



# City of Cambridge

COF 2021 #30  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
March 29, 2021



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Sumbul Siddiqui

*Mayor*

**To:** Cambridge City Council  
**From:** Sumbul Siddiqui, Mayor  
**Date:** March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
**Subject:** Communicating information from the School Committee

To the Honorable, the City Council:

CPS staff are preparing for the transition to full-time, in-person learning for students at the elementary and upper school levels next month. All families still have the option for their children to participate in fully remote learning. Elementary and upper school families with remote learners received an enrollment form that was due on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The projected enrollment for the elementary and upper schools is as follows:

- **Preschool – Grade 5:** 69% in-person, 31% remote
- **Grades 6 – 8:** 63% in-person, 37% remote
- **Overall enrollment PK– Grade 8:** 3722 students in-person (66%) and 2,881 remote (34%)
- At the building level, the in-person population ranges from 53% - 85%

Last Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced updated guidance based on data from districts across the country, including from Massachusetts. The CDC now advises a distance of 3 feet between desks in elementary, middle, and high schools. Staff are still advised to remain 6 feet apart.

I am happy to report that more teachers and staff have been getting vaccinated. Governor Baker recently announced the timeline for when all Massachusetts residents over the age of 16 will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Please use [this link](#) to find out when you are eligible and [this link](#) to pre-register for a vaccine.

On Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Salim gave a [presentation](#) on his proposed FY22 School Budget to the School Committee. Please see [here](#) for a PDF of the full proposed budget book. Since then, the School Committee had a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> which focused on CPS's Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) and the reflection of community feedback in the FY22 budget. [Here](#) is the presentation from the Budget Workshop.

- MTSS is a framework for how districts can build necessary systems to ensure every student receives a high-quality experience, supports schools with proactively identifying and addressing students' strengths and needs, and optimizes data-driven decision-making, progress monitoring, and the use of evidence-based supports and strategies with increasing intensity to sustain student growth
  - Key Six Pillars of MTSS
    1. All students are capable of grade-level learning with adequate support
    2. MTSS is rooted in proactivity and prevention
    3. The system utilizes evidence-based practices
    4. Decisions and procedures are driven by school and student data
    5. The degree of support given to each student is based on their needs
    6. Implementation occurs schoolwide and requires stakeholder collaboration

On Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, the School Committee is having a Public Hearing on the FY22 Proposed Budget.

The first COVID Conversation was held via Zoom on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for parents and caregivers at FMA, Cambridgeport, King Open, and Cambridge Street Upper School and was a success. CPS, CPH, and I are planning to hold another session on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM with families from Amigos, Baldwin, Peabody, and Rindge Ave Upper School. I will share more details with the community soon.

The Ad-Hoc Superintendent Search Subcommittee, which I chair, convened in Executive Session with Chief Talent Officer Lisa Richardson for a preliminary screening of applicants on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. I am pleased to announce that there are three finalists for the role of Interim Superintendent of Schools.

There was a total of 17 applicants and the Ad-hoc Subcommittee moved to interview 5. On Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, we recommended these 3 finalists to move forward in the interview process, listed in alphabetical order:

- Dr. Victoria Greer, Superintendent of Schools, Sharon Public Schools
- Dr. Monica Henson, Interim Superintendent of Schools, New Hampshire School Administrative Unit #44
- Dr. Brian Metcalf, Chief Executive Officer, Tindley Accelerated Schools

As part of the Superintendent Search process, the School Committee will be hosting Candidate Forums on **April 8<sup>th</sup>**, with three separate panels of 1) students 2) family representatives and 3) educational staff who will interview each finalist. These forums will be held from **5:00 – 8:00 PM** and members of the community will be able to watch in three ways:

1. **Live via Zoom** (I will let you know when the links are available)
2. **Recordings on the CPS website** will be available to watch any time, beginning Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>
3. **Recordings on CEA-TV Channel 99:**
  - Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>
    - **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Student Forum
    - **1:00 – 4:00 PM:** Family/Community Member Forum
    - **5:00 – 8:00 PM:** Staff Forum

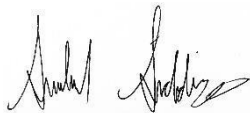
- Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>
  - **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Family/Community Member Forum
  - **1:00 – 4:00 PM:** Staff Forum
  - **5:00 – 8:00 PM:** Student Forum
- Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>
  - **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Staff Forum
  - **1:00 – 4:00 PM:** Student Forum
  - **5:00 – 8:00 PM:** Family/Community Member Forum

Our upcoming meetings are as follows:

- **Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
  - Public Hearing | 6:00 PM
    - *To have a public hearing on the Superintendent's FY22 Proposed Budget*
  - Special Meeting | 8:00 PM
    - *To discuss the Ad-Hoc Superintendent Search Subcommittee's recommendations for candidates to move forward in the interview process for Interim Superintendent*
- **Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
  - Budget Workshop | 6:00 PM
- **Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
  - Regular Meeting | 6:00 PM
- **Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
  - Virtual Candidate Forums | 5:00 PM
- **Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
  - Special Meeting | 6:00 PM
    - *To vote on the FY22 Budget*

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

Respectfully,



Sumbul Siddiqui