

From the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee – Virtual Regular Meeting (Summer)

August 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway, Cambridge for the purpose of discussing the agenda items listed below.

Individuals may sign up in advance to provide public comment for the August 4 Regular Meeting: The sign-up window is Friday, July 31 through Tuesday, August 4 at 12:00 PM (by phone) and 4:30 PM (online).

Please note that the summer Regular Meeting will be virtual and begins one hour earlier at 5:00 p.m.

To register for public comment during the sign-up times:

- Visit the School Committee online portal: https://secure1.cpsd.us/school_committee.
- Or contact the School Committee office at 617.349.6620.

Regular Meetings will be live-streamed at www.cpsd.us and broadcast on Cambridge Educational Access TV (CEATV) Channel 26, as usual. The meeting can also be viewed on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96081106637>. This meeting will be video and audio recorded which may include third party devices.

SUPPLEMENTAL
A G E N D A

1. Public Comment

2. Student School Committee Report: None

3. Presentation of Records for Approval:

- June 16 2026, Regular Meeting
- June 18, 2026, Special Meeting
- June 25, 2026, Special Meeting
- July 10, 2026, Special Meeting

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#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 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
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.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7a. Superintendent's Update:

The Superintendent will present to the school committee on various matters pertaining to the opening of the 2026 - 2027 school year, including follow up reports on items discussed by the Cambridge School Committee during the second half of the 2025 - 2026 school year. These brief updates will include:

- (I) Secondary math instruction, including Algebra course offerings to 8th and 9th grade students
- (II) Developing guidance around appropriate use of technology and monitoring of screen time by students
- (III) Specific efforts to prioritize literacy instruction across elementary grade levels
- (IV) Upcoming public engagement and deliberations over the future use of 158 Spring Street

7b. Presentation:

The Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer will be joined by representatives of Attuned Education Partners LLC who will provide an update on the ongoing development of the long-term strategic plan for the Cambridge Public Schools.

7c. District Plan None

7d. Consent Agenda

- #26-161** Recommendation: Approval of Revised Policy JKAA: Time-Out, Seclusion & Physical Restraint of Students (First Reading)
- #26-162** Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department
- #26-163** Recommendation: Contract Award: Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology: Instructional Services
- #26-164** Recommendation: Contract Award Ensemble Music School LLC: Musical Instruments & Instructional Materials
- #26-166** Recommendation: Contract Award: US Foods, Inc.: Culinary Arts Program Supplies
- #26-167** Recommendation: Contract Award: PowerSchool Group LLC dba PowerSchool Holdings: Computer Software
- #26-168** Recommendation: Contract Award: Brightly Software: Computer Software
- #26-169** Recommendation: Contract Award: Scenario Learning dba Vector Solutions: Computer Software
- #26-170** Recommendation: Contract Award: Panorama Education: Professional Services
- #26-171** Recommendation: Contract Award: Interpreters & Translators: Translation Services

#26-172 Recommendation: Contract Award: Shore Educational Collaborative: Tuition

#26-173 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Circuit Breaker Allocation (SC26776)-Increase

#26-174 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY27 Civics Teaching & Learning (SC27207)

#26-175 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY27 Popplestone Foundation (SC27695)

8. Non-Consent Agenda

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

#26-176 School Climate Subcommittee Report -June 18, 2026

#26-177 Communications to Families of Decision Timeline for 158 Spring Street – Member Hudson & Member Harding

Since the December 2024 vote to close the Kennedy-Longfellow School, the Superintendent has taken the future of 158 Spring Street to the public repeatedly and on the record: At least four appearances before this Committee and its Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee (November 2025, March 18, 2026, April 7, 2026, and May 19, 2026), two community sessions open to all families (June 23, 2025, and the May 14, 2026), three publicly posted presentations, multiple CPS Connect notices, a direct email to Amigos families in June, and a standing project webpage.

What remains outstanding is a date by which a decision will be made. The school choice lottery for the 2027-2028 school year is expected to open in October 2026. Families entering that lottery will be ranking schools that could move, merge, or change, and families already enrolled at those schools face the same uncertainty.

To that end, the School Committee requests that the Superintendent communicate in writing to all Cambridge Public Schools parents, and to prospective families registering for the 2027-2028 school year, no later than the end of the first week of the 2026-2027 school year (September 4, 2026), a specific timeline for resolving the future programming of the 158 Spring Street facility. That timeline should include: (1) the date by which he will publish the recommended option or options for the facility; (2) the date by which he expects to bring a formal recommendation to the School Committee for a vote; and (3) the earliest school year in which any resulting change could take effect, with a plain-language statement of what the pending decision does and does not mean for families in the 2027-2028 lottery and for families currently enrolled at any school under consideration. If any date in the timeline later changes, the Superintendent should notify families of the new date and the reason as soon as practically possible.

#26-178 High School Graduation Requirement – Member Jaikumar, Vice Chair Dube & Member de Paula Santos

WHEREAS: Passing the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System was a high school graduation requirement beginning in 2003, and between 2003 and 2019, Massachusetts saw virtually no improvement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress – either in overall scores or in reducing test score gaps; and

WHEREAS: In November 2024, Massachusetts voters ended the use of the MCAS as a requirement for high school graduation; and

WHEREAS: Following that vote, a K-12 Statewide Graduation Council was convened and has issued recommendations for new graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS: A [Massachusetts Association of School Committees position paper](#) on a substantially similar draft of proposed graduation requirements opposed key elements, including state-administered end-of-course assessments to replace the state-administered assessment already rejected by voters, as well as the completion of government student financial aid forms. The MASC also supported some elements of the proposed graduation requirements only if implemented with local flexibility and/or full funding; and

WHEREAS: The MASC called for full state funding of capstones or portfolios "because they are better aligned to the Graduation Council's own Vision of a Massachusetts Graduate." Further, "The state should provide frameworks, model rubrics, guidance, professional development, and funding. Implementation and grading, however, must remain local. Capstones and portfolios should strengthen the diploma and deepen student learning while preserving local authority and flexibility over how students demonstrate mastery."; and

WHEREAS: That [Vision of a Massachusetts Graduate](#) calls for students to finish high school as Academically

Prepared, Critical Problem-Solvers, Self-Aware Navigators, Intentional Collaborators, Effective Communicators, and Responsible Decision-Makers – all important aspirations that would call for continued educational excellence across Massachusetts; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee endorses the Vision of a Massachusetts Graduate and the May 2026 MASC position paper on The Graduation Standard; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee opposes the K-12 Statewide Graduation Council's call to limit local flexibility and override the will of the voters by replacing one high-stakes state-controlled assessment with another; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee calls on the state to fully fund any new graduation requirements, while respecting the Massachusetts tradition of local flexibility.

10. Resolutions:

#26-179 Honoring Christopher Anne Affleck – Member Harding

WHEREAS: Deep sorrow fills the hearts of members of the City of Cambridge School Committee with the passing of Christopher Anne Affleck, the announcement of which we profoundly felt. We pause to reflect and consider her life and worth of her achievements to the youth in our community and as we continue to gain inspiration of a dear teacher/friend/mother; and

WHEREAS: Chris Anne Affleck was an admired and influential City of Cambridge School Teacher, and also an Activist Organizer and a staunch advocate for Civil Rights, thus her activist spirit was woven into her robust social life she kept with her peers. She taught literacy classes and carried these values into all her classrooms. She had a keen sense of social justice; and

WHEREAS: Chris Anne Affleck in her dedication to her duties utilized her ability to educate, inspire and encourage, being a guide to the knowledge of constitutional rights and to take lawful action thereof; and

WHEREAS: Chris Anne Affleck saw the need and not the cause to extending knowledge to students, parents and members of the community to ensure all of their political, educational and social equality among all citizens; and

WHEREAS: The influence of Chris Anne Affleck and her adherence to her leadership earned her the highest regard and utmost respect from all her peers; and

WHEREAS: Chris Anne Affleck was the proud mother of famed Academy Award winners, native Cantabrigians Ben and Casey Affleck, both of whom attended Cambridge Public Schools, and graduates of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That The City of Cambridge School Committee assures the bereaved family of our deep and heartfelt sympathy and trust that they will be comforted with the peace of accepted sorrow; and be it further

RESOLVED: That while we pause to pay tribute to Christopher Anne Affleck, we will cherish fond memories and appreciation of all her hard work and timeless hours he shared with our youth. We give thanks for her life and gentle nature that endeared her to the community; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Christopher Anne Affleck will always be remembered and valued for her input in the education of our children, and all the lives that she has touched. May she enjoy eternal rest and the rewards she has earned; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be inscribed to the memory of Christopher Anne Affleck in the archives of the City of Cambridge School Committee.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

Honoring Larry Aaronson – Chair Weinstein, Mayor Siddiqui and Member Harding

WHEREAS: Larry Aaronson, a beloved Cambridge educator and life-long champion of public education, passed away on August 1, 2026, at the age of 86, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of teaching, advocacy, and service to generations of Cambridge public school students; and

WHEREAS: Born in Washington, D.C., Larry Aaronson began his career as a teacher during the height of the Vietnam War, a period that profoundly influenced his belief that public education was the most powerful response to the ethical and moral challenges of the time and an essential foundation for a more just and democratic society; and

WHEREAS: Larry moved to Cambridge to pursue doctoral studies at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he deepened his commitment to the transformative power of public education and embraced the principles of public education as a means of social liberation; and

WHEREAS: In 1977, Larry joined Cambridge Public Schools as a history and social studies teacher at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS), where he specialized in alternative progressive education and social justice, inspiring generations of students until his retirement in 2007 to engage thoughtfully with history and current events and to recognize their own capacity to create positive change; and

WHEREAS: So profound was Larry Aaronson's impact that, upon his retirement, colleagues, family members, former students, and their parents established the Aaronson Fund to continue supporting the values and educational opportunities he championed; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Larry Aaronson and honor his extraordinary legacy as an educator, mentor, and advocate for public education; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to prepare suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the family of Larry Aaronson on behalf of the Cambridge School Committee.

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: