From the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee - Regular Meeting **October 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

Held in and broadcast from the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge, and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge for the purpose of discussing the agenda items listed below.

Individuals may sign up in advance to provide public comment for the October 20 Regular Meeting: The sign-up window is Friday, October 16 through Tuesday, October 20 at 12:00 PM (by phone) and 5:30 PM (online).

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.

A G E N D A

1. Public Comment:

2. Student School Committee Report:

3. Presentation of Records for Approval:

- October 6, Regular Meeting
- October 13, Special Meeting

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7a. Superintendent's Update:

The Superintendent will present to the school committee on various matters pertaining to the Cambridge Public Schools.

The Superintendent's update will include a request that the Cambridge School Committee approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the Amigos School move its physical location from 15 Upton Street to the building that formerly housed the Kennedy-Longfellow School located at 158 Spring Street in East Cambridge effective the start of the 2028 - 2029 school year as presented at the special meeting of the Cambridge School Committee held on October 15, 2026.

7b. Presentation:

The Superintendent and the Director of Data, Research & Accountability will present to the committee an overview of the district's recent accountability data as released by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in late September. The presentation will include a report on the Math and Science MCAS achievement and growth data, including year over year comparisons and the district's data contrasted against state averages. The presentation will encompass various efforts underway or under consideration for the purpose of continuously improving the educational experiences of all students.

7c. District Plan None

7d. Consent Agenda

#26-223 Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department

#26-224 Recommendation: Contract Award: Shore Educational Services: Educational Support

#26-225 Recommendation: Contract Award: Breakthrough Greater Boston: Educational Services

#26-226 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge School Volunteers: Student Support Services

8. Non-Consent Agenda

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

#26-227 Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee Report – October 5, 2026

#26-228 Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Report – October 8, 2026

#26-229 Attendance Policy and Illness - Member Jaikumar, Vice Chair Dube, and Member de Paula Santos

WHEREAS: On September 2, 2025, the School Committee unanimously voted to amend the District's Student Attendance Policy, to combat chronic absenteeism in the Cambridge Public Schools; and
WHEREAS: The revised Policy states that a student's absence from school because of "personal illness or quarantine" will be considered excused so long as "supporting documentation is provided,"; and
WHEREAS: The revised Policy does not require such supporting documentation to be from a physician or health care provider; and
WHEREAS: In the event of chronic or irregular absences, district policy permits — but does not require – a principal to "request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justifiable"; and
WHEREAS: The 2026-27 Cambridge Rindge and Latin School ("CRLS") Student Handbook does not include any provision stating that absences because of personal illness or quarantine may be excused with supporting documentation, irrespective of whether that documentation is from a caregiver or from a physician or healthcare provider; and
WHEREAS: Under CRLS's Attendance and No Credit policies and individual course grading systems, accumulation of too many Reported or Unexcused absences may affect a student's grade or result in a student receiving no credit for a course; and
WHEREAS: Financial and physical barriers to healthcare often create inequitable and disparate access to physicians and medical care among the CRLS student population; and
WHEREAS: Students with certain illnesses, particularly communicable or infectious diseases such as COVID-19, are often discouraged from seeing doctors so as to avoid further infection; and
WHEREAS: Certain students have chronic illnesses which can force them to miss school semi-regularly, rather than having a transient illness where they will miss days consecutively, and as such getting a doctor's note is not always possible for them; and
WHEREAS: Students may be incentivized to attend school while sick to avoid academic penalties, further endangering the rest of a school community, especially students with chronic illnesses, who are already particularly vulnerable; and
WHEREAS: The School Committee is committed to addressing the issue of chronic absenteeism without endangering the student population or exacerbating existing inequities; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the Superintendent shall instruct building leadership that a student's absence because of personal illness or quarantine may be counted as an excused absence if a caregiver provides the school with supporting documentation in a timely manner, and that such documentation need not be from a physician; and be it further
RESOLVED: That this policy be effective as of the passage of this Motion; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the change in policy applies retroactively to the beginning of the CRLS 2026-2027 school year; and be it further
RESOLVED: Nothing in this Motion shall be interpreted to amend or alter the district's Student Attendance Policy as amended on September 2, 2025.

#26-230 Social Media Use by CRLS Clubs and Athletics – Vice Chair Dube

WHEREAS: Instagram and other social media platforms present concerns related to student privacy, online safety, social comparison, and adolescent mental health; and
WHEREAS: School-sponsored clubs, athletic teams, and extracurricular activities should communicate with students and families through district-approved platforms that do not require students to maintain social media accounts to access information or participate fully; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the School Committee request that the Superintendent establish and implement a policy prohibiting all Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) athletic teams, clubs, and school-sponsored extracurricular organizations from maintaining or operating official Instagram or other social media accounts; effective no later than July 1, 2027; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the Superintendent ensure that all affected organizations have access to district-approved communication platforms for sharing announcements, schedules, events, and other information with students, families, and the school community; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the Superintendent investigate the feasibility of developing or adopting an in-house, district-managed social media platform that would allow CRLS students, clubs, athletic teams, and extracurricular organizations to share information, celebrate achievements, and build community in a safe, accessible, and age-appropriate digital environment, with consideration of student privacy, moderation, accessibility, implementation costs, and ongoing maintenance; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the Superintendent report back to the School Committee within 90 days with findings, recommendations, and a proposed implementation timeline, including opportunities for student participation in the design and evaluation of alternative platforms.

10. Resolutions:

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: