



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting

December 19, 2024

Called for 6:00 pm. on Thursday, December 19 and broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway for the purpose of discussing the timeline for the Superintendent search.

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

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

Vice Chair Hunter in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, **Vice Chair** called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Vice Chair Hunter** 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 Rojas, PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter, PRESENT; Member Weinstein, PRESENT; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Member Harding, ABSENT; Member Rachel, PRESENT; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

Vice Chair Hunter asked Committee members for updates regarding their working groups. The following updates were shared:

Community Engagement

- No major updates since the December 11 meeting.
- A summary was provided, including the involvement of a search firm to manage the logistics of community engagement, as well as enlisting key stakeholders to participate in the process.
- There is an opportunity to gather community feedback during school social events.

Search Firm

- Highlights were shared from the Request for Proposal (RFP) used in the previous CPSD superintendent search.
- The CPSD Director of Human Resources and the City's Head of Purchasing will assist in guiding the RFP process and supporting the Committee.
- The search firm should have a proven track record of strong community engagement.
- Historically, there is a two-week turnaround time from the Committee's approval of the RFP to its public posting.

District Profile

- Existing resources, such as *Schools at a Glance*, provide a strong foundation for the District Profile.
- The Interim Superintendent and the CPSD Communications team are prepared to update the profile with current student population data.

Leadership Profile

- The CPSD Director of Human Resources will be engaged to assist in creating the Leadership Profile.
- Community input will be integrated into the process to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive profile.

Vice Chair Hunter invited Lily Havstad to provide her public comment. Ms. Havstad expressed concern that the School Committee must prioritize transparency and actively engage the community throughout the superintendent search process. She shared her disappointment with the Committee and the district's previous handling of these issues

At the Vice Chair Hunter's invitation, Dr. Turk gave a brief overview of the current timeline for the superintendent search.

In the closing minutes, the group discussed scheduling the next Special Meeting focused on the Superintendent Search. A tentative date of January 7, immediately following the Regular Meeting, was proposed. However, concerns were raised that, given the holiday break, administrators from HR and Purchasing may not be fully prepared to present.

On a motion by Member Rojas, Seconded by Member Rachel the meeting was adjourned on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Harding, ABSENT; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT (6:40 p.m.)

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee