



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

September 21, 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: Member Vera-DeGraff, Student School Committee Member.

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

1. **Public Comment:**

The following individuals were heard:

- Shawn Brown in support of **#21-279**
- Jameson Collier in support of **#21-279**
- Dan Monahan, CEA President, in support of **#21-291** and reopening issues

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Rachel, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to suspend the rules to extend Dan Monahan's public comment time by two minutes: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman NAY; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

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

2. **Student School Committee Report:**

Member Vera-DeGraff shared updates from the first few weeks of school: students are glad to be back in-person, higher technical efficiencies. He shared scheduling concerns.

3. **Presentation of the Records for Approval:**

- August 3, 2021 Regular Meeting
- August 31, 2021 Special Meeting
- September 14, 2021 Special Meeting

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to accept the minutes as presented: Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. Superintendent's Agenda:

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, the rules were suspended to bring forward Superintendent's Consent Agenda Items **#21-274** and **#21-291** for discussion and adoption: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Discussion followed on **#21-291**.

Vice-Chair Bowman clarified that because the School Committee Office is in transition, she will be signing **#21-291** on behalf of the School Committee.

Member Rachel asked for clarification on the employees that are exempt from the vaccine.

- Mr. Maloney provided clarification that employees exempt from the vaccine will need daily testing.

Vice-Chair Bowman and **Member Fantini** provided further clarification on the negotiation process as co-chairs of the bargaining committee.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote **#21-274** was adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA; Ms. Keady-Rawson YEA

#21-274, Approval of the Tentative Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee & the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Council 93, Local 1611 for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, be adopted as follows: That the School Committee ratify and approve the Tentative Agreement between the Cambridge School and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 93, Local 1611 for a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote **#21-291** was adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA; Ms. Keady-Rawson YEA

#21-291, Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Education Association on reopening issues for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee ratify and approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Education Association on reopening issues for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

On the following roll call vote, Superintendent's Agenda Item **#21-279** was brought forward for discussion and adoption: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Discussion followed on **#21-279**.

The Members thanked the team at BAM for speaking on this and the work they have done in the community.

On the following roll call vote, **#21-279** was adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson PRESENT; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#21-279, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: 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, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$272,888.00.

7a. Presentations:

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

Dr. Greer presented "[Superintendent's Update: School Opening and ESSER Planning](#)". Throughout the presentation topics discussed were: CPS's COVID Safety Plan and quarantine guidelines.

Mr. Maloney provided topics on pending clarifications that need to be and shared that the proposed language changes for COVID-19 Safety, Health & Facilities Manual will go through the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee.

The discussion covered the following topics:

- Consent forms on testing: guidance, process, leveraging community partnerships to increase numbers and possible deadline to opt-in (needs clarity from the State),
- Communication efforts to the community on safety guidelines
- Testing for vaccinated individuals (currently not necessary)
- Mitigation efforts
- Expansion of lunch options
- Vaccination sites
- ESSER III updates: focus groups, deadline for submission is October 4th

7b. CPS District Plan: None

7c. Consent Agenda:

The Superintendent's Consent Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. On the following roll call **#21-275** through **#21-278**, and **#21-280** through **#21-285** were adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA: Member Wilson YEA: Vice-Chair Bowman YEA: Member Fantini YEA: Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#21-275, Approval of a Request from the School Committee to the Election Commission for Mailing Addresses, be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a formal request to the Cambridge Election Commission for mailing addresses.

#21-276, 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 | 3 | \$222,452.56 |
| Residential | 1 | \$374,434.75 |
| 45 Day | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 4 | \$596,887.31 |

#21-277, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for Assessment Materials & Software, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having been complied with:

NCS Pearson, Inc, PO Box 599700, San Antonio, TX, for the period September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$31,315.04.

#21-278, Contract Award, be adopted as follows: 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:

Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc., 225 Windsor Street, for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$35,000.00.

#21-280, 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 Title I Distribution for the period September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$1,105,409.00. Grant SC22604.

Description: The FY22 Title I grant will fund the program coordinator plus additional teaching staff at four elementary and two upper schools. Intervention teachers in math or ELA will serve at risk students at the Kennedy Longfellow, King Open, Morse and Fletcher Maynard Academy. At Cambridge Street Upper School, the grant will fund a 1.0 reading interventionist, and at Putnam Ave, the Title I grant will fund a 1.0 math interventionist and a .5 general interventionist. In addition, the grant will fund two half-time reading recovery teacher leaders who will provide professional development for all district early literacy interventionists, a 1.0 program manager/curriculum developer for an after-school STEAM program at 3 schools, a .33 social worker for homeless families, a 1.0 family liaison, and a .75 clerk. The grant budget also provides funding for summer school, community partners, parent involvement, and supplies, as well as services to eligible students in private schools.

#21-281, 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 ARP Homeless Children and Youth for the period September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022 in the amount of \$26,015.00. Grant SC22709.

Description: This grant is funded by the Federal American Rescue Plan. It will fund .33 of the salary of a social worker to provide services for homeless children, youth and their families. Title I will fund another third of the cost of the social worker. In addition, funds for emergency supplies for these families are also provided.

#21-282, 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 McKinney Vento Homeless Students for the period September 21, 2021 to August 31, 2022 in the amount of \$10,000.00. Grant SC22707.

Description: This grant provides referral services for homeless children and their families through services of two Homeless Outreach Workers who connect families with resources and services throughout the school year and summer. It also provides for training by Transition Houses on domestic violence issues for school and community staff. Title I includes additional funds for serving homeless students.

#21-283, 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 Title III: English Language Acquisition for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students for the period September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$67,380.00. Grant SC22737.

Description: This grant will fund four-week supplemental summer enrichment programs for English Language learners (ELLs) at the elementary and supper school levels. The programs will improve educational performance by assisting, these students to learn English and meet state academic content standards. It will also provide support for Ellevation (a software data and professional learning program), Parent ESL classes, online PD, and registration fees for Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) teachers to attend the annual MA conference for Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages Conference (MATSOL). ELLs at a private school who are assessed for eligibility will receive tutoring services on a proportional basis.

#21-284, 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.

Gene Haas Foundation-RSTA Manufacturing Program for the period March 31, 2021 to February 28, 2023 in the amount of \$4,000.00. SC21145.

Description: This grant will be used to provide scholarships for graduates of RSTA's manufacturing program entering post-secondary study in machining-based engineering fields (\$2,000) and also to support student participation in Robotics competitions (\$2,000).

#21-285, 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 TURI-RSTA for the period September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$10,000.00. Grant SC22173.

Description: The Toxic Use Reduction (TURI) at UMass Lowell has awarded the RSTA Automotive Department a grant to purchase equipment to reduce the use of toxic materials in the Automotive shop.

8. Non-Consent Agenda: None

9. School Committee Agenda:

The School Committee Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption.

#21-286 Motion by Member Fantini and Member Wilson

That the School Department work with the City to develop a plan to support transporting students attending after school programs.

On the following roll call vote, it was voted to add Mayor Siddiqui as a co-sponsor to **#21-286**: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Discussion followed on **#21-286**. The administration discussed the challenges and that this process could potentially take months. They also shared that they have been in touch with the City on this issue.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, to refer **#21-286** to the Superintendent, failed of adoption: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel NAY; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson NAY; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini NAY; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

Member Rojas proposed the following amendment to **#21-286**:

That the School Department work with the City to develop a plan to support transporting students attending after school programs *given the issues that DHSP has with after school this year.*

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to adopt the proposed amendment to **#21-286**: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, it was voted to adopt **#21-286** as amended and refer to the Superintendent: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

10. Resolutions:

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, **#21-287** through **#21-290** were adopted: Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel YEA; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice-Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA

#21-287 Joint Motion by Vice-Chair Bowman and Mayor Siddiqui

WHEREAS: On August 14, 2021 a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the south-western coast of Haiti causing large scale damage across the country's southern peninsula; and

WHEREAS: On August 16, 2021 Haiti experienced a direct hit from Tropical Storm Grace causing extensive flooding and hundreds of landslides; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools is home to a large Haitian community; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools recognizes the distress of our families with ties to Haiti find themselves in at the current time; and

WHEREAS: The rescue, recovery and rebuilding of the island will be a long process, that will require sustained support in the years to come; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Public Schools go on record expressing sympathy for the suffering of the people of Haiti: and be it further

RESOLVED: The School Committee reaffirms our support and solidarity for Cambridge Public School students and families who have family and friends impacted by the recent Earthquake and Tropical Storm in Haiti; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary to the School Committee be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution in Haitian Creole and English, to Haitian families with the Cambridge Public Schools on behalf of the entire Cambridge School Committee

#21-288 Joint Motion by Vice-Chair Bowman and Mayor Siddiqui

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools recognizes the historic impact of the War in Afghanistan on children and families in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS: After the collapse of the Afghanistan government, many Afghan citizens are leaving the country; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools is home to Afghan families that are deeply concerned for their loved ones in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools recognize the distress of our families with ties to Afghanistan find themselves in at the current time; and

WHEREAS: The recovery and rebuilding of the country will be a long process that will require sustained support in the years to come; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Public Schools go on record expressing sympathy for the suffering of the people of Afghanistan; and be it further

RESOLVED: To reaffirm our support and solidarity of CPS students and families who have family and friends impacted by the recent developments and will leve; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Cambridge Public Schools faculty and staff along with students and families remember our nation's roots and history and welcome Afghan refugee families into our city and schools with compassion, love and tolerance; and be it further

RESOLVED: CPSD will leverage all resources at our disposal to support the successful resettlement of Afghan children into our school district; and be it further

RESOLVED: The School Committee reaffirms our support for the children and families of Afghanistan, especially families being relocated to Cambridge, Massachusetts; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary to the School Committee be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Afghan families within the Cambridge Public Schools on behalf of the entire Cambridge School Committee.

#21-289 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui and Member Rachel

WHEREAS: Ben Clark has served as the Executive Director of Enroot for eight years and will be leaving the role in the coming months; and

WHEREAS: Enroot provides essential services to students in Cambridge Public Schools, many of whom have recently immigrated to the United States, helping to double the college graduation rate of the students they work with; and

WHEREAS: In addition to leading Enroot and helping grow this important organization, Mr. Clark is a longtime Cambridge resident who is deeply involved in the community; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Clark is a co-founder and organizer of Courageous Conversations at the Tobin School, a Steering Committee Member of the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition and the Cambridge College Success Initiative, and a Voting Member on the Cambridge Family Policy Council; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is grateful for all of Mr. Clark's work and his many contributions to the Cambridge community; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this School Committee go on record congratulating Mr. Clark for his work with Enroot and wishing him well in his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Ben Clark on behalf of the entire Cambridge School Committee.

#21-290 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui and Member Rachel

WHEREAS: Kathryn Fenneman has worked at Tutoring Plus of Cambridge for over eight years in varying capacities, including as the Executive Director since 2014; and

WHEREAS: The mission of Tutoring Plus is to advance educational equity by supporting youth in their academic, personal and social growth through free, individualized tutoring, mentoring and enrichment programs; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Fenneman helped grow Tutoring Plus to reach more students in Cambridge, working with over 170 students each year and bringing life-changing services to our youth; and

