

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Kathleen Born, Chair  
Kaleb Abebe  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo  
Mosammat Faria Afreen  
Nikolas Bowie  
Kevin Chen  
Max Clermont  
Jennifer Gilbert  
Kai Long  
Patrick Magee  
Mina Makarios  
Lisa Peterson  
Ellen Shachter  
Susan Shell  
Jim Stockard

The Cambridge Charter Review Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30p.m. by the Chair of the Committee, Kathleen Born. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, this meeting was remote via Zoom.

**At the request of the Chair, Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Present  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Present  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Present  
Nikolas Bowie – Absent  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
Kai Long – Present  
Patrick Magee – Present  
Mina Makarios – Present  
Lisa Peterson – Present  
Ellen Shachter – Present  
Susan Shell – Present  
Jim Stockard – Present  
Kathleen Born – Present  
**Present – 11, Absent – 4. Quorum established.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born made a motion to amend the minutes from the December 5, 2023 meeting.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Absent  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarious – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 11, No – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born made a motion for the amendment of the minutes to read Mayor/CAFO/Council and Council/Manager form of government in place of Strong Mayor and Strong Manager on page 5 of the December 5, 2023 minutes.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Absent  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarious – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 12, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born made a motion to adopt the December 5, 2023 minutes as amended.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarious – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 12, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion to accept communications received from the public and Committee members.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Absent  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarious – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 12, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born opened Public Comment.**

Jameson Quinn thanked the Committee for all their hard work and offered comments on elections and voting methods.

Dan Totten offered comments regarding the School Committee and the budget.

Anna Corning, Project Manager reviewed the decision points and deliberation information document that the Committee will be discussing throughout the meeting. The document was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. Anna Corning noted that the goal was to take votes on all the matters that were presented in the decision point document to be able to include those decisions in the final report to the City Council. Anna Corning and the team from the Collins Center, Michael Ward and Patricia Lloyd, were available to respond to any

questions or concerns that were brought forward by Committee members during discussion. Throughout the meeting, Committee members were recognized to offer their comments on each discussion point.

## **CITY COUNCIL COMPOSITIONS**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Susan Shell who made a motion that the Committee recommend maintaining two-year terms for the City Council.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – No

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarious – Yes

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – Yes

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 12, No – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion for the Committee to recommend Cambridge maintain an at-large City Council of nine members.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Present

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarious – Yes

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – No

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 11, No – 1, Present – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S ROLE ON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Mosammat Faria Afreen who made a motion for the Committee to recommend the Mayor serve on the School Committee. Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll under the Mayor/CAFO/Council form of government.**

Kaleb Abebe – Present  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Present  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Present  
Mina Makarios – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Present  
Jim Stockard – No  
Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 8, No – 1, Present – 4, Absent – 2. Motion failed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion that the Committee recommend the Mayor is automatically the Chair of the School Committee under the Mayor/CAFO/Council form of government.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Present  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – No  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – No  
Nikolas Bowie – Present  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Present  
Kai Long – Bi  
Patrick Magee – Present  
Mina Makarios – No  
Lisa Peterson – No  
Ellen Shachter – No  
Susan Shell – No  
Jim Stockard – No  
Kathleen Born – No

**Yes – 0, No – 9, Present – 4, Absent – 2. Motion failed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Susan Shell who made a motion that the Committee recommend the City Council President serve on the School Committee under the Mayor/CAFO/Council form of government.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Present

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Present

Nikolas Bowie – Present

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Present

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Present

Mina Makarios – No

Lisa Peterson – Present

Ellen Shachter – Present

Susan Shell – Present

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 4, No – 1, Present – 8, Absent – 2. Motion failed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Lisa Peterson who made a motion that the Committee recommend the Mayor serve on the School Committee under the Council/Manager form of government.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Present

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Present

Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent

Jennifer Gilbert – Yes

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Yes

Mina Makarios – No

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – Present

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 9, No – 1, Present – 3, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Mosammat Faria Afreen who made a motion that the Committee recommend the Mayor is automatically the Chair of the School Committee under the Manager/Council form of government.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Present  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – No  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – No  
Nikolos Bowie – No  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Present  
Kai Long – No  
Patrick Magee – No  
Mina Makarios – No  
Lisa Peterson – No  
Ellen Shachter – No  
Susan Shell – No  
Jim Stockard – No  
Kathleen Born – No  
**Yes – 0, No – 11, Present – 2, Absent – 2. Motion failed.**

## **FINANCE ARTICLE**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion for the Committee to approve recommending the draft finance article text and reflected timeline for Mayor-CAFO-Council form of government.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarios – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 13, No – 0, Present – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Mina Makarios who made a motion for the Committee to approve recommending the draft finance article text and reflected timeline for Council-Manager form of government.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Present

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarios – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 12, No – 0, Present – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion that the Committee recommend that the City Council be allowed to amend the city budget (adding funds or line items but not increasing the overall budget) prior to approval, with consultation with city manager, under Council-Manager form of government. Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Present  
Mina Makarios – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Present  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 11, No – 0, Present – 2, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Mosammat Faria Afreen who made a motion that the Committee recommend that the City Council be allowed to amend the City budget (adding funds or line items, but not increasing the overall budget) prior to approval and be allowed to override the Mayor’s budgetary amendments or veto under the Manger-Council form of government.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**  
Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Present  
Mina Makarios – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Present  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – No  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 10, No – 1, Present – 2, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

### **FELONY CONVICTION**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Mosammat Faria Afreen who made a motion that the Committee recommend adding the provision, “An elected official who has been convicted of a state or federal felony while holding office shall be deemed to have vacated the office.”**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – No  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Present  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarios – No  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – No  
Jim Stockard – No  
Kathleen Born – No  
**Yes – 7, No – 5, Present – 1, Absent – 2. Motion failed.**

### **RESIDENT ASSEMBLY**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Mosammat Faria Afreen who made that the Committee take on a new item of business that the Committee recommend that if a resident assembly reaches a 2/3 supermajority the question be put to the voters.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Present  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Present

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – No  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – No  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Present  
Mina Makarios – Present  
Lisa Peterson – No  
Ellen Shachter – Present  
Susan Shell – Present  
Jim Stockard – Present  
Kathleen Born – Present  
**Yes – 2, No – 3, Present – 8, Absent – 2. Motion failed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion to take a revote on a previous motion to adopt Section 2.11.2.a.iii of the proposed draft language of Resident Assembly to read: Powers that would otherwise be exercised under state or municipal law by a City Board or Commission, including the Planning Board. Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – No  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Present  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – No  
Kai Long – Present  
Patrick Magee – No  
Mina Makarios – No  
Lisa Peterson – No  
Ellen Shachter – No  
Susan Shell – No  
Jim Stockard – No  
Kathleen Born – No  
**Yes – 2, No – 9, Present – 2, Absent – 2. Motion failed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion that the Committee wish to make a recommendation for who under the Mayor-CAFO-Council form of government who convene a Resident Assembly. Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – No  
Mina Makarious – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – No  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 11, No – 1, Present – 1, Absent – 2.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Mosammat Faria Afreen who made a motion that the Committee recommend that under a Mayor-CAFO-Council form of government that the City Council shall convene the Resident Assembly.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Present  
Mina Makarious – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 12, No – 0, Present – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

## **MAYORAL RECALL**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion that the Committee recommends a recall provision for the Mayor under Mayor-CAFO-Council form of government, the thresholds shall be difficult but not impossible to recall a Mayor. The City Council shall collaborate with the Election Commission to determine the thresholds.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent

Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Yes  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarios – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Yes  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 13, No – 0, Present – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION PROVISION**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion that the Committee recommend adding the following provision to the Public Engagement Article, “The City shall provide for a system, in addition to minutes and recordings, that maintains and records public comment, of City Council meetings, that is publicly available.”**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – No  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – No  
Kai Long – No  
Patrick Magee – No  
Mina Makarios – No  
Lisa Peterson – No  
Ellen Shachter – No  
Susan Shell – Absent  
Jim Stockard – No  
Kathleen Born – No  
**Yes – 3, No – 9, Present – 0, Absent – 3. Motion failed.**

### **GROUP PETITION**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Patrick Magee who made a motion that the Committee recommends adding a group petition provision to the Charter, the thresholds shall be relatively low. The City Council shall collaborate with the Election Commission to determine the thresholds.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarios – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Absent  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 11, No – 0, Present – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.**

### **CITIZEN INITIATIVE PROVISION**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Mosammat Faria Afreen who made a motion that the Committee recommends a Citizen Initiative Provision under both forms of government. The City Council shall collaborate with the Election Commission to determine the thresholds.**

**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
Kevin Chen – Absent  
Max Clermont – Absent  
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
Kai Long – Yes  
Patrick Magee – Yes  
Mina Makarios – Yes  
Lisa Peterson – Yes  
Ellen Shachter – Yes  
Susan Shell – Absent  
Jim Stockard – Yes  
Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 11, No – 0, Present – 0, Absent – 4. Motion passed.**

Anna Corning thanked the Committee for their time and reviewed what the next steps are moving forward.

**The Charter Review Committee adjourned at approximately 8:45p.m.**

**Clerk’s Note:** The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

[https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/641?view\\_id=1&redirect=true&h=29f86a4fe11b3b2f310dee34ae9673a8](https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/641?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=29f86a4fe11b3b2f310dee34ae9673a8)