



**C A M B R I D G E
S C H O O L C O M M I T T E E
(Official Minutes)**

Special Meeting

September 3, 2020

Called for 6:00 p.m. held in and broadcast from the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, called for the purpose of discussing and voting on Superintendent Recommendations, including a recommendation for the CRLS students to participate in Athletics for the 2020-21 school year and a first reading of Revisions to the Inoculation of Students Policy based on new State guidance, consent agenda items and Official School Committee Minutes.

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

Also Present: Dr. Salim, Superintendent of Schools

Mayor Siddiqui in the Chair

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

The Chair read the call of the meeting and explained that this meeting is being televised, votes will be taken and there will be public comment.

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

Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

- Mia Galante, Oxford Street, Approval of CRLS Sports Participation Schedule 2020-2021
- Jonah Jaffe, Antrim Street, Approval of Superintendents Recommendation #20-218
- June Manadhar, Prentiss Street, Approval of CRLS Sports Participation Schedule
- Virginia Wintner, Glenwood Avenue, Approval of CRLS Sport Participation Schedule
- Katherine Rodriguez-Lairos, Hurley Street, Approval of Sports Participation Schedule
- Sara Solomon, Memorial Drive, Supports and represents the awesome CRLS Soccer Team
- Ellie Harmon, South Normandy Avenue, Approval of CRLS Sports Participation Schedule
- Megan Willette, Tall Oaks Drive, Girls Soccer Coach, Supports Fall Sports and Soccer
- Josie O'Toole, Fairfield Street, Approval of CRLS Sports Participation Schedule
- Will Bavier, Maple Avenue, Approval of CRLS Sports Participation Schedule
- Sophia Price, Norfolk Street, Captain and Supports Girls Cross Country Team
- Peter Murphy, Mass Avenue, Supports allowing sports to continue in the upcoming school year

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, the Rules were suspended to vote to allow Duncan MacLaury to speak on an item not on the Agenda.

On the following roll call vote, Duncan MacLaury was allowed to speak for the purpose stated: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YES; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

- Duncan MacLaury, Dover Street, School reopening plan & general administrative design

The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

- Barbara Bryant, Henry Street, Supports **#20-218** CRLS fall athletics
- Jennifer Hiller, Supports the CRLS fall athletics
- Lily Rayman-Read, Broadway, in support of **#20-99**

On the following roll call vote, Public Comment was closed: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YES; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Student School Committee Report:

Member Killian reported that the meeting tonight is very important for many scholars relative to being allowed to participate in athletics. Both School Committee student representatives share and support the comments of the students that spoke tonight.

Member Vera-DeGraff reported on the statistics of the medical and mental benefits associated with sports participation from medical journals and data from research.

Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- May 12, 2020 Special Meeting
- August 6, 2020 Special Meeting

Motioned by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Fantini, on the following roll call vote, the Special meetings were accepted as presented: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YES; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Awaiting Reports: Passed Over

#20-95 Joint Motion by Member Rachel, Member Weinstein, and Member Wilson

WHEREAS, the Cambridge Public Schools prioritize the health and safety of scholars, staff and school communities, and;

Section 4.2 of Chapter II of the Rules of the School Committee shall be amended by striking "State Legislature" and inserting State Delegation in its place of this section:

Resolved that, the Cambridge School Committee joins the City Council in supporting H. 4737, "An Act ensuring safe and participatory 2020 state elections in response to COVID-19," and will send a copy of this motion to the **State Delegation** and Governor Baker, and be it further;

Section 4.2 of Chapter II of the Rules of the School Committee shall be amended by striking "Cambridge Election Commission, Cambridge Public Health Department and Superintendent Salim" and inserting Buildings and Grounds Sub Committee in its place of this section:

Resolved that, the School Committee requests a recommendation from the **Buildings and Grounds Sub Committee** by June 30, 2020 in regards to closing school buildings to scholars and staff on election days in 2020 and 2021 and any other viable options in order to ensure that voters who choose to exercise their right to vote in person are able to physically distance from school communities.

#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.

7c. Consent Agenda:

Superintendent Salim introduced Mr. Tom Arria, Director of Athletics, as the presenter for the proposed CRLS Athletic 2020-21 school year Sports Participation PowerPoint presentation overview.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0ef808350d&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1676755966667997802&th=174508aaf843426a&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_kelucsb70

Presentation ended and Discussion followed on the CRLS Athletic 2020-21 Sports Participation PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Siddiqui questioned whether fencing will be allowed under MIAA.

- Mr. Arria answered that fencing, orienteering and sailing are not recognized by MIAA as sponsored sports. CRLS is following EEA guidelines for those sports.

Vice Chair Bowman asked if there are any concerns about these guidelines and is CPSD able to provide support for students, Vice Chair also asked about sports that are moderate to high risk, if the coaching staff is still willing to work with students to keep up their practice and the third question was whether there are washing and drying machines at CRLS.

- Mr. Arria answered that there are washer and dryer facilities at CRLS and also at Russell field. Most coaches have responded that they do want to carry on with athletic activity on a voluntary basis. In terms of moderate to high risk sports, they can still get together as long as they stay on level one and in small cohorts, making sure they keep up with all of the guidelines. It is everyone's responsibility to follow through with all of the guidelines to be safe.

Member Wilson asked about Covid-19 testing for our scholars.

- Mr. Arria responded that the survey on the questionnaire has to be completed before the scholar is allowed into the practice area. There is no direct requirement to take temperatures. If the City is willing to make testing easily available for the student athletes, he is fine with that.

Member Wilson also asked what measures are in place for transportation.

- Mr. Arria replied that only one masked student per seat, filling only half of the bus. They have the resources for the number of buses needed since the number of games are less.

Member Wilson voices concern about keeping a mask on while running and other activities, are there mask breaks, do we expect them to become dehydrated.

- Mr. Arria answered that there are individual sport wearing guidelines for particular sports, he gave an example of cross country races, once you break from the start line, you can take them off, hang them on the wrist until someone comes close. It will be a learning process.

Member Rojas asked if the guidelines differentiate between indoor and outdoor sports

- Mr. Arria responded that volleyball and fencing are the only two indoor sports, he explained what their guidelines are adding that it is a high risk for those two sports right now, they will wait to play later since they have a floating season available.

Member Rojas asked if we approving sports for all four seasons or just the fall season, he also asked Mr. Arria to explain out of season coaching.

- Mr. Arria answered that we need to approve to participate in sports for remote learning whether it is a blanket approval or one sport at a time; it is written for one-year approval, and Mr. Arria explained that out of season coaching means one of our paid coaches works with an athlete on specific sport skill work, it does not mean running a basketball practice. For this year only, the coaches are allowed to coach the students to develop in a skill management manner.

Member Killian asked for clarification on what happens if one athlete on a team is infected?

- Mr. Arria responded that when someone is infected it results in suspension of practices for a time certain and everyone is tested during the suspension. There will be no returning to active sports until the protocols of being symptom free have been accomplished. In terms of another school, we would probably give the other school the resources for testing.

Member Weinstein asked do we need to have another vote of approval for middle school sports.

- Mr. Arria replied that yes, this is just for the high school sports season, however there is an opportunity to wrap the upper school program into it. The first upper school season is cross country (low risk) and orienteering which are both low risk from mid-September to early November.

Member Weinstein asked if there is anything more the district can do to help Mr. Arria have a better sports program and he also asked about an approval for longer than one year?

- Mr. Arria stated that he has never been short of any support from the administration in any way over the last eight years, he does not expect that to change.

Member Weinstein asked if we are using any indoor spaces for this fall?

- Mr. Arria responded that we are not accessing the buildings; not using any indoor spaces, no locker rooms, students need to show up equipped and ready to play. The only indoor sport is fencing and social distancing within a large space is not difficult, when the time comes, no fencing for now.

Member Weinstein asked if we helping to showcase students that are looking for scholarships?

- Showcasing athletes for college coaches is something Mr. Arria is looking forward to bringing this issue to the league level to see if we can get our seniors and juniors together and invite college coaches here, even if it is at the end of the fall season. We use videotaping for clips to be sent back and forth between coaches.

Member Fantini was happy with the presentation and asked no questions.

Member Wilson asked about spectators

- Mr. Arria responded that it depends on how many people allowed in the space being used, even outdoors, players can hand lanyards to a family member or a friend. It will be a little difficult but it can be managed. They are going to try playing all games at Russell field because it is closed with a fence as opposed to Danehey field.

Member Vera-De-Graff asked about insuring the equity issue of transportation

- Mr. Arria replied that CPS can provide transportation to make sure our athletes can get to all of their games. With classes being remote, there is more access to buses.

With no further questions, comments or concerns on the presentation, the Superintendent's Agenda was brought forward for discussion and adoption. Mayor Siddiqui removed item **#20-218**. Member Wilson removed item **#20-220**.

On the following roll call vote, item **#20-219** and **#20-221** were adopted: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

#20-219, That the following be referred to a second reading:

Approval of Revisions to Inoculations of Students Policy, that the School Committee approve the revision to the Inoculations of Students Policy as detailed in the document (first reading).

#20-221, Contract Award, that the School Committee award a contract to the following vendor for pest management services, funds to be provided from the General Fund Budget, Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts having complied with:

Bain Pest Control Services, 1320 Middlesex Avenue, Lowell, for the period July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$42,000.

Non-Consent Agenda:

#20-218, Approval of CRLS Sports Participation Schedule Proposal School Year 2020-2021, that the School Committee approve CRLS students who are learning remotely to participate in a regularly scheduled sports season as determined under the guidelines presented by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA).

Mayor Siddiqui stated that based on the Committee discussion from the presentation, she has two recommendations: To approve only the fall season and to list the sports that are missing from the recommendation.

The Chair opened the floor for the pleasure of the Committee.

Mayor Siddiqui offered to amend recommendation **#20-218** to add the language "regularly scheduled **fall sports season (September 18, 2020 to November 20, 2020)** as determined..."

Member Weinstein offered to amend **#20-218** adding a complete list of sports along with out of season practices.

Vice Chair Bowman suggested that since page three of the attachment to the recommendation includes a list of the modified sports season, her recommendation is to let **#20-218** stand as is with the presentation and the attachment.

Member Fantini suggested that Dr. Salim bring forward another recommendation that speaks to the non MIAA sports.

Superintendent Salim clarified that **#20-218** is not limited to only what is described under MIAA sports, but also includes other sports in the fall season.

Member Weinstein stated he would like to see the sports and guidelines listed.

Mr. Arria suggested the School Committee approve sports within the guidance in the recommendation up until November 20th and then vote again for all of the safety measures when necessary.

Dr. Salim asked Mr. Arria to clarify that since there is a regularly scheduled School Committee meeting on November 17th at which time if they would take up a recommendation and discussion of winter sports (season 2) would that work? Mr. Arria agreed that it would work.

Vice Chair Bowman asked if the State guidelines require that we approve sports season by season.

Dr. Salim responded that the State's guidance is that while students are in remote learning, School Committee does have to vote for athletic participation to happen. Since most winter sports happen indoors, if we are still in a remote setting, a vote will be needed.

Member Wilson asked about the registering of athlete scholars process

Mr. Arria stated that there are over 400 students registered for fall sports already.

Member Weinstein offered an amendment to include that the athletic recommendation be kept up to the codes in the Safety and Facilities manual and he asked if there is a similar requirement for middle school sports

Mr. Arria answered that there is no such requirement for additional action for upper school students.

Member Fantini offered an amendment to include the language defining which sports are MIAA sports and also language that defines non MIAA sports.

On the following roll call vote, it was moved and seconded to **adopt the amendment** on Recommendation **#20-218**: who are learning remotely to participate in a regularly scheduled **fall sports season (September 18, 2020 to November 20, 2020)** as determined... Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

It was decided not to include a second amendment to clarify the sports.

#20-218, on the following roll call vote, it was moved and seconded that Recommendation **#20-218** be adopted as amended: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

That the following be adopted as amended:

#20-218, Approval of CRLS Sports Participation Schedule Proposal School Year 2020-2021, that the School Committee approve CRLS students who are learning remotely to participate in a regularly scheduled **fall sports season (September 18, 2020 to November 20, 2020)** as determined under the guidelines presented by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA).

#20-220, Contract Award, 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 complied with:

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Center for Autism and Related Disorders Inc., 31600 Oxnard Street, Suite 1800, Woodland Hills, CA for a period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$80,000.

Discussion followed on **#20-220**.

Member Wilson stated that she wants to learn about what services are being offered at home.

Dr. Morgan replied that this contract will provide in home ADA services for students that meet the IEP criteria. Many of these students are in out of district placement. There are a wide range of individualized services that include dressing oneself, toilet training, health skills, and family interactions. The team works with the parents using assessments and identifiable goals. For any age JK to 12 for students that are on the Autism spectrum.

On the following roll call vote, **#20-220** was adopted: Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

On a motion by Member Fantini, seconded by Member Wilson, on the following roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.: Member Fantini YEA; Member Rojas YEA; Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Weinstein YEA; Member Wilson YEA; Vice Chair Bowman YEA; Mayor Siddiqui YEA.

Adjourned 6:30 p.m. >

Attest: 

Doshia Beard
Executive Secretary to the School Committee