CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting **October 15, 2026**

Called for **Thursday, October 15. 2026 at 6:00 p.m**. held in and broadcast from the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge, and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge for the purpose of discussing the future of the school building located at 158 Spring Street, formerly the home of the Kennedy-Longfellow School. This meeting is expected to end on or before 8:00 p.m. There will be no public comment.

Members Present: Member de Paula Santos; Vice Chair Dube; Member Harding (VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON); Member Hudson, Member Jaikumar (VIRTUAL); Mayor Siddiqui (VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON); Chair Weinstein

Others Present: Vionette Matos, Amigos Educator; Sarah Marrero, Amigos Principal; David Murphy, Superintendent; Steven Rodenas, Amigos Educator

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.

There was a roll call of members present: Member Jaikumar, PRESENT, Mayor Siddiqui, PRESENT; Member de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Vice Chair Dube, PRESENT; Member Harding, PRESENT; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Chair Weinstein, PRESENT

Mayor Siddiqui and **Member Harding** transitioned from virtual to in-person at 7:00 p.m.

Member Jaikumar left the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.

He gave the floor to Superintendent Murphy who shared the following presentation that can be found on this website.

Superintendent Murphy presented his recommendation to relocate the Amigos School from Upton Street to the former Kennedy-Longfellow School building at 158 Spring Street, effective with the 2028–2029 school year. He outlined the community engagement process, educational benefits, facility considerations, and long-term strategic implications of the proposed relocation. He shared that the move would provide opportunities to expand access to dual-language Spanish immersion education, improve educational equity, accommodate enrollment growth, and provide additional instructional and recreational space.

Amigos Principal Marrero, joined by educators Vionette Matos and Steven Rodenas, expressed enthusiasm for the proposed relocation. They highlighted the benefits of additional classroom space, expanded programming, improved learning environments, and the opportunity to serve more Cambridge students. Principal Marrero emphasized the importance of maintaining the school's strong community culture while expanding access to bilingual education.

Key Discussion Highlights

- Enrollment and Expansion: The Superintendent outlined a gradual expansion of Amigos, beginning primarily in the preschool and kindergarten grades. Members discussed enrollment projections, staffing requirements, and opportunities to accelerate access to dual-language programming.
- Building Renovations: Planned improvements to 158 Spring Street include HVAC upgrades, plumbing, electrical systems, windows, and potential enhancements to the auditorium, cafeteria, and other community spaces. The Superintendent clarified that the project involves renovation rather than new construction.
- Educational Equity and Access: Members discussed increasing access to high-performing programs, maintaining socioeconomic diversity, and potentially incorporating geographic proximity preferences for additional Amigos seats to benefit East Cambridge families.

- Districtwide Planning: The Superintendent reviewed alternative proposals involving early childhood programming and upper school consolidation. Although neither was recommended for 158 Spring Street, he emphasized the importance of future discussions concerning enrollment, school configurations, and space utilization.
- Student and Family Support: Members discussed transportation, after-school and summer programming, staffing, social-emotional learning, and maintaining the school's inclusive culture during expansion. Principal Marrero described opportunities to strengthen family partnerships and develop the school as a community resource.
- Community Engagement and Building Safety: Members emphasized continued communication with East Cambridge residents, transparency regarding renovations, and ensuring appropriate environmental and safety measures before reopening the building.

Next Steps

The Superintendent indicated that his formal recommendation would be presented at the October 20, 2026 Regular Meeting for School Committee consideration. Chair David Weinstein encouraged Committee members and community members to submit any additional questions or concerns in advance. The administration will continue evaluating enrollment, staffing, programming, facility improvements, and the transition timeline.

On a motion Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, on the following roll call, the meeting was adjourned; Member Jaikumar, ABSENT; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA (8:00 p.m.)

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee