

CHAIR
MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI

VICE CHAIR
MANIKKA L. BOWMAN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
459 BROADWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
TEL: 617-349-6620 • FAX: 617-349-6624
dbeard@cpsd.us

MEMBERS
ALFRED B. FANTINI
JOSE' LUIS ROJAS
DAVID J. WEINSTEIN
RACHEL B. WEINSTEIN
AYESHA M. WILSON

C21-077

--In School Committee--
03/02/2021

Ordered:

Whereas: Effective communication with families and scholars is a priority of the Cambridge Public Schools and the School Committee, especially in the constantly evolving context of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas: While students receive many CPS communications via email, there is currently no framework for CPS to use text messaging as a way to regularly contact and update its student body; and

Whereas: Many scholars in 2021 are most efficiently reached and notified by text message, much more so than via email; and

Whereas: The Remind app is a simple and effective tool already being used by some CPS educators to send out text message updates and reminders to scholars; and

Whereas: In the absence of a centralized communication system that reaches the majority of the CPS student body, many scholars report that they receive conflicting information by word-of-mouth, and are not sure what information is accurate (such as changes to schedules and information about the expansion of in-person learning); and

Whereas: Not all caregivers are able to consistently communicate updates from CPS in a timely manner to their children, especially if they work long hours, are rarely at home, or cannot regularly check their emails, and some caregivers rely on their children for school-related information; and

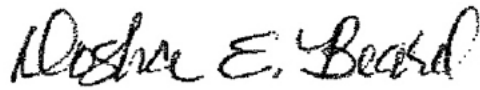
Whereas: The enhanced use of a district-wide student text messaging system, such as the Remind app, would align with and support the Superintendent's goal to elevate student voices, through "quarterly feedback opportunities, strengthened roles in decision-making, and asking how they want to be communicated with;" now therefore be it

Resolved: That the CRLS administration leverage student communication tools by providing scholars with the option to receive relevant school and district-wide updates through enhanced CPS use of a text messaging tool such as the Remind app; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent work with upper school principals to explore the feasibility of implementing a similar system for upper school students; and be it further

Resolved: That the Superintendent and his cabinet explore the use of text messaging as an important way to collect further student data and receive student feedback.

A true copy:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dosha E. Beard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dosha" being more prominent.

Dosha E. Beard
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

C:

Member Weinstein

Mayor Siddiqui, Member Rachel, In Collaboration with Student Member Killian and Student Member Vera-DeGraff

Motion # 21-66