



**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)

Regular Meeting

June 15, 2021

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

Also Present: Nuriel Vera-Degraff, Anais Killian, Student School Committee Representatives

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair asked for a roll call for the purpose of a sound check: Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

1. Public Comment:

The following individual was heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Avenue, CEA President, spoke in support of items **#21-203** and **#21-206**, he is concerned that **#21-205** does not have enough parking for 150 staff members. Mr. Monahan thanked Dr. Salim for his years of service and mentioned many of Dr. Salim's various merits.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Rachel, on a voice vote, it was voted to close public comment.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Member Vera-DeGraff reported that the CRLS graduation was virtual and in person, student elections are tomorrow. Free meals are still available at CRLS. Final exams are Monday and Tuesday of next week.

Member Killian reported that students are enjoying using Naviance and in-person learning and they all look forward to next year, hoping it will be a smooth process for all. She thanked all Members, administrators and staff for all of their support and hard work.

Mayor Siddiqui spoke for the Committee of the Whole stating that we all wish the students the best of luck in the student elections tomorrow. Everyone has high hopes for both to be re-elected.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval: None

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

7a. Presentations: COVID 19 Response Update: Recover & Thrive Update/ESSER Funds Planning, Dr. Kenneth N. Salim, Superintendent of Schools

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Dr. Salim framed the meeting for tonight, focusing on ESSER. The presentation can be found online and copies are filed in the School Committee office. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Mayor opened the floor for questions, comments and concerns.

Vice Chair Bowman asked if it is possible to provide the standards to parents at the beginning of each school year instead of having parents go to the DESE website for the information. She also asked how much does data shape the recommendations in the presentation. Vice Chair Bowman stated she concerned that there is more funding for social emotional support than there is for strategic tutoring, since there is a very clear academic gap.

- Dr. Salim answered that for the tutoring funding, ESSER can supplement and expand the funding more robustly. The data connection responds to summative assessments for interventionists and coaches
- Dr. Brown responded that they are planning a packet for family support and it will include all that the Vice Chair asked for in regards to the DESE website.
- Dr. Madera spoke to the academic part of Vice Chair Bowman's concerns stating that lesson plans by the educator collaborative with transferable skills and standards was very successful and helpful, it has been encompassed into culturally responsive practices, and this rose to the top of a valuable tool and will be incorporated into the entire district for the long-term.
- Dr. Gittens stated that using the data from the screeners is an area of growth for focusing on consistency in learning.

Member Rojas asked for a clarifying question on academics and ESSER. Member Rojas suggested a timeline to the community for ESSER 3, regarding ESSER 2, he asked about interventionist and paraprofessional support. Member Rojas stated this is a lot of money; he wonders what Dr. Salim is thinking in terms of long and short term investments.

- Dr. Salim confirmed that ESSER 2 is close to two million. After being remote for over a year, having that additional support as well as being able to work with students in smaller groups will be an added value. Superintendent Salim spoke to ESSER 1 and 2 for the summer and ESSER 3 for the upcoming school year.

Member Rachel stated she is disappointed in how the Committee was informed of what money will go where; it has been her understanding that this is a fiduciary responsibility of the School Committee to decide how the ESSER money will be allocated. She is hopeful that the Committee of the Whole will end up where the Superintendent ended up. She asked about family conferences costs coming down over time and how do we use this opportunity to build our village.

- Dr. Salim stated that this presentation was about all funds, not just ESSER funds, there have been ongoing conversations over the months in many areas that include different strategies.

Member Rachel acknowledged that she does see some recommendations from the Committee in this presentation, however, she has not seen the process and the strategy followed in the way she explained.

Member Fantini voiced concerns about the amount of funding that goes to staffing. One time staffing positions never go away. The reading levels of our students are too low and our district is being criticized in this area. The strategies we have in place need to be itemized and explained on how we hope to get through them. We need to follow some robust data points. This may be the perfect time to let the leaders of our schools decide if they need the interventionist model instead of the tutoring model. Are we going to increase our time with the Cambridge Health Alliance?

- Dr. Pinkus-Brown stated that the Committee will get a report with data along with an enhanced dashboard.
- Dr. Madera stated that the interventionists are not functioning by using a cookie cutter approach. The interventionists are in place going by the data that says interventionist for supports; each school uses their autonomy to decide whether they want interventionists. To her knowledge, there is no school that doesn't want at least one interventionists.
- Dr. Gittens offered that Member Fantini may be talking about coaches, interventionists or tutors they are three distinctly different positions.

Member Fantini asked if CPSD can incorporate differentiated instruction into the system.

- Dr. Salim answered additional time can be beneficial for some students. All students do not have the same access to out of school time, i.e. vacation time and camps, it's not about ESSER, Title I or General Funds, it is about all of the different needs of all students.
- Dr. Gittens stated that CPSD does and will continue to use differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students, whether they are performing above or below level.

Member Weinstein asked how will community development work on an ongoing basis and in the coming year, have we laid the groundwork?

- Dr. Turk responded that they have been working on this for a whole year. There was a struggle in the beginning of the year for the educator collaborators. They have emerged in triumph.

Member Weinstein asked how can we support the strong need for mental health for our young people

- Superintendent Salim answered that is the work that social workers at the schools have been doing. Using wrap around services with other community partners; navigating these supports are challenging.
- Dr Pinkus-Brown added there are strong Title I support teams.
- Dr. Gittens followed up with working with dysregulated students has shown a level of inconsistencies. We are finding SST (student success teams) to find agencies to do the work that the district does not have the capacity to provide. Determinations will be made to provide a consistent practice of supports for faculty and students across the district.

Member Weinstein asked about the learners that are not aware of the fact that they are ready to move forward, how do we help identify them.

- Dr. Salim reiterated that this is the work that the social workers are doing along with community partners with wraparound services.
- Dr. Turk spoke on the options for advanced learners within and outside the classrooms. Networks of staff are providing opportunities on elementary, middle and upper school levels.

Member Wilson reiterated the need to think about data and increasing the number of students that are reading at grade level.

- Dr. Salim replied that it depends on staff using new screening tools focused on students at risk for dyslexia and using very individualized student data. iReady data gives a picture of what students need and making sure the educators understand how to use the existing Professional Development to the maximum potential

Member Wilson asked if our students will get to grade level in the next two years or the next year? She has high expectations for iReady and is excited for our district to use it.

- Dr. Salim referred to our framework and that all of our efforts are supporting students twice during the school year.
- Dr. Pinkus Brown responded that they are trying to align the dates that the data will be available to families and then teach the educators how to use the tools.

Member Wilson asked about the Teen Health Data Report and getting students into colleges

- Dr. Pinkus Brown answered that the final written report is due to come to CPSD from the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA), most likely in the fall. It is a large report and the information may best come out in segments via sub-committee meetings.

- Dr. Turk replied that CPS starts out by reaching the fraternities and sororities.

Member Wilson asked about Black and Brown students using ESSER funds for taking AP courses.

- Dr. Gittens answered that the calculus project is targeted towards students with low success rates. She mentioned targets for under-represented students enrolled in AP courses in order to be successful.

Member Vera-DeGraff asked about slide 9 and how to take the students concerns into consideration.

- Dr. Turk stated that we need to make sure that young people's voices are heard at all times, students need to be at the table.

Mayor Siddiqui stated that it looks like we have received and spent ESSER I and we are supposed to give our consent to submit ESSER II to DESE by the end of June so that the Committee can vote on ESSER III on August 3, 2021.

- Dr. Salim confirmed this process. They will be prepared to post positions after the August 3, 2021 vote.

Member Wilson asked if we will get a copy of what will be submitted to DESE.

- Claire Spinner stated typically no, they do not share the applications; however, they are usually very technical and submitted through a portal.
- **Member Wilson** stated that she would like to see it after it is submitted.

Vice Chair Bowman shared that there will need to be family group surveys in order to know what large groups of families need and desire.

Mayor Siddiqui, motioned, seconded by Member Rojas to suspend the rules to bring **#21-224** forward for discussion and adoption. The Rules were suspended on a voice vote and **#21-224** was brought forward on a voice vote. Dr. Salim shared his screen and another presentation was before the committee. Mr. Milner and Mr. Fernandez both spoke to this recommendation. The presentation can be seen online. <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NF4I9faijxQA3qZfBwZXTAKIRtyvEyl8B54SQz9eUI/edit?usp=sharing>

Member Wilson stated that we have come a long way and now that we have the mission statement, we need to implement it; please note: there is nothing about curriculum named in the Anti-Racist Vision and Mission Statements.

#21-224, Approval of the Adoption of The Cambridge Public Schools Anti-Racist Vision & Mission Statements, that the School Committee approve the adoption of the Cambridge Public Schools Anti-Racist Vision and Mission Statements.

#21-224, Approval of the Adoption of The Cambridge Public Schools Anti-Racist Vision & Mission

Statements, be adopted as amended: that the School Committee approve the adoption of the Cambridge Public Schools Anti-Racist Vision and Mission Statements.

Description: Superintendent Kenneth Salim and the Cambridge School Committee have committed to advancing equity and racial equity and accelerating Cambridge Public School's effort to become a proactively antiracist school district. In 2019, the Administration and School Committee adopted definitions of equity and racial equity.

As part of the community-driven process to understand the root causes of inequity in CPS supported through the Building Equity Bridges project, it was recommended that CPS establish as districtwide anti-racist vision and mission statement. Research and best practice encourage systems to recognize that all policies, practices and decisions are either racist or antiracist—they either support equity or they don't. "Antiracism" or "antiracist" means active participation in combating racism in all forms.

During 2020 and 2021, a diverse group of CPS educators, youth, families, administrators and community stakeholders, including many individuals who identify as people of color, worked to develop the Antiracist Vision and Mission Statements below.

CPS Antiracist Vision Statement:

All CPYS youth thrive, are empowered and are liberated through education, learning experiences and spaces that are antiracist.

CPS Antiracist Mission Statement:

On the journey to becoming an antiracist school district, the CPS community actively uplifts and collectively holds each other accountable to equitably support our young people and families. We center the voices and prioritize the needs of scholars, families and educators of color with antiracist decisions, practices and policies and curriculum to dismantle historical oppression and to support learning spaces where all students are known, celebrated, empowered and thrive.

Member Rachel thanked the presenters for the process of collective work.

Vice Chair Bowman thanked everyone, in particular Member Wilson for adding curriculum to the Mission Statement.

Member Weinstein thanked all involved for their part in this important work.

Member Rojas stated that other races of people are discriminated against also, not just African Americans. Asked for some background information on why this is coming to us now.

- Dr. Salim answered that this has been coming to the final stages for the School Committee for a couple of months now. They have been working on this for over a year as a very intentional process. He wanted to be sure it was before the Committee before he left office.

Vice Chair Bowman clarified that she respectfully acknowledges that all people of color have racist experiences. She wants it to be clear that there will be times when she speaks from her specific background of African Americans and the legacy of slavery. This is not to say that other experiences do not matter just as much. She respects all struggles.

Member Rojas clarified that he was speaking from his own legacy and that it was not a criticism.

Member Wilson thanked Mr. Milner for his clarifying statements regarding approval from the CEA before coming before the Committee and that it is a working document not just a statement online. She is curious about using these statements as part of Dr. Greer's onboarding process.

Dr. Salim stated that this work is generational work, it is not about any one Superintendent or Body, it is a touchstone on how we make decisions. It is not the words on a website, it is about how we actively shape decisions to move forward. The work will continue to evolve.

Member Wilson motioned, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, to amend the last paragraph CPS Antiracist Mission Statement: strike the word ~~youth~~ insert the word *scholars*, and add the word *curriculum* after policies to dismantle historical oppression and to support.....

On the following roll call, it was voted to adopt the Mission Statement as amended: Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman PRESENT; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

The Superintendent's Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Member Wilson moved, seconded by Member Weinstein, to adopt all items. On the following roll call vote, items #21-203 through

#21-217 were adopted: Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#21-203, Approval of the Agreement between the City of Cambridge, Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association, Kristala Smart, Meghan Litten and Ginamari Martinez-Jimenez regarding a class size overage during the spring semester of the 2020-2021 school year be adopted as follows: that the School Committee ratify and approve the attached agreement which addresses a resolution of issues and concerns regarding a class size overage in the spring semester of 2020-2021 a request made by the Amigos School to provide instruction for students over the class size limitation set forth in the current collective bargaining agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Units A&B.

#21-204, Approval of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Units A&B Regarding Office of Student Services Recovery Team for School Year 2021-2022, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee ratify approve the Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Units A&B Regarding Office of Student Services Recovery Team for School Year 2021-2022.

#21-205, Approval of Agreement Between The City of Cambridge and The Cambridge Education Association Regarding Moving Of School Staff, Including Classroom Teachers, From the Tobin Montessori School and Vassal Lane Upper School To The Longfellow and Kennedy Longfellow Buildings For the Upcoming School Year, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the Agreement Between The City of Cambridge and The Cambridge Education Association Regarding Moving Of School Staff, Including Classroom Teachers, from the Tobin Montessori School and Vassal Lane Upper School to the Longfellow and Kennedy Longfellow Buildings for the Upcoming School Year.

#21-206, Approval of Settlement Agreement between the Cambridge Education Association and Cambridge School Committee and Kate Holmes As Resolution of American Arbitration Association Case Number 01-20-0015-7570, be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the Agreement between the Cambridge Education Association and Cambridge School Committee and Kate Holmes as resolution of American Arbitration Association Case Number 01-20-0015-7570.

#21-207, 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, funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	93	\$9,403,394.98
Residential	11	\$2,112,911.12
45 Day	<u>1</u>	<u>\$84,724.20</u>
	105	\$11,592,141.80

#21-208, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Breakthrough Greater Boston, CRLS, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$96,910.00.

#21-209, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Computer Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Learning A-Z, 1840 East River Road Suite 320, Tucson, AZ, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$33,347.37.

#21-210, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Computer Network Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, for the period July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

#21-211, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Nursing Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Norton Staffing & Recruiting, 34 Elm Street, Cohasset, for the period July 1, 2021 through August 15, 2021 in the amount of \$104,720.00.

#21-212, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Transportation Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

NRT Bus, Inc., 230 North Main Street, North Reading, for the periods of:
July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$6,998,821.00
July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$6,998,821.00
July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$7,178,834.75

#21-213, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for FY22 Printing & Mailing Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Sterling Business Products, PO Box 845, Medford, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$200,000.00.

#21-214, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for FY22 Instructional Materials, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

School Specialty, P.O. Box 1579, Appleton, WI, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$325,000.00.

#21-215, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Professional Development, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Shore Educational Collaborative, 100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea, for the period September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$40,000.00.

#21-216, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Professional Development & Consulting Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Landmark School Outreach Program, 429 Hale Street, Pride's Crossing, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$60,000.00.

#21-217, Grant Award, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY22 Food & Nutrition Services Appropriation for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$1,200,000.00. Grant SC00402.

Description: The FY 2022 projected budget for the Food and Nutrition Services Department is \$4,010,159. The budget is supported through revenue generated throughout the year from school breakfast and lunch programs, including Federal and State reimbursements and receipts from paid meals, and through a reimbursement from the City and a CPS general fund subsidy.

This recommendation: At the beginning of each year, to enable the department to conduct business seamlessly from the start of the year, a recommendation is put forth to the School Committee to initially appropriate the anticipated Federal and State revenues. This initial recommended appropriation is based on 80% of the Federal and State revenues received in FY21.

8. Non-Consent Agenda: None

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

Moved by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Fantini, the School Committee Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. On a voice vote, the School Committee Agenda was adopted.

#21-218 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Wilson and Member Rojas:

WHEREAS: On June 15, 2021, Governor Baker's executive order authorizing municipalities to conduct public meetings virtually and allow residents to give public comment remotely will expire; and

WHEREAS: Remote participation enhances flexibility, enabling more residents to weigh in on important community issues and participate in civic engagement, while balancing their other responsibilities; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee Rule Section 4.2 on Public Comment does not currently allow for residents to participate remotely in addition to participating in public comment in-person; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge School Committee will make the following changes to Section 4.2 Public Comment of the School Committee Rules:

Section 4.2. Public Comment. Public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per individual and will be limited to those matters on the Agenda. Members of the public wishing to speak must register their intent prior to the meeting on a form provided for said purpose by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee or on the School Committee website. In addition to being able to provide public comment in-person, members of the public may provide public comment by participating remotely on Zoom. Members of the public wishing to participate remotely must register their intent prior to the meeting on the form for said purpose on the School Committee website. Members participating in-person will be heard first, followed by members participating remotely. The Chair may limit comment to two (2) minutes based on the number of individuals signed up to speak. The Chair will announce the time limit prior to the public comment period at every regular meeting. The public will also be encouraged to submit their comments in writing either by e-mail to SchoolCom@cpsd.us or by faxing or mailing them to the Executive Secretary to the School Committee. The public also may submit comments, in writing, to the School Committee on matters not on the Agenda by email to SchoolCom@cpsd.us or by faxing or mailing them to the Executive Secretary to the School Committee. Public comment shall not take place at roundtable meetings or at public retreats of the School Committee, where no matter being discussed may be finally considered, in that no votes may be taken. Written comments will be accepted and made part of the record of the meeting. The opportunity for the public to comment on items discussed at roundtable meetings or at public retreats shall be at the regular or special meeting at which the item may be considered for action by the School Committee.

#21-219 Motion by the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee

Whereas the Cambridge Election Commission has presented a request to use two of the four additional schools in 2021 that were used in the 2020 election. This is on top of the four schools that they have been using in recent years;

Whereas the Cambridge Election Commission has also provided a safety plan in conjunction with the Cambridge Police Department and is ready to implement additional safety measures;

Whereas the schools were closed to in-person teaching during the November election of 2020 and they are expected to be open in the November 2021 election, with no room in the calendar for changes;

Whereas the members of the health & safety working group have advised against mixing of students and staff with electors due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic for the autumn.

Whereas the Cambridge Election Commission is aware of the challenges faced by schools that are used as polling places when they are in session. It has therefore made efforts over the years to find alternative polling places and is requesting for 2021 only two of the four additional schools used in 2020;

Whereas the school district has assessed which of the following schools requested as polling places for 2021 can be used without mixing students and staff with electors: Martin Luther King School, Morse School, CRLS School; Maria Baldwin School, Graham and Parks School, Peabody School;

Therefore be it resolved that School Committee approve the use of the schools listed where the logistics allow for students and staff not to mix with the electors;

Be it further resolved that the Election Commission will make every effort possible that the polling places in schools follow the same health & safety guidelines in place at our schools at the time of the election;

Be it further resolved that the School Committee request the Election Commission to hold joint conversations with the district, the City of Cambridge and the private sector on how best to accommodate polling places across the city in future elections.

#21-220 Report of the May 25, 2021 School Climate Sub-Committee Meeting

May 25, 2021

SCHOOL CLIMATE SUB-COMMITTEE

#21-220

Virtual School Climate Sub-Committee Report

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio

454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purposes of discussing the individual check-in practices used in schools this school year.

Members Present: Member Rachel, Chair; Vice Chair Bowman; Member Wilson

Others present: Dr. Madera; Student Member Vera-DeGraff; Student Member Killian

Member Rachel is the Chair. The meeting started at 6:00 pm. Member Rachel outlined the meeting. Member Rachel provided background on the intent of the individual check-ins.

Member Rachel opened the meetings for public comment.

Student Member Vera-DeGraff discussed their personal experience with the check-ins. He discussed how it's different for every student, there are not a consistent set of guidelines for the teacher's interpretation of the check-in.

Chanho Lee discussed the importance of having a more personal interaction with the check-in.

- Member Rachel asked if the weekly check-ins were by email, would it be more in-person?
- Chanho discussed how more in-person check in would help.

Member Rachel turned the meeting over to caregivers.

Daniel Michaud Weinstock shared their perspective as a caregiver with the check-ins. He discussed the importance of relationship building.

Dr. Gittens shared what she learned from the principals. She discussed how it was a lot to figure out in the sense of what the call will entail and who will call who.

Manuel Fernandez shared his experience as a principal and how they tried to match scholars with people the scholar had a relationship and other considerations that needed to be made.

Dr. Madera shared that the morning meetings have SEL check-ins as well.

Member Rachel turned the meeting over to the other members of the Sub-Committee for their comments.

Member Wilson discussed the intention of the check-ins and the importance of relationship building.

Vice Chair Bowman discussed the importance of connecting these check-ins to academic achievement.

Member Rachel summarized that the intention of the motion did not tie with the implementation of the check-ins. There needs to be some implementation work that needs to happen. She talked about the need to collaborate with our out of school providers.

The discussion continued on the check-ins.

Member Wilson discussed the importance of centralizing information between staff and out of school providers.

Vice Chair Bowman talked about the importance of building systems and centralizing the data and using that data to best support systems.

Member Rachel discussed how there was supposed to be a dashboard.

Dr. Madera discussed how the data collection system could be improved and how COVID impacted it.

Member Rachel discussed the importance of building relationships with the School Committee and the administration.

Member Rachel ended the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Attest:



Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to the Office of the School Committee

June 7, 2021

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUB-
COMMITTEE**

#21-221

Virtual Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Report
Monday, June 7, 2021
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose to continue discussing the Election Commission's proposal of using the additional schools in 2021 that were used in 2020. This meeting is expected to end by or before 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Member Rojas, Chair; Member Fantini; Vice Chair Bowman

Others present: James Maloney; Vedad Konjic

Member Rojas is the chair and called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Member Rojas shared the goals of the meeting.

- Discuss Cambridge Election Commission proposal and safety plan.
- Provide opportunity for community members to ask questions and ideas on these topics to the administration, the health & safety working group and others.

Member Rojas provided more detail of the Election Commission request: for the use of four additional school used in the 2020 election: Martin Luther King, Jr. School - Use of Gym, Kennedy Longfellow School - Will use CPD Community Room instead, Haggerty School - Looking for alternative site, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School - Use of Media Cafeteria

Member Rojas asked for the Schools that the Election Commission already uses, what measures have been taken in the past to make it work for all concerned?

Mr. Maloney provided background of the issues that arise using schools as polling locations. Mr. Maloney discussed how this will also continue to get more difficult.

Ethridge King from the Election Commission provided an update that two schools left on the request are the High school and the MLK School.

- Larry Ward echoed Mr. King's sentiments and the importance of working together to get to a "yes." He discussed the thoroughness of the safety plan.

Principal Campbell from the Haggerty School discussed the challenges of using the Haggerty School.

- Member Rojas confirmed that in the current plan Haggerty School will not be used.

Dan Monahan discussed the importance of collaborating with the principals to ensure this works. Mr. Monahan discussed the reservations about using the media café for voting, discussed perhaps using the field house.

Mr. Maloney asked what the options are for City buildings and talked about the long term ramifications.

- Mr. King provided further information about the buildings that the Election Commission use. He discussed how schools are a small percentage of the precincts.

Member Rojas turned the meeting over to the other Sub-Committee members.

Vice Chair Bowman discussed the importance of creating a criteria for what schools will be used and raised health concerns. Member Fantini discussed the importance of being supportive of the election commission. Member Fantini asked is there a deadline.

- The Election Commission provided background on when the decision has been made and that they are open to different locations at the high school
- Member Fantini asked about masking.

Dan Monahan advocated for thinking out of the box to help mitigate some of the concerns of disruption to the School.

Member Rojas shared concerns from the Health and Safety Working Group. Member Rojas talked about how there should be no mixing of voters and students in addition to any physical safety. Member Rojas asked Mr. Maloney to create a list where that separation is possible.

- Vice Chair Bowman discussed the importance of asking voters to wear masks. Anyone who wants to leverage our buildings needs to follow the guidelines of the building.
- Mr. King discussed how they cannot mandate masks but can suggest it.

Mr. Maloney asked for a revised list of the schools the Election Commission wants to use.

Vice Chair Bowman talked about the importance of explaining to voters the importance of wearing masks and making sure that the infrastructure is in place.

Member Rojas ended the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Attest :



Allison Daley
Confidential Secretary to the Office of the School Committee

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

#21-222 Motion by the Special Education and Student Supports Sub-Committee

Whereas Elizabeth “Betty” Smith Mackenzie is a Special Educator at the Morse Elementary School; and

Whereas Betty started her call as a special education teacher on September 1, 1966, almost ten years prior to the passing of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1975; and

Whereas over the course of her 55 years, Betty worked at the Martin Luther King, Jr. School, the Kennedy School, the Amigos School, and the Morse; and

Whereas Betty is a tireless and dedicated educator who went above and beyond to serve her students like planning excursions to provide additional opportunities for her students to experience learning in a range of environments; and

Whereas Betty has made an impact on so many learners, families, and staff. While we are deeply saddened to see her go, we know that she will continue to make a difference wherever she may go; therefore be it

Resolved that the Cambridge School Committee and Superintendent go on record recognizing the devoted, wonderful work that Elizabeth “Betty” Smith Mackenzie provided to the community of Cambridge; and be it further

Resolved that a formal engrossed copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and forwarded directly to Elizabeth “Betty” Smith Mackenzie.

#21-223 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Wilson and Member Rachel

Whereas the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School’s Class of 2021 was on track to be the second senior class to miss prom due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas RSTA Career Advisor Sara Reese and CRLS Senior Class Advisor Jacqui Cesario worked with the Central Square Business Improvement District to create their own event at Starlight Square, called “Seniors Under the Stars”, to make sure the Class of 2021 could have a free and spectacular prom experience; and

Whereas 480 CRLS seniors were invited to come together on the last day of class for “Seniors Under the Stars”, to walk down a red carpet for a night of tarot card readings, caricature artists, photo booths, henna body art, student DJs, dancing, and a surprise visit from Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley; and

Whereas the CRLS Senior Class of 2021 would not have been able to enjoy a prom without the hard work and determination of Sara Reese and Jacqui Cesario or their partnership with the Central Square BID; now therefore be it

Resolved that the School Committee go on record extending its gratitude for Sara Reese, Jacqui Cesario, and the Central Square BID for their service to the scholars of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School’s Senior Class of 2021; and be it further

Resolved that formal copies of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and delivered to Sara Reese, Jacqui Cesario, and the Central Square BID.

11. Announcements:

Mayor Siddiqui announced this as the time to acknowledge our outgoing Superintendent, Dr. Kenneth N. Salim.

The Members took turns wishing Superintendent Salim well, speaking with heartfelt sentiments and compliments that were both humorous and emotional. The specific merits of Superintendent Salim were strongly emphasized; it was made clear not only by the Members, but also by Student Representatives Anais Killian, Nuriel Vera-DeGraff, Executive Secretary Dosha Beard, and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Turk that Superintendent Salim will be long remembered for his dedicated and tireless service to the School Committee with great admiration, respect and appreciation.

Dr. Salim eloquently and emotionally thanked all in attendance for the kind words and well wishes. He looks forward to spending valuable time with his family, and he will always be a big fan of Cambridge.

Member Wilson announced the following: Vaxi-millions giveaway for young people between 12 and 17; they can win a million dollars or scholarships; they just need to get vaccinated. Member Wilson added that the School Committee Members do not have jurisdiction over personnel as far as what is going on with faculty and Human Resources. There are Rules and Laws that we all have to abide by.

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications from City Officers:

June 8, 2021

Esteemed Members of the CPS COVID-19 Health, Safety, and Facilities Working Group:

We want to thank each of you for your contributions to our COVID-19 response efforts this past year. Since we began our plans for fall school reopening in June 2020, your collective insights and input have been critical to our efforts, as illustrated by the success of our phase-in into the now fully in-person learning across all of our Cambridge Public Schools. The CPS COVID-19 Health, Safety, and Facilities Working Group was convened to discuss and advise CPS on key COVID-19 health, safety, and facilities questions and help us understand the emerging pandemic and strategies to mitigate its impact on our school community. A full year ago, we sought your expertise as specialists in global health and epidemiology, pediatric medicine, preparedness planning, and others to bring a range of expertise and experience to inform our decisions with the ability to pivot quickly and effectively as needed. As our world-class scientific and medical advisors, you identified the metrics that we used to determine whether it would be safe to open school buildings and you developed the CPS COVID-19 Safety & Facilities Manual that served as our blueprint for a safe and successful reopening. Dr. Martin Aryee, Dr. Bradley Bernstein, Dr. Jill Crittenden, Dr. Lisa Dobberteen, Dr. Helen Jenkins, Dr. Alisa Khan, Dr. Jamie Lichtenstein, Dr. Keith Marzilli Ericson, and Associate Chief Tracy Rose-Tynes, we are so fortunate to have such a talented pool of individuals who not only live, teach, and practice in your respective fields but tirelessly

have volunteered countless hours to help us keep our children and staff safe. This group was supported by dedicated CPS staff, educators, and community members—a special thank you to Jim Maloney, Dr. Carolyn Turk, Vedad Konjic, William McDonald, Rosalie Rippey, Mary Elizabeth Cranton, Margaret Jeram, and Ena Valenzuela. Again, we want to thank you all for your tireless dedication to this effort. On behalf of the Cambridge Public Schools community and Cambridge School Committee, we thank you for serving our students, staff, and families by lending your time and expertise during the past 12 months. Your efforts have played a vital role in helping us successfully navigate these most unprecedented times.

Respectfully,

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui
Chair, Cambridge School Committee

Kenneth N. Salim
Superintendent of Schools

Distributed Back-up Documents (copies on file in the School Committee office):

- Agenda
- Presentation

Statements from Public Comment (copies on file in the School Committee office)

- Statement: Dan Monahan

E-Mail communications: None

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 may be taken in addition to adjourning the executive session:

Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Vice Chair Bowman, it was voted, on a voice vote, to adjourn the open session. (9:50 p.m.)

Attest:


Dosha Beard
Executive Secretary
to the School Committee