



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### (Official Minutes)

#### Regular Meeting

March 17, 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. This meeting includes the public hearing of the FY27 Proposed CPSD Budget.

**Members Present:** Member de Paula Santos, Vice Chair Dube (ABSENT), Member Harding, Member Hudson, Member Jaikumar, Mayor Siddiqui, Chair Weinstein,

**Others Present:** Tom Arria, Director of CRLS Athletics; Eric Chase, Program Liaison and CRLS Adapted Physical Education program, Fabiane Noronha, King Open Teacher; Chad Leith, Chief Accountably Officer; David Murphy, Superintendent of Schools; Seth Reich, CRLS Student; Adrienne Stang, Director of History and Social Studies; Darrell Williams, King Open Principal

**Chair Weinstein** in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 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, PRESENT; Member de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, PRESENT; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Chair Weinstein, PRESENT

#### 1a. Public Hearing of FY27 Proposed Budget

The following individuals were heard:

- Fabiane Noronha, Leighton Street, urged the School Committee to reconsider proposed staff reductions at King Open, specifically highlighting the importance of maintaining English-speaking support within the OLA 80/20 Portuguese-English program, and expressed concern that these cuts would negatively impact students and families.
- Christine Reycroff, Jasset Street, opposed the FY26–27 budget cuts eliminating 4.5 support positions at King Open, stating that the reductions broke prior commitments to high-needs students and reflected a misunderstanding of what equity requires.
- Andrew Ong, Willow Street, advocated for retaining literacy interventionist Carla Chernobyl, emphasizing her critical role in supporting English instruction within the OLA program and warning of the harm her removal would cause and voiced strong support for motion #26-040 regarding screen time and urged the School Committee and Mayor to vote in favor.
- Anne Coburn, Otis Street, raised questions about the scope and purpose of a proposed data analyst position and called for increased investment in literacy instruction and expanded middle school programming for students with learning differences.
- Kelly Chandler, McKay Street, expressed concern that the proposed staffing reductions did not uphold prior commitments to Kennedy-Longfellow students and stated that decreasing support in a large, high-needs, and diverse school could negatively impact student outcomes.

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

#### 1b. Public Comment

- Jonah Badanes-Katzman, Park Ave, **Superintendent's Presentation** requested a formal report on district compliance with state restraint regulations (603 CMR 46), citing concerns about undocumented restraints and delays in parent notifications within substantially separate programs.
- Sarah Rosenberg, Putnam Ave, **#26-040**, supported reviewing student screen time practices but criticized the proposed moratorium as lacking input from educators who actively integrated and taught technology in classrooms.
- Chris Montero, **Budget and Superintendent's Presentation**, Warren Road, expressed appreciation for additional interventionist positions but raised concerns about the handling of King Open staffing changes and the screen-time proposal, stating that these issues highlighted the need for an educator representative on the School Committee.
- Andrew Ong, **#26-040**, Willow Street, voiced strong support for motion #26-040 regarding screen time and urged the School Committee and Mayor to vote in favor.
- Anne Coburn, Otis Street, **Superintendent's Presentation**

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

## 2. Student School Committee Report:

There was no student report. Student Members Asraf and Jama were absent.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, the rules were suspended to bring forth resolutions **#26-042** and **#26-043** on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

### **#26-042 Ms. Fabiane Noronha, 2026 Barbara Capron Award for Excellence in Teaching Elementary Social Studies – Chair Weinstein and Member de Paula Santos**

WHEREAS: Ms. Fabiane Noronha has been a proud member of the King Open community since 2012, serving as a social studies educator in the Olá Portuguese Immersion Program, demonstrating a deep and enthusiastic commitment to civic education and social justice; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Noronha fosters thoughtful civic discourse in her classroom by encouraging students to share perspectives, analyze primary and secondary sources, evaluate the validity of information, and connect historical study to their own lived experiences; and

WHEREAS: During the 2021–2022 school year, Ms. Noronha piloted the Discovering Justice civics curriculum with her kindergarten students, guiding them through a hands-on civic engagement project focused on food justice and advocacy efforts that resulted in the successful return of a salad bar to the King Open School; and

WHEREAS: Beginning in the 2022–2023 school year, Ms. Noronha expanded her impact to third and fourth grade students, collaborating with Discovering Justice to develop lessons on regional justice advocates and translating the curricular resources into Portuguese so that students in dual language programs across the state could access the materials; and

WHEREAS: As a dual language immersion educator, Ms. Noronha is deeply committed to fostering global competence and civic agency in her students, as exemplified by her leadership of an educational and cultural immersion trip to the Azores for King Open School fifth graders in April 2025 during which they learned about the Portuguese and Azorean cultures, government, history, art, and geography through visits to cultural institutions and natural parks; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Noronha is a highly collegial educator who shares her expertise with colleagues within her school and across the district, and in 2022, she co-facilitated a webinar “Cultivating Civics Norms, Skills and Dispositions in the Elementary Classroom” for the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition; and

WHEREAS: Laura Brenner, Chief Program Office at Discovering Justice, proudly shared, “Fabiane does not just teach about civics; she engages her students as citizens of their community by bringing in local and global issues,

fostering civic skills across all parts of the school day, and activating students as changemakers. Our world is in good hands with the future leaders that leave her classroom door.”; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Noronha was recently named the 2026 recipient of the of the Barbara Capron Award for Excellence in Teaching Elementary Social Studies presented each year by the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies to an exceptional teacher who promotes democratic ideals and active citizenship in the elementary classroom; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee congratulates Ms. Noronha on this recognition and expresses its gratitude to Ms. Noronha for her outstanding contributions to civic education, her dedication to equity and justice, and her lasting impact on students, caregivers and colleagues of the King Open School as well as the broader Cambridge Public Schools community; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a formal copy of this resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and presented to Ms. Noronha with profound appreciation and respect.

There was a discussion and presentation regarding **#26-042**. Fabiane Noronha, King Open Teacher, who was recognized as the 2026 Barbara Capron Award for Excellence in Teaching Elementary Social Studies. Superintendent Murphy, Ms. Stang and Mr. Williams all made congratulatory remarks. Ms. Noronha expressed gratitude to her students and supportive colleagues.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Member Harding, **#26-042** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**#26-043 CRLS Unified Sports – Chair Weinstein, Vice Chair Dube and Member Harding**

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Rindge and Latin School’s broad range of athletic offerings includes Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) Unified Sports, an inclusive Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) program that pairs students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team; and

WHEREAS: The Unified Sports program, which is part of the larger Special Olympics Unified Sports initiative, focuses on skill development, social interaction, and athletic competition while promoting sportsmanship and building inclusive communities.; and

WHEREAS: CRLS was one of only 17 schools in Massachusetts, and among 217 schools nationwide to have been recognized as a National Banner Special Olympics Unified Champion School for School Year 2024-2025 for excellence in inclusion, advocacy, and respect; and

WHEREAS: Leadership is encouraged among peers in and out of the classroom, through the Best Buddies club, and by promoting student participation in state Unified Youth Leadership conferences; and

WHEREAS: The result is a school environment that promotes inclusion and respect for all; and

WHEREAS: CRLS earned this designation for meeting 10 national standards of excellence, incorporating sports, leadership, and school-wide engagement; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee celebrates and commends the CRLS Unified Sports Basketball and Bowling teams, athletes, program liaisons Hunter Brochu, Eric Chase, and coaches Brett Armstrong, Matthew Brack, Sarah Featherspoons, Mae Sefransky, and Ryan Williamson for their contributions to CRLS and the broader Cambridge community, and for achieving this honorable distinction from the Special Olympics Unified Sports Initiative; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a formal copy of this resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and presented to the students, faculty and staff of the CRLS Unified Sports Program.

There was a discussion and presentation regarding **#26-043** recognizing the CRLS Unified Sports program. Mr. Arria, Mr. Chase and CRLS student Seth Reich, gave heartfelt remarks regarding the program’s impact. Program organizers and student athletes were recognized.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Member Harding, **#26-043** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**Chair Weinstein** requested a five minute recess following the presentation of the resolutions.

**3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:**

- March 3, 2026, Regular Meeting

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

**4. Reconsiderations:** None

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:** None

**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 the recommendation to approve an in-kind donation by the Cambridge Community Foundation to sponsor the partnership with Attuned Education Partners, LLC that was previewed at the previous meeting of the Cambridge School Committee.*

**Cambridge Community In-Kind Donation**

- Superintendent Murphy expressed appreciation to the School Committee for:
  - Recognizing individuals and programs, including the Unified Sports Initiative
  - Welcoming representatives from the Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF) and Attuned Education Partners
- He asked the Committee is asked to approve an in-kind donation from CCF to support the district's strategic planning process.
  - The recommendation is based on:
    - Attuned's expertise and leadership of Rachel Skerritt
    - Prior district analysis (Building Equity Bridges, Thrive Audit, prior strategic work
    - A desire to move forward with an accelerated strategic planning timeline
- Superintendent Murphy emphasized:
  - The district has sufficient prior analysis to move efficiently into implementation
  - The importance of balancing long-term planning with day-to-day operational demands
  - A shared understanding of key priorities, including elementary literacy
- Community engagement will include:
  - Scheduled school visits
  - Public forums for input

**Budget Process Updates:**

- The next budget workshop is scheduled for March 25
- The Committee may consider scheduling an additional workshop, though timelines are tightening due to submission deadlines to City Council
- The Superintendent noted:
  - A need to clarify budget allocations and equity considerations
  - Some misinformation exists regarding prior commitments (e.g., Kennedy-Longfellow closure)
  - A commitment to provide detailed explanations of:
    - Staffing allocations
    - Funding decisions
    - How commitments have been fulfilled

**Committee Discussion:**

- **Member Harding**

- Requested a summary of commitments made during the Kennedy-Longfellow closure
- Asked that this information be shared in advance to support informed discussion
- **Member de Paula Santos**
  - Emphasized the importance of understanding:
    - The rationale behind staffing changes
    - The impact on school operations (notably King Open)

**7b. Presentation:**

*The Superintendent will share with the committee the draft schedule of presentations and reports currently being prepared by the administration to be brought before the Cambridge School Committee prior to the conclusion of the 2025 - 2026 school year, which has been developed based on input from the committee. Members will have an opportunity to engage in a discussion and offer comments and questions about the prioritization and sequencing of these and any other potential reports or presentations the committee would like to receive either by the body or a subcommittee of the school committee.*

Superintendent Murphy gave the following presentation which can be found on [website](#).

The Superintendent presented a draft schedule of reports and presentations for the remaining School Committee meetings of the academic year

- The purpose of the schedule is to:
  - Align Committee priorities with administration reporting
  - Support planning for upcoming meetings and subcommittees
  - Provide transparency and opportunity for feedback
  - Ensure topics brought forward are appropriate for public deliberation
- The schedule reflects:
  - Input from Committee members and administration
  - Required reports and prior Committee directives
  - Ongoing coordination between Committee leadership and the Superintendent

The Superintendent identified core focus areas guiding upcoming work:

- Educator effectiveness as a key driver of student outcomes
- Family engagement and partnerships as an organizational priority
- Continued alignment with Committee direction and community expectations

Planned or anticipated topics include:

- Student performance metrics and assessment data
- AI guidelines development
- Screen time usage analysis
- School choice data and policy implications
- Strategic planning progress
- Celebration of district achievements (e.g., CRLS)
- 

Committee members discussed the proposed schedule and raised the following themes:

Need for Broader Input & Transparency

- Members expressed interest in a more structured process to:
  - Identify and prioritize Committee goals
  - Ensure alignment across members
  - Avoid gaps between expectations and agenda topics

Balancing Full Committee vs. Subcommittee Work

- Some members emphasized:
  - Subcommittees as a key venue for deeper discussion
  - The importance of clarity on what topics will be handled where
- Others noted:

- Inconsistency in subcommittee structure and participation
- The need for full Committee engagement on major issues

Time Constraints & Prioritization

- Acknowledgment that:
  - Limited meetings remain in the academic year
  - Not all topics can be addressed
  - Flexibility is needed as new issues arise
- Members emphasized prioritizing:
  - High-impact decisions
  - Topics requiring multiple discussions

Major Topic: 158 Spring Street (K-Lo / Future Use)

- Significant concern was raised regarding:
  - Timeline for decision-making
  - Need for robust community engagement
  - Clarity on process and sequencing of discussions
- Key points:
  - Some members expressed urgency to reach a decision by June
  - Others noted the timeline may extend into summer or early fall
  - Concerns were raised about aligning decisions with:
    - School choice timelines
    - Family planning needs
- Superintendent Murphy clarified:
  - Multiple public discussions and engagement opportunities will occur
  - The process will extend beyond regular Committee meetings
  - Current working timeline: June–September decision window, unless directed otherwise by the Committee
  - Timeline is influenced by:
    - Strategic planning work
    - Operational and programmatic considerations
- Members highlighted the need to include or elevate:
  - Literacy (as a top instructional priority)
  - Algebra outcomes and implementation
  - Ongoing updates related to K-Lo / 158 Spring Street
- Suggestions included:
  - Developing a clearer, shared list of Committee priorities
  - Publishing a forward-looking schedule (including subcommittees)
  - Improving communication and coordination across members
- Superintendent Murphy:
  - Acknowledged the importance of these priorities
  - Committed to clearer communication and alignment
  - Reaffirmed elementary literacy as the district's top instructional priority

**7c. CPS District Plan:** None

**7d. Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui seconded by Member Jaikumar, **#26-033**, **#26-035**, **#26-037**, and **#26-038** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**#26-033 Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee award contracts to the institutions on attached list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the general fund and/or grant fund budget.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:	1	\$158,348.20
Residential Program Tuition Contracts		
45 Day Program Contracts:	<u>1</u>	<u>\$26,553.15</u>
Total	1	<b>\$185,498.90</b>

**#26-035 Recommendation: Contract Award: Bredy Network Management 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.

Bredy Network Management, 827 Main Street, Woburn, MA for the period of February 13, 2026 to February 12, 2027 in the amount of \$36,438.48.

**#26-037 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 FY26 Title I, Part A Distribution - Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local School Districts be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY26 Title I, Part A Distribution - Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local School Districts (SC26604) - INCREASE through State – Targeted in the amount of \$1,435,632.00 for the period of September 2, 2025 to September 30, 2027.

**#26-038 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Title II, Part A Distribution - Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching and Leading be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY26 Title II, Part A Distribution - Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching and Leading (SC26731) - INCREASE through State – Targeted in the amount of \$202,652.00 for the period of September 2, 2025 to September 30, 2027.

**8. Non-Consent Agenda**

**#26-034 Recommendation: Contract Award: Lesley University 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.

Lesley University, 29 Everett Street, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$140,320.00.

A discussion followed **#26-034**.

The Committee reviewed a contract with Lesley University for the Pathways for Paraprofessionals program which supports CPS staff in earning a Master’s degree and teaching licensure, with a focus on hard-to-fill roles (e.g., ESL, special education) Questions were raised about alignment with the district’s science-of-reading approach. Members emphasized the need to evaluate the quality of teacher preparation programs and consider future partnerships. Superintendent Murphy noted that formal programs must be supplemented by strong, district-based professional learning

On a motion by Chair Weinstein seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, **#26-034 was** adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, NAY; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**#26-036 Recommendation: Contract Award: KM Education Law 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.

KM Education Law LLC, 63 Shore Road, Suite 35, Winchester, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$35,000.00.

A brief discussion followed **#26-036**.

**Member Jaikumar** asked for additional information regarding a legal services contract dating back to last July, including the scope of work. The Superintendent explained that the contract is with a solo practitioner specializing in education law, particularly in special education, student conduct, discipline, PRS complaints, and certain personnel matters. The use of outside counsel is standard practice, however, the scope of this work expanded due to the absence of in-house counsel beginning last summer.

On a motion by Member Jaikumar seconded by Member Harding, **#26-036** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**#26-039 Recommendation: Contract Award: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

IN-KIND - The Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF) will donate in-kind strategic planning services to the Cambridge Public Schools (CPS). CCF will retain external strategic partner Attuned Education Partners to work with the CPS School Committee Members and district leadership to design and facilitate a comprehensive planning process. This will include an organizational diagnostic, as well as facilitated sessions to develop 10-year aspirations, 4-year mission measures and targets, and a 4-year strategic plan.

A discussion followed **#26-039**.

Members expressed appreciation for the CCF's continued partnership and financial support, noting its commitment to advancing equitable outcomes for students. While there was general support for the donation and the expertise of Attuned Education Partners, **Member Hudson** raised concerns about the process, particularly the decision to engage an external partner for work she feels is within the Committee's responsibilities. In response, the Superintendent explained that the partnership emerged from concurrent factors, including the Committee's goal of developing a formal strategic plan by June 2026, capacity limitations within the district, prior engagement with Attuned, and the Foundation's willingness to fund the effort. He emphasized that the work would not be outsourced, but rather facilitated collaboratively, with ongoing involvement from the Committee, district leadership, and the community.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, **#26-039** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, NAY; Chair Weinstein, YEA

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

### **#26-040 Temporary Pause on Non-Essential Student Screen Use, Grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2**

**– Vice Chair Dube and Member de Paula Santos**

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee has a duty to safeguard student health, well-being, and learning conditions; and

WHEREAS: There is increasing evidence and concern from families, educators, and health experts about the impact of excessive screen use on student attention, vision, sleep, and social development, particularly for younger children; and

WHEREAS: The Committee has already directed the District to conduct a comprehensive audit of student screen time and digital tool use; and

WHEREAS: Access to developmentally protective learning environments with minimal screen exposure currently varies across schools and programs within the district, creating inequitable conditions for students during the school day; and

WHEREAS: The continuation of current practices during the audit period risks unnecessary and inequitable exposure for students; and

WHEREAS: The American Academy of Pediatrics has repeatedly emphasized, including in recent guidance published in *Pediatrics*, that excessive or non-purposeful screen use during the school day can displace critical developmental activities such as physical movement, peer interaction, play, and self-regulation, particularly for younger children; and

WHEREAS: Recent large-scale observational research and surveys reported in *The Lancet* and its affiliated journals have raised concerns about associations between higher screen exposure in childhood and adverse outcomes related to attention, emotional regulation, mental health, and physical well-being, reinforcing calls for precautionary limits in educational settings; and

WHEREAS: The guidance cited herein is particularly urgent for younger children, for whom screen exposure most significantly displaces foundational activities such as play, movement, peer interaction, and self-regulation, and for whom the long-term consequences of early and excessive screen exposure are of greatest concern; and therefore the Committee has determined that a precautionary pause is most urgently warranted for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2, while evidence and audit findings for older grade levels are evaluated; and

WHEREAS: Both pediatric and public-health experts emphasize that screen use should not replace movement, recess, or restorative breaks during the school day, and that minimizing non-essential exposure is a reasonable protective measure while districts evaluate screen practices; and

WHEREAS: Pediatric and public-health guidance consistently affirms that caregivers have a right to know how much screen exposure their children experience during the school day, particularly when such exposure is required or unavoidable, in order to support student health outside of school; and

WHEREAS: The Committee affirms the professionalism, care, and expertise of educators, and recognizes that this temporary pause is intended to clarify system-level expectations and reduce inequitable conditions for students; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee directs the Superintendent to suspend all student-facing screen use for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2, pending completion and presentation of the screen time audit, or until the end of the 2025–2026 school year, whichever occurs first, unless extended by vote of the Committee.

This pause shall not apply to teacher-directed projection of district-approved curriculum materials onto a classroom display as part of direct instruction, where students are not individually operating a device.

This pause shall take effect upon issuance of written guidance by the Superintendent, which shall be issued no later than ten school days following adoption of this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the only permitted exceptions to this prohibition are:

1. Assistive technology, IEP or 504 accommodations, and legally required accessibility supports
2. Translation or communication supports necessary for student access
3. Health, safety, or other legally mandated services
4. State-mandated or district-required assessments where no paper-based alternative is legally permissible
5. Any additional exception explicitly approved in writing by the Superintendent, consistent with the intent of this resolution, reported to the Committee, and time-limited; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent shall issue guidance to schools clarifying expectations during this interim period and report back to the Committee on implementation challenges or needed adjustments; and be it further

RESOLVED: That for any required assessment-related student screen use for students PreK-5th grade, the District shall provide daily written notification to families by the close of the school day that includes:

1. The name and purpose of the assessment administered that day
2. The anticipated duration of screen use prior to administration
3. The actual duration of screen use once the assessment session has concluded

Such notification shall be provided on each day that a student engages in required assessment-related screen use. Where a paper-based alternative is legally or logistically permissible, the District shall offer that option as the primary choice; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the District shall establish a dedicated feedback channel, such as a named email address or online form, through which families and staff may submit concerns and suggestions regarding compliance with this resolution to the Superintendent; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent shall submit a written implementation report to the Committee every thirty (30) days during the audit period, which shall include:

- The number and nature of any exceptions granted
- Implementation challenges encountered
- Patterns of concern identified through the feedback channel, including concerns raised by families or staff

These reports shall be reviewed by the Committee as part of its ongoing oversight.

A brief discussion followed **#26-040**.

As one of the main motion-makers was absent (Vice Chair) Dube. Member de Paula Santos wanted to table the motion until Vice Chair Dube was available to discuss it.

On a motion by Member de Paula Santos seconded by Member Jaikumar, **#26-040** was tabled on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#### **#26-041 Honoring Dr. Henrietta S. Attles – Chair Weinstein and Mayor Siddiqui**

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee meets in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School; and

WHEREAS: Henrietta S. Attles, Ed.D. was the first Black woman elected to serve on the Cambridge School Committee, first elected in 1979, reelected in 1981 and serving as a School Committee Member from 1980 to 1983; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee meeting room was dedicated and named in her honor in 1989, ten years after she was first elected to the School Committee, and features a portrait of Dr. Attles; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee believes that there is value to the children of Cambridge and the community as a whole in knowing and understanding a full history of our community and the people who have shaped it; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools strives to support greater knowledge and understanding of that history through celebrations of Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March, and, importantly, throughout the year; and

WHEREAS: The naming of a Cambridge Public Schools space should not be the end of the recognition of and learning about the person for which the space is named, but instead should be an ongoing tribute and prompt for learning and reflection; and

WHEREAS: Henrietta S. Evans Attles was born in Harlem, New York. After graduating from PS 10 in New York City, she attended the University of West Virginia. While in college, she met her husband Rev. Dr. LeRoy Attles who attended Wilberforce University. After college, the newlywed couple moved to Rev. Dr. LeRoy Attles's hometown of Newark, New Jersey, where he had accepted a position. Dr. Henrietta S. Attles began teaching in the Newark Public Schools, and in 1962, she became the second Black speech therapist in the Newark School system; and

WHEREAS: In 1975, Attles received a master's degree in vocational and technical education from Rutgers University and was soon working as the Assistant Administrator for Career Education in Newark. In 1978, LeRoy accepted the position of pastor of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and the Attles moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts. Upon arrival, Henrietta Attles took the position of Educational Specialist for the Office of Equal Education in the Massachusetts Department of Education; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Attles earned her doctorate in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, had two children in the Cambridge Public Schools, and was the Executive Director of the Henry Buckner School in Cambridge for 21 years; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Attles was very active in the AME church, from serving as First Lady of St. Paul AME Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts to President of the New England Women's Missionary Society; and

WHEREAS: At the time of her passing in 2012, Dr. Attles was an active member of the New Bethel AME Church in Lakeland, Florida and the Lively Missionary Society, and was Robed an AME Missionary Church Mother in Zambia; and

WHEREAS: After her retirement, Dr. Attles founded and was President of "Our Golden Years;" she was a member of Alpha Kappa Sorority, Inc; and she was inducted into Phi Delta Kappa National Honor Society, Harvard Chapter, as one of the Nation's Outstanding Educators; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee is grateful for the assistance of the Cambridge Black History Project, the Cambridge Historical Commission, and the Cambridge Public Library in researching the life of Dr. Henrietta S. Attles and locating related archival materials; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee is on record recognizing and reaffirming Dr. Henrietta S. Attles, the first Black woman elected to the Cambridge School Committee, as a Cambridge trailblazer and an inspiration to those who seek to serve the children of Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this motion and copies of related archival materials about Dr. Attles be made accessible in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room so visitors can learn more about this remarkable woman and her legacy in Cambridge, and that these materials be shared on the School Committee website as well; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this motion be sent to members of Dr. Henrietta S. Attles' family on behalf of the Cambridge School Committee.

A brief discussion followed **#26-041**.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein seconded by Member Jaikumar, **#26-041** was adopted unanimously by the Committee on the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**10. Resolutions: #26-042 and #26-043** were taken up at the beginning of the meeting.

**11. Announcements:**

**Superintendent Murphy**

- Highlighted that Wednesday, March 18 will be a regular school day due to the previous snow cancellations.

**Chair Weinstein**

- Shared that the high school theater program participated in the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild competition and commended students and staff for their efforts.
- Announced upcoming performances by the North Cambridge Family Opera

**Member Jaikumar**

- Shared additional details regarding the North Cambridge Family Opera

**12. Late Orders:** None

**13. Communications and Reports from City Officers:** None

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui the meeting was adjourned the following roll call vote: Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA (9:00 p.m.)

**Email Communications:**

- ✓ Amanda Beatty
- ✓ Amber Bifolck-Fisher
- ✓ Clara Hendricks
- ✓ Ellen Vickery
- ✓ Jonah Badanes-Katzman
- ✓ Kelly Petitt

Cambridge School Committee  
Regular Meeting

March 17, 2026

- ✓ Piotr Mitros
- ✓ Ami Henderson
- ✓ Alex Irving
- ✓ Adrea Lee
- ✓ A M Duchesneau
- ✓ Billie Sue Sawyer
- ✓ Emmanuelle Humblet
- ✓ George Sarrinikolaou
- ✓ Heather Dwyer
- ✓ Jessica Fernandez
- ✓ Jill Linnell
- ✓ Jamie Lichenstein
- ✓ Karla Anderson
- ✓ Kelly McQuighan
- ✓ Momchil Tomov
- ✓ Mereen Mammen
- ✓ Laura Gosset

Attest:



Katherine Christo  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee