CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting **May 19, 2026**

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee.

Members Present: Vice Chair Dube, Member Harding, Member Hudson (Remote & In Person), Member Jaikumar, Mayor Siddiqui, Member de Paula Santos, Chair Weinstein

Others Present: Eva Asraf, Student Member; Heather Francis, Executive Director of Academics, Zihaam Jama, Student Member; David Murphy, Superintendent of Schools; Gina Roughton, Director of Educational Technology; Tamara Stras, candidate for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Position; Attorney Carolyn Weisman, candidate for the position of Legal Counsel

Chair Weinstein in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and read the call of the meeting.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call of members present: Member Jaikumar, PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui, ~~ABSENT;~~ Member de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Vice Chair Dube, PRESENT; Member Harding, ~~ABSENT~~; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Chair Weinstein, PRESENT

Member Harding arrived at 6:08 p.m.
Mayor Siddiqui arrived at 8:05 p.m.
Member Hudson transitioned from remote participation to in person at 9:15 p.m.

1. Public Comment

The following individuals were heard:

- Chris Montero, Warren Road, **Superintendent's Presentation, #26-106, #26-108, #26-109,** emphasized the need for strategic shifts in screen time usage for young children, supported by the CEA and also urged the committee to vote in favor of Motion #26-106.
- Noam Krakower, Glenwood Ave, **Superintendent's Presentation**, cited an audit showing that middle school students spend 5% of screen time off-task. He highlighted concerns about non-instructional sites, ineffective site blockers, and the negative health impacts of excessive screen time.
- Paola Rebusco, Spring Street, **#26-107**, noted that the city's website predicts an increase in days above 90 Fahrenheit, making artificial turf a significant issue.
- Irene Kang, Seventh Street, **#26-107**, emphasized the health impacts of artificial turf on students, especially during hot summer months and mentioned the lack of school engagement in the planning process for the new turf material and the potential risks of microplastics.
- Kennie Hotta, Third Street, **#26-107**, argued that synthetic turf is not an equity issue but rather a lack of green space and highlighted the disproportionate impact of paved-over areas, low tree canopies, and flooding on East Cambridge students.

- Jia-Jing Lee, Second Street, **Superintendent's Update** and **#26-107** emphasized the importance of student health.

Public Comment remained open for additional time to allow for other registrants to join the meeting.

2. Student School Committee Report:

The students arrived late to the meeting due to a prior commitment. When they joined, Student Member Jama and Member Asraf provided updates including Senior Skip Day activities, upcoming graduation events, final exams, and a BSU cookout scheduled at Hoyt Field.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- May 5, 2026, Regular Meeting

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, the record was accepted as presented on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, ABSENT; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#26-066 Recommendation: SY2026-2027 Cambridge Public Schools District Calendar

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-066** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, ABSENT; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

Additional public comment registrants did not join the meeting.

On a motion by Vice Chair Dube, seconded by Chair Weinstein, public comment was closed on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, ABSENT; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7a. Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent will provide an update on pending matters and highlight various initiatives taking place across the Cambridge Public Schools. The report will include comments related to at least the following:

(1) An update on several school and district leadership hiring processes, including the recommendations for appointments of highly qualified individuals to the positions of Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education and Legal Counsel. The Superintendent will also provide an update on pending leadership search processes for the position of Principal of Cambridge Rindge & Latin School and Principal of the Fletcher Maynard Academy.

(2) The Superintendent will also provide an update on recent developments in the process of determining the future of the 158 Spring Street facility that formerly housed the Kennedy Longfellow School.

- Superintendent Murphy provided an update regarding the Memorial Drive incident and reviewed the district's emergency response. He reported that four schools — MLK, PAUS, Morse, and Amigos — were placed in a "secure and hold" protocol following notification from public safety officials. He stated that district safety procedures generally worked effectively and noted that additional periodic trainings and communication reviews would occur to improve consistency across schools.

- Committee members thanked district staff, school leaders, and public safety officials for their response and discussed communication protocols, consistency of messaging to students and families, trauma-informed practices, and coordination with schools and after-school programs impacted by the incident.
- Superintendent Murphy introduced the district's screen time analysis presentation, describing it as a continuation of prior discussions regarding technology and artificial intelligence in CPSD classrooms. He noted that a more comprehensive report with survey findings, classroom observations, and focus group data would be presented in June.
- Superintendent Murphy provided an update on district leadership searches, including the hiring processes for Chief Operating Officer, Director of Family and Community Engagement, Legal Counsel, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, and principal positions at Fletcher Maynard Academy and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. He described the use of surveys, community listening sessions, educator roundtables, interview committees, performance tasks, and finalist site visits throughout the process. The presentation can be found on this website.
- Committee members discussed educator participation in hiring processes, applicant pool diversity, transparency, and the statutory role of the School Committee in approving senior leadership appointments. Superintendent Murphy emphasized that while the Committee plays an important confirmation role, the superintendent remains accountable for assembling and supervising the leadership team.
- **Member de Paula Santos** raised concerns about the district's process for vetting leadership candidates who may be involved in active civil rights litigation, questioning how background and reference checks are conducted and whether additional public record reviews occur. She also expressed concerns about public trust and district liability. Superintendent Murphy emphasized the importance of fairness and due process. He stated that the district conducts thorough reference and background checks, including outreach beyond listed references, and said candidates are reviewed consistent with legal, contractual, and ethical obligations.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Jaikumar the rules were suspended on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, ABSENT; Member de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-096 Recommendation: Approval of the Appointment of the Position of Legal Counsel

Superintendent Murphy and several Committee members spoke highly of candidate Attorney Carolyn Weisman for the Position of Legal Counsel. Attorney Weisman gave brief comments and thanked the Committee.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-096** was accepted with the appointment of Attorney Carolyn Wiseman to the position of Legal Counsel on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, ABSENT; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-097 Recommendation: Approval of the Appointment of the Assistant Superintendent Of Secondary Education Position

Superintendent Murphy and several Committee members spoke highly of candidate Tamara Stras for the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Position. Ms. Stras gave brief remarks and thanked the Committee.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-097** was accepted with the appointment of Ms. Tamara Stras to the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Position on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, ABSENT; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

7b. Presentation

The Superintendent and representatives from the district administration will present to the committee on the ongoing work in response to School Committee Order # 25-316 that directed the administration to assess and analyze the use of screens by students during school and additional conversations with the committee about the importance of determining whether screen time should be reduced in order to maximize instructional value. The administration will

outline the findings in the months-long analysis and research that has been conducted as well outline subsequent steps that will be necessary to address potential challenges and instill greater intentionality and guidance across school communities with respect to specific technology usage.

Mr. Murphy, Dr. Francis and Ms. Roughton gave the following executive summary "Toward High-Quality Screen Use in CPS" that can be found on this website.

- The presenters explained that the study used both quantitative and qualitative research methods, including analysis of 23 instructional days of Chromebook usage data, 34 classroom observations, six "day-in-the-life" student observations, educator surveys and focus groups, student feedback sessions, and principal input sessions.
- Key findings indicated that screen use increases developmentally across grade levels and is primarily instructional in nature. Presenters emphasized that technology was generally used to support curriculum-aligned instruction rather than for recreational purposes. At the same time, the study identified concerns related to unstructured screen use, distractions, multitasking, and maintaining balance between digital and non-digital learning experiences.
- The presentation highlighted that approximately 91% of overall district device usage was categorized as instructional. Examples included literacy applications, Google Workspace tools, online assessments, research, writing, media creation, and instructional videos. Presenters noted that some applications categorized as "non-instructional," such as YouTube, were often used in teacher-directed instructional contexts.
- Presenters described developmental differences in technology use across grade spans. In early elementary grades, technology use was generally limited, teacher-directed, and embedded into broader instructional routines. In upper elementary and middle school grades, students increasingly used technology for research, writing, collaboration, and media creation, while also beginning to experience challenges related to distraction and screen balance. At the high school level, technology was described as deeply integrated into instruction, assignment management, research, and college and career preparation, while also raising concerns related to multitasking, attention, and artificial intelligence.
- Student and educator feedback consistently emphasized the importance of intentional and balanced technology use. Students acknowledged both the benefits and drawbacks of screen use and generally advocated for a more balanced approach rather than eliminating technology altogether.
- The presenters outlined an emerging district definition of "high-quality screen use," describing it as instructionally purposeful, active, standards-aligned, developmentally appropriate, time-bound, and intentional. They emphasized that technology should complement strong instruction rather than replace it.
- Recommendations from the study included developing clearer district guidance around high-quality screen use, strengthening educator support and professional learning, protecting non-screen instructional experiences, streamlining approved digital tools, and continuing communication and partnership with caregivers. Presenters stated that next steps would include convening educators to develop district guidance and supporting school leaders in implementing consistent practices across schools.
- During Committee discussion, members asked questions regarding librarian involvement, the distinction between Chromebook usage and projected instructional screen time, student ability to circumvent filtering systems, and how educators manage off-task technology use. Presenters explained that librarians play an important role in balancing digital and non-digital learning resources and supporting students' media literacy and research skills. Staff also discussed efforts to strengthen classroom management practices, monitor student usage, and engage technically skilled students in identifying system vulnerabilities to improve safeguards.

During the discussion, as the meeting time was nearing 10:00 p.m., the meeting was extended.

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Member de Paula Santos, the meeting was extended to 10:30 p.m. on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

On a motion to Member de Paula Santos seconded by Member Jaikumar to reconsider Recommendation **#26-097** on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, PRESENT; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, NAY; Member Harding, NAY; Member Hudson, NAY; Chair Weinstein, NAY
Reconsideration did not pass.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Member Hudson, **#26-098, #26-099, #26-100, #26-101, #26-102,** and **#26-104,**were adopted on the following roll call vote**:** Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-098 Recommendation: Contract Award: GoGuardian be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GoGuardian, 2030 E. Maple Ave, Suite 100, El Segundo, CA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 22027 in the amount of $31,625.00.

#26-099 Recommendation: Contract Award: Project Adventure be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Project Adventure, 719 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915 for the period of May 7, 2026 to December 30, 2026 in the amount of $25,518.08.

#26-100 Recommendation: Contract Award: B & H Photo Video, Inc. be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

B & H Photo Video, Inc., 420 9th Avenue, New York, NY for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of $60,000.00.

#26-101 Recommendation: Contract Award: CDW Government LLC be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

CDW Government LLC, 230 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills, IL for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of $60,000.00.

#26-102 Recommendation: Contract Award: Converge One be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Converge One, 10900 Nesbit Avenue, Bloomington, MN for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of $50,000.00.

#26-104 Recommendation: Contract Award: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

IN-KIND: VPA received donated photography equipment from a community member including a camera, tripods, and accessories.

8. Non-Consent Agenda

#26-103 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of $600,000.00.

A discussion followed **#26-103.**

Vice Chair Dube questioned whether the Committee should approve the full authorization while the Committee was actively reconsidering the district's long-term technology strategy and whether one-to-one devices would continue to be necessary. Superintendent Murphy explained that the request represented a yearly authorization ceiling rather than an immediate expenditure and emphasized that delaying approval could create risks related to supply chain delays and the timely replacement of devices for incoming 9th grade students. He acknowledged the Committee's broader concerns about technology investments and stated that the district would continue reviewing its instructional technology strategy while also ensuring students had the necessary infrastructure in place for the upcoming school year.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Member Harding, **#26-103** was approved on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, NAY; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, NAY; Chair Weinstein, YEA

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

#26-105 Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Report -May 7, 2026

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-105** was approved on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-106 Retirement Plus – Member Jaikumar and Member de Paula Santos
WHEREAS: When the Commonwealth of Massachusetts introduced the Teachers Alternative Retirement Plan, also called Retirement Plus, in 2001, many teachers were unable to enroll, denying them the opportunity to make increased pension contributions in order to earn an increased pension after 30 years of service; and
WHEREAS: The Division of Administrative Law Appeals has made it clear that a legislative fix is required to allow teachers who were unable to enroll in 2001 to opt into Retirement Plus, and the Massachusetts House of Representatives recently passed – unanimously – an amendment to make that possible; and
WHEREAS: For teachers to be able to retroactively buy into Retirement Plus, the Massachusetts Senate must vote on the House legislation and Gov. Maura Healey must sign it into law; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee urges the Massachusetts Senate and in particular the senators representing our City to support the timely passage of this legislation fixing Retirement Plus, and for Gov. Healey to sign it.

A brief discussion followed **#26-106.**

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-106** was approved on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-107 Ahern Field – Member Jaikumar and Member de Paula Santos
WHEREAS: John A. Ahern Field is a City of Cambridge public park located directly next to the Cambridge Public Schools building at 158 Spring Street, and the City has announced a plan to install synthetic turf on Ahern Field; and
WHEREAS: There has been significant community concern about the decision to install artificial turf; and
WHEREAS: While decisions about Ahern Field rest with the City, those decisions will affect students at 158 Spring Street; and
WHEREAS: The City Council issued a policy order "That the City Manager is requested work with relevant City departments to provide a report on how the decision to install artificial turf at Ahern Field was made, the rationale for artificial turf, and what process was taken to ensure community concerns and public health considerations were fully addressed, and to ensure that construction will not move forward until a report is delivered."; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the School Committee supports the City Council's request for further information on the decision to install artificial turf and the process that led to that decision; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the School Committee particularly asks the City Manager's report to include consideration of any effect the heat retention of artificial turf would have on HVAC needs at 158 Spring Street and on the health and safety of children at recess given the fact that children are more vulnerable than adults to extreme heat.

A brief discussion followed **#26-107.**

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, **#26-107** was approved on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

As the meeting time approached 10:30 p.m., the meeting was extended.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Member Jaikumar, the meeting was extended to 10:45 p.m. on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

10. Resolutions

#26-108 Student Member Jama – Chair Weinstein, Mayor Siddiqui and Vice Chair Dube
WHEREAS: Member Zihaam Jama enthusiastically embraced her Cambridge educational experience, beginning at the Haggerty School and continuing through the Darby Vassall Upper School and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, engaging deeply both inside and outside the classroom through clubs, activities, part-time work, and volunteer opportunities; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama has demonstrated a deep commitment to social justice, including food justice and housing equity, through her leadership in Club 4 at CRLS, where she supported local homeless shelters by organizing donation drives, fundraising events, and food preparation volunteer opportunities; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama further pursued her commitment to social impact as a participant in Radcliffe's Emerging Leaders Program, where she spearheaded a research project focused on housing equity, resource distribution, and public policy; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama has been a dedicated leader within the Cambridge community, uplifting younger students and creating opportunities for them to follow in her footsteps, including through her service as a lead presenter and facilitator for the Students of Color Coalition; and
WHEREAS: She served as an active member of the Get Real Teen Council with Planned Parenthood, where she worked to ensure that local youth were empowered with resources and information to support informed decision-making regarding reproductive health; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama also served as a Mentor Lead for PathFinders, where she guided peers by providing tutoring, career advice, and access to internship and academic opportunities; and
WHEREAS: She proudly embraces and shares her East African heritage, serving as Vice President of the East African Club, where she celebrated East African culture, organized community events, and promoted cultural awareness; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama contributed to the advancement of CRLS Falcons athletics, proudly serving as Sports Manager for the girls' softball and basketball teams, where she supported team operations, tracked statistics, and assisted in coordinating practices; and

WHEREAS: Member Jama has served on the Cambridge School Committee during the 2025-2026 term alongside her friend and colleague Member Eva Asraf, advocating for student voices and helping to ensure that decisions reflect diverse perspectives; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee expresses its deep appreciation for Member Jama's many contributions to the Cambridge community and takes great pride in knowing that she will continue her academic journey at Northeastern University; and be it further
RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Member Jama as a token of the Cambridge School Committee's sincere gratitude and warmest best wishes.

#26-109 Student Member Asraf – Chair Weinstein, Mayor Siddiqui and Vice Chair Dube
WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee proudly recognizes Student Member Eva Asraf, a graduate of the Cambridge Public Schools who attended the Maria L. Baldwin Elementary School and Rindge Avenue Upper School, for her outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to the students of the Cambridge Public Schools; and
WHEREAS: Member Asraf has demonstrated a deep commitment to public service through her leadership as Co-Chair of the Cambridge Youth Council, where she successfully advocated for increased access and equity, representing Cambridge on a national stage serving as a delegate at the National League of Cities Conference; and
WHEREAS: Her dedication to community impact is further reflected in her role as Co-President of Club 4, where she organized over 1,500 volunteer hours for hundreds of student members, partnered with local nonprofits, and supported community initiatives such as weekly meals at the Harvard Homeless Shelter; and
WHEREAS: Member Asraf proudly embraces her heritage and also fostered cultural awareness and inclusion as Co-President of the South Asian Club, creating meaningful opportunities for student connection and celebration, including organizing CRLS's first Mock Mehndi with over 100 attendees; and
WHEREAS: Her civic leadership extends beyond the school community through her service as an elected member of the Cambridge Family Policy Council and as a Participatory Budgeting delegate, where she contributed to policy recommendations and equitable allocation of City resources; and
WHEREAS: Member Asraf has balanced her academic and leadership commitments with excellence in athletics and creative endeavors, competing as a varsity fencer and mentoring younger athletes, as well as a skilled tennis player who helped coach Cambridge youth programs. Her artistic talents were also recognized with an Honorable Mention in photography in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
WHEREAS: Throughout her time at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Member Asraf has exemplified integrity, initiative, and a strong commitment to uplifting her fellow CRLS classmates as the voice of morning announcements, leaving a lasting and meaningful impact on the Cambridge Public Schools community; now therefore be it
WHEREAS: Member Asraf has served with distinction as a Student Member of the School Committee, alongside her friend, Member Zihaam Jama, thoughtfully representing the diverse voices and interests of students across the district, and contributing meaningfully to discussions and decisions impacting scholars, educators and families; and
RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee expresses its sincere gratitude to Member Asraf for her exemplary service and contributions and wishes her much success with future endeavors at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and beyond; and be it further
RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Member Eva Asraf in honor of her achievements and service and with the Cambridge School Committee's immense gratitude.

The motion-makers read resolutions **#26-108** and **#26-109**. All members expressed their gratitude for Student Members Asraf and Jama. The resolutions and gifts were presented to the student members.

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Chair Weinstein, **#26-108** and **#26-109** were adopted on a voice vote.

#26-110 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards – Chair Weinstein
WHEREAS: 43 Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) students were recognized with 108 awards from the 2025 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running, most prestigious award and recognition program to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talents; and
WHEREAS: CRLS students received 23 Gold Keys, 26 Silver Keys, and 59 Honorable Mentions for the Massachusetts Region; and
WHEREAS: These students were supported by extraordinary CPSD writing and visual arts teachers, including Melissa Chaney, Bianca Hegre, Amanda Kilton, Michele Watson, Deborah Milligan, and Jesse Young and Nicole Walter who guided, taught, and supported CRLS students through the long process to submit work to the

competition, while teaching the Awards' core values of originality, skill, and emergence of a personal voice or vision; and
WHEREAS: The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the nation's longest running, most prestigious award and recognition program for creative teens, now in the 103rd year of its existence. Submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts. National Medalists are eligible for scholarships of up to $12,500; and
WHEREAS: The mission of The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Awards; and
WHEREAS: Some alumni of the awards include Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana, Amanda Gorman, Langston Hughes, Judy Blume, Richard Avedon, Cy Twombly, Ezra Jack Keats, Ken Burns, Stephen King, Edwidge Danticat, Sylvia Plath, John Updike, Red Grooms, Zac Posen, David Sedaris, Ocean Vuong and many more great artists; and
WHEREAS: During the 2025 program year, more than 110,000 teens from U.S. territories, Canada, and every state in the nation participated in the Awards, entering more than 335,000 works for adjudication. Nearly 92,000 regional awards were presented to 50,000 teens, and more than 2,500 works received national medals.
WHEREAS: This year, the Massachusetts region had 8,683 Individual Art Entries including 214 Art Portfolios; and
WHEREAS: Tufts University hosted the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Massachusetts Gold Key art exhibition from March 14-21 and the Massachusetts Award Ceremony on March 15; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the School Committee goes on record congratulating the CRLS students who have created this excellent work on this wonderful accomplishment, and thanking the CRLS writing and visual arts educators who have taught and supported these students; and be it further
RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution will be presented to the CRLS student 2025-26 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards winners and to the teachers who supported them in this process.

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Chair Weinstein, **#26-110** was adopted on a voice vote.

11. Announcements:

- **Member Jaikumar** recognized Arsenal F.C. as Premier League champions after 22 years.
- **Chair Weinstein** highlighted the following:
  - CRLS Black Student Union cookout will take place on May 20 from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at Hoyt Field.
  - Darby Vassall Upper School band for performing at the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Hill Day at the State House.
  - 10th Annual Sisters on the Runway fashion show hosted by the CRLS chapter on Thursday, May 21, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at The Foundry in Kendall Square.

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: None

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui seconded by Vice Chair Dube the meeting was adjourned on a voice vote. (10:45 p.m.)

Email Communications:

- ✓ Allyson Goose
- ✓ Gabriel Robinson
- ✓ Kate Skubecz
- ✓ Lilly Havstad
- ✓ Paola Rebusco
- ✓ Tina Lieu

Attest:
Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee