



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

June 2, 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), Member Jaikumar, Mayor Siddiqui, Member de Paula Santos, Chair Weinstein

Others Present: Heather Francis, Executive Director of Academics; David Murphy, Superintendent of Schools

Chair Weinstein in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, PRESENT; Chair Weinstein, PRESENT

Member Harding arrived at 6:15 p.m.

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

1. Public Comment

There were not registrants for public comment.

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

2. Student School Committee Report:

There was no report.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- May 12, 2026, Special Meeting
- May 19, 2026, Regular Meeting
- May 26, 2026, Special Meeting

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

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

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 recent school leadership appointments of highly qualified individuals to the positions of Principal of CRLS, Principal of FMA and Interim Principal of Cambridgeport Schools.*
- (2) The Superintendent will offer a brief overview of the accomplishments and points of pride celebrating the impending graduation of the class of 2026 from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and the High School Extension Program.*
- (3) The Superintendent will also provide a short update related to ongoing conversations about the programming and facility decisions pertaining to 158 Spring Street facility that formerly housed the Kennedy Longfellow School. This update will not include information related to the concurrent project being administered by the City of Cambridge related to Ahern Field.*

Superintendent Murphy announced leadership appointments including Alan Gately-Gehant as principal of CRLS following his 19-month service as Interim. and Genteen Lacet Jean-Michel, current Principal of Cambridgeport School, as the new principal of Fletcher Maynard Academy.

The Superintendent provided an update on discussions regarding the future use of 158 Spring Street. He noted that the administration is working to narrow the range of potential options and plans to present a more detailed analysis of viable possibilities before the end of the school year. He also indicated that additional community engagement opportunities would be organized over the summer, with more substantive deliberations anticipated in the fall.

He highlighted upcoming graduation ceremonies. He noted that the High School Extension Program (HSEP) would graduate 31 students and that CRLS would graduate 518 students.

School Committee members congratulated the newly appointed school leaders and emphasized the importance of strong school leadership. Members expressed confidence in the appointments while noting the significant responsibilities and expectations associated with the roles. They also congratulated the graduating Class of 2026 and praised the accomplishments of Cambridge students.

7b. Presentation

The Superintendent and representatives from the district administration will present to the committee an introductory Cambridge School Committee conversation about the fundamental components and objectives of the district's Controlled Choice Policy. The presentation will include organizing principles of Controlled Choice, clarification around common misperceptions and recent school assignment data trends. The presentation will not include recommendations for amendments or changes to the policy and is intended to provide preliminary context to potential subsequent discussions.

Superintendent Murphy and Dr. Francis gave the following presentation which can be find on this website [website](#). Superintendent Murphy emphasized that the Controlled Choice Policy is reviewed continuously and that the purpose of the presentation was informational, not to propose policy changes. He noted that the presentation was intended to:

- Review the goals and structure of the Controlled Choice Policy.
- Provide current data and trends.
- Discuss challenges and opportunities.
- Clarify common misconceptions about how the policy operates.

Goals of the Controlled Choice Policy

- Promote diverse school communities that reflect the socioeconomic demographics of Cambridge.

- Support academic excellence and social justice.
- Foster innovation and meaningful school choice for families.
- Encourage schools to develop unique educational identities and specialized programming.

Policy Structure

Families entering grades K–8:

- Select and rank up to three preferred schools.
- Are not guaranteed assignment to a preferred school.

Assignment decisions are based on:

- Seat availability.
- Socioeconomic balance.
- Waitlist considerations.
- Registration completion date.
- Gender balance.

Enrollment and Choice Data

- Historical demand data showed that Baldwin, Amigos, and MLK (NEHO/Immersion) have consistently been among the most requested schools.
- Recent kindergarten lottery data indicated:
 - Baldwin remained the most requested school.
 - MLK (NEHO/Immersion) consistently ranked second.
 - Demand for third-choice schools fluctuated among Amigos, Peabody, King Open, and Tobin.

Discussion on Capacity and Enrollment

- Superintendent Murphy explained that recent efforts to expand classroom capacity at schools such as Baldwin, King Open, and Morse are intended to:
 - Better distribute enrollment.
 - Increase flexibility for families entering the district outside the lottery process.
 - Reduce overcrowding at high-demand schools.
 - Improve demographic balance across schools.
- He reported that:
 - Nine of eleven elementary schools are within policy demographic targets or within one percentage point.
 - Two schools remain outside policy targets and are the focus of ongoing capacity and enrollment planning.

Committee members discussed several aspects of the Controlled Choice Policy and identified areas for future exploration. **Member Harding** requested more comprehensive data on all schools rather than focusing only on those with the highest and lowest demand. He noted that family decisions are often influenced by school reputation and word-of-mouth, and raised questions about socioeconomic balancing, sibling preference, access to specialized programs such as Amigos and the MLK Immersion Program, and the equity of access to highly sought-after programs. He also asked about the role of gender in the policy. Superintendent Murphy explained that the gender provision has been part of the policy for many years but has rarely affected student assignments. He emphasized the importance of maintaining strong educational opportunities across all schools, improving communication about successful programs throughout the district, and addressing the tension between school choice and equitable access to specialized programming. **Vice Chair Dube** supported framing the presentation as the beginning of an ongoing discussion and expressed interest in future conversations examining the policy's long-term implications, its alignment with district equity goals, and circumstances that might warrant policy changes. She also noted that Controlled Choice data could help inform future district planning and programming decisions.

In closing, Superintendent Murphy shared the following:

- Indicated that future improvements may not require changing the policy itself.
- Suggested that issues may instead be addressed through:

- Program placement decisions.
 - Building utilization.
 - Enrollment planning.
 - Capacity management.
 - Access to specialized programs.
- Cautioned that changes to the policy could have unintended consequences and should be approached carefully.
- District leadership views the policy as generally successful in supporting diversity and family choice.
- Concentrated demand at a small number of schools remains a concern.
- Future discussions will likely focus on program access, school capacity, enrollment trends, equity, and public perception rather than immediate policy changes.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui **#26-111, #26-112, #26-114, #26-115, #26-116, #26-117, #26-118, #26-119, #26-120, #26-121, #26-122, and #26-123**, were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-111 Recommendation: Contract Award: Amplify 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.

Amplify, 55 Washington St, Suite 500, Brooklyn, NY for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$294,915.00.

#26-112 Recommendation: Contract Award: uAspire 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.

uAspire, 31 Milk St., Suite 900, Boston, MA for the period of September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$60,000.00.

#26-114 Recommendation: Contract Award: Produce Connection 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.

Produce Connection, 96 Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$250,000.00.

#26-115 Recommendation: Contract Award: Thurston Foods, 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.

Thurston Foods, Inc., 30 Thurston Drive, Wallingford, CT for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$1,250,000.00.

#26-116 Recommendation: Contract Award: Fantini Baking Company 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.

Fantini Baking Company, 375 Washington Street, Haverhill, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#26-117 Recommendation: Contract Award: Garelick Farms, 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.

Garelick Farms, LLC, 626 Lynnway, Lynn, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

#26-118 Recommendation: Contract Award: W.B. 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.

W.B. Mason, 647 Summer Street, Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$225,000.00.

#26-119 Recommendation: Contract Award: Gold Star Foods 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.

Gold Star Foods, 127 Smith Pl, Ste 2A, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

#26-120 Recommendation: Contract Award: Parts Authority, 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.

Parts Authority, LLC, 7 Griffin Way, Chelsea MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

#26-121 Recommendation: Contract Award: Savvas Learning Company 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.

Savvas Learning Company, 15 E. Midland Ave, Suite 502, Paramus, NJ for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$149,220.92.

#26-122 Recommendation: Contract Award: Project Wayfinder, 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.

Project Wayfinder, Inc., PO Box 2876, Berkeley, CA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029 in the amount of \$290,928.00.

#26-123 Recommendation: Contract Award: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

DONATION: \$148.75 from the Estate of John Tobin for dictionaries for the Tobin Awards. These awards are given to one student from each of the five upper schools annually.

IN-KIND: A community member donated a military uniform for use as a stage costume to the Department of Visual and Performing Arts.

8. Non-Consent Agenda

#26-113 Recommendation: Contract Award: Curriculum Associates, 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.

Curriculum Associates, LLC, 153 Rangeway Road, N. Billerica, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$125,133.39.

A discussion followed **#26-113**.

The School Committee discussed the proposed contract award for Curriculum Associates' i-Ready assessment platform, focusing on concerns about student screen time, the use of digital assessments, and data privacy. **Vice Chair Dube** questioned whether the district should delay approval until it further evaluates non-screen-based alternatives. Superintendent David Murphy acknowledged the concerns and stated that the administration is developing guidance on screen use but does not currently recommend discontinuing i-Ready, citing the importance of maintaining consistent assessment data and ensuring schools have the necessary tools in place for the upcoming school year. Dr. Francis explained that i-Ready is used only in grades 3–8, while younger students use teacher-administered and interview-based assessments. She noted that the district is reviewing its assessment and personalized learning practices but does not currently have a replacement diagnostic tool. The Committee also discussed the Amplify assessment system, with Dr. Francis clarifying that many of its assessments are not screen-based for students. **Mayor Siddiqui** raised questions about recent data privacy lawsuits involving i-Ready, and Superintendent Murphy reported that the district had reviewed the issue with legal counsel and found no indication that Cambridge student data was affected.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui **#26-113** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, NAY; Vice Chair Dube, NAY; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

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

#26-124 Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee Report - May 11, 2026

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Jaikumar **#26-124** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, NAY; Vice Chair Dube, NAY; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, ABSENT; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-125 Welcoming Community Ordinance – Member Jaikumar

WHEREAS: In accordance with the City of Cambridge's Welcoming Communities Ordinance, it is not within the purview nor mandate of the City of Cambridge nor of Cambridge Public Schools to enforce federal immigration law or seek the detention, transfer or deportation of Cambridge residents for civil immigration purposes, nor should CPS resources be expended toward that end; and

WHEREAS: While the City of Cambridge's Welcoming Communities Ordinance sets this policy, this is an issue about which there is considerable anxiety among Cambridge Public Schools stakeholders; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That CPS will equally enforce the law and serve the public without consideration of immigration status, citizenship, national origin, race, or ethnicity; and

RESOLVED: That in accordance with city policy, CPS employees and officials may not inquire about the immigration status of any student, family member, community member, or any member of the public with whom they interact, except as required by 8 U.S.C. § 1373 or for the limited purpose of demonstrating the eligibility of a job applicant to work in the United States. No employee of the Cambridge Public Schools shall require a student or

parent to provide information regarding their immigration or citizenship status to establish the student's residency in
RESOLVED: That citizenship, immigration status, national origin, race, and ethnicity shall have no bearing on an individual's treatment by CPS employees or officials; and be it further

RESOLVED: That except in response to a judicial warrant or other court order, ICE agents shall not be allowed access to individuals in CPS facilities including district-provided transportation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That no officer or employee of the Cambridge Public Schools shall perform the functions of an immigration officer, whether pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or any other law, regulation, or policy, whether formal or informal, except as required by federal or state law or regulations.

the district for enrollment purposes. If such information becomes known to an employee of the Cambridge Public Schools, such information shall not be kept or distributed, except as required by federal or state law or regulations, and shall have no bearing on the student's ability to register for school or the school's treatment of that student. Information collected regarding place of birth for the purpose of providing appropriate services to any student shall be used only for that purpose and not distributed further, except as required by federal or state law or regulation; and be it further

Member Jaikumar asked to table **#26-125** to the next Regular Meeting pending legislation by the state legislature.

On a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Member Harding **#26-125** was tabled to the next Regular Meeting following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

10. Resolutions

#26-126 Recognition of CPSD Retirees – Mayor Siddiqui, Chair Weinstein and Vice Chair Dube

WHEREAS: Fifty-six Cambridge Public Schools staff members are retiring or have retired in the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS: Each and every one of these individuals has made a significant difference in the lives of each of the children of Cambridge whom they have served, whatever their particular roles and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS: Every Cambridge Public Schools employee leaves a legacy that is carried on by their colleagues and in the lives of the students, community members and colleagues they supported; and

WHEREAS: These retirees together represent hundreds of years of dedicated service to the Cambridge Public Schools, including many with decades of service; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee honors all of these colleagues and wishes them all the best in their retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for each retiree to be presented at the retirement celebration on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 on behalf of the entire Committee.

(Addendum included with List of Retiree Names)

A brief discussion followed **#26-126**. Mayor Siddiqui thanked the retirees for their service and acknowledged CPSD colleague, Bobby Travers, for organizing the upcoming retiree celebration.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-126** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

11. Announcements:

- **Vice Chair Dube** shared the timeline for the Superintendent Evaluation process, which follows DESE guidelines:

- Superintendent self-assessment due to the School Committee by June 22.
- The August 4 School Committee meeting (5:00 p.m.) will focus on analysis, goal setting, and plan development.
- Steps 3–5 of the evaluation process will occur throughout the remainder of the calendar year.
- **Mayor Siddiqui** highlighted two upcoming city events:
 - Juneteenth Celebration, from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at Riverside Press Park.
 - Cambridge Pride Festival, from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. outside City Hall.
- **Member Harding** noted that the Cambridge Public Health Department's Hoops and Health event on June 13 at Hoyt Field
- **Chair Weinstein** recognized the success of the 8th Grade Civics Showcase at the State House; and he announced the Cambridge Community Youth Pride Day on June 5 from 3:30–6:00 p.m. at CRLS.

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 on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA (7:55 p.m.)

Email Communications:

- ✓ Eliza McLaughlin

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee