



**#25-312**

**CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

459 BROADWAY

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

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WHEREAS: Vice Chair Hunter was born and raised in New Orleans during segregation and as a first-generation college graduate, she earned her undergraduate degree at Xavier University and Master of Education degrees from both Antioch and the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and

WHEREAS: Vice Chair Hunter is a proud parent of her daughter, Lisette Williams, whom she raised in Cambridge, and who benefited from a full CPS education, attending Cambridge Public Schools from kindergarten through graduation at CRLS; and

WHEREAS: Early in her career, demonstrating courageous leadership and advocacy, Vice Chair Hunter worked as a chemist at the Polaroid Corporation and helped organize a worker-led movement that successfully pushed Polaroid to divest from apartheid South Africa; and

WHEREAS: Vice Chair Hunter's leadership and advocacy have earned national and international recognition from distinguished organizations, with honors that include the Dr. Effie Jones Humanitarian Award, the Rosa Parks Memorial Award, and the Amandla Award, among many others; and

WHEREAS: Vice Chair Hunter went on to serve the Cambridge Public Schools in a wide range of roles at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School, including, math teacher, student government advisor, supervisor of the student teaching program and assistant vice principal; and

WHEREAS: Vice Chair Hunter co-authored the Concerned Black Staff Report at CRLS which analyzed racial disparities in achievement at CRLS, helping to launch the district's longstanding practice of publishing disaggregated student achievement data and informing ongoing efforts to close opportunity and achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS: In 1996, Vice Chair Hunter, determined to expand high quality educational opportunities for all of Cambridge's students, co-founded the Benjamin Banneker Charter School, recognized as one of the more successful urban charter elementary schools in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: In her role on the School Committee, Ms. Hunter has consistently centered educational equity, focusing on closing academic opportunity gaps, notably in third-grade reading and eighth-grade math. She has been a tireless advocate for Black and Brown scholars and students from historically marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS: Vice Chair Hunter devoted countless hours in partnership with Attorney MacFarlane to successfully negotiate eight union contracts, helping to build a cooperative and respectful labor environment with the district's educators, clerks, family liaisons, custodians, safety specialists, food service staff, and facilities personnel, all of whom she recognized as the lifeblood of a thriving and successful school district; and

WHEREAS: During her tenure, Vice Chair Hunter worked tirelessly in service to the Cambridge Public Schools, regularly visiting schools and classrooms, participating in student story times, supporting student volunteer initiatives, and engaging in community events, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to listening, learning, and uplifting the voices of students, families, and educators; and

WHEREAS: In her role as Vice Chair, she demonstrated steadfast support for the Executive Secretary and the Confidential Secretary, meeting with them regularly to exchange ideas, offer mentorship, and ensure their work was supported; and under her leadership, the School Committee Office digitized hundreds of meeting minutes and policy orders, improving accessibility and significantly enhancing operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS: Vice Chair Hunter approached her responsibilities with integrity, humility, and deep respect for students, families, and colleagues, modeling what it means to serve as both a public official and a community activist whose “service never stops”; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee extends its deepest gratitude to Vice Chair Hunter her decades of unwavering leadership and steadfast advocacy for Cambridge’s children; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a formal copy of this resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and presented to Vice Chair Hunter with profound gratitude and respect.