



City of Cambridge

COF 2021 #9
IN CITY COUNCIL
February 8, 2021



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Sumbul Siddiqui

Mayor

To: Cambridge City Council
From: Sumbul Siddiqui, Mayor
Date: February 4th, 2021
Subject: Communicating information from the School Committee

To the Honorable, the City Council:

On Tuesday, February 2nd, the School Committee had its last Regular Meeting. You can view the agenda [here](#). The Superintendent and his team provided an [update on the Spring 2021 plan](#) which included a breakdown of student enrollment in each instructional mode (in-person or remote) for March 1st, by school, grade, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability status. I highlighted for my colleagues that there appear to be discrepancies in this enrollment data when you look at the breakdown by race—[particularly at the high school](#). Many factors contribute to each family's choice of instructional mode and we need to make sure that we are delivering the highest-quality education for all of our scholars—whether they are learning in-person or remotely. We have to ensure that our remote students are getting what they need, and additionally, we must hear students' and families' questions and concerns about attending school in person, so that we can address their needs and make our safe in-person learning accessible to *all* of our scholars, as soon as we can.

A total of 640 CRLS students indicated that they would like to participate in in-person instruction beginning March 1st. All 640 students will be able to attend in person. Of these 640 students, 449 are in one of the identified prioritized cohort groups (Substantially Separate OSS Students, SEI Students, T3, T2, Homeless Students, Housing Transition/Foster Care, Unaccompanied Youth, Grade 9, Significant Social Emotional Issues, IEP or 504, Grade 12, Chronically Absent 2020-21) established as an equity focus of the expansion plan. Two cohorts of 320 students will be developed and students in each cohort will alternate being at the CRLS building for a 4-day week (Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, and Friday) at a time. Students were notified of their in-person status on Friday, January 29th.

On Friday, January 29th, Principal Smith provided a report on the data of our existing Dual Enrollment program at CRLS, in response to my [Motion #20-309](#) from the December 15th Regular Meeting. While waiting for this report, my Office has had many meetings with Member Fantini, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Nicole Gittens, Lesley University, and DESE to explore partnership and pathway opportunities to support our underrepresented students towards postsecondary success—including receiving [the state’s Early College Designation](#). While the pandemic has thrown a wrench in many things, it is important that we move this work forward. I am very excited about all that we are putting into motion on this front and look forward to sharing the progress with everyone in the coming months.

The School Committee and CPS administration have begun planning for the [FY22 School Budget](#), with the overarching goal of all of our scholars recovering and thriving and a focus of understanding and addressing scholars’ academic and social-emotional/mental health needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The School Committee is welcoming CPS community members to participate in our upcoming meetings and share ideas on how CPS should allocate its resources:

- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Saturday, February 6th | Community Meeting
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Wednesday, February 10th | Staff

[Advanced registration](#) (sign-up is open up to 30 minutes before the start of the meeting) will be required, due to enhanced Zoom security needs following the “Zoom bombing” disruption at our last Community Meeting on Thursday, January 28th.

There was no school on Wednesday, February 3rd so that staff were able to continue their planning for the March 1st expansion of in-person learning. This school-based planning time has been critical so that each school can develop solutions based on its specific student enrollment, staffing, and building layout. Schools have been making good progress with their preparations, including the finalizing of student and staff schedules, launching of school-based “infection control teams” to focus on COVID-19 protocols, and sharing the best practices developed over the last few months to support both remote and in-person learners.

Our upcoming meetings are as follows:

- **Saturday, February 6th, 2021**
 - Community Budget Meeting #2 | 10:00 AM
 - *To discuss FY22 Budget Priorities with community members*

- **Tuesday, February 9th, 2021**
 - Joint Roundtable with City Council | 6:00 PM
 - *To discuss FY22 Budget Priorities*

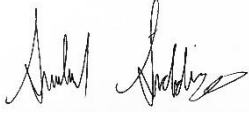
 - Special Meeting | 8:00 PM
 - *To discuss the Superintendent Search process*

- **Wednesday, February 10th, 2021**
 - Staff Budget Meeting | 3:00 PM

- *To discuss FY22 Budget Priorities with community members*
- **Thursday, February 11th, 2021**
 - Budget Workshop | 6:00 PM
 - *To discuss the FY22 Budget Development and feedback from Community Meetings*

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Respectfully,



Sumbul Siddiqui