

School Committee - Regular Meeting

September 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Held in and broadcast from the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge, and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge. To sign up to call in using the ZOOM app on your computer or mobile device: visit www.cpsd.us/school_committee/virtual

Regular Meetings will be live-streamed at www.cpsd.us and broadcast on Cambridge Educational Access TV (CEATV) Channel 26, as usual.

AGENDA

1. **Public Comment (3 minutes):**
2. **Student School Committee Report:** None
3. **Presentation of Records for Approval:**
 - September 5, 2023 Regular Meeting
4. **Reconsiderations:** None
5. **Unfinished Business/Calendar:**
 - #23-203** Recommendation: Approval of Student Attendance Policy (Second Reading)

 - #23-220** Recommendation: Contract Award: Robert Avossa dba K-12 Leadership Matters: Professional Development

Late Order from Vice Chair Rachel

WHEREAS: The administration developed elementary school schedule guidelines to ensure that students receive adequate instruction time in core academic subjects; and

WHEREAS: The guidelines address significant differences between individual Cambridge Public Schools' instruction time for particular subjects; and

WHEREAS: Schools have created their SY23-24 schedules; accordingly, and

WHEREAS: Some have interpreted the scheduling guidelines as detailed mandates rather than guidelines, resulting in concerns over rigid learning conditions; and

WHEREAS: Caregivers from every CPS school have contacted the School Committee and Superintendent with concerns about reduced play, nutrition, rest, and transition times; and

WHEREAS: The Superintendent's team clarified, at the August 8 meeting, that the guidelines would neither prevent extending class meeting times when students need longer nor providing requisite transition time between classes; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the administration issues written communication to CPS staff confirming that the elementary schedule guidelines are advisory and that principals and educators have the trust of the Committee and Superintendent to adjust as they see fit.

6. **Awaiting Reports:** None
7. **7a. Superintendent's Update:** Universal Pre-K Update & School Highlights

7b. Presentations:

First Two Weeks of School Updates.....Victoria L. Greer Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Leadership Team

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

- #23-225** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to the Controlled Choice Policy (Second Reading)
- #23-226** Recommendation: Approval of Agreement for Parent Leave for Non-Union Employees
- #23-227** Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from The Cambridge School Department
- #23-228** Recommendation: Contract Award: Bunker Hill Community College: Dual Enrollment Program for CRLS Students
- #23-229** Recommendation: Contract Award: PowerSchool Group LLC: Computer Software-Amended
- #23-230** Recommendation: Contract Award: Minuteman Regional High School: Student Tuition
- #23-231** Recommendation: Grant Award: FY24 Title IV, Part A Distribution: Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant
- #23-232** Recommendation: Grant Award: FY24 Title III Distribution-English Language Acquisition & Academic Achievement Program for English Language Learners & Immigrant Children & Youth
- #23-233** Recommendation: Grant Award: FY24 Title II, Part A Distribution-Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching & Learning
- #23-234** Recommendation: Grant Award: FY24 Title I, Part A Distribution-Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local School Districts

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information):

#23-235 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Chair Rachel and Member Weinstein

WHEREAS: According to the [Community Use of School Facilities: Policies and Procedures](#), it is the Cambridge School Committee's desire that the maximum use of school property be enjoyed by the citizens of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee reserves the right to make changes, deletions, and/or additions to the policy if deemed appropriate for the School Department; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee recognizes four categories of users: Category I: Cambridge Public Schools; Category II: City Departments, CPS-related Organizations, and Cambridge Youth Organizations, State or Federal departments; Category III: Cambridge Residents, Cambridge Community Organizations; Category IV: Non-Resident Individuals and organizations, and For-Profit Businesses; and

WHEREAS: The policy outlines that Category I: Cambridge Public Schools takes priority over events and activities permitted by other users described in Category II, III, and IV; and

WHEREAS: The policy does not outline if any preference is given to other categories including non-profits providing free programming to CPS students over for-profit companies charging adults fees; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee discuss if there should be priority ranking for the four categories outlined above if organizations request permits for the same space; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent works with the CPS facilities team to understand how permits from different organizations are approved when submitted at the same time; and comes back with any suggested recommendations.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences):

#23-236 Joint Motion by Mayor Siddiqui, Member Hunter and Member Wilson

WHEREAS: It is with a heavy heart that we extend our condolences to Jaden McDaniel's family; and

WHEREAS: Jaden was a talented player on the football team and was a team player; and

WHEREAS: Jaden was an intelligent student who cared about his family and was close to his cousins; and

WHEREAS: Jaden made a huge lasting impression on many of his peers, educators, and staff in his short time at CRLS; and

WHEREAS: He was learning how to be an entrepreneur and had big dreams of opening up his own business; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee formally go on record in expressing its deepest condolences to Jaden McDaniel's family; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Jaden McDaniel's family on behalf of the entire School Committee, Superintendent, and Cambridge Public Schools.

#23-237 Joint Motion by Vice Chair Rachel and Member Rojas

WHEREAS: Members of the LGBTQIA+ community face significant discrimination and bullying both in schools and in society at large; and

WHEREAS: The 2022 Teen Health Survey reflected that students in the LGBTQIA+ community face higher rates of suicide and depression, and research suggests this is true for adolescents and adults nationwide; and

WHEREAS: student and staff well-being is a fundamental concern of the Cambridge School Committee and school boards across the country; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee affirms its support to promote the needs and safety of all staff and students who are LGBTQIA+ and Gender Non-Conforming within our district; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Committee gives its support to responsible civic actions by students, educators, and others who are raising the visibility of this issue and seeking changes in public policy; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts urges state and federal policymakers to support laws and regulations that:

- Provide adequate funding for LGBTQIA+ awareness and anti-bullying training for both staff and students;
- Provide for safe bathrooms, locker rooms, and changing spaces for transgender and Gender Non-Conforming staff and students;
- Strengthen counseling and mental health services for LGBTQ students.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: None