



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### (Official Minutes)

#### Regular Meeting

March 4, 2025

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: Member Harding, Member Hudson (Remote), Vice Chair Hunter, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Others Present: Jennifer Amigone, Director of Data, Assessment & Accountability; Student Member Barua: Daniel Coplon-Newfield, Principal, Vassal Lane Upper School (Remote); Manuel Fernandez, Asst. Superintendent, Upper Schools/OEIB; Kim Huffer, Director of Social Emotional Learning; Maureen MacFarlane, General Counsel; Jamie McCarthy, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator Health, Physical Education & Wellness; David Murphy, Interim Superintendent; Student Member Shimelis; Ivy Washington, Chief Financial Officer

**Vice Chair Hunter** in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and read the call of the meeting.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call vote for the purpose of a soundcheck: Member Rojas, PRESENT; Member Weinstein, PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter, PRESENT; Member Harding, PRESENT; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Rachel, PRESENT; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

**Mayor Simmons** arrived at 6:40 p.m.

**Member Hudson** joined remotely at 7:20 p.m.

#### 1. Public Comment:

The following individuals were heard:

John Summers, Fairmont Street, spoke regarding **#25-236**  
Carrie Jung, Standish Street, spoke regarding **#25-236** and **#25-239**  
Anne Coburn, Otis Street, spoke regarding **#25-236** and **#25-239**

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel, public comment was closed on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT (5-2-0)

#### 2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Members Barua and Shimelis shared an update on the following:

- Upcoming Club Leaders Roundtable
- Recent *Know Your Rights* Workshop

- Cambridge's Participatory Budget Process
- Accolades for the CRLS African American Studies AP offering
- RSTA Students received 2<sup>nd</sup> place at MA Restaurant Association ProStart State Invitational
- Parent-Teacher Conferences March 11 – 13
- Spring Sports Tryouts
- Teen Health Center is offering COVID & Flu vaccines with parents' consent

**3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:**

- January 28, 2025, Special Meeting
- February 4, 2025, Special Meeting
- February 4, 2025, Regular Meeting

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel, the records were accepted as presented the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT (5-2-0)

**4. Reconsiderations: None**

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:**

**#24-259 Tobin Montessori Preliminary Report – Member Hudson and Member Harding**

WHEREAS: The Tobin Montessori School was recently recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and by the Cambridge Public Schools Superintendent for its high student achievement;

WHEREAS: The Tobin Montessori School is leading the way within the Cambridge Public School District, delivering clear, measurable progress in narrowing gaps in achievement between students with different backgrounds – an issue that the District has long stated is its most important; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee went on record a year ago supporting the expansion of the and directed the Superintendent to "...provide a report and recommendation to the committee a plan of action for the possible next steps..."; and

WHEREAS: No report nor recommendation was ever made; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee request that the Superintendent provide a preliminary report on the feasibility of making this change, and a recommendation from the Superintendent as to whether next steps are warranted and what those next steps would be, no later than December 31, 2024 (with the definition of preliminary to be determined by the Superintendent). Tobin Montessori program (specifically, "...to explore the recommendation of the American Montessori Association Accreditation team to extend the Tobin Montessori Upper Elementary Program to three years...") and referred the matter to the Superintendent "...for further review of the recommendations from the Accreditation team to explore implications of such a change including but not limited to the budget impact, upper school enrollment, and feeder patterns..."

Due to Member Hudson's absence at the beginning of the meeting, the rules were suspended to delay the discussion until Member Hudson joined the meeting. On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Harding on the following roll call vote, the rules were suspended: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT (5-2-0).

**6. Awaiting Reports: None**

**7. 7a. Superintendent's Update:**

*An update on pending matters and highlight various initiatives taking place across CPS school communities.*

Mr. Murphy shared the two overarching strategic objectives for the school year, a focus on educator effectiveness and perfecting CPSD's practices with respect to behavioral health. He updated the Committee that the administration will now provide School Committee summaries on the District's website and other outreach vehicles. He extended his gratitude to staff and caregivers participating in the Kennedy-Longfellow transition. Mr. Murphy highlighted that the district has received the results of the kindergarten lottery. He thanked the families of the Morse and Graham & Parks schools for participating in the survey soliciting feedback on the start and end times. He is hopeful that this information will help inform possible future decisions regarding the bus transportation schedule.

#### **7b. Presentations:**

*The Interim Superintendent and district administrators will present to the Cambridge School Committee findings from the Centers for Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered during the spring of 2024 and how those findings have informed practices and goal-setting in the Cambridge Public Schools during the 2024 - 2025 school year and beyond.*

David Murphy, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Jennifer Amigone, Director of Data, Assessment & Accountability  
Manuel Fernandez, Asst. Superintendent, Upper Schools/OEIB;  
Kim Huffer, Director of Social Emotional Learning  
Jamie McCarthy, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator Health, Physical Education & Wellness

Mr. Murphy and the presenters gave the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

Below are the key findings to the 2024 Teen/Middle Grades Health Survey administered in May 2024:

- In general, CPSD is seeing an improvement in outcomes for high school students and in many cases, a worsening of or no change in outcomes for upper school students.
- Consistent with previous findings and with national data, outcomes for Transgender or Gender Diverse and LGBTQ+ students were less favorable than their peers across most indicators.
- Students are reporting significant increases in protective factors since COVID lows:
  - Connections with adults in school, in their families, and with friends have improved significantly.
  - Students are also sleeping more (high school), on screens less (both), and consistently getting more physical exercise (both).
- Mental health concerns continue to increase or remain the same among upper school students, though are decreasing among high schoolers.
- While bullying and discrimination is trending more positively for high school students, CPSD's sees worsening in some areas for upper school students.

Following the presentation, the group discussed the following topics:

- Offering tailored professional development opportunities to meet the needs of individual school communities with *Equity by Design* serving as an example.
- Building personal connections and trust with students.
- Prioritizing SEL preventative measures and interventions in the youngest grades.
- Staffing model for the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (Bryt)
- Promoting robust extracurricular offerings in upper schools with special attention to encouraging students, particularly girls, to stay engaged in sports and physical activities.
- Sharing survey data with principals of feeder elementary schools

- Increasing social worker support in the district with the increase of social workers from 4 to 15 while being mindful of employing an effective model for increased staffing.
- Addressing the challenges that immigrant students face and offering supports to help ensure their emotional health.
- Leveraging outside resources and community partnerships

7c. **CPS District Plan:** None

7d. **Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Member Rachel seconded by Member Harding the items **#25-027, #25-031, #25-033** and **#25-034** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

**#25-027 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 as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget.

Description: SY24-25 Placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:	6	\$267,387.77
Residential Program Contracts:	1	\$91,491.25
45 Day Program Contracts:		
Total	7	\$358,879.02

**#25-031 Recommendation: Contract Award: BPU Acquisition, LLC: Professional Development 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.

BPU Acquisition, LLC, 588 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA for the time periods and amounts listed below:

<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/1/24 - 6/30/25	\$ 31,080.00
7/1/25 - 6/30/26	\$148,860.00
7/1/26 - 6/30/27	<u>\$101,010.00</u>
	\$ 280,950.00

**#25-033 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Expanded Homeless Shelter Funding (SC25218) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY25 Expanded Homeless Shelter Fund (SC25218) through state in the amount of

\$166,670.21 for the period of February 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

**#25-034 Recommendation: Grant Award: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B (IDEA) Federal Targeted Special Education Program Improvement Grant (SC25674) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B (IDEA) Federal Targeting  
Special Education Program Improvement Grant (SC25674) Federal through  
State-Targeted in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the period of February 5, 2025  
to September 30, 2025.

## 8. Non-Consent Agenda:

**#25-024 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Civil Rights Grievance Procedures Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the Superintendent's Recommendation #25-024 be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Civil Rights Grievance Procedures Policy as detailed in the [attached document](#). (First Reading)

**#25-025 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Non-Discrimination on Basis of Sex Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Non-Discrimination on Basis of Sex Policy as detailed in the [attached document](#) (First Reading).

**#25-026 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to School Department's Non-Discrimination Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Department's Non-Discrimination Policy as detailed in the [attached document](#) (First Reading).

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Harding **#25-024, #25-025 and #25-026** were brought forth together for discussion on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

A brief discussion followed **#25-024, #25-025 and #25-026. Member Rachel** inquired for about the timing to bring forward relatively minor revisions. Mr. Murphy and Attorney MacFarlane highlighted that changes were not substantial and did not relate to the recent news cycle regarding the federal administration. The Administration assured that student protections, including those based on gender identity and demographics, are adequately covered in other parts of the policy.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Harding **#25-024, #25-025 and #25-026** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

**#25-028 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HIQ Computers: Computer Hardware & Supplies 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.

PJ Systems dba HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, MA for  
the period of February 6, 2025 to February 5, 2026 in the amount of  
\$500,000.00.

A brief discussion followed **#25-028. Member Rachel** inquired about the high cost of technology and computer expenses. The Committee agreed that keeping a separate accounting of these costs would be helpful. Mr. Murphy agreed to keep a catalog of these expenses.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein **#25-028** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

**#25-029 Recommendation: Contract Award: Bredy Network Management: Firewall Monitoring 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.

Bredy Network Management, 827 Main Street, Woburn, MA for the period of February 13, 2025 to February 12, 2026 in the amount of \$39,788.04.

A brief discussion followed **#25-029. Member Hudson** inquired about the specifics of the contract. Mr. Murphy shared that he would report back to the Committee with additional details.

On a motion by Member Hudson, seconded by Member Rojas **#25-029** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

**#25-030 Recommendation: Contract Award: Mo Trailer Corp.: Crew Trailer 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.

Mo Trailer Corp, 207 E St. Joseph, Bristol, IN, for the period of January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026 in the amount of \$46,027.00.

**#25-032 Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

DONATION - CPS received an additional \$380,645 donation to the CRLS boys and girls rowing teams from the Estate of Marie L. Hagelstein. This is the fourth of multiple donations from the estate which are restricted for the exclusive use of the CRLS boys and girls rowing teams. This brings the total donations to date to \$2,051,755.

DONATION - \$3,000 from Cambridgeside/Cambridge Half Marathon for Visual and Performing Arts.

IN-KIND - Donation of AAPI books for school libraries across the district from the Chinese American Association of Cambridge.

IN-KIND -A CSUS 8th grade civics educator has been accepted to participate in the Democratic Knowledge Project (DKP) Launch MA cohort program, including professional development at a value of approximately \$4,785 over three years to help support DKP curriculum implementation and programming

in 8th grade civics.

IN-KIND - ICTS was awarded a 2025 Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Program in-kind grant. The program will provide an initial and final assessment, cybersecurity awareness training, and threat simulation (phishing campaigns) provided by the MA Executive Office of Technology Services and Security.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Rojas **#25-030** and **#25-032** were brought forth together for discussion on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

A brief discussion followed **#25-030** and **#25-032**. It was noted that the crew trailer would be purchased through the generous funds from the estate of Marie L. Hagelstein. Athletic Director Arria has created a committee to ensure that the funds would be spent appropriately.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Hunter **#25-030** and **#25-032** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

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

##### **#25-035 School Councils Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report, January 28, 2025**

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Weinstein **#25-035** was accepted as presented on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

##### **#25-036 Reaffirm the Educational Priorities of CPSD – Member Hudson and Member Harding**

WHEREAS: The mission of our schools is to equip students with the skills necessary for success in an increasingly competitive economy, ensuring they graduate with strong literacy, numeracy, critical thinking abilities and skilled technical/trade skills; and

WHEREAS: It is also our mission to expose students to a broad range of opportunities and career pathways, helping them discover their interests and strengths, and the places where they will want to go apply those skills; and

WHEREAS: It is not the role or purpose of this district to adopt or impose any singular framework, ideology, or lens through which students must view the world; rather, our responsibility is to equip students with the tools to be intelligent, critical thinking independent consumers of information, capable of forming their own well-reasoned conclusions; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That Cambridge Public School System affirms its commitment to an education system that prioritizes academic and skilled technical/trade excellence and career readiness, without being swayed by shifting political mandates or ideological trends; and be it further

RESOLVED: That our district is further committed to treating all students equally, ensuring that every child—regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, immigration status, or national origin—receives a high-quality education, is encouraged to meet high academic and skilled trade standards, and is given the same opportunities to succeed; and be it further

RESOLVED: That whereas our primary focus is on delivering rigorous academic content and trade skill training, we acknowledge that many students require additional support and disability accommodations to fully engage with these opportunities, and we adopt the responsibility to make this available. To that end, we will continue to provide (and improve in providing) essential wraparound services to ensure that every student can focus on learning, believes in their ability to succeed, and thrives in our schools, and to make operational accommodations at the discretion of the Superintendent.



A robust discussion followed **#25-036**. **Member Rachel** asked the motion makers to share their rationales for the motion. **Member Hudson** and **Member Harding** shared their reasons for the motion which differed slightly. **Member Rachel** shared that she could not support the motion unless it was amended. She also highlighted that the motion could be interpreted differently as demonstrated by the public comment remarks. **Member Rojas** noted that the language was confusing and **Vice Chair Hunter** and **Member Weinstein** shared that they would not support the motion.

On a motion by Member Hudson, seconded by Member Harding **#25-036** failed on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, NAY; Member Weinstein, NAY; Vice Chair Hunter, NAY; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, NAY; Mayor Simmons, PRESENT (2-4-1).

**#25-037      Teen Health Survey Presentation – Member Harding and Member Hudson**

That the interim superintendent gives a presentation to the School Committee on the Teen/Middle Grades Health Survey based on the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel **#25-037** was placed on file on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

**#25-038      Report on Staffing Support for Upper School Math – Member Hudson and Member Harding**

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District will be reintroducing Algebra to Upper School students starting in the fall of 2026; and

WHEREAS: This will be the first time in its history that the District will be taking all of its 8th grade students through this material; and

WHEREAS: Students today differ in preparedness, but it is our responsibility to ensure that they all have a great experience in the course, and successfully work through all material; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent will report to the School Committee – before the final budget presentation – how we will be staffing our Upper School mathematics classrooms, such that the Committee can determine if additional support will be required, in its opinion.

**#25-039      Report on General District Staffing Allocation – Member Hudson and Member Harding**

WHEREAS: We will shortly be reviewing the budget for the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS: It is our responsibility to understand how our existing resources are allocated, before making decisions about how to augment or change allocations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent provide a report describing how our human resources are allocated across the district – breaking staff down by student facing (involved in day to day classroom instruction); and non-student facing staff (and within non-student facing staff, breaking out operational roles necessary for the safe functioning of our facilities, from administrative or other program or support staff).

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein **#25-038** and **#25-039** were brought forth together for discussion on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

A discussion followed **#25-038** and **#25-039**. **Member Hudson** shared that she would like to see more detailed budget data related to these motions. She noted the change in upper school math curriculum and her commitment to ensuring that students are adequately supported during the transition. Regarding **#35-039**, **Vice Chair Hunter** noted that differentiating between student facing and non-student facing staff would be challenging and stressed that all CPSD staff members were supporting students in various and important ways. Mr. Murphy highlighted that the district's largest budget item was staffing (approximately 2,500 employees) and he agreed



that it was important for the Committee to understand how staff members are deployed throughout the district. He welcomed the opportunity to provide this information, but noted that it was a time-consuming undertaking for his team. Regarding **#25-038**, it was noted that the second WHEREAS referencing the history of offering algebra in the district was not historically accurate.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rojas, the 2<sup>nd</sup> WHEREAS from **#25-038** was deleted on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, **#25-038** was adopted as amended on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, PRESENT; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (6-1-0).

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Weinstein, **#25-039** was referred to the Superintendent on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

**10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences):**

**#25-040 Title IX Aurelia Advocates MSSADA Award** – Member Weinstein, Member Rachel,  
and Mayor Simmons

WHEREAS: The Title IX Aurelia Advocates is an independent Cambridge Rindge and Latin School student group that has advocated for Cambridge Public School District compliance with federal Title IX regulations, increased consent education, and stronger consent culture in CPSD; and  
WHEREAS: Title IX Aurelia Advocates has made a significant positive impact on the CRLS school culture as well as the culture of athletics in Cambridge Public Schools; and  
WHEREAS: The Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Title IX Aurelia Advocates have been selected by the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association as the recipient of the MSSADA Mickey Sullivan Award; and  
WHEREAS: The Mickey Sullivan Award was established to honor outstanding Student-Athlete Achievement in the State of Massachusetts; and  
WHEREAS: this award will be presented in their honor to Athletic Director Tom Arria at the MSSADA Annual Luncheon Banquet March 26th, 2025, and will then be presented to the Title IX Aurelia Advocates at CRLS; now therefore be it  
RESOLVED: That the School Committee congratulates the Title IX Aurelia Advocates on their achievements and this well-deserved recognition; and be it further  
RESOLVED: That the School Committee thanks Athletic Director Tom Arria for his collaboration with the Title IX Aurelia Advocates; and be it further  
RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution will be presented to the members of the Title IX Aurelia Advocates.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Rachel, **#25-040** was adopted the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (6-0-1).

**#25-041 Scholastic Art Award Winners** – Member Weinstein, Member Harding and Member Rojas

WHEREAS: 46 Cambridge Rindge and Latin School students were recognized with 93 awards from the 2024-25 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running, most prestigious award and recognition program to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talents; and

WHEREAS: CRLS students received 22 Gold Keys, 1 Silver Key Portfolio, 26 Silver Keys, and 44 Honorable Mentions for the Massachusetts Region; and

WHEREAS: The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the nation's longest running, most prestigious award and recognition program for creative teens, now in the 102nd year of its existence. Submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts. National Medalists are eligible for scholarships of up to \$12,500; and

WHEREAS: The mission of The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Awards; and

WHEREAS: Some alumni of the awards include Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana, Amanda Gorman, Langston Hughes, Judy Blume, Richard Avedon, Cy Twombly, Ezra Jack Keats, Ken Burns, Stephen King, Edwidge Danticat, Sylvia Plath, John Updike, Red Grooms, Zac Posen, David Sedaris, Ocean Vuong and many more great artists; and

WHEREAS: During the 2024 program year, more than 110,000 teens from U.S. territories, Canada, and every state in the nation entered nearly 340,000 works of art and writing to the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards for consideration; and

WHEREAS: This year, the Massachusetts region had 7,898 Individual Art Entries and 216 Art Portfolios; and

WHEREAS: Tufts University will host the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Massachusetts Gold Key art exhibition from March 15-22 and the Award Ceremony on March 16; and

WHEREAS: These students were supported by extraordinary CPSD writing and visual arts teachers, including Melissa Chaney, Bianca Hegre, Amanda Kilton, Michele Watson, Deborah Milligan, and Jesse Young who guided, taught, and supported CRLS students through the long process to submit work to the competition, while teaching the Awards' core values of originality, skill, and emergence of a personal voice or vision; and

WHEREAS: The list of writing and art award winners can be viewed [here](#) along with the winning artwork; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee goes on record congratulating the CRLS students who have created this excellent work on this wonderful accomplishment and thanking the CRLS writing and visual arts educators who have taught and supported these students.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Hunter, **#25-040** was adopted the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (6-0-1).

## 11. Announcements:

- **Member Harding** shared that Kevin Clark passed away suddenly. Mr. Clark was a member of both the Cambridge and Suffolk University athletic hall of fames.
- **Vice Chair Hunter** highlighted the following:
  - Touring the Franklin Cummings Technical Institute
  - Attending the African American AP Studies Expo
  - Black History awards at FMLA
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast
  - Benjamin Banneker Charter School was acknowledged as a Drum Major for Justice
  - Kirk Morris received the education award for his college tour of HBCU citizens of the world
- **Member Rojas** shared that three CRLS Chinese language students received national recognition for essays by the Chinese Language Association of secondary and elementary schools.
- **Member Weinstein** highlighted the following:
  - Multicultural Arts Center student exhibition will be on display from March 5th to 21st.
  - MA Education Theater Guild competition – The Bookstore
  - Cambridge Cringe & Laughter improv show
  - Curriculum & Achievement Subcommittee meeting – March 6
  - Adwa Victory Day Commemoration with a dance performance by Member Shimelis choreographed by Member Barua.

At 10:00 p.m., on a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Rachel, the meeting was extended five minutes to take up Unfinished Business on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein,

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YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0)

The group discussed **#24-259**. There was a detailed conversation regarding the procedural process for Unfinished Business and Robert's Rules of Order. Attorney MacFarlane shared that motions should be removed from the agenda/come off the calendar if they are not taken up at the following meeting. Mr. Murphy shared that he had provided the Committee with the preliminary report regarding the Tobin Montessori School.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Weinstein on the following roll call vote, **#24-249** was referred to the Superintendent: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0).

**12. Late Orders:** None

**13. Communications from City Officers:** None

**Email communications:**

✓ Kathy Greeley

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Harding, the meeting was adjourned on the following roll call vote: Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA (7-0). (10:05 p.m.)

Attest:



Katherine Christo

Executive Secretary to the School Committee