



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

**Regular Meeting**

**April 7, 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 (REMOTE), Member Harding, Member Hudson, Member Jaikumar, Mayor Siddiqui, Member de Paul Santos, Chair Weinstein

**Others Present:** Jennifer Amigone, Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability; Eva Asraf, Student Member (REMOTE); Heather Francis, Executive Director of Academics; Zihaam Jama, Student Member; Dr. Chad Leith, Chief Accountability Officer; David Murphy, Superintendent of Schools; Nada Siddiqui, Head of School, Harmony Academy

**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 de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Vice Chair Dube, PRESENT; Member Harding, ~~ABSENT~~; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Member Jaikumar, PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui, ~~ABSENT~~; Chair Weinstein, PRESENT

**Member Harding** joined at 6:10 p.m.

**Mayor Siddiqui** joined at 6:20 p.m.

### 1. Public Comment

The following individuals were heard:

- Valerie Lute, Eustace Street, **#26-040**, raised concerns about excessive screen use in schools.
- Chris Montero, Warren Road, **#26-044** and **#26-040**, opposed cuts to paraprofessional positions due to their essential role in student support and small-group learning, and supported further review of screen time policy through collaboration with educators to ensure minimal disruption to instruction.
- Anna Phelan, Concord Avenue, **#26-040**, supported increased visibility into screen tool usage in classrooms and clear communication to families and expressed concerns about the potential negative impact of a temporary pause on her child's learning experience and questions the urgency and budgetary impacts of implementing the change now.
- Anna Shin, Sidney Street, **#26-064**, emphasized balancing digital literacy with minimal classroom disruption, raised concerns about screen use transparency and budget impacts, supported a school council subcommittee, and resulted in unanimous approval to close comment and advance agenda items.

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

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, the Rules were Suspended by to bring forth **#26-044** and **#26-064** on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

## 2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Member Jama:

- Senior scholarships are being distributed, with interviews underway for some candidates
- Noted this is an important period for seniors as they prepare for post-graduation plans with community support
- Quarter 3 is ending, with students preparing for exams and midterms across grade levels
- Highlighted a recent senior showcase event organized by student government, featuring activities and performances to celebrate the class

## 3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- March 11, 2026, Special Meeting (3:00 p.m.)
- March 11, 2026, Special Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- March 11, 2026, Special Meeting (8:00 p.m.)
- March 17, 2026, Regular Meeting

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

On a motion by Chair Weinstein seconded by Member Jaikumar, **#26-044** was brought forth on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**#26-044 Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended Budget, be approved as follows:** That the School Committee receive and approve the FY 2025 General Fund Budget of the Cambridge Public Schools in the following Statutory Categories:

Salaries, Wages & Benefits:	\$	244,420,265
Other Ordinary Maintenance:	\$	47,489,390
Travel and Training:	\$	1,490,345
Extraordinary Expenditures:	\$	100,000
Total	\$	293,500,000

There was a lengthy discussion regarding **#26-044**, the FY27 Recommended Budget. Highlights include:

- Superintendent recommended adoption of the FY27 budget, emphasizing alignment with Committee priorities and student needs, especially highest-need students
- Budget is \$293.5M and reflects months of work, incorporating feedback from workshops, community input, and prior Committee discussions
- Key focus: targeted supports (intervention systems, staffing structures, partnerships like Shore Collaborative) to address achievement gaps

- Budget maintains strong staffing levels; net reduction is minimal (~4 FTEs) despite prior school closure and system restructuring
- No layoffs tied to school closure; staff were reassigned or absorbed into vacancies across the district
- Committee discussion highlighted concerns about:
  - Reductions in some building-based staff (e.g., paraprofessionals)
  - Growth or role of central office staffing
  - Adequacy of Tier 2 and Tier 3 student supports
- Superintendent Murphy noted:
  - Central office additions are minimal (one data analyst) and intended to improve data-driven decision-making
  - Emphasis that central office exists to support schools, not expand bureaucracy
- Strong acknowledgment that resources are not the core issue; success depends on execution, accountability, and instructional quality
- Continued need to strengthen Tier 1 instruction alongside intervention supports
- Members questioned what differentiates the FY27 budget from prior years and whether it will improve student outcomes and accountability
- Superintendent Murphy noted new elements:
  - Expanded intervention programming
  - More strategic staffing tied to enrollment and outcomes data
  - Increased focus on execution, monitoring, and family engagement

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Chair Weinstein, **#26-044** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, NAY; Member Jaikumar, NAY; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

The Committee brought forth **#26-064** for discussion.

**#26-064 Establishing School Council Subcommittee and Working Group – Member de Paula Santos, Vice Chair Dube and Chair Weinstein**

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) is committed to family and community engagement as a key to strengthening schools, and Superintendent Murphy continues to emphasize a commitment to improving family engagement; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 59C establishes School Councils to "assist in the identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school, make recommendations to the principal for the development, implementation and assessment of the curriculum accommodation plan, assist in the review of the annual school budget and in the formulation of a school improvement plan"; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) School Council Handbook outlines the role of School Councils in collaborating with and advising school leadership to strengthen schools; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee has a statutory and moral responsibility to ensure that School Councils are functioning as intended and that parent and caregiver voices are meaningfully incorporated into school-level decision-making; and

WHEREAS: From March to June 2021 a School Council Working Group consisting of CPSD parents, educators and staff and Cambridge community members convened with the support of then-Director of Family and Community Engagement Robin Harris and drafted the School Councils Handbook, later revised and adopted as policy by the School Committee in June 2023; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee establish a standing school council subcommittee, and the subcommittee actively engages with caregiver representatives, educator representatives serving on a School Council, principal or assistant principals, and the Director of Family and Community Engagement (or designee), should serve as Executive Leadership Team (ELT) member; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the subcommittee shall convene by May 15, 2026, and shall meet at least quarterly through June 2027, with a cadence to be established thereafter at the start of each school year; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the subcommittee in conjunction with the Superintendent and their designees should establish a School Councils Working Group, with membership to include parent/caregiver representatives who are current or former school council members at each school, educators and community representatives, selected through an open application process with attention to diversity across schools and grade levels; and be it further

- RESOLVED: That the School Councils Working Group will be supported by the CPSD Director of Family and Community Engagement and/or another designee appointed by the superintendent; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the School Councils Working Group will convene before the end of the 2025-26 school year, and will meet regularly thereafter; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the School Councils Working Group will be charged with
- Establishing a cadence for their meetings,
  - Reviewing the School Councils Handbook and proposing any updates they recommend,
  - Making recommendations for trainings and induction supports for new school council members and ongoing supports for sitting members,
  - Soliciting feedback from the school councils and making recommendations for district supports for school councils based on that feedback, and
  - Other work in support of school councils; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the School Councils Working Group will report back to the full School Committee at a public meeting prior to the end of the 2026-27 school year with updates and recommendations, and the School Committee will receive and review recommendations and requests submitted by the Working Group via the School Councils Subcommittee before then as well.

A lengthy discussion followed **#26-064**.

- The motion-makers shared their reasons for putting forth the motion which included:
  - Caregivers and school council members requested a review of the handbook and stronger structures
  - Concern that prior working group recommendations were not fully implemented
  - Goal to improve consistency, participation, and family engagement across schools
  - School councils are key to family engagement and provide important on-the-ground input
  - Need for a centralized structure to share best practices, improve communication, and coordinate efforts
  - Working group seen as a flexible way to include caregivers, educators, and community members
- Concerns were raised by other Committee members:
  - Question whether a new subcommittee is necessary vs. doing the work through existing structures
  - Risk of adding administrative burden and stretching staff capacity
  - Concern that the issue is lack of time/attention rather than lack of structure
  - Questions about impact on other core priorities (e.g., literacy, student outcomes)
- Superintendent Murphy provided feedback:
  - Administration already feels stretched supporting existing subcommittees
  - Would not independently recommend creating an additional subcommittee
  - Suggested work could be handled within the existing Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee
  - Emphasized variability in school council effectiveness and need for improvement
  - Clarified school councils are advisory bodies, not supervisory
- The group discussed amending the motion to include the following:
  - Removing the creation of a new subcommittee
  - Establishing a working group only
  - Directing the working group to report to the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee
- Implementation details include:
  - Administration will establish the working group
  - Group will include caregivers, educators, and community members
  - Will operate outside formal public body structure but report publicly
  - Initial report to subcommittee expected by late May
  - Full report to School Committee by end of 2026–27 school year

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

On a motion by Member Jaikumar seconded by Member de Paula Santos, **#26-064** was adopted as amended on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**4. Reconsiderations: None**

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:**

**#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.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding **#26-040**.

The motion-makers shared some reasons for bringing forth the motion:

- Grounded in recent guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics emphasizing reduced screen exposure for young children.
- Aimed to:
  - Support early literacy and brain development
  - Increase equity across schools (noting variation in current practices)
  - Strengthen family communication around screen-based assessments

Key Concerns Raised by Committee Members:

- Operational challenges:
  - Motion included detailed implementation requirements better suited for administration.
  - Concerns about unclear terms (e.g., “district-approved materials”).
  - Exception process (requiring superintendent approval) seen as impractical.
- Timing concerns:
  - Several members preferred waiting for the district screen time analysis (expected in May) before adopting policy.
  - Concern that the policy would only be in effect briefly before new data arrives.
- Potential unintended consequences:
  - Disruption to existing curriculum tools (e.g., digital learning programs).
  - Burden on educators and reporting requirements.
  - Possible impacts on students requiring assistive technology.

Superintendent Murphy shared:

- Noted inconsistent screen use practices across schools.
- Indicated the upcoming analysis will:

- Provide a broad but not precise quantitative picture
- Identify areas needing change rather than exact time targets
- Acknowledged:
  - Prior guidance for early grades was not fully enforced
  - Need for clearer expectations moving forward
- Raised concerns about:
  - Implementation timeline
  - Potential disruption to existing instructional tools
  - Sustainability of reporting requirements

Committee Discussion Themes

- General agreement that:
  - Reducing unnecessary screen time is important, especially in early grades
  - Policy should be age-specific
- Differing views on:
  - Whether to act immediately vs. after analysis data is available
- Interest in:
  - Simplifying policy language
  - Allowing administration flexibility in implementation
- Committee anticipates revisiting the topic after the May screen time analysis presentation.

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

**Chair Weinstein** requested at five minute recess.

**Vice Chair Dube** left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

At the conclusion of the recess, Chair Weinstein, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, the Rules were Suspended to bring forth **#26-046** on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, ABSENT; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**#26-046 Recommendation: Approval to Private School: Harmony Academy be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve Harmony Academy located at 86A Sherman St. Cambridge as a private school, in accordance with the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 1. as detailed in the [attached document](#).

A discussion included the following highlights:

- The Committee reviewed the application for Harmony Academy, a private school seeking to expand beyond its current preschool and kindergarten program.
- Superintendent Murphy recommended approval following review of the school's curriculum, staffing, and operational plans.
- Ms. Siddiqui, Head of Harmony Academy shared an overview of its mission, educational approach, and plans for gradual growth, as well as its focus on accessibility and community engagement.
- Committee members expressed support for the proposal and appreciation for the school's efforts to serve families in Cambridge.
- The Committee clarified that approval is a statutory requirement and does not make the school part of the Cambridge Public Schools system.

On a motion by Member Hudson, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, **#26-064** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

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

- (1) The proposed FY 27 operating budget;*
- (2) A brief update on the strategic planning process;*
- (3) A recommendation pertaining to a specific timeline for consideration of the use of the 158 Spring Street facility and the public engagement process that will precede the resolution of that matter as contemplated by previous discussions at the Building and Grounds Subcommittee;*
- (4) Current or impending hiring processes for district and school leadership positions.*

Superintendent provided updates:

- Strategic planning process ongoing, including school visits and upcoming community input opportunities.
- Hiring processes underway for CRLS, Fletcher Maynard Academy leadership, and Assistant Superintendent roles.
- 158 Spring Street:
  - Community engagement process will occur through end of school year.
  - Specific options for the building to be shared before May 15, 2026.
  - Suggested decision timeline: no later than October 1, 2026 (subject to change).

Committee discussion focused on timeline and process concerns for 158 Spring Street:

- Members raised concerns about setting unrealistic deadlines and ensuring transparency.
- Emphasis on avoiding perception of a rushed decision.
- Requests for a clear process roadmap, including milestones and community engagement.
- Discussion of summer meeting schedule and need for continued work during that period.
- Recognition that infrastructure, community input, and strategic planning all impact timing.

Key themes from committee members:

- Importance of robust community engagement and clear communication.
- Need for alignment between decision timing and school assignment/lottery processes.
- Urgency balanced with thoughtful, inclusive planning.
- Desire for early and ongoing committee involvement rather than delayed decision-making.

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

**7b. Presentation:**

*The Superintendent and representatives from the district administration will present to the committee on the myriad of specific metrics used to assess students and schools' academic progress. The report will detail the distinctions between statewide common assessments, intermediate universal screening assessments and curriculum-based assessments. The administration will share the objectives and purposes that underlie these assessment systems and how they function in conjunction with one another to inform strategies for continuous improvement for students, schools and the district.*

Superintendent Murphy, Dr. Francis and Ms. Amigone gave the following brief presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

Highlights included:

- Overview of informal vs. formal assessments.

- Three main types highlighted:
  - Universal screeners (e.g., iReady, M-Class)
  - Curriculum-based assessments
  - State assessments (MCAS)
- Emphasis on using multiple measures to assess student progress.
- Members requested clearer communication for families on how assessments relate to each other.

Committee feedback on assessments:

- Strong interest in a more comprehensive future discussion.
- Need for clearer explanations for families and the public.
- Suggestions to improve communication tools and consistency across schools.

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

**7d. Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Member Hudson, seconded by Member de Paula Santos, **#26-045, #26-047, #26-048, #26-050, #26-051, #26-052, #26-053, #26-054, #26-055 #26-056, #26-057, #26-058, and #26-059**, were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**#26-045 Recommendation: Approval of Authorization for an Additional Appropriation for the Feasibility Study/Schematic Design agreement with the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the replacement of the Cambridgeport School building roof be adopted as follows:** That in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts School Building Authority the School Committee enter an order containing the following: Based on the proposals received from the MSBA assigned designer and owner's project manager we are requesting approval for an additional (\$40,000) Dollars to cover the full costs of the schematic design for the Cambridgeport Roof Replacement Project. Previously, at the January 20, 2026 School Committee meeting and the January 26, 2026 City Council meeting, the City of Cambridge voted to appropriate the amount of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying feasibility study and schematic design costs related to a potential Accelerated Repair Project involving the roof replacement at the Cambridgeport School located at 89 Elm Street in Cambridge, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Cambridge has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Committee of Cambridge Public Schools. To meet this appropriation, the City Council, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to appropriate from available funds said amount under M.G.L Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority. The City of Cambridge acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Cambridge incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Cambridge.

**#26-047 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	\$25,508.00
Residential Program Tuition Contracts		
45 Day Program Contracts:		
Total	1	\$25,508.00

**#26-048 Recommendation: Contract Award: Boston Tutoring Services 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.

Boston Tutoring Services, 56 Doyle Ave, Dracut, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amended amount of \$90,000.00.

**#26-050 Recommendation: Contract Award: Lakeshore Learning 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.

Lakeshore Learning, 2695 E. Dominguez St., Carson, CA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

**#26-051 Recommendation: Contract Award: School Specialty 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.

School Specialty, PO Box 1579, Appleton, WI for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$350,000.00.

**#26-052 Recommendation: Contract Award: WB Mason 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.

WB Mason, 647 Summer St., Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$250,000.00.

**#26-053 Recommendation: Contract Award: WB Mason 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.

WB Mason, 647 Summer St., Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

**#26-054 Recommendation: Contract Award: School Specialty 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.

School Specialty, PO Box 1579, Appleton, WI for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$200,000.00.

**#26-055 Recommendation: Contract Award: Apple 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.

Apple, 1 Apple Park Way, Cupertino, CA for the period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 in the amended amount of \$970,000.00.

**#26-056 Recommendation: Contract Award: Sterling Business Products 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.

Sterling Business Products, 214 Main St., Stoneham, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amended amount of \$300,000.00.

**#26-057 Recommendation: Contract Award: Ockers Technology 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.

Ockers Technology, 48 Leona Drive, Middleboro, MA for the period of March 27, 2026 to March 26, 2027 in the amended amount of \$48,201.75.

**#26-058 Recommendation: Contract Award: Ricoh USA 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.

Ricoh USA, Inc., 214 Main St., Stoneham, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$475,000.00.

**#26-059 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 - Library Media Services received a donation of books from the Chinese American Association of Cambridge to support the continued expansion of our AAPI (Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander) collections in all PreK - 12 libraries.

IN-KIND - RSTA's Automotive Technology Program will receive a donated vehicle from GM. The vehicle cannot be titled or used for transportation. It can only be used for educational purposes.

## 8. Non-Consent Agenda

**#26-049 Recommendation: Contract Award: Research for Better Teaching (RBT) 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.

Research for Better Teaching, One Acton Place, Acton, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$120,000.00.

There was a brief discussion regarding **#26-049**.

**Member Harding** asked for additional details regarding the contract. The contract allows the district to draw on RBT's training programs as priorities are finalized. Leaders emphasized that the primary goal is to reduce inconsistency across schools by establishing common instructional practices and evaluation frameworks. Early feedback on these programs has been positive, and the investment is seen as a way to strengthen alignment, raise expectations, and ensure more coherent practices across the district.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Jaikumar, **#26-049** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Member Hudson, the meeting was extended to 11:00 p.m. on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, NAY; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

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

**#26-060 Governance Subcommittee Report - February 26, 2026**

**#26-061 Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee Report - March 18, 2026**

**#26-062 Curriculum & Achievement Report - March 19, 2026**

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Member Harding, **#26-060**, **#26-061** and **#26-062** were accepted as presented on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**#26-063 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Roundtable – Member Harding and Member Hudson**

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Schools is committed to supporting the health and well-being of all students through data-informed decision-making and collaboration with public health partners; and  
WHEREAS: The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) provides critical data on student health, wellness, and risk behaviors that can inform district policies, supports, and interventions; and  
WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Health Department Epidemiology Division plays an essential role in analyzing and contextualizing public health data that impacts Cambridge youth; and  
WHEREAS: The results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) are expected to be completed by June, providing an opportunity for timely review and discussion; now therefore be it  
RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee requests that the Superintendent coordinate with the Cambridge Public Health Department Epidemiology Division to schedule a Roundtable in fall 2026 to discuss the results and information gathered from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); and be it further  
RESOLVED: That the Roundtable shall serve as an opportunity for collaborative discussion and information sharing and shall not be an agenda item as part of a Regular School Committee meeting; and be it further  
RESOLVED: That the Roundtable will not include public comment.

There was a brief discussion regarding **#26-063**.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, **#26-063** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

**10. Resolutions** None

**11. Announcements:**

**Chair Weinstein** congratulated **Member Harding** on his recent recognition by the Phillips Brooks House.

**12. Late Orders:** None

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

On a motion by Member Hudson, seconded by Member Jaikumar the meeting was adjourned the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA (10:57 p.m.)

**Email Communications:**

- ✓ Clara Hendricks
- ✓ Tina Lieu
- ✓ Duncan MacLaury

Attest:



Katherine Christo  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee