



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)

Special Meeting

December 10, 2024

Called for 6:00 pm. on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 held in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, for the purpose of discussing the timeline for the Superintendent search.

Members Present: Member Harding, Member Hudson, Vice-Chair Hunter, Member Rachel (ABSENT), Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Others Present: Dr. Carolyn Turk, Director of Education Policy, Office of the Mayor

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, **Mayor Simmons** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Mayor Simmons** read the call of the meeting and explained that the meeting is being televised and recorded. Votes may be taken.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call of members present: Member Rachel, ABSENT; Member Rojas, PRESENT; Member Weinstein, PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter, PRESENT; Member Harding, PRESENT; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Mayor Simmons, PRESENT

Mayor Simmons gave a brief overview of the Committee's progress to date relating to the Superintendent search process. **Mayor Simmons**, **Member Harding** and **Member Hudson** shared the following updates regarding the work of the Community Engagement working group.

Highlights included:

- Emphasizing the need for a transparent, authentic, and inclusive process.
- Recognizing that every voice matters in the engagement process.
- Acknowledging the limitations of surveys, particularly if they are monolingual.
- Stressing the importance of including diverse groups, such as faculty, CPS alumni, caregivers, university partners, clergy, non-profit leaders, family liaisons, the Family Policy Council, and senior citizens.
- Exploring various methods for engaging these groups, including ParentSquare, Saturday meetings, and virtual discussions. The group also discussed collaborating with the new CPS Director of Communications, Jackie Piques.
- Assigning the search firm the responsibility of organizing outreach efforts and synthesizing the collected data.

Mayor Simmons asked Dr. Turk to join the discussion. She highlighted the following working [document](#) that was posted on the School Committee's website and available to the public.

Member Rojas provided an update on the district profile and the RFP process. The group discussed the opportunity to leverage existing documents, such as *Schools at a Glance*, the CPS budget, MCAS data, and union contracts, to inform the creation of the district profile. They also reviewed the timeline for executing the RFP and the role of City colleagues in the process. The group further discussed the Leadership Profile, emphasizing the need to include aspirational goals while ensuring clarity and conciseness in outlining the desired characteristics for a candidate who fits the district's current needs. **Member Rojas** mentioned having a shortlist of superintendent search firms and expressed hope that the MASC could provide a more comprehensive list. The group agreed that engaging a search firm should be a top priority.

The group discussed next steps in the process and the cadence of Committee meetings related to the superintendent search. **Mayor Simmons** shared that Tuesday evenings may work best. They agreed to the next scheduled meeting of December 19. The group also discussed meeting on Tuesday, January 7, immediately following the Committee's regular meeting.

On a motion by Member Harding seconded by Member Hudson the meeting was adjourned on a voice vote (6-0). (7:15 p.m.)

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Christo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

On a motion by Member Rachel seconded by Vice Chair Hunter the meeting was adjourned on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7:15 p.m.)

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Christo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee