



**CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
(Official Minutes)**

Regular Meeting

August 4, 2020

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 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 5:00 p.m.

The Chair provided a statement to the public explaining that we are meeting in a hybrid fashion tonight and thanked Vice Chair Bowman for coordinating the effort to get the Members back into the meeting room and asked Vice Chair Bowman to give an opening statement.

The Vice Chair thanked everyone in CPSD staff for working with her and the Executive Secretary to facilitate making the meeting room accessible for Staff and Members adding that Public Comment will remain by zoom participation.

The Mayor read the call of the meeting and then proceeded to the first order of business with the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Hearing feedback, the roll call was repeated for a sound check to test the ability of being heard and understood. Mayor Siddiqui noted that this issue will be attended to by the ICTS team this evening as the meeting progresses.

1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Bill Hange, Amory Street, parent of two children at MLK school, opposed to in-person opening
- Caitlin O'Donnell, Goldstar Road, parent and first grade teacher at FMA, supports the statements of the Educators of Color Coalition and the Cambridge Family of Color Coalition, in support of fully remote start to the school year
- Amanda Beatty, Franklin Street, parent of Amigos student, supports item #20-208, commented on testing students, educators and staff, in favor of hybrid start to the school year. Can we test everyone returning from vacation, Covid-19 is serious.
- Christian Henry, supports the proposed reopening plan.
- Barry Wohl, Ware Street, in favor of the proposal that was put out today, remembering that Covid-19 is an airborne disease. Online schooling is a challenge, both parents are working full time.
- Elsa Krall, Jay Street, parent of a rising 1st grader, in support of in-person learning for JK-1st grade if transmission remains low. Testing teachers is important, would like to know more about using outdoor space.
- Jonathan Rosenfeld, Concord Turnpike, Morse parent, is happy with the proposal, hopes we can test all adults consistently so we can have knowledge of where the virus may be.

- Connie Henderson, in support of **#20-204**. There should be no MCAS this year or next year. The test causes harm, there is no need to keep it. Standardized tests can be used as racist weapons.
- Mary-Ann Matyas, Rusell Street, very pleased with the proposal in multiple languages, Parents should not be expected to make decisions, we don't have enough information yet.
- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, CEA president, teachers want a fully remote opening hands down. School Committee should vote to protect the safety of students, no hybrid yet. Plans need to be made by black and brown caregivers and youth. In support of **#20-204** and **20-205**.
- Kathy Dalton, CRLS parent, suggested an online model and is hoping for a good remote option. She is very concerned for all teachers, students, parents and staff. Please make a better plan for the online option and is hoping that the Governor calls us back to phase 2.
- Whitney Christie, C'Port School educator, CEA Educators of Color Coalition, they have demands that include planning for a remote start for Special Needs Students and black and brown students until the state can provide health metrics for Cambridge to meet.
- Lily Rayman-Read, Watertown, we are all in this together, in support of a fully remote start, we must listen to our colleagues.
- Ashley Brown, Mika Way, Tobin parent, cannot do her job from home and homeschool her son. She had to take a leave of absence from her job in order to teach her son. She cannot afford to do that again or she will lose her job and then her housing. She needs her job and she is not an essential worker so she cannot get emergency child care. Although not ideal, a hybrid model would at least allow her to keep her job. Please identify the metrics to open safely.
- Mary Shillue-Goldberg, Clifton Street, commented on a desire outdoor space being used most effectively. She is aware of how challenging tents will be. She wants concrete details with metrics. She suggests increasing time for lunch and recess.
- Chris Newton, Newport Street, Arlington, urges School Committee to support the Superintendent Proposal. She cannot imagine doing her job in-person with all of the safety restrictions therefore she is in support of fully remote learning.
- Tala Klinck, Franklin Street, Baldwin parent, is asking the district to find ways to support parents that cannot stay at home with their kids because of the need to go to work.
- Jamie Lichenstein, Harvard Street, commends CPSD and Mr. James Maloney, listed various ventilation suggestion and is in support of items **#20-207**, **#20-208**, and **#20-209**.
- Monica Melon, Hyde Street, parent, and MLK Math Coach, in support of EOCC letter
- Emi Michaud Weinstock, asked what the software is that our children will be learning on, we have very little time to communicate with caregivers about how to support learning. Where is the SEL piece? Is there a lottery to figure out who will be able to come inside of schools?
- Reinaldo Lainez, there is a lot uncertainty, many have no idea of what is going on, he suggests everyone gets a survival kit to provide one uniform plan of knowledge.
- Keith Marzilli Ericson, Concord Ave., Daycares in our state have opened safely. We have manageable levels of safety in our state. Even though GA should not open MA should re-open.
- Christine Gerber, Longfellow School principal, supports the EOCC and FOCC.
- Amy Gonzalvez, RAUC educator, urges the School Committee to listen to the students and the educators, suggested translation services in all meetings, believes that MCAS should be cancelled and supports the EOCC and FOCC.
- Gardite Fougry, Pilgrim Street, spoke on behalf of parents and caregivers, is happy with the new revised proposal, is in support of **#20-204** and **#20-209**.
- Ena Valenzuela, South Normandy Avenue, in support of **#20-204**, **#20-209**, some students have health restrictions and cannot tolerate being outside, other students dart around too much and will require extra staff to make sure they are safe at all times.
- Rosalie Rippey, Cambridge Street, in support of **#20-205**.
- Adam Zeller, Cambridge Street, parent of a rising first grader at Kennedy/Longfellow school, in support of bringing the younger children back to school in the fall. He is concerned about the physical conditions of the older buildings, what work will be done regarding air quality issues, some windows do not open. Suggested CPSD hire additional nurses.
- Gabriel Robinson, asks to prioritize outdoor learning much more than has been considered in the past. There is a National Covid-19 Outdoor Initiative that has created a manual and we should be connecting with them to learn what outdoor learning looks like, while acknowledging, there are health concerns for students with asthma and other medical issues.

- Liz Phipps-Soeiro, Hastings square, parent and Cambridge-port staff member, stands with the CEOCC, why should she trust CPS to fix windows that have been broken for years, new buildings are going up and older buildings still have not had repairs, in support of #20-207.
- Liza Gosselin Orchard Street, in support of fully remote opening to schools. She works with students with severe needs that cannot handle the safety guidelines.
- Tina Lieu, is grateful for the outreach and see progress from two weeks ago. She believes that younger students learn better outdoors, she suggests families with food insecurities be fed, supports #20-208, would like to have interactive Town Hall meetings.
- Evelyn Kantor-Lugo, Clarendon Ave, in support of #20-143, she and her husband are essential city workers and struggled to find a balance between working and teaching their son. Please work with the families.
- Misha Rosenberg, in support of #29-207, please prioritize fixing windows that will open at the Kennedy Longfellow School.
- Ariel Dowling, Maple Avenue, supports the Superintendent's plan that was put out today, she knows there are many ways to improve this plan, look at the pre-schools and day care models that have worked - they have been having in-person over the last six weeks without any outbreaks. Keep classes small, this is how we move forward and keep the kids relatively safe.
- Bernette Dawson, Oxford Ave, parent, part of the CPAC leadership and supports CEOCC.
- Amara Donovan, Cambridge Street, would like the district to stop using the word homeless to refer to students that are homeless and questions the rushed data collection by family liaisons, also feels that better communication is needed.
- Christine Pace, Ericson Street, spoke on behalf of the EOCC Leadership Team, educators are worried that they will be forced to work in person with students whether the educators feel safe or not. They need Covid-19 related health metrics and will not settle for anything less.
- Betsy Preval, Harvard Avenue, Medford, there are no mental health experts on the safety and health working groups, that needs to change.
- Nicolena Capello, Prospect Street, rising senior at CRLS, has heard from no students at all of any color, whether in challenged and/or general education students. She supports reaching out to students more, uplift student voices more, is in support of opting for in-person learning.
- Jose Negron, Mt. Clarendon Avenue, CRLS graduate, in support of #20-143. He is shocked and appalled at CPS's inability to take care of the special needs students.
- Nicole Hart, in support of the EOCC and others, in support of fully remote learning until all health requirements have been met. Does not know what is in place to support faculty and staff.
- Banke Oluwole, Bolton Street, in support of #20-204, she read a statement from a FMA Special Ed. educator that could not be in attendance.
- Nate Sharpe, Inman Street, urges the School Committee to require all staff to wear masks regardless of their age while indoors.

On a Motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Rachel, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to close public comment: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Mayor Siddiqui announced that our two new Student Representatives are Nuriel Vera-DeGraff and Anais Killian. We are looking forward to having them join our Board. They were introduced and provided clear, concise and well documented reports. Highlights are as follows:

2. Student School Committee Report:

Member Anais Killian thanked Ms. Beard for their orientation of the School Committee early on and they are looking for input from students and look forward to serving the student population. She also spoke in support of the Black and Brown community. Spring 2020, Fall 2020, BLM, and Anti-Racist curriculum are four of the topics they spoke on. She named many students and recited their comments.

Member Nureal Vera-DeGraff spoke on the Black Lives Matter protests, sharing that the movement has caused more awareness of what is going on in the nation. He shared the views and statements of various students hoping there will be actual change.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- June 30, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to accept the June 30, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes as presented: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

4. **Reconsiderations: None**
5. **Unfinished Business/Calendar: None**
6. **Awaiting Reports: Passed Over**

#20-99 Joint Motion by Member Fantini and Vice-Chair Bowman

Be referred to the Communications and Community Relations Sub-Committee for review

WHEREAS, the Cambridge Public School District is committed to providing families with information that will promote increased family engagement; and

WHEREAS, engaging families as a partner with a formal, ongoing feedback mechanism that creates differentiated opportunities for family voice and engagement is a crucial component of the 2017 - 2020 District Plan; therefore

Be it resolved that the committee directs the Superintendent to create a Parent University whereby the school department organizes and provides relevant information/courses to parents to allow all parents to become partners in the education of their children.

Be it further resolved that the school department works with the two newly created parent engagement leaders and parent liaisons in this work.

#20-143 Joint Motion by Member Wilson and Vice-Chair Bowman

Be referred to the Governance (1st Resolved) and Curriculum & Achievement (2nd Resolved) Sub-Committees

Whereas, People of Color face greater discrimination, structural discipline, lack of social support both in schools and in society at large; and

Whereas, children, adolescents, and adults in the Black community face higher rates of social and structural violence and racial discrimination, and

Whereas, centering the experiences of scholars and staff of color is a core value of the Cambridge Public Schools; and

Whereas, scholars and staff's mental well-being is a fundamental concern of the School Committee as the nation grapples with issues of structural racism in public institutions due to the unjust killing of George Floyd; therefore be it

Resolved, that the School Committee affirms its immediate support to promote the needs and safety of all staff and scholars who identify as black by reviewing the Non-Discrimination and Non-Tolerance of Hate Crimes policy or other policies that disproportionately impact scholars and staff of color to ensure they are current, relevant, and up to date; and be it further

Resolved, that the School Committee, encourage the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to enhance programming to provide schools with the guidance needed to provide anti-racist curriculum and professional development for all staff to build understanding and awareness of the history and the challenges of minority communities, and of structural racism in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, that the Cambridge Public Schools commit to holding our district accountable to policies that protect the rights of black staff and scholars within our district.

7. **Superintendent's Agenda:**

7a. Presentations: COVID-19 Response Update.....Superintendent Salim

Dr. Salim introduced the new members of his cabinet, Dr. Nicole Gittens, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools, Dr. Michelle Madera, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education and Ms.

Lisa Richardson is our Chief Talent Officer, heading up the HR department. Superintendent Salim made opening comments regarding the low transmission rates of Covid-19 in Cambridge. He mentioned three advisors that have given their input into how to reopen our schools and will share the metrics being used. There is a lot of fear on how the pandemic will progress and the impact that has been disproportionately placed on the Black and Latinx community.

COVID-19 Response Update PowerPoint Presentation. The Presentation can be seen online.
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VIYUcmE6ZZ8Rg1Bvt_gz2NnSGfvVXI98II4RPtt9CS4/edit?usp=sharing

Dr. Salim paused the presentation and turned the floor over to Mayor Siddiqui to allow the experts a chance to share their knowledge.

Mayor Siddiqui introduced, Mr. Claude Jacob, Dr. Assad Syah along with other Task Force members and then opened the floor to the Committee, beginning with Vice Chair Bowman.

Vice Chair Bowman acknowledged the Sub-Committees for providing the insight for the Committee of the Whole to make decisions. The Vice Chair cautioned the CEA on centering the voices of people of color by constantly using language indicating that this district needs to prove it is anti-racist by behaving the way the CEA mandates. The Black and Brown Cambridge community have diverse minds and ideas; this language tokenizes people of color.

Member Fantini asked about metrics. He is hoping the panelist experts can go over the metrics mentioned in the presentation, are they good metrics and are we meeting them.

- Mr. Claude Jacob stated that there are three dimensions to the metrics. As of tonight, we are holding steady with our Covid-19 cases. There have been 99 fatalities and 70% have recovered from Covid-19. We are averaging 3 or 4 cases per day and it mirrors what we are seeing state-wide when compared to the 300 other cities.

Member Fantini asked about our Special Education community, if we bring them back along with Special Start, how do we protect the teachers with appropriate PPE's that are unique to their needs.

- Dr. Jill Crittenden is grateful for the masks that were given to her for testing. She feels if these masks are given to teachers along with face shields the teachers will be safe.

Member Fantini asked about how often we can test. Is there an effective screener that can be used for testing and is there an at home test using saliva?

- Mr. Jacob responded that they launched a pilot in nursing homes for nurses and staff and at the end of the day, they have learned a lot and have deployed over 25,000 mobile testing sites around the city. They are very committed. It is a little more complicated when thinking about the student population.
- Dr. Assad Sayah responded that the strategy for testing is to make sure that everyone coming into the environment is safe and remains safe, therefore it has to be consistent and widespread. Surveillance testing is very important and expensive to do for children. Once we find a person is infected, what will we do about it? We have to clean up the schools. Do we close the schools? The students, teachers and staff do not live in the schools 24/7 so we can only make sure about the school environment. Safety of the environment is the most important thing.
- Dr. Bradley Bernstein added that we need to try to come up with a threshold. Our numbers are much lower now than they were in April.
- Dr. Crittenden added that the epidemiologists have given us a lot to think about. This is very contagious, we can do effective contact tracing and we can give a lot of confidence to people working in schools. It is not an accident if we find a contagious person, surveillance testing is deliberate.
- Dr. Assad Sayah stated that our threshold is very low. We use a very focused approach to eliminate any widespread infection to others. They need to be tested outside the schools and stay outside until they are negative.
- Dr. Lisa Dobberteen responded to a manual and procedures on guidelines. Our nurses have to do robust contact tracing in order to avoid an uncontained spread of the virus.

Member Rachel asked four health questions, her first one is about ventilation – do we need one or two windows to open per room.

- Dr. Lichenstein answered the more windows that open is better. With two windows, we can add box fans in the windows. One can pull air in and the other can push air out.
- Mr. Maloney stated that in addition to the inventory we have also hired an independent engineering firm that is doing an assessment of each building, we are working with a Mass Design group that designs buildings around the world to make them pandemic resistant. We have handheld meters to read in each room.

Member Rachel asked what is the status of engaging Broad for surveillance testing?

- Mr. Jacob answered that in terms of a plan we don't have a concrete one yet, we need to find out what the desires of the School Committee are first and then move forward.
- Dr. Assad Sayah stated this is a worldwide global issue. Broad ran out of agents for their four platforms for testing. Broad has limited capacity to sustain us. The other states that are surging are confronted with a major demand for testing supplies. We need to be thoughtful who and how we test and then we can form a plan on how to do it. We cannot test everyone once or twice a week. It is not practical.

Member Rachel asked as of today, would you feel comfortable sending your kids back to school?

- Dr. Assad answered not unless the safety network is in place. If the plan is solid and reliable then yes, he would send them back. Remote education is very difficult for many kids. We have to balance safety first. Every day, everyone needs to be screened and forms need to be filled out, and the kids must be in small cohort groups, no lingering about between classes. One positive is one too many.

Member Rojas asked if we are one of the few places that have the metrics in place, if we can nail the safety measures why not open? There are risks if we open and there are risks if we do not open. We have masks, good ventilation and good testing. He is concerned that families won't have a choice for in person classes.

- Dr. Salim responded that the concern is dealing with our space issue. There is no capacity for distancing and increasing more students. We need room to distance the youngsters and students with disabilities. Another concern is introducing additional personal contact into buildings with the week on week off option.
- Dr. Bernstein stated that we are in for the long haul. He believes a solution will take another year. We can start with a very careful, conservative and small scale, along with implementing testing a small cohort of students, we can move forward.
- Dr. Lichenstein stated there is more room for outside learning with advisory groups and in parks. The best ventilation is outdoors. There is more room for outdoor learning experiences which will allow community building for grades 4th through 12th graders to see each other in person.

Member Rojas how much better does it have to get for us to be safe enough for in person learning?

- Dr. Helen Jenkins stated we are not where we need to be, it could be better. We need to think about and be more flexible about how we can open up more.
- Dr. Lichenstein stated that we are not comfortable throwing out a number because we don't know what is down the road. There are a number of treatments that are likely to become more available that may turn this into something more like the flu. We don't want large populations of schools opening that may lead to hospitalizations and deaths.
- Dr. Crittenden agrees that smaller is better. Also, there is saliva testing that has been approved by the FDA.

Member Weinstein asked if there is surveillance testing for our students and staff?

- The answer is yes and then when we decide what we are doing, we can refine the threshold.

Member Weinstein asked if we can include a differential impact of the Black and Brown community?

- Dr. Jenkins stated that it is on the Agenda and it will be included in upcoming information.

Member Weinstein hopes those impacts are included into any final proposed metrics. Are we doing something unprecedented by opening at these rates?

- Dr. Jenkins stated we just need to be flexible and be able and ready to change on a dime.
- Dr. Lichenstein stated we are right on track with Europe on metrics.

- Dr. Sayah agrees that there is no perfect plan. We just need to stay very flexible adding that we need to be able to pivot positively on a days' notice and not sit through hours in a meeting trying to make a decision. We need to trust the decision makers to go forward.

Member Weinstein shared that outdoor plans have potential, not every day, and not for every child, but more adults will feel comfortable and safe in certain situations.

- Dr. Assad Sayah mentioned having eyes on the kids. There is more to going to school and getting an education. The longer the teachers are separated the longer it will take the teachers to pick up on certain things that our students go through. It is important to have that contact. Our kids are more resilient to using a computer than we are.
- Mr. Jacob stated that we need to keep in mind that there are 60 cities in Middlesex county, Cambridge is the largest.

Member Wilson asked about swab tests, will the Broad Institute provide the kits?

- Dr. Assad stated that they will not provide swabbing kits.
- Mr. Jacob mentioned that the Broad's partnership will provide some supplies. It is more about the wear and tear of labor on EMT's and fire department.

Member Wilson asked about the families with a fear of the vaccine itself and not wanting to take it.

- Dr. Lichenstein explained what is being rushed is manufacturing the vaccine that will move us to phase 3 and down to phase 2. We are pouring a lot of money in many different vaccines before we even know if they will work. The other thing is some people are worried about what are the vaccines made and grown from? This is a disease that we have a substantial number of people dying from. Covid-19 is 10 times more lethal than the flu.
- Dr. Dobberteen added that MA has a long history of being safe and keeping our kids vaccinated. By the time a vaccine is available, we will know which one is safe, we will not be picking a vaccine randomly.
- Dr. Assad Sayah responded getting vaccinated will be demanded. For the vaccine to work, it is critical for at least 90% of the population to be vaccinated to achieve the herd effect.

Member Wilson asked Dr. Salim about not being transparent about behavioral and mental health specialists for students in this population. What are we thinking from a remote standpoint?

- Dr. Salim answered that we will have some *ad-hoc* opportunities for students et al to come together in person and be screened. There will be a multi-pronged strategy for student support teamwork.

Member Wilson wondered if we are considering home visits for individualized check ins?

- Superintendent Salim stated that there may be some working groups that may be exploring that. He will be bringing it to the working groups to see what it means logistically.

Member Wilson asked about transportation for the middle school scholars that need to come to school for in-person services, do we provide the transportation?

- Mr. Maloney stated we will work with the principals and put it on our list of things to do.

Member Wilson asked who went through the schools?

- Mr. Maloney stated that the senior custodian assembled the team that included Mr. Ray Rizick, Mr. Vedad Konjik and Frank Gerry, and at least two interns from a masters' program in facilities management.

Member Wilson asked if any of these individuals have HVAC certified credentials?

- Mr. Maloney stated that a third party engineering firm will decide on whether the rooms are up to code or not.

Member Vera-DeGraff asked how will the district control infection while students are not in school.

- Dr. Dobberteen responded that there will always be high end contact tracing if someone comes up positive. How do we inspire the Cambridge Community to do the right thing and not have big barbeques and not go to parties? We need to spread the word to not do this and please do that? Wear your mask, it is an ongoing effort until this is over. We are all in this together.
- Mr. Jacob added the Cambridge Community Core has been launched to make sure we all know that Covid-19 is real.
- Dr. Lichenstein there has been a proposal on the federal level, for campaigns for students to create social media campaigns.

Member Killian asked about the system in Europe of doing a complete quarantine for approximately two months and their numbers dropped very low and they have returned to school without issue.

- Dr. Jenkins stated that yes, they were strict, we are twice as high as any country in Europe.
- Dr. Sayah stated that our death rate is greater because we didn't test as many people as Europe.

On a motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Rojas, the Rules were suspended to extend the meeting. On the following roll call vote, the meeting was extended for one hour from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

Member Rojas are we teaching four days a week?

- Dr. Salim answered in the affirmative that we are only in person teaching four days in phase 3 with Wednesday as a half day in phase four.

Member Rachel asked about the students with disabilities and masks

- Dr. Lichenstein suggested that the teachers that need to come into situations that are high risk, wear the same gear that front line health care professionals wear which include face shields and gloves and clothing that can be easily removed and laundered. Is there a way to limit the amount of students that our special educators come in contact with? When we do surveillance testing, we test a small number of students twice a week.
- Dr. Salim followed up with adding lab coats over their personal clothing along with PPEs in order to remove a possible contagion easily.
- Dr. Sayah stated that the teacher needs to be properly educated on how to protect themselves from the students with disabilities that cannot understand why they need to keep a distance. There is a level of phobia that happens when someone uncovered is coming at them and they don't feel safe.

Member Rachel asked if everyone in a building needs to be masked regardless of their age?

- Dr. Assad Sayah answered that yes they do, when there are a few people that are not masked, there is a risk of infection. We have to be thoughtful and people are learning from other peoples' trials and errors.
- Dr. Salim added the proper use of PPE will be posted. The DESE has reduced the attendance policy to 170 day requirements to provide the time to educate our teachers.
- Dr. Jill Crittenden added that some kids like to wear masks and some of the shields are very attractive to kids and this should be encouraged and give rewards to kids that comply easily.
- Dr. Salim responded that the DESE says kids grades 2 and up be masked. Cambridge is saying we want all of them done even the two year olds.

Mayor Siddiqui closed the scientific advisors portion of questions and answers and turned the meeting over to Dr. Salim.

Dr. Salim stated that there are not any one size fits all learning plans. We need to use an equity lens to enable the students with the most challenges to have in person learning. He introduced Principal Heidi Cook of the Baldwin School and invited her to share some key ideas of where the district is from the summer program and will be on fall planning on remote learning.

Principal Cook spoke on the JK-5 Innovative Summer Support program from July 6, 2020 to July 31, 2020. She shared that the family survey data is still being collected. There was overall satisfaction with families, the staff and there was a measure of student growth as well. The summer program was in the learning frame not the implementation frame. The program was far from perfect, but there was a learning benefit to all that was attempted. In person learning without restriction is ideal. We never knew what was taken for granted and we all want to get back to in person learning when it is safe. Remote instruction will be much improved over what happened when schools closed abruptly in March.

Dr. Salim thanked Principal Cook for her presentation and stated that yes, we are far more prepared for what we have focused on in defining the remote model as the default in the fall. The Superintendent continued with the rest of the presentation slides.

Vice Chair Bowman offered to continue the rest of this presentation at another meeting. Dr. Salim agreed that he can skim over this part and then dig in deeper at another meeting.

Member Rachel asked Dr. Salim if the slides are per day or per week. The answer was per day.

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

Member Rachel removed **#20-191**.

On the following roll call, items **#20-187 to #20-190** and **#20-192 to #20-203** were adopted: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

- #20-187** **Educational Opportunities for Military Children Policy**, that the School Committee approve the Educational Opportunities for Military Children Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

- #20-188** **Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care**, that the School Committee approve the Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

- #20-189** **Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services**, that the School Committee approve the current Education of Homeless Students Policy as detailed in the document (second reading).

- #20-190** **Approval of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Regarding School Closure in the 2019-2020 School Year During COVID-19 Pandemic**, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee approve the Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association regarding School Closure in the 2019-2020 School Year During the COVID-19 pandemic as detailed in the document.

- #20-191** **Approval of Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Policy**, that the School Committee approve the Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

- #20-192** Special Needs Contracts for Day and 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, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the General and or Grant Fund Budget.

<u>Program</u>	<u># of Active Contracts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Day	6	\$459,767.35
Residential	0	
45 Day	<u>0</u>	
	6	<u>\$459,767.35</u>

- #20-193** **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:

Newsela, 620 8th Avenue, New York, NY, for the period, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$30,770.00.

- #20-194 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, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$33,347.37.

- #20-195 Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Food Service Equipment, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Kittredge Equipment company, 100 Bowles Road, Agawam, for the period August 7, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$61,829.04.

- #20-196 Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Instructional Computer Supplies, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

CDW Government LLC, 230 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills, IL, for the period August 7, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$44,400.00.

- #20-197 Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Educational Support, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

Youth Guidance, 1 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 900, Chicago, IL, for the period September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$136,444.00.

- #20-198 Contract Award**, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for 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:

CDW Government LLC, 230 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills, IL, for the period August 7, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$32,208.00.

- #20-199 Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated as detailed in the document.
Summer and Vacation Learning Program, for the period July 8, 2020 to August 31, 2021, in the amount of \$34,000.00. (SC21201).

Description: These funds will support the enhancement of our summer programs (Elementary, ELL, and OSS) with the addition of specialists in Ed. Tech, Visual and Performing Arts, Library, and PE teachers (\$12,000). They will also support the two vacation math camps (\$12,000) and Saturday math programs at PAUS and CSUS (\$10,000.). Funds will be used for stipends and for supplies for the vacation math camps.

- #20-200 Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated as detailed in the document.
Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment, for the period September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$96,836.00. (SC21732).

Description: Part of the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Title IV grant for

FY21 will be flexed into the district's Title IIA program to provide 0.5 FTE of the salary and benefits for an ELA coach at Putnam Ave Upper School. The \$33,000.00 in temporary salaries will be used for mentor stipends and \$2,043.00 for mentor texts.

- #20-201** **Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated as detailed in the document.
Special Education IDEA Allocation, for the period September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$2,650,192.00. (SC21605).

Description: The purpose of this Federal Entitlement Grant Program is to provide funds to ensure that eligible students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs. The temporary salaries line is an offset for the Proportionate Share of services provided to private school students. The remainder will be used for out-of-district tuition for students, with the exception of \$3,000.00 for membership dues to the Massachusetts Urban Project.

- #20-202** **Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award in the amount and for the period indicated as detailed in the document.

Description: The FY21 Title I grant will fund additional teaching staff at four elementary and two upper schools. Intervention teachers allocated to the Kennedy Longfellow, King Open, Morse, and Fletcher Maynard Academy will provide either ELA and/or Math intervention and targeted support to at-risk students. At Cambridge Street Upper School, the Title 1 grant will fund a 1.0 Reading Interventionist, and at Putnam Ave, the Title 1 grant will fund a 1.0 Math Interventionist. In addition, the grant will fund two half-time Reading Recover Teacher Leaders who will provide professional development for all district early literacy interventionist, a .75 family liaison, and a .6 clerk. The grant budget also provides funding for services for homeless students, professional development, parent involvement, printing and supplies, as well as services to eligible students in private schools.

- #20-203** **Grant Award**, that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated.

Title IIA Educator Quality, for the period September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$178,587.00. (SC21731).

Description: As part of a comprehensive district initiative that focuses on the preparation, training, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified educators, Title IIA funds in FY21 will continue to support a new .5 Instructional Coach for history/social studies teachers in grades K-5; the temporary salaries line will fund teacher stipends for mentoring (to be supplemented by Title IV funds); other expenses include professional development contracts for Math and the required allocation to participating private schools.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

- #20-191** That the following be referred to a second reading: Approval of Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Policy, that the School Committee approve the Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

Discussion followed on **#20-191**.

Member Rachel asked for clarification on this policy.

Attorney MacFarlane explained what this policy means adding that the new regulations will go into effect on August 15, 2020 and are in effect solely under Title IX context for grades K-12.

Member Rachel asked what the substance is of the change as it relates to our existing policy?

Attorney MacFarlane responded that there are the definitions to sexual assault and regards to sexual assault to the victim and the accused need to be treated equally – innocent until proven guilty. Students and peers need to be trained in this new process when conducting investigations.

Member Fantini asked if complaints can still be filed anonymously.

Attorney MacFarlane answered yes they can but the investigation cannot be examined to the needed extent. Confidentiality is protected and considered, but it cannot be promised.

Member Fantini asked who is the Title IX Coordinator and it was answered that the Director of Diversity is also the Title IX Coordinator and this position is currently vacant.

Member Rojas asked how does this policy involve School Committee Members.

MacFarlane responded that if it goes to a grievance, School Committee would have an obligation to investigate.

On the following roll call vote, it was voted to refer **#20-191** to a second reading: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

On a Motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Weinstein, the Rules were suspended to extend the meeting from 11:00 to 11:30 p.m., on the following roll call vote, the meeting was extended for the purpose stated. Vice Chair Bowman NAY; Member Fantini NAY; Member Rojas NAY; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

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

#20-204 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Member Rojas and Member Rachel

Whereas the 2020-21 school year will be unlike any other in the history of schooling; and

Whereas the School Committee recognizes that the demands on all members of our school community will be unprecedented, especially so for educators who work directly with scholars; and

Whereas in a typical school year, preparation for and administration of Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) accounts for a significant amount of time in classroom communities and educator workloads; and

Whereas standardized tests have been shown to have biases that disproportionately negatively impact scholars of color and scholars with low-incomes, which may be further amplified in the pandemic context; and

Whereas the School Committee is committed to holding all scholars to high academic standards regardless of how scholar proficiency is assessed; and

Whereas teachers have a wide variety of formative and summative assessment tools they can use and there is growing interest in adopting competency-based assessments to assess scholar growth; now therefore be it

Resolved that, by August 15, 2020, the School Committee and Superintendent will send the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education a copy of this resolution urging that the Department suspend MCAS for school year 2020-21; and be it further

Resolved that, if DESE does not suspend MCAS this year, the Cambridge School Committee and Superintendent will discuss how to enable educators to have the capacity to focus on developing pedagogy adapted to this new context and to focus on teaching and other scholar support, rather than test preparation and administration.

#20-205 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Member Rojas and Member Rachel

Whereas the Cambridge Public School District is committed to a mission of equity, anti-racism, academic rigor, joyfulness, and preparation of all scholars for success in adult life i; and

Whereas during the emergency school building closures last year the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education identified priority standards to teach in the spring; and

Whereas the Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) is developing plans for 2020-21 school year instruction through convening grade level educator collaboratives; and

Whereas the School Committee supports collaboration between educators, scholars, and caregivers to identify CPSD “power standards” for this year that support our district needs and goals; and

Whereas educators, scholars and caregivers have recommended prioritizing skills that support learning across disciplines, such as literacy, critical thinking, social justice, teamwork, and social emotional learning skills; now therefore be it

Resolved that, before scholars resume school this fall, CPSD will establish a set of power standards integrated across the preK-12 curriculum for the 2020-21 academic year; and

Be it further resolved that the Superintendent will ensure these standards will be established in collaboration with key stakeholders: educators, scholars, caregivers; and

Be it further resolved that these standards will advance our work to be a district of equity, antiracism, and rigorous, joyful and culturally responsive teaching that prepares every scholar for success post-graduation; and

Be it further resolved that these standards will be shared with the School Committee and all caregivers and scholars with clarity about what is expected of their scholar to learn in a given year; and

Be it further resolved that these standards will be reviewed during the academic year by the team that collaborated to create them and will be adjusted as necessary; and

Be it further resolved that the Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee will convene a meeting after the year to review this pilot and make recommendations as to how best to proceed in future years.

#20-206 Joint Motion by Member Rachel, Mayor Siddiqui and Member Wilson

Whereas the global pandemic and correlated economic recession have resulted in significant loss of household income for many Cambridge Public Schools families; and

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools recognize that scholars’ learning happens both inside and outside of the classroom, and significantly through their work experiences; and

Whereas many of our Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and High School Extension Program scholars have taken on jobs as essential workers during the 2019-20 school year in order to provide financial resources for their families; and

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools believe that scholars should not have to choose between their education and supporting their families; and

Whereas the district and its partners offer programs that provide stipends to scholars; now therefore be it

Resolved that district-run programs, such as First Work, that pay or stipend scholars will give priority enrollment to scholars who qualify for free or reduced lunch, other income-based programs such as SNAP, and/or have expressed financial stress to a school staff member; and be it further

Resolved that the Cambridge Public Schools will work in collaboration with other City departments as well as out of school time partners to publicize this opportunity to scholars and to document which young people are engaged in specific programs through a shared case management system; and be it further

Resolved that RSTA, CRLS and the City of Cambridge will look into additional opportunities for providing stipends to scholars (such as serving on boards and commissions or mentoring younger children), as well as how to cover expenses for scholars acquiring credentials related to employment, such as Red Cross Babysitting and First Aid courses.

Discussion followed on **#20-206**.

Member Rachel stated that we are thinking about how to support our graduates from CRLS and current students that are helping out their families during this pandemic. After conversations with Ms. Spinner and Dr. Ananis, Executive Director of RSTA, and Family Liaisons, this motion is to give priority of our stipend programs to students that come from low income families.

Member Wilson added that she also knows of students that have been required to work as a result of the pandemic.

Vice Chair Bowman asked if this is a policy, do we have to do a first and second reading in order to make this change?

Member Rachel stated that she may be using the word policy loosely.

Member Fantini added that they have done things like this in the past. He wonders if the students are paid minimum wage.

Member Rachel confirmed that First Work does pay minimum wage.

Dr. Salim added that he is hoping to have some type of online student information on enrollment or a shared case management system so we can know who is working where.

On a motion by Member Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call, item **#20-206** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-207 Joint Motion by Member Rachel and Mayor Siddiqui

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic brings unprecedented challenges in keeping our scholars, educators and families safe; and

Whereas the Cambridge Public Schools face many unknowns about how the virus works which complicate district planning efforts; and

Whereas one thing that is known is that COVID-19 is more easily transmitted in indoor spaces with low air flow; and

Whereas Cambridge buildings vary in age and HVAC systems; and

Whereas the CPSD administration has measured air quality in each school building and made plans to mitigate problem areas; and

Whereas the carbon dioxide measures will be substantially different when classrooms and other school spaces are occupied for a number of hours than during summer vacation; and

Whereas experts recommend increasing outdoor air ventilation (by keeping at least two windows open at all times and two fans pushing air in and out) and filtering indoor air to MERV 13 or higher; and

Whereas many school bathrooms will require retrofitting such as adding toilet lids and exhaust fans; and

Whereas transparent building and room data will reduce rational anxiety amongst Cambridge school communities; now therefore be it

Resolved that, prior to families and teachers being asked to commit to hybrid or in-person plans, and before instruction begins inside buildings, the Cambridge Public School Department will engage a HVAC and respiratory pathogen expert to review the current system and make recommendations; and be it further

Resolved that the district will provide public school-by-school data on the baseline air ventilation and quality in individual school rooms, the planned frequency of air quality testing, and the timing and types of mitigations for rooms requiring improvements.

#20-208 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Vice-Chair Bowman and Member Rachel

WHEREAS: The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has required all school districts in Massachusetts to prepare for the possibility of a fully in-person, fully remote, and hybrid return to school this fall; and

WHEREAS: Safety must be the first priority if school buildings are to be reopened; and

WHEREAS: While COVID-19 prevalence in Cambridge is low, the City is about to experience an influx of university students returning to campus at MIT, Lesley, and Harvard; and

WHEREAS: Current public health evidence is shifting away from the notion that children are less likely than adults to be infected with COVID-19 as studies are showing that those between the ages of 10-19 can carry high viral loads and transmit the virus at least as well as adults; and

WHEREAS: Experts from Massachusetts General Hospital and the Broad Institute state that surveillance testing is necessary in order to establish clear benchmarks that determine when scholars or cohorts are sent home as well as when buildings must close entirely and for how long; and

- WHEREAS:** Mathematical modeling from Harvard University shows that testing an entire school community once a week effectively eliminates outbreaks and testing an entire school community twice a week can prevent nearly all transmission; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Cambridge has the capacity and technology to implement widespread and frequent non-invasive COVID-19 tests with a 15-20-minute turnaround time at its schools; and
- WHEREAS:** As COVID-19 will continue to affect us for a long time, in the absence of a vaccine, the City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools must have a plan in place to make such testing available in schools; and
- WHEREAS:** Such testing should be made available to all staff and to all scholars, with an emphasis on those at the high school; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent continue discussing with the City Manager, Cambridge Public Health Department and Broad Institute the feasibility of providing frequent testing for our Cambridge Public Schools staff and scholars; and further
- RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent provide an update on the feasibility and logistics of implementing testing at CPS locations by August 11, 2020 in order to provide ample time to prepare for the upcoming school year and keep our students and faculty safe.

On the following roll call vote, item **#20-208** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-209 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Rachel and Member Weinstein

- Whereas** The return to school amid the COVID-19 pandemic has created many unknowns and much anxiety within the community; and
- Whereas** Health and safety, racial equity, and family partnerships are among the guiding principles of the Cambridge Public Schools Department in their planning for reopening; and
- Whereas** There is a growing push in public comment testimonies for a 100% remote learning start to the school year from educators and families due to health and safety concerns; and
- Whereas** The data shows that COVID-19 transmission is significantly lower outdoors; and
- Whereas** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's guidance from July 22nd, 2020 guidance urges districts to create an inventory of spaces and consider outdoor and off-campus options for classes; and
- Whereas** In-person educational experiences are highly beneficial for scholars, and in some cases of critical importance; and
- Whereas** There will be a need for an abundance of spaces to be used as in-person classrooms as well as spaces for scholars to safely access their remote classes when their home environments are not conducive to learning; now therefore be it
- Resolved** That the Cambridge School Department will collaborate with the City of Cambridge, and other public and private entities to determine what outdoor and open-air spaces can or may be used for these purposes (including parks, parking lots, and youth centers); and be it further
- Resolved** That the Cambridge Public School Department will provide an inventory of which outdoor and community spaces are available for in-person classroom use and an assessment of their safety to the School Committee by August 11th, 2020; and be it further
- Resolved** That the district provide an update on which spaces, both in and out of schools, can be used as remote classrooms for scholars who are unable to safely or optimally learn at home by August 11th, 2020.

Discussion followed on **#20-207** and **#20-209**.

Vice Chair Bowman motioned to refer **#20-209** to the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee as a standing Agenda item. The co-sponsors, Member Rachel and Member Weinstein, moved adopting it tonight because time is of the essence.

Vice Chair Bowman added item **#20-209** requires on-going conversations to happen with Principals and Mr. Maloney and if we pass it, we need to collaborate with them and the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee.

Member Fantini moved to include referring **#20-207** along with **#20-209** to Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee.

Member Rachel asked if the Committee is going to adopt it and then implement it.

Vice Chair Bowman explained that they are both to be adopted tonight and then referred to the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee to move the work forward with conversations with Principals and ultimately for a recommendation to the Committee of the Whole for implementation.

Member Wilson moved to be a co-sponsor on item **#20-207**. On the following roll call vote, it was adopted to add Member Wilson as a co-sponsor: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Dr. Salim pointed out that on the first resolved of item **#20-207**, where it relates to a HVAC expert, he wanted it acknowledged that the School Department already has a professional engineering company. As far as item **#20-209**, he also pointed out that in the presentation, there are slides that speak to outdoor spaces.

Member Rachel added that the firm we engaged has a respiratory expert also, not just a HVAC expert.

Mr. Maloney stated that the engineering firm has been hired, if the Committee of the Whole is not satisfied with this firm, CPSD will hire another one.

On a Motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call on item **#20-207** as amended and item **#20-209**, were adopted and referred to Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Vice Chair Bowman placed items **#20-204**, **#20-205**, and **#20-210** on the Calendar.

#20-210 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Rachel and Member Weinstein

- Whereas** Health and safety, racial equity, and family partnerships are among the guiding principles of the Cambridge Public Schools Department in their planning for reopening; and
- Whereas** Cambridge Public School educators and many caregivers are essential workers; and
- Whereas** There cannot be a safe reopening of schools without addressing childcare needs of both families and educators; and
- Whereas** The lack of childcare options must not be a barrier to scholars' learning; now therefore be it
- Resolved** That the Cambridge Public School District works with the City of Cambridge Department of Human Services and community partners to determine childcare options and to provide an update to the School Committee on what is possible, to ensure options for Cambridge Public School families and educators as soon as possible.

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

#20-211 Joint Motion by Member Rachel and Member Wilson

- Whereas** The Cambridge School Committee was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Maurice Page, a former teacher in Cambridge, on July 15, 2020; and

- Whereas** Maurice was the first in his family to graduate from college, having attended Cornell and Harvard University; and
- Whereas** Maurice was a beloved Math teacher in the Pilot School at Cambridge Rindge and Latin, which used untracked classes; and
- Whereas** Maurice inspired students of all skill levels to love Math by getting them “in the zone” and making learning fun; and
- Whereas** Maurice taught his students to stay the course and deeply believed they could do anything they set their minds to; and
- Whereas** Maurice made sure all students participated in his classes; and
- Whereas** Maurice was one of a few Black men teaching at CRLS and provided social emotional support and community for students of color; and
- Whereas** Maurice integrated music into the lives of his students by singing in his classroom and performing in annual Pilot Plays and annual holiday choirs; and
- Whereas** Pilot School alums consider Maurice the hippest Math teacher ever; and
- Whereas** Maurice challenged his colleagues to think first about the students and shape curricula around their needs rather than the other way around; and
- Whereas** During his service as a professor at Harvard, MIT, Wheelock and Lesley Universities, Maurice inspired thousands of future and current math educators in all corners of the globe; now therefore be it
- Resolved** That the School Committee will go on record extending its deepest condolences to the family of Maurice Page for their loss; and be it further
- Resolved** That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitable letter of condolence to the family of Maurice Page on behalf of the entire School Committee.

#20-212 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Fantini and Member Wilson

- WHEREAS:** The School Committee was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Josephine Vendetti at the age of 89 on July 18, 2020; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti was born on May 3, 1931; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti was the devoted wife of the late George M. Vendetti; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti retired from The Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and Cambridge Public Schools in 2017 after forty-four years of dedicated service to the children and community of Cambridge; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti was beloved by students and staff alike; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti was a long-time Chair of the Sacred Heart Church Christmas Bazaar; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti festively decorated her home for every season and occasion and inspired the Cambridge community for decades; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti was especially fond of Halloween and her haunted house display drew families from near and far; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti’s passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving family; her beloved children Richard and his wife Diane, Joan and her husband Richard, Teresa, George and his wife Deb, Patricia, Ruth and her husband Dave, Elizabeth, Michael and his wife Lorraine, and Joseph; her devoted eighteen grandchildren; and her cherished seventeen great-grandchildren, and many other loving relatives and friends; and
- WHEREAS:** Mrs. Vendetti will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED:** That the School Committee go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Josephine Vendetti at this time of such personal loss; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee.

#20-213 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui and Member Fantini

- WHEREAS:** The School Committee was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Christopher Saheed on June 25, 2020; and
- WHEREAS:** Christopher is survived by his loving husband and partner of 43 years, Stephen Nonack, his beloved aunt Carol Rondeau, his brother and sister-in-law Peter and Ruth Nonack, and nephews Christopher and Henry Nonack; and

- WHEREAS:** Christopher valued education, earning a degree in education at Tufts University, a J.D. degree from Suffolk University, as well as a master's degree in education from Harvard; and
- WHEREAS:** Christopher spent his entire career as an educator in Cambridge, as a teacher, dean, and principal, leaving a lasting impact on generations of students at CRLS; and
- WHEREAS:** Serving as CRLS principal from 2006 to 2011, which he referred to as "the fulfillment of a professional dream," Christopher was known as a thoughtful leader who cared deeply about equity and inclusiveness, and
- WHEREAS:** Christopher will be remembered by colleagues and family members for his passion for education and affection for teaching and never forgetting what it was like to be a teacher, earning him the respect of classroom teachers; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED:** That this School Committee go on record extending its deepest appreciation for Christopher Saheed and deepest sympathy to his family at this time of such personal loss; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That a formal copy of this Resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee.

On a Motion by Vice Chair Bowman, seconded by Member Rojas, on the following roll call, Resolutions #20-211, #20-212 and #20-213 were adopted: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

11. Announcements: None

12. Late Orders:

It was voted that the following be adopted as a first reading and be placed on the Calendar as a second reading: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Fantini, and Member Rachel

Whereas equity and access are top priorities for the Cambridge Public Schools and the Cambridge School Committee; and

Whereas crucial discussions around school reopening are happening in subcommittee meetings, and Whereas it is integral that all Cambridge Public School scholars, families and staff can easily access this information; and

Whereas the School Committee amended the rules to record and post subcommittee meetings online this spring; and

Whereas public participation in subcommittee meetings has reached an all-time high; Therefore, Be it **Resolved** that the rules are amended to allow subcommittee meetings to be live-streamed on Cambridge Educational Access TV Channel 99.

Mayor Siddiqui explained that a new rule from DESE came out today and what was presented today will be before us at the next meeting on Thursday for voting.

The Superintendent explained that he has to submit the Reopening Plan to the DESE by August 10, 2020. Superintendent Salim further explained that there is much more detail to what will be submitted than what was already submitted to the DESE. Clarification needs to be shared of what is actually being voted on with regards to specific age groups. Dr. Salim explained that slides 7, 8, and 9 are what the School Committee will be voting on.

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: None

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

- Agenda

- Covid-19 Response Update PowerPoint Presentation

E-Mail communications: on file in School Committee office

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

Adjourned (11:30 p.m.)

Attest:



Doshia Beard
Executive Secretary
to the School Committee