

June 8, 2026

**SPECIAL EDUCATION & STUDENT SUPPORTS
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Special Education and Student Supports Subcommittee
Monday, June 8 at 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138

Called or the purpose of holding a discussion on how the district documents incidents and notifies families when students are injured, restrained, or otherwise involved in incidents at school. This meeting is expected to end on or before 6:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Members: Member de Paula Santos (Chair); Vice Chair Dube

Other School Committee Members Present: Member Hudson

Also Present: Dr. Heather Francis, Executive Director of Academics; Dr. Karyn Grace, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Student Services; Kevin Mundt, Director of Upper and High School Special Education; Desiree Phillips, Executive Director of Special Education; Siobhan Reardon, Director of Special Education; Shelagh Walker, OSS Director

Chair de Paula Santos started the meeting at 5:03 p.m. She welcomed the group and read the call of the meeting. **Chair de Paula Santos** shared caregivers' testimonies regarding incidents happening at school. She also shared written testimony from a staff member and a parent highlighting concerns about inconsistent incident reporting and lack of follow-up from the school. The staff member expressed concern about the inconsistency in reporting serious incidents and the lack of communication with families. The parent shared that their child had been injured and stated that the school did not provide adequate follow-up or information regarding the incidents.

Chair de Paula Santos opened the floor for public comment.

Given the time constraints, each speaker was allotted three minutes. The following caregiver and community member, Amanda Beatty, shared the following sentiments:

- Expressed concerns about the lack of notification when incidents occur in classrooms.
- Emphasized the importance of parents being informed so they can support their children emotionally.
- Provided examples of incidents at her children's school
- Requested improved communication from the school when serious incidents occur.

Ms. Phillips introduced herself and her team, and shared the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

Highlights of the presentation include:

- The district has transitioned to the Safety Care system and has trained more than 300 staff members
- The physical restraint guidelines were updated last summer
- The district's digitized workflow for restraint reporting, which includes a standard parent notification letter and a centralized tracking spreadsheet
- Restraint log data is reviewed monthly to identify patterns and adjust practices as needed

The group raised questions about the number of Safety Care-trained staff in each school and how student injuries are documented. Questions were also raised about how parent notifications are tracked and how accountability is

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enforced when communication does not happen consistently. Ms. Phillips clarified the difference between physical restraint reports and general incident reports. A caregiver suggested that incident data should include school population context so the numbers can be better understood. **Chair de Paula Santos** summarized the need for greater consistency in incident reporting, restraint documentation, and family notification. The OSS team committed to gathering more information, answering questions raised during the meeting, and continuing to improve communication and reporting systems.

Chair de Paula Santos thanked all participants. The meeting concluded at 6:10 p.m.