



**CAMBRIDGE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**(Official Minutes)**

**Special Meeting**

**August 31, 2021**

Called for 5:00 p.m. in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge for the purpose of discussing and voting on Superintendent Recommendations, and any business specifically related to COVID-19.

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

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

The Chair opened the meeting to public comment.

**1. Public Comment:**

- Ross Benson, in support of **#21-265**
- Dan Monahan, in support of **#21-265**
- Jennifer James, on safety issues
- Jo-Quest Neubert, on safety issues

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Weinstein, on a voice vote, it was voted to end public comment.

**2. Superintendent's Agenda:**

**7a. Consent Agenda:**

The Superintendent's Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Mayor Siddiqui removed **#21-265**. Member Wilson removed **#21-266** and **#21-270**.

On the following roll call vote, items **#21-267** through **#21-269**, **#21-271** and **#21-272** were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

**#21-267**, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: 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:

Research for Better Teaching, One Acton Place, Acton, for the period September 1, 2021 through May 30, 2021 in the amount of \$29,800.00.

**#21-268**, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for 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:

Savaas Learning Company, 15 E Midland Ave, STE 502, Paramus, NJ, for the period September 3, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$28,158.55.

**#21-269**, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Special Education Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Applied Behavioral Institute, 425 N Lake Ave, #203, Worcester, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$80,000.00.

**#21-271**, Approval of in-kind donation, of a baby grand piano made by the Kingdom Empowerment center to use at Fletcher Maynard Academy's music classrooms, concerts and events, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the above donations as described.

**#21-272**, Grant Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY22 Popplestone Foundation Grant, for the period September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 in the amount of \$293,299.00. Grant SC22695.

**Description:** This foundation grant will continue to support the salary and benefits of 2.0 FTE music teachers at the Peabody and the Fletcher Maynard Academy, as well as contribute funding for 0.4 of a 1.0 teacher FTE at the Tobin School. \$250/school for music instructional supplies is also provided.

**7b. Non-Consent Agenda:**

**#21-266**, 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	10	\$856,897.61
Residential		
45 Day	<u>10</u>	<u>\$856,897.61</u>

Discussion followed on **#21-266**. Member Wilson asked for clarification in out of district placements. Dr. Greer provided context.

**#21-270**, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Support Services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

uAspire, 31 Milk Street, Suite 900, Boston, for the period September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Discussion followed on **#21-270**. Member Wilson asked for context on the uAspire contract. Dr. Turk provided information on the contract.

On the following roll call vote, **#21-266 and #21-270** were adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Mayor Siddiqui turned the meeting over to Dr. Greer for a presentation.

Dr. Greer presented [“Superintendent’s Update School Opening & COVID 19”](#) the agenda as COVID Conditions Update from Cambridge Public Health Department, CPS’s COVID Safety Plan (highlights), COVID Test Plan and Staff Vaccinations.

Questions followed from the Members.

On the following roll call vote **#21-265** was adopted: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

**#21-265**, Approval of the School Committee and CPS Administration to Enter into Impact Bargaining with All CPS Collective Bargaining Units to Implement a Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the School Committee & CPS Administration entering into impact bargaining with all CPS collective bargaining units to implement a mandatory COVID-19 vaccine requirement for all staff who are members of an organized bargaining unit.

Mayor Siddiqui provided an update on testing sites in the City.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on a voice vote, to adjourn the open session. (6:12 p.m.)

Attest:



Allison Daley  
Confidential Secretary to the School Committee