



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission**  
**Thursday, April 4, 2013**

Present: Commissioners Elaine Angelone, Matthew Barrett, Chanta Bhan, Bonita Cox, Caitlin Goss, Brendan St. Amant, Randa Shedid, and staff members Vali Buland, Mariah Freark and Carmen S. Negrón.

Guests: Police Superintendent Chris Burke, School Department Officer James Maloney, and School Committee members Alice Turkel and Fred Fantini.

Absent: Commissioners Mercedes Evans, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes and Adrian Velazquez.

Documents Used:

- March 2013 minutes
- School Committee data

**1. Call to order**

Vice Chair Caitlin Goss called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

Janet Chiang is a parent of students in Cambridge schools. She made a comment regarding the language immersion programs in Cambridge schools.

**3. Review and Approval of March Minutes**

The March minutes were unanimously approved. Commissioner Bhan suggested an addition for the April agenda. Commissioner Shedid moved to approve and Commissioner Barrett seconded (Commissioners Cox, Shedid, Barrett, Goss, St. Amant, Bhan, and Angelone).

**4. Update on Schools : Jim Maloney, Cambridge School Department**

Mr. Maloney, Ms. Turkel, and Mr. Fantini passed around data sheets and spoke about the changes they have made to the registration process to make it more informative for residents of all backgrounds. They explained that the Cambridge schools are now more racially and socioeconomically balanced compared to 10 years ago. They stated that they constantly reevaluate how the processes are working. Commissioners made several suggestions. Acting E.D. Buland thanked them for their update.

**5. Executive Director's Report**

Acting E.D. Buland updated the Commission on the hiring process, the Commission's cases, and on the progress of the Fair Housing Month event.

**6. Follow-up on shelter survey outreach status**

Commissioner Bhan stated that she will be submitting some information regarding transgender shelters in New York. She has some contacts she will submit to us if the Commission is interested in pursuing this issue.

**7. Discussion of participation in foreign-language immersion programs**

Commissioners agreed to invite Jane Chiang to speak on this topic at next month's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m.