



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Virtual Special Meeting

July 10, 2026

Called for Friday, July 10 at 4:00 p.m. and broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway, Cambridge for the purpose of discussing the agenda items posted.

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

Others Present: Heidi Cook, Baldwin School Principal; 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 4:02 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 Hudson, PRESENT; Member Jaikumar, PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui, PRESENT; Member de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, PRESENT; Chair Weinstein, PRESENT

1. Public Comment

The following individual was heard:

- Jay Carroll, Market Street, spoke in support of **#26-160**.

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

2. Superintendent's Update:

The Superintendent will present to the school committee the recommended candidate for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education and provide a brief overview of vendor contracts being submitted for the committee's consideration in light of the convening of the special meeting.

Superintendent Murphy explained that the Special Meeting was called to allow the School Committee to consider several vendor agreements that were delayed by the City's procurement process but were needed for summer work. Superintendent Murphy also introduced his recommendation to appoint Heidi Cook, current Principal of the Baldwin School, as the next Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education. He highlighted her extensive leadership experience in both Cambridge and Brookline, her work as a leadership coach, and her role as a trusted advisor during his tenure. He thanked the School Committee members who participated in the search process and invited questions regarding either Ms. Cook's candidacy or the search process. Members expressed their strong support for Ms. Cook's appointment. Member Harding asked about the typical length of an Assistant Superintendent contract. Superintendent Murphy explained that while state law allows contracts of up to five years, Cambridge's customary practice is to issue three-year contracts, which would be prepared following the School Committee's appointment.

3. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui seconded by Member Jaikumar **#26-152, #26-153, #26-154, #26-155, #26-156, #26-157, #26-158, and #26-159** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-152 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:	2	\$275,722.38
Residential Program Tuition Contracts		
45 Day Program Contracts:		
Total	2	\$275,722.38

#26-153 Recommendation: Contract Award: The Music Wagon 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.

The Music Wagon LLC, 715 E. Washington Street, Unit 1, North Attleborough, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$90,824.34.

#26-154 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 August 1, 2026 to July 30, 2027 in the amount of \$70,464.00.

#26-155 Recommendation: Contract Award: EDA Staffing 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.

EDA Staffing, 248 Broadway Street, Chelsea, MA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$74,976.00.

#26-156 Recommendation: Contract Award: Public Consulting Group 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.

Public Consulting Group, LLC, PO Box 845308, Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to August 1, 2026 in the amount of \$46,297.00.

#26-157 Recommendation: Contract Award: Nimbello 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.

Nimbello, 7321 Heritage Square, Suite 2140, Granger, IN for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$35,983.40.

#26-158 Recommendation: Contract Award: SHI International 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.

SHI International, 290 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$48,950.00.

#26-159 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY27 CTE Frameworks & Competency Based Implementation Grant (SC27693) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY27 CTE Frameworks & Competency Based Implementation Grant (SC27693) - Federal in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026.

3. Non Consent Agenda

#26-151 Recommendation: Approval of Appointment of the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve that the School Committee approve the appointment of Heidi Cook for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education.

A brief discussion followed **#26-151**. Principal Cook shared her sentiments with the Committee. Committee members expressed their support of her appointment.

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui seconded by Member Hudson **#26-151** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-160 Recommendation: Contract Award: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

IN-KIND - The Cambridge Boston Volleyball Association will donate the full cost of parts and installation to modify the gymnasium floor at Martin Luther King, Jr. School to include a permanent in-ground volleyball net system. This will in effect provide a new gymnasium floor for the school, as well as enable staff to more easily add and remove volleyball nets.

A brief discussion followed #25-160.

The group discussed in-kind donation to modify the gymnasium floor at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School with a permanent in-ground volleyball net system. The upgrade would not limit the gym's use, but increase its flexibility for both volleyball and other school activities while providing professional-grade equipment. **Chair Weinstein** praised the Association's decades-long partnership with Cambridge Public Schools and noted the significant value of the donation to both students and the broader Cambridge community.

Superintendent David Murphy thanked Jay Carroll and the Cambridge Boston Volleyball Association for approaching the district with the opportunity and recognized Chief Operating Officer Smith and district staff for completing the necessary due diligence to ensure the project was feasible and beneficial. He noted that a similar system had previously been installed at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and said the enhancement would expand opportunities for students while increasing the district's ability to host community and athletic activities.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein seconded by Member Harding, **#26-60** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui seconded by Member Jaikumar, the meeting was adjourned the following roll call vote: Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, ABSENT; Member Harding, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA (4:30 p.m.)

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Christo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee