs and the leadership qualities we have identified, remain central to the search process.

I believe that this plan shall help guide us toward selecting the best candidate for the role, and I look forward to discussing this with you during the School Committee meeting on September 10. I thank you for your ongoing dedication to this critical work.

Mayor Simmons began the discussion by reading her letter to the Committee dated on September 17. The Mayor's letter and supporting documents can be found [here](#). **Mayor Simmons** proposed merging her timeline with the one previously proposed by the motion makers of **#24-227**. She highlighted the importance of DEI in the superintendent search and noted that Mr. Glenn Koocher, President of the MASC, would be available in October to lead a training with Committee members.

A conversation ensued with members sharing the following:

- Emphasized the importance of conducting a thoughtful, comprehensive search that includes input from multiple stakeholders, particularly community members.
- Acknowledged that time-consuming tasks, such as developing a detailed job description, are essential to the process.
- Discussed proposed search timelines and their impact on attracting the most qualified pool of candidates.
- Highlighted that selecting a superintendent is one of the Committee's most significant responsibilities.
- Stressed the need to create an effective and agile Search Committee.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Mayor Simmons on a voice vote, Mayor Simmons' documents were placed on the table.

#24-206 Recommendation: That the Superintendent's Recommendation #24-206 be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy, including renaming policy as Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex – Title IX policy as detailed in the attached document. (Second Reading)

A brief discussion followed on **#24-206**. Attorney MacFarlane shared that the majority of revisions were clerical in nature.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Harding on a voice vote, **#24-206** was adopted.

#24-207 Recommendation: That the Superintendent’s Recommendation #24-207 be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy, as detailed in the attached document. (Second Reading)

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein on a voice vote, **#24-207** was adopted.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent’s Agenda

7a. Superintendent’s Update:

Mr. Murphy gave opening remarks regarding the successful start of the school year and the importance of keeping this positive momentum as the academic year moved forward. He highlighted the importance of a strong leadership team to ensure this process and handing over an effective leadership team to his incumbent. Mr. Murphy shared the following interim appointments during his tenure as interim superintendent:

- Mr. Manuel Fernandez, Assistant Superintendent of Upper Schools
- Dr. Chad Leith, Chief Accountably Officer
- Desiree Phillips, Executive Director of Special Education
- Damon Smith, Chief Operating Officer
- Allan Gehant, CRLS Principal

Mr. Fernandez, Dr. Leith, Mr. Smith and Ms. Phillips shared their background highlights and strong ties to Cambridge and their commitment to continue to pursue meaningful work in their expanded roles. Committee members expressed their support of the appointments and noted Mr. Murphy’s boldness in making these changes. **Member Harding** noted that Mr. Smith’s transition would be the biggest and **Member Hudson** noted that the district’s upper school students needed increased attention and care. Mr. Murphy thanked his aforementioned colleagues for taking on these expanded roles.

7b. Presentations:

Overview of the capital improvements that were completed.....	David Murphy
during the summer of 2024 and offer brief comments on the	Interim Superintendent
analysis provided by the pending long-term facilities condition	Vedad Konjic
assessment detailing composite scores with respect to	Director of Facilities
infrastructure challenges across the Cambridge Public Schools.	

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Konjic gave the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

Following the presentation, the Committee and the presenters discussed the following topics:

- Space capacities as they relate to the size of CPSD programs and the importance of data to informing decisions.
- Ventilation standards post COVID
- The important partnership with City and CPSD being mindful of the upcoming budget process and having these discussions early in the budget process.
- Paying attention to CPSD’s older schools and how the status of facilities implies the CPSD’s priorities.

- The importance of school maintenance as the district has School Choice.
- Importance of regularly communicating with CPSD families regarding facilities updates.

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

7d. **Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Member Weinstein the items **#24-229, #24-231, #24-232, #24-233,** and **#24-234** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Weinstein YAY; Vice Chair Hunter YAY; Member Harding YAY; Member Hudson YAY; Member Rachel YAY; Member Rojas YAY; Mayor Simmons YAY.

#24-229 Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget.

Description: SY24-25 Placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:	3	\$262,700.00
Residential Program Contracts:		
45 Day Program Contracts:		
Total	3	\$262,700.00

#24-231 Recommendation: Contract Award: Upstander Project: 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.

Upstander Project, 887 Boylston Street, Floor 5, #244, Boston, MA for the period of August 15, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$30,000.00.

#24-232 Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

1. IN-KIND – Donation of one flute and sheet music from a Cambridge resident, as well as 27 musical instruments from Leonard’s Music of Bedford, MA to the Visual and Performing Arts department to support band programming in grades 5 through 12.

#24-233 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Ms. Hibbs Grant (SC25861) be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY25 Ms. Hibbs Grant (SC25166), Private in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025.

#24-234 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY2025 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant (SC25707) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY25 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant (SC25707), Federal through State in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

#24-228 Recommendation: Approval of Private School – NuVu Innovation School be adopted as follows:
That the School Committee approve NuVu Innovation School located at 450 Massachusetts Avenue as a private school in accordance with the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 1.

A discussion followed **#24-228**.

The following administrators from the NuVu Innovation School were available to answer questions from the Committee: Nada Elsonni, Creative Director; Karen Sutton, Chief of Staff & Director of Admissions; and Jon Turnquist, Dean of Students.

The Committee members and NuVu administrators discussed the following topics:

- CPSD process for vetting private school applications
- CRLS and NuVu School historical partnership
- NuVu student population including the breakdown of the following groupings: gender, special needs, racial composition and those needing financial assistance
- NuVu School's new 501c3 status
- NuVu School's student application process

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Rachel, **#24-228** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Weinstein YAY; Vice Chair Hunter YAY; Member Harding PRESENT; Member Hudson YAY; Member Rachel YAY; Member Rojas YAY; Mayor Simmons YAY.

#24-230 Recommendation: Contract Award: Christopher Vick: College Preparation 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.

Christopher Vick , 6367 Woodland Forest Dr. Elkridge, MD for the period of September 1,2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$30,000.00.

A brief discussion followed **#24-230**.

The Committee asked for additional details regarding the contract.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel on a voice vote, **#24-230** was referred back to the Superintendent.

8. School Committee Agenda:

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

#24-235 Teaching Local History – Motion by Mayor Simmons

WHEREAS: There has been significant discussion around the importance of ensuring that young people in Cambridge are educated about the history of their city; and

WHEREAS: Many students may not be familiar with the rich history of Cambridge, as this subject is not currently part of the general school curriculum; and

WHEREAS: Incorporating local history into the curriculum would provide students with a deeper understanding of their community, its development, and its cultural and historical significance; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the School Committee City go on record in urging that a course on Cambridge history, potentially through the History Department, be offered to CPSD students as either an elective or as an extra-curricular part of the curriculum; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Superintendent of Cambridge Public Schools work with the School Committee to explore the steps necessary to implement this course and to report back on how and when this might be implemented.

A brief discussion followed **#24-235**

Mayor Simmons outlined the purpose of her motion. Members agreed with the importance of teaching Cambridge history to current students and the group outlined the current learning opportunities within the district.

On a motion by Member Hunter, seconded by Member Member Harding on a voice vote, **#24-235** was adopted.

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

#24-236 Passing of Rita Grassi – Resolution by Mayor Simmons

WHEREAS: The School Committee was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Rita Grassi on September 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS: Rita Grassi was born to the late Manfredi Grassi and Mary A. (Pasquariello) Grassi, and was sister to Mary, Anthony, and former School Committee Member Joseph Grassi; and

WHEREAS: Rita Grassi was a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Somerville and the Wilfred Hairdressing Academy, and she would go on to have a distinguished career, starting as a Senior Fraud Investigator at the Bank of New England, then as a receptionist at Kaufman Inc., and most recently she served for many, many years as Committee Receptionist for the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where she assisted in preparing legislation and responding to constituent inquiries until her retirement in September 2023; and

WHEREAS: Despite her health issues, Rita Grassi was known for her loving, caring, and generous nature, she maintained a positive spirit and welcomed all who came into her life, leaving a lasting impact on her family, friends, and community; and

WHEREAS: In addition to her siblings, Rita Grassi leaves behind her niece Kristen and her husband William Rollins, her nephew Matthew and his wife Rebeca, her nephew Michael and his wife Bridget, Anthony David Grassi, Montserrat Quintero, and Stephanie Mary Grassi, her great-niece and nephews Madison, Mason, Carter, and Teddy, her godchildren Matthew and Anthony Grassi and Elizabeth Ciampa, and her memory shall be forever cherished by them all; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record extending its deepest condolences to the Grassi Family for their tremendous loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Committee Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Joe Grassi and the entire Grassi Family on behalf of the entire School Committee.

A brief discussion followed **#24-236**.

On a motion by Mayor Simmons, seconded by Harding on a voice vote, **#24-236** was adopted by the Committee of the whole.

11. Announcements:

- **Member Weinstein** highlighted voter registration.
- **Member Harding** congratulated Marjorie Decker.
- **Mayor Simmons** highlighted the Cambridge Mosaic on September 21 and the celebration of Hispanic Latino History at the Cambridge Public Library.
- **Vice Chair Hunter** shared kudos of CRLS Connect and the Amigos School orientation packets.

12: Late Orders

None

13. Communications from City Officers:

- Mayor's Update to the School Committee Plan of Work for the Superintendent Search
- Mayor's Draft Superintendent Search Timeline

Email communications:

- Andrea Eichman
- Jodi Ekelchik
- Lilly Havstad
- Carroll Magill
- Tina Lieu
- Peter Lubetsky
- Dan Monahan
- John Reardon

On a motion by Mayor Simmons, seconded by Harding on a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned (9:35 p.m.).

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Interim Executive Secretary to the School Committee