



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### (Official Minutes)

#### Regular Meeting

May 6, 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: Tom Arria, Director of CRLS Athletics; Student Member Barua; Jennifer Britton-Colense, Caregiver, King Open School; Dr. Heather Francis, Executive Director of Academics; Dr. Karyn Grace, Assistant Superintendent of OSS; Irene Kang, Caregiver, King Open School; Dr. Chad Leith, Director of Accountability; Dr. Lee McCanne, Chief Information Officer; David Murphy, Interim Superintendent; Morgan Nerich, Aurelia Advocate, CRLS Alumna Fabiane Noronha, Educator, King Open School, Madeline Norenberg, Aurelia Advocate, CRLS; Ashley Pierre, Executive Director of Human Resources, Student Member Shimelis; Kaylin Silva, Aurelia Advocate, CRLS Alumna; Damian Smith, Chief Operating Officer; Principal Darrell Williams, King Open School; Emily Anne Wintner, Aurelia Advocate, CRLS

**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 Harding, PRESENT; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Member Rachel, PRESENT; Member Rojas, PRESENT; Member Weinstein, PRESENT; Member Vice Chair Hunter, PRESENT; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Harding, the rules were suspended to bring forth agenda item **7a. Superintendent's Update** and the recognition of the CRLS Aurelia Advocates on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

Mr. Murphy introduced Tom Arria, Director of CRLS Athletics who introduced the following CRLS Aurelia Advocates (current and alumnae): Morgan Nerich, Madeline Norenberg, Kaylin Silva, and Emily Anne Wintner. The Aurelia Advocates were awarded with the "Mickey Sullivan" Student Achievement Award which recognizes students who have made a meaningful and lasting contribution to high school athletics. Mr. Arria, the Advocates, **Member Rachel** and **Member Weinstein** gave remarks highlighting the positive impact of the Aurelia Advocates to the CRLS school culture.

Mr. Murphy introduced Mr. Darrell Williams, principal of the King Open School who recently hosted the Olá 5th Grade Azores Trip. Mr. Williams introduced the following members of the King Open community, Fabiane Noronha, educator and caregivers Jennifer Britton-Colense and Irene Kang. The group shared the following presentation linked on this [website](#). The group highlighted the planning and fundraising processes leading up to the trip and the positive impact to the students of having an international experience and immersing themselves in the Portuguese

language. Committee members stressed the importance of continuing to offer these international travel opportunities to CPSD students.

Following the King Open School presentation, Mr. Murphy shared brief updates on the following:

- Teacher Appreciation Week activities
- Visual and Performing Arts Events
- The Impact Federal Policies and Executive Orders – a discretionary grant was recently declined by the district due to problematic eligibility requirements
- Teacher Evaluations and his suggestion that the Committee hold roundtable discussion to discuss the issue more comprehensively.

#### **1a. Public Hearing on the Statewide School Choice Program for SY2025/2026**

There were no public comment registrants for this hearing.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel, the public hearing was closed on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

#### **1b. Public Hearing on the Revisions to the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook**

There were no public comment registrants for this hearing.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel, the public hearing was closed on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

#### **1c. Public Comment**

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, spoke regarding Educator Evaluations
- Jess Goetz, Pemberton Street, spoke regarding Interim Superintendent Evaluation
- Nora Grodzins, Parker Street, spoke regarding Interim Superintendent Evaluation
- Arjun Jaikumar, Richdale Ave, spoke regarding Educator Evaluations
- Jia-Jing Lee, spoke regarding Educator Evaluations and the Interim Superintendent Evaluation

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel, the public hearing was closed on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

### **2. Student School Committee Report:**

Student Members Barua and Shimelis shared the following highlights:

- Teacher Appreciation Week events at CRLS
- CLRS available scholarships on the CRLS portal
- Awards ceremony to be held on May 15 at 7 p.m. in the Fitzgerald Theater
- Visual and Performing Arts Events including DanceWorks showcase, spring drama production and an improv show
- AP Testing now underway at CRLS and continuing through May 23

- Mayor's Youth Summer Employment Program with applications due on May 9
- Senior events as graduation approaches

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

- April 1, 2025, Regular Meeting
- April 15, 2025, Regular Meeting

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, the records were approved on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

**4. Reconsiderations:** None

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:** None

**6. Awaiting Reports:** None

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

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

(The Superintendent's Update was provided at the beginning of the meeting. See notes above.)

**7b. Presentation**

*The Interim Superintendent, Chief Accountability Officer and Executive Director of Human Resources will provide a briefing to the Cambridge School Committee on the educator evaluation process as governed by Massachusetts law and the collective bargaining agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association and the evaluation instrument's administration within the Cambridge Public Schools.*

The group gave the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

The presentation focused on the educator evaluation system in the Cambridge Public Schools (CPS), including strategic goals, evaluation practices, use of rubrics, feedback processes, and efforts to improve evaluator training and calibration. The Superintendent and staff emphasized the critical role of evaluations in ensuring high-quality instruction and fostering professional growth among educators. The presentation highlighted the following:

- Evaluations are a vital part of ongoing staff development and instructional quality.
- The Superintendent emphasized that public presentations are just one piece of CPS's governance and operational dialogue with staff and unions.
- A dual leadership model now exists for evaluations, with Dr. Leith and Ms. Pierre serving as co-leads.
- Components of educator effectiveness include hiring practices, mentoring, timely feedback, and professional learning.
- Evaluation metrics include annual cycles for new educators and biennial cycles for those with Professional Teacher Status (PTS).
- The 2018 MA Teacher Rubric is the basis for evaluation, aligned with DESE standards.
- Feedback must be actionable, timely, and based on rubric-aligned evidence.
- 90% of evaluations for developing educators have been completed with 75% rated proficient, ~20% needs improvement, and a few rated exemplary.

- The district is focused on building a more calibrated, fair, and development-focused evaluation system. Specific efforts include training new evaluators, launching a role for new educator development, enhancing the induction program, and aligning coaching models for more consistent support.

The presentation focused on the educator evaluation system in the Cambridge Public Schools (CPS), including strategic goals, evaluation practices, use of rubrics, feedback processes, and efforts to improve evaluator training and calibration. The Superintendent and staff emphasized the critical role of evaluations in ensuring high-quality instruction and fostering professional growth among educators. The presentation highlighted the following: Following the conversation, **Member Hudson** had several questions regarding the inconsistencies of students' iReady vs. MCAS reading scores. She pushed administrators for ongoing transparency regarding sharing information behind the unique data points.

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

7d. **Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Member Harding seconded by Member Hudson, the items **#25-096, #25-097, #25-098 #25-099, #25-100, and #25-101** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

On a motion by Member Weinstein seconded by Member Harding, the items **#25-109, #25-110, #25-111 and #25-112** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

On a motion by Member Weinstein seconded by Member Harding, the items **#25-114, #25-116, #25-117, 25-118, #25-119, #25-120, and #25-121** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

**#25-096 Recommendation: SY 2025/2026 State School Choice-Recommendation For Non-Participation be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee vote not to participate in the Statewide School Choice Program for School Year 2025/2026 for the following reasons:

- The need to maintain the quality and integrity of Cambridge Program of Controlled Choice and,
- The need to maintain flexibility for appropriately sized classrooms in the public schools.
- The Superintendent recommends non-participations for the reasons listed. Massachusetts General Laws require that local school districts that do not wish to participate in the state inter-district school choice program must vote to withdraw from participation in such program, after conducting a public hearing.

**#25-097 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Rights & Responsibilities Handbook (Second Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (second reading) as detailed in the [attached document](#).

**#25-098 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.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:		
Residential Program Tuition Contracts	1	\$58,786.68
45 Day Program Contracts:		
Total	1	\$58,786.68

**#25-099 Recommendation: Contract Award: B & H Photo Video, Inc.: Multi Media Equipment (FY26**

**Contract) 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.

B&H Photo Video, Inc., 420 9th Avenue, New York, NY for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$50,000.00

**#25-100 Recommendation: Contract Award: Baystate Interpreters: Translation Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Baystate Interpreters, 55 Lake Street, Gardner, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026 in the amount of \$350,000.00

**#25-101 Recommendation: Contract Award: Einstein Tutoring, LLC: Tutoring Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Einstein Tutoring, LLC, 68 Harrison Ave, Suite 605, Boston, MA for the period of September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

**#25-109 Recommendation: Contract Award: Curriculum Associates, LLC: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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.

Curriculum Associates, LLC, 153 Rangeway Road, N. Billerica, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$185,495.00.

**#25-110 Recommendation: Contract Award: CDW Government LLC: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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.

CDW Government LLC, 230 N. Milwaukee Ave, Vernon Hills, IL for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

**#25-111 Recommendation: Contract Award: ParentSquare, Inc.: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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.

ParentSquare, Inc., 6144 Calle Real, Suite 200A, Goleta, CA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$43,029.36.

**#25-112 Recommendation: Contract Award: The New England Center for Children: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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 New England Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

**#25-114 Recommendation: Contract Award: SHI International: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$31,579.00.

**#25-116 Recommendation: Contract Award: Follett Software: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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.

Follett Software, 1340 Ridgeview Drive, McHenry, IL for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$47,730.00.

**#25-117 Recommendation: Contract Award: Follett Software: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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.

Follett Software, 1340 Ridgeview Drive, McHenry, IL for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$118,695.83.

**#25-118 Recommendation: Contract Award: Follett School Solutions: Library Books (FY26 Contract) 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.

Follett School Solutions, 1340 Ridgeview Drive, McHenry, IL for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

**#25-119 Recommendation: Contract Award: WB Mason: Instructional Materials (FY26 Contract) 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.

WB Mason, 647 Summer Street, Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$250,000.00.

**#25-120 Recommendation: Contract Award: William Lowe & Sons Corp: Moving Services for Tobin Montessori & Darby Vassall Upper Schools (FY26 Contract) 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.

William Lowe & Sons Corp, 50 Terminal Street, Building 2, Charlestown, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$91,366.00

**#25-121 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Computer Science Professional Development & Devices (SC25864) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY25 Compute Science Professional Development & Devices (SC25864) –Federal - in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the period of April 15, 2025 to September 30, 2025.

**8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

**#25-102 Recommendation: Contract Award: Boston Tutoring Services: Special Education Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Boston Tutoring Services, 56 Doyle Avenue, Dracut, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$60,000.00.

**#25-103 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Center for Neuropsychology & Learning: Special Education Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Cambridge Center for Neuropsychology & Learning, Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA, for the period of July 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 in the amount of \$300,000.00.

**#25-104 Recommendation: Contract Award: Ro Health LLC: Special Education Temporary Staffing Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Ro Health LLC, 1900 W Nickerson Street, Suite 200, Seattle, WA for the period of July 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 in the amount of \$60,000.00.

**#25-105 Recommendation: Contract Award: Amergis Healthcare Staffing: Special Education Temporary Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Amergis Healthcare Staffing, 110 2nd Avenue, Needham, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026 in the amount of \$200,000.00

**#25-106 Recommendation: Contract Award: Easter Seals: Special Education Staffing Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Easter Seals, 18 Chestnut Street, Suite 200, Worcester, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to August, 31, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000.00

**#25-107 Recommendation: Contract Award: EI US, LLC: Special Education Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

EI US, LLC, Dept. 5420, PO Box 4110, Woburn, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

**#25-108 Recommendation: Contract Award: Precision HR Solutions, Inc.: Special Education Staffing Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Precision HR Solutions, Inc. 140 Gould Street, Suite 230, Needham, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026 in the amount of \$125,000.00.

Items **#25-102 through #25-108** were taken as a group and discussed. The contracts involved Special Educations services and Dr. Grace and Dr. Francis provided insights on the contracts and their scope of services.

On a motion by Member Weinstein seconded by Member Harding, the items **#25-102, #25-103, #25-104, 25-105, #25-106, #25-107, and #25-108** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

**#25-113 Recommendation: Contract Award: SHI International: Computer Software 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 April 30, 2025 to April 29, 2026 in the amount of \$29,473.68.

A brief conversation followed **#25-113** regarding the vendor and its role with the web content management system. Dr. McCanne provided background information regarding the project.

**#25-113** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

**#25-115 Recommendation: Contract Award: Branching Minds: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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.

Branching Minds, 157 Columbia Ave, Floor 4, New York, NY for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$73,560.00.



A brief conversation followed **#25-115** and the vendor's role with MTSS. Dr. Grace provided background information.

**#25-115** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

**#25-122 Recommendation: Approval of Students in the Class of 2025 and Class of 2026 (and preceding classes) who have not (or did not) establish their Competency Determination be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee approve Students in the Class of 2025 and Class of 2026 (and preceding classes) who have not (or did not) establish their Competency Determination (CD) through passage of the MCAS, will have done so through satisfactorily completing coursework in English Language Arts (20 credits), Mathematics (20 credits), and at least one Science discipline (10 credits; Biology, Introductory Physics, Chemistry, or Technology/Engineering)

A robust conversation followed **#25-122** regarding how the district is handling graduation requirements in the absence of the MCAS. Mr. Murphy recommends current graduation coursework with a competency determination in the absence of a state assessment.

**Member Weinstein** asked for clarification on whether the recommendation mirrors current graduation requirements, minus the MCAS component. Superintendent confirmed that it does and emphasized the need for fairness given the timing of the law change. **Member Harding** expressed concern about long-term implications, stressing the need to align standards with college and career expectations and questioned if this is a temporary measure. Mr. Murphy responded that it is in many ways a return to pre-MCAS standards and is likely a temporary framework pending state guidance. Members emphasized the need for further dialogue and transparency, particularly regarding how CRLS diplomas remain academically credible and competitive. Mr. Murphy acknowledged this is not an ideal long-term solution and called for broader state-level and higher education engagement to redefine meaningful graduation criteria. He stressed the importance of maintaining high standards and a clear competency framework. COO Smith (former CRLS principal) clarified current CRLS graduation requirements (224 credits across various disciplines) and reaffirmed that most CRLS students exceed the state Mass Core standards.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas, **#25-122** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

The meeting time nearing 10:00 p.m., the meeting was extended twenty minutes on a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Hudson on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

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

### **#25-123 Interim Superintendent Evaluation– Member Hudson and Member Harding**

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts mandates that School Committees implement a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation process for all educators, including Superintendents (603 CMR 35.00); and

WHEREAS: In Cambridge, the Superintendent's employment agreement further stipulates "that the Committee shall evaluate the Interim Superintendent once during the 2024-2025 school year" (Section 8, pg. 4-5, "Employment Agreement Between The Cambridge Public Schools And David Murphy 2024-2025"); and

WHEREAS: The Interim Superintendent has not yet received an evaluation during this school year; and

WHEREAS: The Interim Superintendent's employment term currently ends on June 30, 2025, unless both parties affirmatively agree to an extension; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee conduct a summative evaluation no later than the end of May 2025.

A discussion followed **#25-123. Member Hudson** introduced the motion related to completing the required annual evaluation of the Interim Superintendent. The evaluation is mandated by both the employment contract and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines. **Vice Chair Hunter** noted that Mr. Murphy fulfilled his contractual obligation to notify the Committee by April 30 regarding interest in continuing in the role. She offered a friendly amendment to extend the evaluation deadline to June 30, 2025, in order to meet DESE's requirement that the Superintendent receive the summary evaluation at least 10 days prior to the public meeting where it will be discussed.

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter seconded by Member Rachel **#25-123** was amended on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

**#25-123** was adopted as amended on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT

**10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences):** None

**11. Announcements:**

**Member Weinstein**

- May 12 at 6 p.m. (Zoom): School Councils Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting on school improvement plans and elections
- June 13: Mural unveiling at Fletcher Maynard Academy
- May 17–18 (9 a.m.–5 p.m.): Public invited to contribute to FMA mural (outdoors or indoors depending on weather)
- Rachel Williams (GRA Educator) received the William Spratt Award for Excellence in Teaching Secondary Social Studies

**Vice Chair Hunter**

- May 13 at 6 p.m.: City Council to discuss School Committee budget
- May 13 at 7 p.m.: Caregiver Social in the main cafeteria
- Traveling Chorus received a gold medal in their first competition
- CRLS students returned from a Historically Black College tour, which included Xavier University, the Vice Chair's alumna mater
- Math Department Events
- Community screening of the film Everybody Counts

**12. Late Orders:** None

**13. Communications from City Officers:**

- January 13, 2025 Joint Roundtable Meeting Minutes – Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program
- February 24, 2025 Joint Roundtable Meeting Minutes – FY26 CPS Budget Priorities

**Vice Chair Hunter** noted that Mayor Simmons wished to include these City Council meeting minutes as they related to the School Committee and CPS.

**Email communications:**

✓ Dan Monahan

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, the meeting was adjourned on the following roll call vote: Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Mayor Simmons, ABSENT (10:03 p.m.)

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katherine Christo".

Katherine Christo  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee