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-IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE -
May 5, 2020

ORDERED: That the following be adopted as amended

Whereas, on March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 Coronavirus ("COVID- 19"); and

Whereas the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

Whereas on April 21, 2020, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the extension of School and Non-Emergency Child Care Program Closures until June 29, 2020, in response to COVID-19; eliminating the chances of schools resuming operation in facilities across the commonwealth and expanding remote learning until the end of the 2020 school year; and

Whereas on April 24th, 2020, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released updated guidance on remote learning with specific prerequisite content standards and a focus on successful student engagement; and

Whereas the Cambridge Public School District is committed to resuming educational instruction in school facilities for the 2020/21 school year that will follow guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure the safety of students, staff, and families; and

Whereas COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenges for the global and local economy and resuming, "business as usual," is highly unlikely until medical professionals develop a vaccine or medication that mitigates the impact of the virus; and

Whereas the City of Cambridge is home to some of the most dynamic institutions and thought leaders in the world; including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lesley University, Harvard University, and the National Bureau of Economic Research; and

Whereas a vaccine will not be available in the next year, the unknown externalities of the COVID-19 crisis will irreparably exacerbate already significant challenges for students, families, and educators in the absence of swift and thorough scenario planning; now, therefore be it Resolved that the Superintendent convene a COVID-19 Recovery Task Force comprised of local thought leaders and community members to provide CPSD with feedback and advice on its plan to ensure an academic environment that will minimize and address students' learning loss,

maximize quality engagement, provide educators and staff with necessary professional development, and create a safe learning environment that mitigates the colossal impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Be it further resolved that a Task Force be assembled immediately.

A true copy:

Attest: 

JENNIFER DEVER WOOD

Executive Secretary to the School Committee (temporary)

Cc:Vice-Chair Manikka Bowman
Member Fred Fantini
Mayor Siddiqui

Motion # 20-70