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C19-083

--In School Committee--
04/02/2019

Ordered:

That the School Committee requests that the Superintendent undertake an educational programmatic review of the January 10, 2019 panel discussion that occurred at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and that this review be conducted by outside legal services and that it seek to address the issues detailed in the attached scope of services; and

Further, that the Superintendent bring forward to the School Committee any recommended revisions to relevant policies that he believes are warranted as a result of this programmatic review, including but not limited to, the following policies: School Departments Non-Discrimination Policy and Prohibition Against Sexual Harassment, Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers, and Community Resource Persons; and Further, that the School Committee be provided with a copy of the completed report for its review and consideration of whether to take any actions with respect to the findings, including making any revisions to either School Committee policies and/or School Committee rules; and Further, that this motion supersedes and replaces paragraphs five through seven of School Committee Order C19-033.

Scope of Services Overview The Cambridge Public Schools is seeking the services of an attorney to conduct a prompt and objective fact-finding review of a matter which occurred in a class at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) on January 10, 2019 which involved the use of language (the n-word) during a panel discussion, and which was reported to have made a number of students uncomfortable, and has been a subject of internal and community discussion and debate as well as the subject of local press coverage. The scope of services sought include:

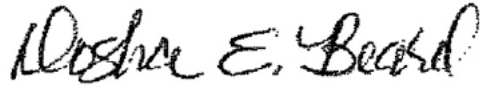
Conduct individual and/or group fact-finding interviews with parties involved, including but not limited to, students in the class, the teacher of the class; panelists; members of the Black Student Union (BSU) and student government; the Dean overseeing History classes at CRLS and others participating or attending the panel discussion in question.

Engage in a comprehensive review of the conduct of the classroom panel discussion, including but not limited to: The basis and context for the selection of the panel topic Particulars relating to panel organization The connection between the panel discussion topic and the class syllabus and the CRLS History department's curriculum Approval procedures associated with the panel conduction Selection and preparation of panel participants; Panelist preparatory discussions, meetings and materials Student preparatory discussions, assignments and materials Review of the video recording of the panel discussion. Review of the immediate and subsequent follow-up actions taken

by school and district adults in response to the 'n-word' being used, in context with related school district and School Committee policies.

Prepare and submit a written report to the Cambridge Public Schools of the fact-finding review, its findings, and recommendations by no later than June 2019. Please submit your hourly rate together with a budget to perform the above scope of services not to exceed \$9,500.00 to: Legal Counsel
Cambridge Public Schools Office of Legal Counsel 159 Thorndike Street Cambridge, MA 02141

A true copy:



Dosha E. Beard
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

C:
Member Bowman
Motion # 19-70