



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting

May 11, 2021

Called for 7:00 p.m. broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose for the purpose of voting on the retention of an attorney to begin contract negotiations and for purposes of entertaining a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations for (Interim Superintendent), as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation positions of the School Committee.

Members Present: Vice Chair Bowman, Member Fantini, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Member Wilson, Mayor Siddiqui

Also Present: Ms. Richardson, Chief Talent Officer of Human Resources

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Chair read the call of the meeting and explained that this meeting is being televised, votes will be taken and there will be no public comment.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with the following roll call for the purposes of a sound check: Vice Chair Bowman PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT

Mayor Siddiqui gave background on why they have to take a vote to retain outside counsel, she explained how she has been in touch with Maureen MacFarlane Esq and Lisa Richardson. She stated that the recommend firm is: Norris, Murray and Peloquin LLC

- Member Rojas asked for further information on the firm and what our working relationship is with them. Ms. Richardson discussed how CPS is currently contracted with this firm on some contract negotiations and a contact she trusts recommend them.

Member Rachel asked for further information on the firm.

Member Wilson asked for further clarification on the votes for tonight.

- Mayor Siddiqui shared that the vote for the attorney has to happen in open session and then executive session will be about contract terms.

Member Rachel asked Ms. Richardson to speak to the firm's experience on Superintendent contracting.

- Ms. Richardson discussed about she has not used this firm for Superintendent contracting, the one that she usually uses had a conflict of interest so she asked them what firm they would recommend.
- Ms. Richardson discussed how she spoke to one of the principals in the firm and they said it was fairly common for them to do that work. Member Rachel asked for a list of School districts they had worked with.

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Member Fantini talked about how this is a small engagement for a law firm and he expects this to go quickly.

Mayor Siddiqui recommended taking a vote on the firm.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll vote, it was voted to retain Norris, Murray and Peloquin LLC to begin contract negotiations: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Rachel, on the following roll call vote, the School Committee entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy for contract negotiations for (Interim Superintendent), as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the strategy and negotiation positions of the School Committee. The School Committee will reconvene in open session and votes will be taken: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to adjourn the meeting: Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA. (7:09 p.m.)

The meeting reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with the following roll call for the purposes of a sound check: Vice Chair Bowman PRESENT; Member Fantini PRESENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Rachel PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Member Wilson PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui PRESENT

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll vote, the School Committee voted to ratify and confirm the votes taken in its May 11, 2021 executive session: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Vice Chair Bowman, on the following roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Madame Mayor YEA

Attest:

Allison Daley

Confidential Secretary to the Office of the School Committee