



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting

March 12, 2025

Called for Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., held in and broadcast from the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, for the purpose of a presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed FY26 Budget,

Members Present: Member Harding, Member Hudson, Vice Chair Hunter, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons (ABSENT)

Others Present: David Murphy, Interim Superintendent; Chad Leith, Chief Accountability Officer; Ivy Washington, Chief Financial Officer

Vice Chair Hunter in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, **Vice Chair Hunter** called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. **Vice Chair Hunter** read the call of the meeting and explained that the meeting is being televised and recorded. Votes would not be taken and there would be no public comment.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call of members present: Member Rachel, PRESENT; Member Rojas, PRESENT; Member Weinstein, PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter, PRESENT, Member Harding, ~~ABSENT~~, Member Hudson, PRESENT, Madam Mayor, ABSENT

Member Harding arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Member Weinstein left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Vice Chair Hunter turned the meeting over to Mr. Murphy. He and Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Washington, gave the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

Highlights of the presentation include:

Strategic Goals & Budget Priorities

- The budget aligns with the ongoing strategic plan and educational priorities, focusing on:
 - Educator effectiveness & accountability
 - Family engagement initiatives
 - Early childhood programming
 - Facilities planning & capital investments
- Emphasis on continuity, especially in response to the Kennedy Longfellow School transition.

FY26 Budget Overview

- Total Proposed Budget: \$280.25 million
- Key Budget Increases:
 - Salaries & Benefits
 - Transportation Costs
 - Electricity Costs
 - Out-of-District Tuition

Kennedy Longfellow Transition

- Majority of students transitioning to King Open, MLK, and Tobin Schools.
- Additional teachers and paraprofessionals assigned to these schools for student support.

Educator Evaluation & Professional Development

- Creation of a new Office of Accountability, led by Dr. Chad Leith.
- Focus on educator evaluation, research, and professional development.
- Commitment to improved pedagogy
- Hiring of Director of Research & Accountability, Manager of New Teacher Development, and additional staff.

Family Engagement & Caregiver Support

- Expansion of professional development for staff on family engagement strategies.
- Caregiver Academy for 6th & 9th grade families to improve communication and school transition.

Extended Learning Time (ELT) at FMA & MLK

- Continuing 90-minute extended school days (4 days per week).
- Additional funding for:
 - Building substitutes at FMA.
 - SEL curriculum expansion.
 - Professional development for extended learning staff.

Curriculum & Enrollment Adjustments

- Kindergarten & Preschool Shifts
- SCALE Program Reallocation

RSTA Program

- Commitment to build up the RSTA program

The meeting was adjourned on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, ABSENT; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA, Member Harding YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT (5-2) (7:58 p.m.)

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee