



CITY COUNCIL

ROUNDTABLE/WORKING MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

6:00 PM

Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Dennis J. Carlone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Alanna Mallon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A virtual Roundtable/Working Meeting for members of the City Council and School Committee to begin discussions on a preliminary School Department budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Pursuant to the City Council rules there will be no public comment for this City Council round table meeting.

[CLICK THIS LINK TO JOIN THE MEETING VIA ZOOM:](#)

I. Communications and Reports from Other City Officers

1. A presentation was received from the Office of the Superintendent for the Roundtable/Working group meeting to be held on February 9, 2021.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 9, 2021 6:00 PM (Roundtable/Working Meeting)



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL COMMITTEE

ROUNDTABLE/WORKING MEETING

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI, CHAIR

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE/WORKING MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

06:00 PM,

DR. HENRIETTA S. ATTLES MEETING ROOM

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 9, 2021 6:00 PM (Roundtable/Working Meeting)

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll call:

Of the City Council;

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Present

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Present

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Present

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Present

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Present

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Present

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Absent

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Present

Present-7. Absent-2.

Moving onto the School Committee:

Vice Chair Manikka Bowman - Absent

Member Alfred B. Fantini - Absent

Member José Luis Rojas Villarreal - Present

Member David Weinstein - Present

Member Rachel B. Weinstein - Present

Member Ayesha M. Wilson - Absent

Present-3, Absent-3. Quorum established.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: So, we're joined today by our
Budget Co-Chairs in the City Council, Councillor Simmons,

Councillor Carlone, and our Budget Co-Chairs in the School Committee who will be joining Vice Chair Bowman and Member Fantini. We'll hear a brief presentation from the Superintendent, and then we will open it up to questions from both bodies. Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Thank you, Mayor Siddiqui. Good to be here this evening with the City Council and the School Committee for this Joint Roundtable along with the City Manager and his finance team, and we have members of the CPS Cabinet also here this evening for the discussion.

I'm going to share my slides and turn it--actually, before I do that, I'm noticing that Vice Chair Bowman has joined the meeting. And see if she would like to share just some opening words before we turn to the presentation.

VICE CHAIR MANIKKA BOWMAN: Thank you, Dr. Salim. And my apologies for my delay. And it is a joy to be here this afternoon with my colleagues from the City Council, as well as my colleagues from the School Committee. And we look forward to having a robust conversation. We all know the needs right now as it relates to our students is significant and our budgetary conversation, you know, will

be focused on their needs and how we move our district forward during such a crucial time. [background noise 00:03:10] conversation. I look forward to the conversation. Thanks so much. Dr. Salim.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Thank you, Vice Chair Bowman. So, I'm going to share my screen. Oops, I think I need permissions to go ahead and do that. Thank you.

So, what we want to share here this evening is a presentation which has some overall pieces related to the CPS budget, as it relates to planning for the FY '22 fiscal year or the next school year. Information related to enrollment projections, our overall budget process and timeline for the development of the proposed budget, and then the adopted budget for the--which then of course goes to the City Council, to Finance Committee Hearing. And then, the emerging or the developed budget guidelines and priorities that the School Committee has had discussions around in the last month.

As we think about this very different type of year, where there are a lot, a lot of uncertainties related to the upcoming school year, and how to really think about the

needs of our students and families in the aftermath of this really disruptive time where we know there are going to be significant needs, both academically and socially-emotionally for students as we seek to have them recover and thrive in CPS.

So, starting off, this year for current fiscal year '21, is a budget that totals \$237.8 million. And it is a budget that certainly Committee Members and Councillors know, it has been unusual in that there was a COVID-19 supplemental appropriation that was made earlier this school year to supplement the Adopted General Fund Budget of \$213.7 million. That supplemental appropriation was to support the additional COVID-19-related costs, related to staffing, technology, health and safety, mitigation, including personal protective equipment, improvements to that renovation, the purchase of HEPA filters, as well as improving or increasing number of sinks, and other things to also support the health and safety procedures at the school level.

In our budget for the school year, as is the case of each school year, there also are some dollars that are from the revolving accounts relating to school meals, as well as

some other Federal and other grants including the Title 1 grant, the IDEA grant, as well as Title 2A. And you can see, you know, overall that the per pupil expenditure on the most recent data from the fiscal year '19.

As you know, the vast majority of our budget is in the people that work in the school system. So, north of 80% of our overall budget is salaries and benefits. And you can see how it breaks it down across other major categories including transportation, as a District that has controlled choice that has been and continues to be an area of significant part of our budget. Out of District tuition for students with special needs, who--whose IEPs require specific services from an out of District educational setting. And then, the other items there as you see from facilities to instructional supplies over services, technology and professional development.

When we look at enrollment projections, we've shared and had conversations earlier this year with the City Council and of course with the School Committee around what we experienced in CPS with regard to our enrollment. And the official enrollments that we report to deci is well over 6,800, which does represent a 5.8% decrease in terms

of numbers of students. We have seen our colleagues and neighboring Districts across the Commonwealth similarly experience decreases in their enrollment. Statewide the average is 4%. And we also have seen this trend happen nationally.

On the next slide, you'll see the breakdown in terms of the actual different grade levels and where we see some of the enrollment changes happening. But the largest decrease that we do see is in junior kindergarten, where there were 36%--the enrollment was 36% less than last year or about 98 students. Most other grades, with the exception of upper school grades actually saw a slight increase. So, it decreases between 7% and 9%. So, you also see that as we are projecting over the next several years, we do project an increase, not quite at the level of last school year, but an increase back to a little over 7,000 students for the FY '22 budget and I'm using that enrollment projection for our planning purposes. And that just to let you know sort of that increase represents about a 3% increase or about 222 students. And then, when we look at the enrollment changes by gray band, you see that the elementary level, the upper school level and the high

school level in terms of what the enrollment was last year, what we're experiencing this kind of schooling and what we're projecting moving into the upcoming school year. And this includes our students who are in district, so excluding the out of district students.

So, in terms of the budget, process and timeline, we are in the process where we are developing the proposed budget that I'll bring to the School Committee in the middle of March, on March 18. This is following budget analysis and planning based looking at the enrollment projections around the costs of what has transpired over the course of this year and projecting that for next year. Once that budget is presented to the School Committee, then the School Committee will review that. And following an adoption, the City Council Finance Committee will then also hear about the School Department budget.

As of the case, each year, we use a range of different sources of data and input to help shape the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. We've had Community Budget Meetings. We had one last Saturday, one scheduled tomorrow, focus specifically for educators, as well as, one this upcoming Thursday for the broader community in the evening.

We also have a number of School Committee retreats that we've held over the last several weeks and have one again this Thursday evening.

I noted already the sort of projections around enrollment expenditures and revenues, student data and surveys, input from educators and building leaders as well as Department Heads. And what is different this year is also the work or the formation of an Academic and Social-Emotional Recovery Team that has been put together to engage in some of the planning around what we project students to need and what are our strategies for supporting students, again, as they transition from a year of really interrupted schooling in many different ways.

In terms of the overall dates, we are here on the February 9th for the Joint Roundtable. The upcoming Community Meetings I noted, as well as, Budget Workshop. And then, you'll see how we also have budget workshops focused on the proposed budget, as well as, a Public Hearing and the vote scheduled with the School Committee, April 13. And the Budget Hearings scheduled with the City Council Finance Committee on May 19.

As we've worked with the School Committee over the

last number of weeks around our thinking for the FY '22 budget, I recognize that there are--we have been utilizing our multiyear District plan, and its set of strategic objectives to shape our priorities as we have done our planning for resource allocation. But we've also continued to also center our definitions of equity and racial equity that were formally adopted by the School Committee in the last term, and continue to be a central pillar that's used as we think about our resources and support for students and families.

We're looking at this specific while we were talking about sort of budget guidelines. There are a couple of areas that are worth noting on this slide. The first is you know, we continue to hold our District vision of rigorous, joyful and cultural responsive learning and personalized supports leading to postsecondary success and engaged Community Members. And what you see on the bottom of the slide are the five strategic objectives that we have had as part of the District plan for the last number of years.

The one area I will highlight, it was an area that we added some additional language was the last one around improvement, where the language around collaboration and

transparency were elevated as we think about our work around implementation progress monitoring. But it's really that center yellow band and language in that area around all students recovering and thriving. And using this lens about--and what how we think about investments in FY '22 and how we think about the needs of again our students, so understanding not just the academic, but also the social-emotional mental health needs following the pandemic, and providing students with the individualized multitier support to accelerate recovery, progress and success. So, that idea that we have shared and talked about previously around multi-tiered support, where we're thinking about, again, sort of aligned with our framework around equity of students that need more are receiving more supports to support both their academic as well as social emotional needs.

Some of the general assumptions that we have made as we think about the upcoming school year is for one that we are going to make the assumption that we are going to be operating in predominantly an in-person learning model with most all students in-person full time. We know that there--where we anticipate that there may be a need for a limited

roll out option for some students. But a lot of this will hinge on State, our guidance as well as, guidance from the CDC and mass public, Massachusetts Private Public Health on what are the--how the rollout of how the roll out of the vaccines over the next several months will also shape the different mitigation guidance around operating in-person school.

We do know that there are going to continue to be COVID-related cost for next year. Ongoing infection control management, masking, use of other PPE, the ongoing support around ventilation as well as the other areas where we have invested in related to COVID testing, and other areas. And through all this, we also recognize that things may change given the public health conditions. And we will continue to work closely with our public health partners and the Cambridge Public Health Department as we really try to bring to there the latest medical and public health expertise to be able to inform our planning.

So, last slide I'll share before turning it back over to Mayor Siddiqui, for questions or discussion, is to share this slide that we've used to frame our community meetings around the FY '22 budgets. And the question around how

should we use our resources and to think about it as what's the problem or opportunities that we're trying to solve or pursue, and how we think about them, the resources to address it. So, those are the way in which we've had that Saturday Budget Community Meeting. And it will continue in the upcoming discussions with the School Committee, as well as, educators and staff and Committee Members later this week.

So, with that, I will stop my screen share and turn it back over to Mayor Siddiqui.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Great. So, what we can do now and I'd like to also welcome Member Wilson and Member Killian and Member Vera-DeGraff from our School Committee who also joined us. And I think I also see other Councillors who have joined as well. But Clerk, you can correct me if I'm wrong. I will now entertain some questions. I will open it up to the City Manager, if he'd like to say anything, but we have hands up. I was going to go to Councillor Carlone first.

CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE: I'll be real brief, Madam Mayor. Thank you for the opportunity to be here. I just want to thank the Superintendent and his team for the

great work and relationship we've had. We feel we've produced budgets that I think have been fully supported by the School Committee and the Council. And education is clearly one of the top priorities in the City. And I think we've presented budgets in the Council and School Committee approved budget specialist since I've been City Manager, but along before that, let's prioritize education. And as we move along in this budget process, I can tell you I've been in constant contact with the Superintendent. My team and his team have talked about the budget. We've had the Mayor obviously involved. And I think we're making great progress and I'm confident that the budget that we will submit to the City Council will meet the needs and priorities of our students and something that both the School Committee and the City Council feel confident that they can support. So, thank you. I'm glad to be here.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: We'll go to Councillor Carlone and then Councillor Simmons.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Madam Mayor. It's always actually fun for me when we're with the School Committee, because I get to understand different perspectives and an area that we don't always focus on. My

question is, Mr. Superintendent, you highlighted rightfully that you have--you all recognize that students are gonna need extra attention this coming year to make up for this experience, the COVID experience. I'm curious what kinds of things are you talking about? Is it extra after school? Is it more tutoring? Is there a summer program planned? Those kinds of things. I would love to know what you're at least thinking about as a group.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Yeah. So, I appreciate that question. And, you know, I think that, you know, this is both, I think, you know, real important opportunity as well as one that will require us to be nimble and adaptive as the public health conditions may also dictate what are some of the parameters that we can utilize. But some of the things that you've mentioned are very much the things that we have been examining. We've been working with a couple of reports as resources from the New Teacher Project and from McKinsey that I've looked at, some of the learning loss that they have measured across the country in different places. And you know, the opportunities like looking at summer, as well as other after school time. Our levers that we're looking at, as

well as, you know, how do we also look at what we have learned over the course of the past year, related to some of the tools and strategies that educators have used.

You know, I think that we've talked a lot about how-- about the challenges with remote learning for many students. At the same time, we've also seen that for some students, remote learning has provided certain opportunities that in-person learning has not. And actually the sort of remote learning, sort of context has also moved us to use different tools as well that maybe we hadn't used before that helped us to assess students understanding and learning. Particularly, for our youngest students, where we maybe--I would say in the education sector had a bias against sort of technology with our youngest kids. But I think we've learned that while that may--that continues to not be the preferred sort of primary mode of learning that there are some tools that we hope to continue to utilize moving forward.

So, there's this I think, important question about trying to keep also as a central store planning around, you know, what have we learned and what do we want to keep, as we as we move forward? Folks may have seen that the High

School Extension Program was highlighted by the Globe a few days ago for some of the ways in which, you know, remote learning and the ways of supporting students with more flexible schedules has been really produce actually pretty some remarkable initial outcomes from reduced chronic absenteeism to improvements in grades.

I'm recognizing that, you know, this is a population of students for whom the larger, comprehensive high school experience was not a success. So, you know, it--I've lifted up as one of many examples across the different grade levels. There are successes that we want to make sure that we're also building upon as we think about the upcoming year. But absolutely, you know, summer programming, looking at how we can build on some of the small group instruction that we were able to utilize last summer and have continued in many of our schools to then also try to think creatively around additional time, and that sort of small group personalized support that we're able to provide many students in this context.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: If I could continue, Madam Mayor, assuming there's a range of possibilities, that means the range of budgets, and I don't know how you

determine what that budget is, but I'm assuming you're gonna put in a number that's respectful of what you hope to do. But you can't be certain I would imagine based on the disease that's out there, how it's going to affect all of us. So, I'm assuming it'll be a range that is ideal, and then, you'll just do it, put it in the middle or something like that.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Yeah. I mean, I think that you know, while our focus, you know, certainly through the budget, proposed budget process, and the adopted budget is going to be on the general fund budget that we know that there also are--we're anticipating investments that the Federal Government will be making related to the stimulus package to support K12 education, and so, hope that those will also be important resources as we think about our recovery and thrive plan for our students.

I also want to note that, you know, as we think about things like the summer where it's going to require some also creative thinking in that, you know, as I talk with my colleagues across the Commonwealth, you know, we know that students will have this need over the summer, and we want

to, to leverage the summer. We also know that everyone probably--in any sector we're talking about, is also absolutely exhausted.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Sure.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: And so, how do we also think about creating a model that also, you know, attracts our strongest teachers to be able to, you know, provide the high quality instruction support, again, both academically and socially-emotionally that we know what students need?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. And I just wanted to mention that I have two hearings in the Planning Board tonight that I have to attend. So, I'll be leaving early, but it's not from a lack of interest. But thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: We'll go to Councillor Simmons. And then Councillor Zondervan, followed by Councillor McGovern.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you, Madam Mayor. I want to pick up where my Co-Chair and colleague Councillor Carlone left off when he talked about or leaned into the whole idea of shared responsibility or that's how

I saw it. So, first, let me just say welcome. And it's good to see my Co-Elected body. And I always want to stress Co-Elected body, because I did not see the Members of the School Committee as a subordinate body, equal to the City Council just with a different range of responsibilities. So, again, it's a pleasure to see all of you here.

One thing that Council Carlone mentioned, and I--in the Superintendent's response, I did not hear and I don't necessarily need a response from this content, because I really do want to hear from my colleagues. But I do want to remind, encourage the School Committee to look to the City as a support to what you're doing. When you're talking about--the Superintendent talked about continuous learning or learning that might be happening after school time. Those kinds of things are during the summer. DHSP, not to speak for them is I think uniquely poised to assist in that. And so, please look to us as a collaborator or a resource to that in, so that we can provide continuous learning for our children.

We know that the kids, our children lose educational ground over the summer. And so, we can be and we'd love to have those conversations now and not later. [background

noise 00:27:57] stay in a virtual world, it'd be helpful to know. We will--I want to extend and I think I can speak for Mr. DePasquale. Mr. DePasquale, just not an affirmation, thinking that we would be willing to step up and do our part. You know, I'll be brief. We are in extraordinarily difficult times. We are being still in the strongholds of a pandemic that has turned us everywhere, but loose. And I just wanted to pause for a moment just to give a little bit of political backdrop. I know we're not talking facts and figures. And as my colleague and the City Manager both have said, we are extraordinarily supportive of the School Department. But I just wanted to give you a little backdrop.

As you know, in this fiscal year, we have an increase in our fringe benefits, health insurance and pensions, fiscal '22 to \$3.4 million in operating increases related to the Transition Wellness Center, something that you may not know about, we can tell you more. The debt cost, and this is what's extraordinarily important, because it does have an impact on the School Department. The debt costs, for borrowing for capital projects, such as the Tobin school, but also the Fire Department, the streets,

sidewalks, sewer project, for example, have all increased. Funding for priorities such as affordable housing, climate change, the tree canopy, pipe infrastructure, all are going to have an impact on our budget going forward.

The other side of that is our parking fund revenue. We have a shortfall of \$6 million projected in 2021. And we don't see any relief or recovery from that in '22. Our water and sewer revenue shortfall is \$5 million. That's projected for '21 with no recovery, immediately insight, as most of you can imagine the hotel and motel revenues are not expected to rebound I'll assume. So, they are - you know, it's like 75%, \$12 million in reduction of revenues. Our Meals Tax reduced by 50%, \$2.4 million, not expected to rebound significantly. And the thing that we all have sort of been using as underpinning our goodwill in our efforts is free cash. It's just not free cash. Mr. DePasquale and Mr. Killian know [inaudible 00:30:18], because a free cash or our rainy day fund, there's no such thing. And it's our unexpended fund balance. It's \$210 million. Now, \$66 million is going to be spent to date leaving a balance of \$144 million. And this is before any future free cash appropriations for the remainder of fiscal '21 are going to

be realized. So, the free cash balance is expected to decrease overall.

I don't want to paint a gloomy picture, but I just want to be realistic. I want people to know that we are there to support you. But things like new and expanded we may not be able to--I can speak, I don't think that's gonna be something that we're gonna be able to do on the City side may not be able--I suspect we'll be able to do on the school side. So, I'm asking for us all to be fiscally conservative, because we still don't know what is before us. That we continue to be extraordinarily collaborative. If there's a shortfall, that's something that City Council can pick up in some way or fashion. I want us to look to that. I think this is certainly across the board, a time for reallocation and retro introspection looking at are we spending our dollars well, one, because I just don't see where we're going to be able to get those additional revenues and I'm very concerned about that. I just want to share that with you as a co-elected official with the Members of the School Committee.

[background noise 00:32:00] in this last budget, the school--the City Council came and met this School

Department's need for \$9 million that came out of the unexpended fund balance. And so, I just want to be the one that brings that home to all of us that were there with you. Let's do this together. But let's take--let's bear in mind that we are going to be faced with significant challenges. And not just now, we have to be thinking two, four, six years out now.

So, I look forward to hearing from my colleagues on the School Committee. I thank you for the work that you do with and through the Mayor. I'm gonna to yield the floor, because I am very excited to hear from my colleagues on the School Committee. So, I yield the floor to the Vice Chair and the other Chair - the other--the Co-Chair of the School Committee for any remarks they might want to give. Thank you Madam Chair.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: I think we've heard from the budget Co-Chairs at this point. So, we'll go to the questions that are in the chat--not in the chat, but in the participants. And if School Committee Members would like to, you know, get in there too, you can go ahead and raise your hands as well. We can --

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Madam, I mean, you said

the chat. And I don't see the chat.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Sorry. I meant the participants list where you can raise your hand.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you for the clarification.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: So, we will go to Councillor Zondervan. And then, I see Councillor McGovern's hand.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Mayor. And through you, thanks to the Superintendent for that presentation. I didn't see a budget number, and I understand that you don't have one yet. But can you give us a sense of what that's gonna look like? Somehow, I'm assuming it's gonna be larger than the previous year, but again, I have no reference to that. So, any numbers that you can give us to give us a sense of where that is going?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: So, our--you know, as City Manager DePasquale mentioned, so we continue to be an ongoing conversations with the City Manager's Finance Team around the planning for FY '22. Our approach has been to really look at sort of what the general fund increases might be as they relate to ongoing costs that we sort of expect sort of beyond the one year costs that are

associated with the sort of post pandemic support. And that we are looking at sort of even what we've already received in some existing Federal funding called SR, there's sort of the first part SR1 and SR2, as where we were looking at sort of specific sort of a onetime areas related to COVID response. So, that's sort of have been our framework for thinking about it.

There are certainly costs just related to contractual increases, costs related to energy, costs related to transportation, particularly if there's a requirement around social distancing that where--we have started to sort of map and then calculate as we look at sort of the overall general fund approach. But I'll also ask our Chief Financial Officer Claire Spinner to add on anything I might have missed that would be helpful here.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER CLAIRE BREWER SPINNER: Thank you, Superintendent. I think that you have mostly covered it. I think, as we--you know, thinking about next year and understanding what sort of school might be like in the post-pandemic, the academic and social-emotional recovery as well as you know, sort of continuing costs for health and safety needs, you know, potentially testing,

potentially some remote options for students who might for health reasons not be able to be in person.

We, you know, have currently, you know, about \$4.5 million already earmarked Federal funding through the stimulus. The first one that came out through the Cares Act, and the second one that was voted by Congress in late November, early December. Those funds go past June 30. So, one goes to June 30 of 2022. And the SR2 goes to September of '23. So, a lot of our focus and planning on those sort of as the Superintendent mentioned the one time funding or the funding that's very specific to coming back into school next year, we are anticipating using that Federal funding to support those costs rather than the general fund budget.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Councillor Zondervan?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you. And can you give us a sense of what you're doing on racial equity in this upcoming budget?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: So, you know, the-- one of the areas that we proposed and was funded as part of the current FY '21 budget, is an office of equity inclusion and belonging. And so, those are areas that will continue to be funded in the FY '22 budget. We haven't gotten into

specifics or programmatic details related to the FY '22 budget. We're sort of in the process still of developing that. And we'll be drawing from both the input that we're getting carried from all the different stakeholders in our community.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Councillor?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you. And so, you know, I will say that I respectfully disagree with my colleagues. I don't think this is an appropriate time to be fiscally conservative. I think this is a time to really dig into our ideas around equity and racial equity inclusion, creating economic opportunity for people as we recover and come out of this pandemic. And I think that we can reasonably expect that Cambridge will be in a good financial position going forward. So, I hope that we can come to this budget discussion with an abundance mindset and really think about how we continue to do equity and justice. Thank you.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: We will go to--I'm gonna switch it up to Member Wilson and then Member--then Councillor McGovern.

MEMBER AYESHA M. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Mayor. And,

like always good to see colleagues on the City Council. Just one of my things that I'm thinking about as I think going and building off of Councillor Simmons and thinking about utilizing you all as resources and as collaborators is really needing all hands on deck for the support of our young people. And so, as we talk about the Department of Human Services, as we talk about our libraries, you know, the concern heavily during this fiscal year was that there was--they were very much nonexistent. And that really put a strain in where our young people were and are and continue to be. And so, unless there's a really in-depth plan about how our recreational programs and resources that are available to our young people throughout our city are going to be utilized, you know, that's really where we need to have these conversations. And that's really where the strain on our budget really goes. Because if we're thinking about the recovery of the learning loss of our young people--and this isn't new, this isn't just new to COVID, this happens each and every year that we're always thinking about the recovery plan for many of our students, particularly our most vulnerable are black and brown students.

But the question always becomes, where are other community partners in this work? And so, I look to you all on the City Council to really think about robust planning to really think about budget allocations and to support us in the work that we are trying to accomplish in this lost time. Particularly, while we are in COVID and we're thinking about the lost learning of our students, and again, our most vulnerable our students with special needs are black and brown children, our students who don't have resources. That's so many of our young people in our District. We need the resource from the City to actually step up and step in.

So, I just wanted to jump in there after Councillor Simmons spoke, because I think that it is important. And I know that again, with the loss of those resources during this fiscal year. It is really straining on the additional loss of our young people. Thank you.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: We will go to Councillor McGovern and then Councillor Nolan.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you, Madam Mayor. I apologize for keeping my camera off. I have a vicious headache and I'm literally sitting in a totally dark room

except for my screen. So, I apologize. I'm not trying to be disrespectful.

First, I want to thank the School Committee and the Administration. As challenging as this year has been for the Council, it's probably been 100 times more challenging for you. And I really appreciate your efforts. And I also want to send my thanks to the staff, both the administrative staff but the teaching staff. I've said a few times that, you know, my kids have all the privileges in the world to make remote learning possible for them. But if their teachers weren't outstanding, it doesn't matter how good my internet connection is. And the teachers for my kids have been great. And I just appreciate everybody's efforts.

Real quickly on follow up on what Councillor Simmons had mentioned, I didn't hear her comments as saying we shouldn't be spending money on equity and services. I think it's a realistic view of--you know, Cambridge is gonna be financially better off than any other city. In the State, we know that. But for us, this is gonna be the first time in probably over a decade that we haven't been able to just throw lots of money at a problem, because the revenue

coming in is not gonna be what it used to be. And I think having a realistic view of that, is not to say we're not gonna spend more money and not to say that we shouldn't spend more money, but you have to know where you're starting from. And setting the stage to say, you know, look, you know, if the City is gonna be down 10s of millions of dollars or more in revenue, that's gonna have an impact. And we should know that and we should plan for that, and figure out how to address that. So, I am sure we will spend money as we always do. But it's gonna be a little tougher this time I think than it has been in the past.

My question, Madam Mayor, through you to Superintendent, first on the enrollment, you know, I sort of see the enrollment as a bit concerning, but also there are some numbers in there that actually I thought were actually pretty positive. You know, it's obviously concerning to see the decrease in enrollment in, in pre-K, because that's usually where we see the bump in enrollment. But I did notice on the slide too that there was a slight increase, maybe not huge, but by a couple dozen students maybe in the upper school grades, which is usually where we

see the greatest decline and exodus from the School District.

So, you know, it's--that's a mixed bag, right? It's great that we're holding on to more upper school students, you know, even during this--you know, this challenging time, but you know, certainly seeing the decrease in preschool. Do you have--is the decrease in the preschool numbers, just fewer people enrolling or is it people leaving, right? Because that's--and then on the follow up to that is, for those who have left the District this year, have we done any kind of survey or outreach to them to find out why they left? This is something Councillor Nolan used to talk about all the time on the School Committee. We need to know--it's important to know why people are leaving when they leave. Because some of it may be us and some of them may not be. It could be someone getting a job somewhere else, and they leave. So, has there been outreach to those folks? And if there has, what have that told us?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Yeah. Thank you, Councillor McGovern, for the question. So, we have recently completed a Student Withdrawal Report that we can certainly share with the City Council. I'll share just a couple of

points from that. But, you know, to your question earlier around sort of what we're seeing with the, you know, sort of the junior kindergarten, kindergarten, you know, as members know that and Councillors, school in Massachusetts isn't compulsory until first grade. And so, I think that what we see--what we've observed in Cambridge is similar to other places where families have elected not to start their school experience in this, you know, kind of whether it's sort of in-person with a lot of, you know, health and safety mitigation and masks and the like, or in a remote setting. And so, there are there are some of that is certainly happening. And then, I think that, you know, the upper school, as you noted, you know, we have seen for the last couple of years now, actually some you know, continued growth in that area.

The Student Withdrawal Report has a lot of data. That again, we'll share with the Council. I will share that just a couple of points. The majority of families--oh, and then, one other point I meant to share is that, you know, we also observed that because of some of the also more restrictive, not just travel policies, and of course, the changes that were happening in the higher Ed space that there were also

fewer international students in graduate schools in the Boston--Greater Boston area, which also declined at some of SEL enrollment as well. So, that's just another phenomenon that while not unique to Cambridge probably affects Cambridge more just given the number of universities in our backyard.

So, just a couple of points, of the majority of families who left the District, moved to another town in the State. The greatest decline, as we've noted, has been kindergarten and pre-K, where they account for about 30% of the withdrawals. And while English learners related--this is related to my SEL point, English learners comprise 6% of the District population, 35% of withdrawals to another country were English learners. And we did also gather some information just on the percentage of students that were high withdrawn to go to a private or parochial school, and also gathered some other data just related to family satisfaction. But again, we'll share that follow up, so folks can peruse that data more closely.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you. And my last question, Madam Mayor, through you. You spoke, Mr. Superintendent, you spoke about, you know, some of the

things that to Councillor Carlone's earlier question, some of the things that may be implemented to help with the sort of the regression around the academic piece. I am also, you know, as much equally concerned about the social-emotional impact that this year has had on our young people, it can-- and you may not be able to go into detail, because I know you have that group that is either just formed or being formed that's gonna sort of try to address this. But any thoughts on what kind of--you know, what kind of thing, are we talking about adding more social workers to schools? Are we talking about--are they--you know, what are--any idea of what we might be doing? Because kids are not gonna--as you pointed out, you know, it's gonna be hard to be transitioning back to school. Even if they were going back to school the way it looked when they left, and we know it's--they're not gonna go back to school the way it looked when they left. And then there's gonna be a lot of things that kids are going to--even when they come back are gonna have to, you know, deal with and get used to. So, any ideas of what that might look like at this point, or is it just still too early?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Yeah. So, I would

say that you know, all of those areas are things that we are exploring and discussing. The academic and social-emotional recovery and thrive team has been looking at a range of different possible things that may be, you know, may require need for additional resources or may also just require doing things differently. So, particularly as it relates to, you know, what is the return to school look like in September? So, some of that may just also be programmatically what different folks do in schools, educators and others. And just to connect back to a point that Councillor Simmons made earlier, we also--are also going to be--I mean, have--as we have in previous years, particularly around the summer where it have been in planning discussions with the Department of Human Services Programs, looking at how we can have that complimentary academic and both social-emotional and recreational piece to support our students and families.

I'm also gonna have our Deputy Superintendent Dr. Turk also share additional thoughts related to your question, Councillor McGovern.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT CAROLYN TURK: Good, thank you, Dr. Salim. And good evening everyone. Sorry, I had a little

technical difficulty, so I was deleted a bit.

One of the things that has been really helpful during this process, and Councillor McGovern is correct. We are just starting some of the deeper conversations. But one of the things that's been really helpful has been holding or hosting spaces for whether it's students or educators or families to be able to share with us from their perspective what they feel they need to be successful in terms of transitioning back into school. And this is both for the SEL components as well as the academic component. And so, as the Superintendent just mentioned, with some of the ideas that are forming right now, some may require funding, others may require just a matter of support in making sure that people are reminded to implement, and others may require funding. And so, that range could include, for example, most recently, we had--I had a chance to hear some young people speak. And they asked about making sure that as we return to school, that there are spaces made available to them to come together as young people to talk about how COVID has impacted them. And they feel it's really important for them to be able to have time to be able to talk with one another, to each other, because that

is support that they--one piece of support that they need. So, that might be an example of something that it's a reminder, make sure that we carve out those spaces and the time, but wouldn't necessarily have a big price tag on it.

There are other suggestions that speak to the School Department being able to partner with health care specialists and mental health care specialists. That is a suggestion that may in fact require either a different type of funding or possibly something that is new. And then, we also have recommendations from our educators around the types of systems that would be helpful. For example, someone said--mentioned to us the other day being able to have a mental health type clinic within the upper schools. And they were not talking about a new staffing for that, but more a way that they would harness the skills and the talents of the educators who know our young people and use them in a different way. So those are just a couple of examples we are hearing a lot from our various groups. And I believe that we'll be able to design something that will be supportive, especially because the suggestions and recommendations are coming from the people who will be receiving the services and supports.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you, maybe another person or another sort of partner to reach out to also the CHA I know that the, you know, the waiting lists for folk-- for young people in particular to be--to get a therapist are long and maybe there's a way that we can partner where, you know, Cambridge Public School students have some sort of priority or some sort of slots that might, you know, for those kids who need, you know, maybe a little more support outside of school, we might be able to get them in a little faster, so that they're not on a six-month waiting list. Well, thank you all again for your, um, for all of your work. I appreciate it. And thank you, Madam Mayor.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: We will go to Vice Mayor Mallon and then Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Thank you, Madam Mayor, through you, to the School Committee and Superintendent and your team. I first want to say thank you to the School Committee for their endless hours of commitment to our young people. I know that this has been an incredibly difficult and challenging time. I certainly have been watching many, many of your meetings and I know how hard they are. I know how there has not been any right choices

in this. And so, I'm deeply appreciative of you doing this work during this time. I also wanted to say thanks to our teachers and our staff who--there are no words for me in terms of, you know, my own experience has been incredible with my kids and their remote learning. Their teachers have really jumped up to the challenge and I don't know how they do it every day. So, thank you to the teachers and staff. They're putting in the time each and every day during this unprecedented times.

I've been really struggling thinking about our schools, and how--not just Cambridge Public Schools, but schools in general, how in March when they shut down we realized much more so than before how much our schools do beyond educating our kids. They are a system of supports for families. They provide not just education, but food, warm clothes, mental health supports dentist visits. Our schools are asked to do so much and that became very, very clear in the early days of the pandemic where societies are shut down because our schools were closed. And not just because we didn't have access to a place for our kids each and every day, but so many of our vulnerable families lost connections to resources that they depended on. And so, I'm

just reflecting on some of my previous colleague's comments around how the City can better partner and support the school system as they move into this next COVID phase and really recognize that our schools and our teachers have been asked to do well beyond educating our children. And so, how can we think about pulling some of those supports back from the schools and providing them outside of the school system, so that if schools closed again, you know, we know that this isn't our last pandemic, if there's another shutdown of schools, how we can make sure that our kids have access and our families have access to the mental health supports that they need, the food supports that they need.

You know, I was a really active participant in the beginning of the pandemic and making sure that, you know, our kids had food, our families had diapers, our kids had books. It was--it became really obvious to me, how much our teachers and our staff do that is way outside their job description, and a lot of the things that we've asked our schools to do, that is beyond educating our kids. So, I would echo my colleague's thoughts and Member Wilson's call for us to think about ways that the City and our Health and

Human Services Departments can better support our students and families moving forward.

So, I have a lot of thoughts about this. I've been thinking about this a lot. And I'm sorry to just kind of throw that all at you. But I really want it to be at the kind of in the back of our mind as we move forward that we shouldn't really be asking the schools to do more to support our families post-pandemic, but rather we should be thinking about how the City and all of our departments can be doing that support work outside of our schools, as they try to recover and really move forward and past some of the tension that has been happening. So, that's more of a really long comment. I apologize for the long comment there. But my one question I would really like to ask is, I know looking at the timing and the schedule, that there have been some Community Meetings with parents and with educators. And I'm curious around some of the big ideas that may have come out of the Educator Community Meeting and, you know, some things that might have bubbled up as ways to move forward from our educators and our staff. So, if the Superintendent has any of those kind of high level ideas, I'd love to hear them.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Yeah. So, unfortunately, the sort of the formal Educator Committee Meeting is actually happening tomorrow afternoon. So, don't have that information just yet. However, you know, Dr. Turk has been leading this Academic and Social Emotional Recovery and Thrive Team, and has engaged educators also in some of those and a couple of those discussions as well. And so, you know, some of those ideas, you know, are related to thinking about the opportunities for, you know, that Dr. Turk spoke about, in terms of socialization for students and coming together for and sort of structured social time thinking about the support for educators who have been fully remote and having that sort of community of practice, as well. And then also thinking about how we have--we can think about sort of like intervention and differentiation support for students as we think about the academic needs of students.

One thing that we have utilized this school year, is a set of academic screeners to be able to assess students' progress related to literacy and mathematics in particular. And are also exploring the use of a Social-Emotional Screener that we can also utilize for our students. We know

that as of this point, and classes gonna be pretty modified based on what the State is planning. We don't have a lot of information on this yet. But it's really around kind of using it as a diagnostic or baseline for moving forward as opposed to an accountability instrument at this point.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Also, thank you, Madam Mayor, through you to the Superintendent. I know you're not a fortune teller. So, I wish that this meeting was happening after the Educator Forum, because I do think, you know, just to name that there's a lot of pain among our teaching staff around what has happened this year. And I think that the way and the path forward is really to think about their recovery and, you know, the big ideas that they may have of moving past this kind of impasse that we have been in as a community and we're certainly not alone. It's happening nationally. But I really want to make sure that we are hearing our educators and really thinking about what are those big ideas moving forward and elevating those.

I think making sure that our teachers voices are being heard and being elevated is gonna be critically important as we move forward and past and into a recovery phase. So, I look forward to hearing what those big ideas and

hopefully supporting those as budgetary items. So, I'll yield the floor at this time. Again, thank you so much to all my colleagues on the School Committee for doing this work in a really, really difficult time. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: So, I apologize, I skipped over Councillor Nolan. So Councillor Nolan comfortable and then Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. Luckily, I followed some of my colleagues and comments from other School Committee Members, particularly Member Wilson and hearing some from Vice Chair Bowman. So, I don't repeat that. I will say, I do look forward to the enrollment report that was referenced that Councillor McGovern asked about and the Superintendent talked about. And what in particular I hope what it answers is this question of going forward whether we're using a different algorithm to look for it, because as has been noted, not only did we lose 400 students, but we had actually expected to gain 120, I think. So, we actually are over 500 down from what we had projected the enrollment would be.

Now, that is in line with many other Districts.

Districts across the State have seen that. So, that's not surprising. But it's really important that we understand how that will affect our future planning. As has been said, what's really interesting is grade-by-grade, at least compared to our projections. I didn't know the details. It is certainly true that in pre-K, but also grade one we lost more than 10%. And we continue to see a decline from fifth grade to sixth grade. We have a 10% drop every year from-- it's the greatest drop, single drop we're having this continue. So, we really do need to dig into those figures on the enrollment, to understand not just what happens every year, but also looking forward this in some funny way given the crunch at our middle schools may be good news, because it may not yield as much of a crunch at our--in our school buildings as there had been. But again, we don't want to solve it by having a situation where it happen, because of the pandemic. So, I look forward to that report and to dig into it a little deeper. And if you want more details on my questions I can send them.

I will say on the budget so much of what has been said in terms of particularly paying attention to the social-emotional needs of the students. As many of us know this

has been a really difficult time for teachers, for staff, frankly, for all of you on the School Committee you have had to put in more hours and pain and so much time and energy and effort that I can't even imagine what you're feeling. And it's also true for families, you know, we've heard loud and clear from pediatricians that they are seeing skyrocketing cases of student anxiety, of depression, of concern, of parents themselves are just crying for help across the board. So, this has just been a challenging year for everyone. And as has been said, it really will take the whole City. I think Member Wilson talked about it, and the Mayor started off with it and the Superintendent that all of us need to be in this. And if we're not, we're not gonna come out of this in a very good place. This more than any other year would be a fantastic time to do what probably Mr. Fantini has been calling on for decades even before I served on School Committee, which is we need an individual learning and social-emotional plan for every single student in order to ensure that they can really move forward and that we're holding them in our hands. All of that wealth of things that those--that the students and the families have. I will say that to a

question--to questions--I don't want to take up too much time, is what are we doing for relationships, relationships, and relationships to ensure that when students and families and teachers are all back, that there are those connections to staff that we know are critically important to bridging divides to addressing opportunities for students.

I assume that's part of the planks. I know Dr. Turk and Dr. Salim has certainly recognized it. But it would be good just to hear what the plans are to ensure that as this we move back to in person that that, that there's specific attention to ensuring that every single student has a trusted adult they can talk to.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Yeah. So, thanks for the question. I think that, you know, in our experience so far, even this school year, I think there were some concerns and questions from educators that, you know, because of the social distancing and because of the masking that, you know, things would be, you know, really, really difficult in terms of sort of like having the sort of, you know, kind of the usual feeling of warmth and connection that you know, that students and educators feel.

I mean, my observations and just also, you know, conversations with folks at building levels, I think that despite all those, you know, assumed kind of barriers, you know, people fall into I think the, you know, what they know best. And I think for many of our, you know, teachers it is you know, being able to sort of teach in-person with their students in the classroom and for students is being able to have that level of community.

I think that you know, as we move forward, I think continuing to, you know, even with in the remote learning schedules, having morning meetings and opportunities for sort of social-emotional focus times has been really important. So, you know, while we're looking at making this, this transition to next fall as a time when it will resemble more, I think, a typical year, at least more closely to a typical year, I think that folks have been working really hard to continue to still have those strong relationships with students and among students and staff even in this, this time as well.

I'll ask Dr. Turk again, you know, sort of to share some of the emerging ideas that have also been discussed with the Academic and Social-Emotional Recovery and Thrive

Team.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT CAROLYN TURK: Sure. One of the things that teachers have found successful and have said they really want to make sure continues is part of what Dr. Salim was just talking about. Whether it is a community meeting at the elementary level, advisory at the upper school level, or community meeting at the high school. So it's--yeah, I think I may have mixed up the words, but you get the idea. There's three different names. But there are these times that would always happen in the morning for students. And sort of pre-COVID, they may have only run maybe 10 or 15 minutes. And what has happened during COVID is that those times have been expanded, so that there really is much more of an opportunity for young people to both interact with one another, as well as, interact with staff members and in smaller groups.

As we have been talking within the last few weeks, and listening to educators, they've talked a lot about being able to utilize in addition to times during the school day being able to utilize weekends, believe it or not, vacation weeks, how we'll use the summer, there was a wonderful idea that surfaced I believe last week, where a teacher talked

about these outdoor sessions that might be able to just help students throughout the summer. Reorient themselves to what it's like to be back in a school environment, and also be able to begin to sort of reconnect with community. And then the other piece that I would add is, a part that has been very helpful and we've had to balance it out so that we are helpful and not annoying, is making sure that there are connections with the families as well. And that was something that we had to really try to figure out how to balance out, because we went into it sort of all the way at the beginning. And we found that there was some families that would say to us, "Please do not call me again, I just can't take it." So, we have sort of figured out how to balance, how to make those connections in an ongoing way so that they are predictable, and families feel as though they're helpful and that we're not being intrusive. So I think the combination of those pieces is what is going to help us.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thanks. That's helpful. I recognize there's a lot here. And yet, the more we can do to get back to that idea that we are literally understanding where every single student is in every single

family. I'm glad you reached out to them. It's better to then say too much than you never called me. And I was also glad to hear, the Mayor had told us about some exploration of outdoor learning, which I believe you're leading Dr. Turk. That's fantastic. As I think you all know, I wished we had bought tents last fall, and that we had just thrown every single open inch of space that we had, so that all of the students could have had access to an outdoor classroom.

I won't right now ask another question, but I will say which may be counter to some of what we've said to follow up on what Councillor Simmons said, particularly as Budget Co-Chair. We have a ton of resources. And I think it is incumbent on all of us to be thinking how we can reallocate them and spend them in a different way to the same level of services, but a different focus may be, a different kind of people in there. And just to remind all of us, Brookline has 500 more students than we do and they have about half the amount of total dollars. You know, Somerville on a per student basis has 60--I think 40% less than we do. And I'm not saying we're not proud that we spend all that, but it would be fantastic if we could all acknowledge that taking the funds that we do have, it's an astonishing amount of

money. And this is the year when we can be creative and think about spending it, reallocating it, rethinking it, reimagine it, and spending in a different way. Again, I want us to spend whatever it takes. We--the Council did authorize that \$9 million extra for PPE and for other elements of responding to the pandemic that you all had. However, we do have to be cautious as Councillor Simons said that this is gonna be a really tough year for the City. And I think we can meet those needs if we are bold and thinking about how we can reallocate and redirect and rethink and reimagine how it is that those dollars are spent, even if they're all on people, we may need different people in those roles. I yield the floor right now.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER: Thank you, Madam Mayor. Thank you to my colleagues on the School Committee. As I said it's been a really challenging year for everyone and in particular for everyone involved in schools. So, thank you for your service to the teachers, parents, staff.

From a budget perspective, one of the things I am hoping to see both from the school side and on the City side is robust planning for universal pre-K. And I know

that some of that planning and that funding will have to come on the City side. And that just a broader piece, on the fiscal perspective and wanting to be clear that we have the capacity as a City to be meeting all the needs of our students and that we don't have to be bringing fiscal austerity to our schools, especially in a pandemic.

Cambridge, is actually really fortunate that we're a City in a position that we don't have to have a budget shortfall unless we choose to, unlike some of our Boston where cities are at 99% of the tax levy and Cambridge actually has significant tax levy. We have one of the lowest property taxes, I think the lowest property tax rate of any City in Massachusetts. There are of course areas we've seen revenue go down, like hotel tax, but the sectors that are really our big commercial drivers in Cambridge, like biotech are doing quite well. And with our split tax rate, those are the sectors that bear the greater share of the tax burden.

So, Cambridge has been bold. We can continue to be bold and planning to make sure our students have what they need in an impending time after the pandemic as well. Let's take this time to picture all the things we can do when we

can go back in person and have the classroom space to do more pre-K and to do the things we need to do for our students. You know, this is like the Vice Mayor Mallon mentioned, the city can be doing more, you know, PCS [inaudible 01:16:25] council as a resource there. We'd love to help advocate for that.

The one question I had was about the digital equity piece on the school side. I was really impressed by the School District's efforts on digital equity at the very beginning of the pandemic and getting hotspots out to students. The first week, students were sent home I had been in touch with Steve Smith about, you know, seeing what we could do even on the City side, because it was great how quick things were able to get out to folks. And was just curious, sort of where we're at now a year in as we're looking at a budget for the next school year, how planning is out in terms of digital equity, that capacity sort of filling those gaps until we have a municipal broadband network in Cambridge. What's that winning look like right here?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: Yeah. So, a big part of our efforts you know, at the end of last school

year, going into this school year was really expanding our one-to-one initiative, which was, we were essentially at you know, grades 3 to 12. You know, all students essentially had a one-to-one device, although it wasn't take home for students in grades three to eight, it was just taken for the high school students. And so, with the additional investment you were to make last spring, we then also had devices for all students and also over the summer made additional purchases for all junior kindergarteners, kindergarteners as well, at first grade to have devices, and particular having touchscreen Chromebooks that were more developmentally appropriate with some of the apps that they use at that level.

So, all of that has been completed in terms of that technology cycle on that front. And then, in terms of the internet access, you know, there's been a lot of work, you know, with Mayor Siddiqui's office around access to internet, through Comcast for internet access for families, and you know, removing some of the barriers that were associated with point of access. I know that our Chief Information Officer Steve Smith is also on the call as well. So, I'd invite Steve to also add additional points

that that I might not have shared.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER STEVE SMITH: Thank you, Dr. Salim. You've covered it fairly well what we've done for this past year. I think, moving forward, we're really thinking about ensuring that we still do what we can to ensure access for as long as remote learning exists going into next year. So, it's continuing the hotspot programs, continuing Internet Essentials Program funded by the City. We're promoting that. And you know, as we all know, we're not sure you know what role remote learning is gonna play moving forward. But it's probably gonna be here for long term. So, I look forward to working closely with the City on the broadband initiatives to ensure that we really close those gaps that we haven't been able to close with the hotspots in Internet Essentials Program.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Councillor?

COUNCILLOR JIVAN SOBRINHO-WHEELER: Thank you. I yield back.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: I will go to Member Rachel and then Member Rojas.

MEMBER RACHEL B. WEINSTEIN: Thank you, Mayor Siddiqui. I just wanted to build off of the what Councillor

Sobrinho-Wheeler was saying about municipal broadband, because one of the things I've learned in doing constituent casework where we're hearing from families, you know, so many of our--so many other children have their cameras off and it's hard to feel--there's a sense of community for not seeing each other's faces is that one of the big reasons that that's true is in households where there isn't enough--I'm not giving them the right terminology, but enough capacity. Students have to turn their cameras off to just be able to be connected for the audible piece. And so, this is one of those places where Steve's department has done amazing work and where partnership with the City would be such a help to all of our families into building that classroom community and engagement with family.

So, I just wanted to plug back to my colleagues on the Council that municipal broadband would be incredibly helpful. Thank you.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: I will go to--I wanted to welcome Member Fantini, who has been here for a while. I apologize, I know you've been here. Is the other budget Co-Chair. So, we will go to Councillor Rojas. Member Rojas?

MEMBER JOSÉ LUIS ROJAS VILLARREAL: Thank you, Madam

Mayor. And thank you all the Councillors for being here with us. And thank you for your comments and ideas that you've shared with us.

I just wanted to talk about the timeline of the budget process. As you've saw from Dr. Salim's presentation, we're following a budget timeline that basically is a timeline that we would need to do things so that we can meet the City Council's budget timelines as well, right? So--but I just wanted to bring up that the same way that last year, our budget process took a lot longer because we had a pandemic hitting us, and we needed to figure out--yeah, a lot of different things. I think this year's budget will be equally hard to discuss and to figure out. I mean, just the enrollment figures, for example, that we just showed that drop in enrollment. I mean, as Council Nolan said, I mean, what does that mean for planning forward, right? So, I think this year's budget is not an easy exercise of just seeing what the baseline was from last year and then growing it from there. We're really gonna have to figure out what really has changed, what hasn't changed, what's going back to two years back, et cetera. So--and that's even before we take into account the recovery part.

So, I just want us to be maybe flexible on both sides that maybe this budget process will actually take longer, again this year, the same way that it did last year. And I think it'd be good to do a good job as opposed to rush the process just to hit deadlines--that are good and irregular years but another tough year.

MEMBER RACHEL B. WEINSTEIN: So, I do know that the budget process on the city side has been already I think we've extended it by a week further than it usually is. And I know [inaudible 01:22:55] and City Manager, if you want to speak to this, go ahead. Last year--and also I know there's statutorily we had--we could get have more time, because it's set by the state, but City Manager?

CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE: Yeah. So, we have extended our budget submission to May 3rd. It's normally April, which gives us an adoption date of June 6th, 7th. It would give us a deadline adoption date of June 17th. Obviously, you want to adopt the budget in the previous fiscal year. So, I think in talking to Claire[phonetic 1:23:30] and Jim Maloney on the school side, we think these updates we can work with. And so, hopefully, they'll work for both sides. But as we did last year, we pushed it back

a little obviously, because it is a difficult process during these times especially.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Member Rojas.

MEMBER JOSÉ LUIS ROJAS VILLARREAL: Thank you, Madam Mayor. Thank you, Mr. DePasquale.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: I see Member Weinstein.

MEMBER DAVID WEINSTEIN: Thank you, Mayor Siddiqui. And I had a technical issue. I'd had to rejoin. So, if I repeat something that was said, I apologize. I don't have so much a question. It's just I wanted to kind of echo some of what's been said. Councillor Nolan, was mentioning, I guess in a slightly different terms, Individualized Student Success Plans, which is something we've been talking about. And I think that's going to be as important in this, you know, in this period as ever. And I think that's actually a great moment to talk about as I deeply appreciate the partnership and collaboration with the City that's been ongoing during this pandemic and that has been, you know, lifted up in this conversation. And with organizations such as Cambridge Health Alliance, Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Mallon and others have been emphasizing that in their comments. And I think that's been critical and continuing

to build and innovate with that, because these are, you know, Cambridge children, not Cambridge Public Schools' children and we're all working together to support these children and the caregivers that are part of their lives. And I think thinking creatively about some of the things that we did and innovated in this emergency situation, how we can improve upon those and which things we want to keep as models for how we move forward is gonna be important, including in this budget process.

Also looking in this budget process for us to be keeping our eye on goals that we're working to pre pandemic, which, you know, in some cases out of necessity, timelines had to shift, but that we don't--that we stay on track as much as possible with pieces like the building and strengthening of our level up program, pre-k for all, and some of the newer initiatives that even in this period we've been able to start to move forward, like the office of equity and belonging that was mentioned and caregiver university and outdoor learning initiatives. So that's I think a balance that's gonna be more challenging this year than most, because we don't know everything about what it's gonna look like on a month-to-month basis moving forward as

we move into the next period. But I think will be an important component. So again, I appreciate the City's support and the support of the City Council and the City staff throughout all of this. Thank you.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Thank you. Anyone else?

MEMBER ALFRED B. FANTINI: Yeah.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Yeah. Go ahead, Member Fantini.

MEMBER ALFRED B. FANTINI: Thank you. First of all, just want to say, sorry, I was late. But it's--today, I want to thank the City Council for their continued support, and especially the City Manager and, you know, tonight's comments were--you know, you posed some challenges to us. But you're also very supportive of us. So, I appreciate that. So, the only thing I would say is listening to the comments is, I just--messages off the top of my head, but I hope that the City maybe evaluates the Health Teen Center that's at the high school. I think, that's just a wonderful Health Teen Center, but I--just in terms of making sure that, you know, we have--we're gonna be having a lot--a lot of kids are gonna be having social-emotional needs met. And I think the Health Teens Center can play a really important

role in that. And I just want to, you know, have you guys maybe challenge you a little bit to think about if that needs more staffing or new configuration so that, you know, if the word gets out that if kids make an appointment if they can't be seen for three or four or five or six days, they're just gonna stop going. So, we need to be able to have the Health Team seen at a five minutes meeting our students' needs. Potentially until I would just end up doing that. But maybe the students School Committee Members can speak. But I hope that we think about that. And just on a note of the, you know, I don't want to jinx this, but we have a temporary agreement with the Teachers Association on, you know--as you know, the teachers negotiate really well. And we reached a tentative agreement that hopefully will be ratified. But I think it's a good time moving forward that, you know, everybody on all sides are trying to create those relationships and trying to move our District forward. So I think that's a good and helpful sign. And the only last thing I'd say is, you know, I love the King Open program that's at the King School, that's a City Program, and just wondering if we can expand that to another school to provide those wonderful services that are

provided at the King Open. But I want to just thank everybody for being a team. As Co-Chair Carlone and Mayor Sumbul, and the two Chairs have said that they want to work with the School Committee and all of us students as a team. And I think you've all demonstrated that tonight. So, thank you very much.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: I see a question from Vice Mayor Mallon.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Thank you, Madam Mayor. I just had a quick follow up to the conversation around digital equity and Steve Smith's response to Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler. How are we thinking about providing digital equity post a remote learning environment? So, you know, everyone--let's have an assumption that everyone's going back--most people are going back in the fall, we had a digital equity divide pre-COVID. We solved it very quickly, you know, over the weekend in March. How are we thinking about continuing that digital equity? We know kids are gonna continue to have homework and research projects. This is going to continue to be an issue. Are we thinking about supporting--I'm hoping we're thinking about supporting those needs post remote learning environment?

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: So, we did bring this up at our first budget workshop. So, this came up about not only, you know, the digital equity piece, but you know, many of the other aspects that have a mention. But it's my understanding that Steve you did mention that right now all of that is on the table, and we know that kids don't--may not have the best internet at home and may not have any internet at home and there have--there are going to be gaps. So, we want to make sure that even if you are going--if you are in person, you should have internet at home to do to your work. Yes, we'll have libraries open and so forth. But, you know, it's a huge concern for all of us on the School Committee. And so we are--we have discussed that. Steve, go ahead.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER STEVE SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Mayor. I would just add that, you know, we've learned a lot as a result of pandemic. And in some ways, you know, the pandemic has moved the District and all School Districts ahead light years. So, we expect to use of technology in supporting curriculum and teaching and learning. It likely now goes beyond the school walls, and that's not going to go away. We're not going to pull back

to the way we work. It's still gonna be remote learning even once we're completely beyond the pandemic.

So, the issue of access in our city, we really need to put on the front burner I think moving forward, because we don't want those inequities as you just described now. So, it's definitely a priority of mine. And as I mentioned, I look forward to hopefully working with the Board, meeting our task force and then continuing that rapport to help solve them.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Okay, great. I'm glad to know that it's on everybody's front burner. I know everybody's eagerly awaiting municipal broadband, but that may be a ways away and we have a lot of kids to worry about in the meantime. So, thank you, Madam Mayor. I yield.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: We will go to Vice Chair Bowman.

VICE CHAIR MANIKKA BOWMAN: Thank you, Madam Mayor. I want to just build off of some of the comments that my colleagues made, Vice Mayor Mallon, Member Wilson, Councillor Simmons, as it relates to us leveraging the resources on the City side. And I agree with you 100%. A lot of times when we have these conversations, we speak a

lot about social emotional needs and needs that fall outside of an academic framework. And it's true. We've put a lot of that on our educators. And as we transition out of this pandemic sooner rather than later, that is my hope, that is my prayer at this point, we really need to take serious what Member Rachel often says like reimagining schools, because we need to reposition educators to be able to focus on the core of what their job function is, which is to educate our kids and transforming how we deliver a school model, whether that is, you know, the future of this hybrid model of actually providing some form of remote learning because it actually works for certain students. And incorporating that into our school system, as well as tackling issues that we struggle within the past, we have one of the shortest school days in the Commonwealth, right? When we think about recovery for our children, you know, six hours and change a day may not be what we need to move forward. And so, as we start thinking about this budget, we need to start figuring out how do we leverage those partners and our City to be able to either fill gaps that for whatever reasons our systems don't allow to happen, so our kids can move forward with being able to access the

academic opportunities that \$30,000 per pupil should be able to provide. But unfortunately for a lot of factors and a lot of reasons, they do not for every child in our School District.

So, you know, the work is significant. And we all, you know, City Council and the School Committee, you know, we all have to roll up our sleeves to figure out, you know, how do we center the needs of our children in a way that's gonna position them to truly recover after this really unfortunate time in the state of public education. So, you know, we have a lot of work to do. I am grateful for the leadership from our City that is a partner in this work with us. And I look forward to continuing that work with my colleagues of course and like on the School Committee side, as well as my colleagues on the City Council side and budget Co-Chair, Mr. Fantini, as well as the Mayor. So, thank you for the conversation has been robust and we have a lot to think about as we continue the budget process.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Councillor Nolan?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. I wanted to build on what the Vice Chair said about the bringing the City in. It's not just for the students. It's for all the

families, because we know students are successful when families are involved. And that there's a number of families that we have--we need to reach out and ensure that they feel welcome that they're included in the planning and the communication that we are reaching back to. As I think Dr. Turk said, and it sounds like the School Committee is saying we have to make sure that we're reaching out to all families, and the City has a role in that in providing services to those families, because that also helps our students. So, that obviously the School Committee you all rightly so are centering students and the City can be more involved in ensuring that services we're providing to the families of our students to enable them to help their students as well, whether it's English language learning for families who might not be able to help their students as much as other families might be able to. We can use community engagement teams other ways that we make sure that we are reaching out as a as a City to support the entire unit of CPS, which includes--which goes beyond those the individual students to include their networks as well. It's very similar to the model use that help start Baby University and with the Harlem Children's Zone. It was

really recognizing. It's an ecosystem that involves not just the individual students, but an entire community to step forward and ensure that we're providing what all students need to be successful.

So, I really appreciate those programs that we already have and look forward to continuing to develop them on the City side. And I think the key is, which we've seen on the on the school side to make sure that they're working together that the after school programs know what the teachers are doing that as a teacher knows what a family needs. It's really hard to bring that together. But hopefully that is a promise of the new technology in order to ensure that we're working with the kind of seamless integration across the various systems that we have to make sure that we're in touch with folks across the City.

CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE: Madam Mayor?

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Yes.

CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE: Can I just jump in for a second?

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Go ahead.

CITY MANAGER LOUIS A. DEPASQUALE: I really think, you know, the Human Services Department will work closely and

has worked closely. And I want to give Ellen Semenoff a chance to just talk about where we're going and what we do, because I think that's an important piece that you need to talk about.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: City Manager, you need to-- because I was going to bring up, you know, Alan you can fill in the details. But a lot of their requests that were brought to the City to help the nonprofit serving families and kids, you know, the City did appropriate those funds. So, please go ahead.

MEMBER AYESHA M. WILSON: Excuse me, Madam Mayor.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Yes, Member Wilson.

MEMBER AYESHA M. WILSON: If I--If it's okay, I just want to ask a question that I know Ms. Semenoff will be able to answer in this piece. And I just wanted to throw in an additional question about the College Success Initiative, if that's something that Ms. Semenoff can actually speak to as well.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Well, is it budget related? Oh, definitely.

MEMBER AYESHA M. WILSON: I mean, it's just--it's the work though.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Oh, trying to know about the College Success. Okay, okay. Yeah, go ahead.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ELLEN SEMENOFF: Thank you. Why don't I take that one first and then I can do more broadly? As I think, many of you know, we haven't had a Director and we're in the process of hiring a new Director this year through the City Council, and the City Manager. We hired a third coach on the City side and the coaches work with First Generation College students. In that work most of the students we support are at Bunker Hill or UMass Boston but also at other schools. And as you might imagine, during COVID, that support has been even more critical than in the past, because so many of our students were prepared to go with support to school in person. They were not prepared to attend college remotely. So, both ensuring that they had devices that they could use, ensuring that they could get registered that they could get supported. And indeed for those students for whom for a variety of reasons, staying in school at this moment was not the right choice, making sure that the way in which they stepped back would not harm them in the future. So, the three coaches that we have, have been working--I can't even begin, it's like the

teachers you're talking about, so hard to ensure that all of these first generation college going students are getting the best shot possible. And we're looking forward to and working with Dr. Salim and his team as we do the final hire for the new College Success Director. And this is clearly something that's of great importance. I noted the schools and it's deeply important to the City into the Human Services Department.

Moving back to some of the other questions, I just want to say I welcome many of the things that you're saying and believe that there are many more things we can do and many things that we're already doing that may not be as apparent. In addition to what Mayor Siddiqui spoke about in terms of our supporting the not for profits, there's a lot of work that's happening by the Human Services Department itself. I would say for those of you who've ever had any connection to our programs, the strength of our Out of School Time Programs is the social-emotional side. And that that is the place where I would say our children and our staff have excelled. And that connection that our staff have had to our students and the way in which--because we don't have a deep academic focus, the opportunity for us to

focus on the social-emotional, in addition to homework support in our programs and other skill building has been critical. And that's work which we have continued in different ways. Right now, we have been doing virtual programming since the fall, and continuing through now with both small groups and large groups of students.

On the team side, we have been doing deep work with groups of our teens through the youth centers. I had the great fortune to attend the final session of something that's about to begin again of virtual voices, which was spoken word and poetry of young black women teens, those who identify as females who were speaking, who have been so deeply connected to the staff of the program and who have been working together to change perceptions about themselves and change some of the perceptions they have of themselves.

So, I just want to say that there's a lot of work that's been happening and will continue to happen. We've already begun conversations with the School Department, both with Dr. Salim and Dr. Turk around what might summer look like, how might our own programs be different this summer, building on work that happened two summers ago and

that was planned. We were in the planning process for expansion of some of our work this past summer, which was derailed by COVID. But at the same time, the work that we did this summer in our virtual programming, we work with the School Department to ensure that children who were identified for support in the morning would still have the opportunity to participate with us either virtually or on the fields in the afternoon so that the connection could be made even if the academic support was required. We're working in a number of ways with different schools at the moment. We have staff who are in classrooms with--because they have those relationships with the schools.

Our relationships are stronger in some schools than other. As you can imagine, that makes sense and there are things we can build on. I also want to say that someone mentioned the Community Engagement Team, well, I want to reassure you that we have been working deeply with families, many of whom are school families. We have done enormous amount of outreach. We have networks of families. And the connection for families, because as you can imagine, we have employment services for families. We have, as Councillor Nolan was referring to the need for English

as a second language. We run an enormous Community Learning Center program for many, many of the students in that program are parents of Cambridge Public School students. And we are deeply connecting with them around their students.

I don't want to just keep going on. But I want to say that there's clearly more that we can do together. But I don't want to leave you with the impression that this--on the City side, that we are not connected at all to the schools and that we are not in fact connected to children and families.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Thanks, Ellen. So, we have about 15 minutes left as the School Committee is meeting after virtually. So, we'll go--well, I see one hand up. Councillor Nolan?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yes, I wanted to make sure everyone knew that I was--I recognize the City is already doing a lot. And it was really just recognizing that that will be part of the solution. And I also want to bring us back a little bit and remind us all that I know we're all working so hard and social-emotional learning is incredibly important. And yet, let's not forget that the

vision that was crafted through a lot of very challenging work, at the heart of it, it's high expectations, its rigor, its academic excellence for all, it's not expecting anything less, whether it's a pandemic, whether--whatever the flavor or color or background or anything for kids that we still have to keep that in mind that we as a District are standing up to saying that \$30,000 we spend. We can even through this pandemic, we must, we can and we have to ensure that rigor is high, expectations are high, and that our expectations for all our students don't come from a deficit model, but come from a model that says we truly believe everyone can and will learn, and we will do what it takes.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Vice Chair?

VICE CHAIR MANIKKA BOWMAN: I'll just real quickly jump add to that. I just--I fully understand all of the really great work that's happening on the city side, and they have always been a strong partner with us, particularly with afterschool programs, and [inaudible 01:46:58] and so many really great programs.

When I think about the impact of COVID and conversations that I have with families, this academic

piece is so significant. And our School District, our community, we talk a lot about social-emotional supports, which I think there's a place for it. And I also think that if there are ways in which we can figure out academic supports, although I know that's not necessarily the expertise, but the need is so incredibly great. I can't begin to tell you how many families are looking for something supplemental this summer, but they can't find it.

So, if there's any type of way that we can think about an academic component, with any shape, form or fashion, the need is just so dynamic and so incredible. It was incredible before COVID, and it is significantly more incredible now because of COVID. So, I just want to put that out as, you know, the City as well as our School District continues do that planning for the summer that it is just really a need that people are looking for.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Thank you, Vice Chair. Anyone else? Let's see. I don't see any additional hands up. But -
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COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Madam, Mayor?

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Go ahead, Councillor Simmons.

COUNCILLOR E. DENISE SIMMONS: Thank you. As we close

ourselves out, because it's right on eight o'clock and if we leave a little early, I won't be upset at all. Just wanted to open--closes I opened I really do appreciate the work of the School Committee and the City Council and I know that we work best when we work together. And everyone have made some very cogent points. So, the takeaways I have from this meeting, is that one that we will work to endeavor to work better collaboratively, because we don't want our school systems to think that there aren't services and resources for them on our side of the aisle. And we certainly can step in and do that which we can. But we have--we want to make sure we do it in the right way. So, we need to work closer, better, harder, so that we make those connections, so that we're coming into the void where you may have it. And I hope that no one misunderstood me when in my earlier remarks to think that I did not think the issues of race and class and equity were not important. What I wanted to--what I was saying is that, we have to be clearly cognizant that it's not good, not because we have money to spend, but to spend it wisely, to spend it well, to spend it appropriately. And I think what Vice Chair Bowman said I want to reiterate, at the end of the day,

academics are key. We cannot walk away from that. And so, what can we as a City do to support academics? And it might mean taking more of the social-emotional, if that's what we can do. So, I don't I don't want to lay on another Committee. But I do want to figure out another way that we can by summer, in particular, find the program, project, reallocation of resources, better coordination, so that we can do that work which is needed for our families.

So, I'm sure no one misunderstood. But I thought maybe I might want to just reiterate where I am. Extraordinary supported to the body that I served on for 10 years, and then we'll continue to do that. But we also want to be very cognizant that we have a lot of money, we want to spend it well, we want to spend it wisely, we want to spend it in a way that it supports kids and remain aware that we are still in troubling times from this pandemic.

So, I want to thank my colleagues for being here this evening. It's always good to see all of you. We don't get to see nearly enough and get the opportunity to work collaboratively as much as we'd like to. But I do appreciate this opportunity to be with you this evening.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Then we'll go to Member

Wilson, and then I will wrap up and then we can adjourn.

MEMBER AYESHA M. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Mayor. And I'll be very quick. I just wanted to add, you know, we are in this beautiful resource-rich City of Cambridge, where we are nestled between so many colleges and universities. And the fact that we don't tap into them in a way of like setting each and every one of our young people up with a mentor to support them with some academic support is really, you know, troubling. And I think that that's something that folks have been talking about also for years is, how do we tap into our colleges and universities? How do we have some kind of robust academic mentoring program and system? And how could we get that to go for the four years that our students come into our city? You know, can we pair them up? What will be that work to happen?

And I feel like that's in support that could be helpful from the City side to help really maybe help to steer that forward. And I think that that will be a great way to again just help and support with the academic means that many of our young people are--in families are hoping for throughout their young person's time in our School District.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Thank you, Member Wilson. Superintendent, did you have anything to add before we wrap up?

SUPERINTENDENT DR. KENNETH SALIM: No, just appreciation for the discussion and questions. And look forward to our next steps ahead.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: So, thank you to everyone, my colleagues on both bodies. I wrote down a lot of some of the questions that have come up, the feedback where, you know, there's remaining questions and so forth and, you know, work together on that as we move forward. We'll--as the Council knows, I provide communications to the Council after all of our School Committee Meetings. And then, I also will share our, you know, our City Council updates that we receive to the School Committee.

Always open to other ways of feedback to communicate and help the bodies, you know, talk to each other. But, you know, I think there's a lot of great work that's happening. We have so much more to do. The year is not over yet. And we'll have to keep working together on a lot of the challenges that lay ahead.

So, I look forward to more of these conversations with

everyone. So, we will, on a motion by Vice Mayor Mallon, to adjourn we'll do a roll call. And then, I'll see my School Committee colleagues momentarily.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll call:

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Absent

Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Councillor E. Denise Simmons - Yes

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler - Yes

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui - Yes

Yes-6, No-0, Absent-3. Motion passed.

MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI: Goodnight, everyone. Thank you.

The Cambridge City Council & School Committee

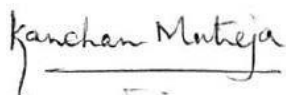
Roundtable/Working Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

approximately.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, **Kanchan Mutreja**, a transcriber for Datagain, do hereby certify: That said proceedings were listened to and transcribed by me and were prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment under my direction and supervision; and I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript to the best of my ability.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 1st day of June 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kanchan Mutreja". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature of Transcriber