



C A M B R I D G E S C H O O L C O M M I T T E E

(Official Minutes)

Special Meeting

January 5, 2026

Called in accordance with Chapter I, Section 1, of the Rules of the School Committee, for the purpose of an organizational meeting of the 2026-2027 School Committee-Elect and held in the Dr. Carolyn Turk Auditorium, at the Tobin Montessori/Darby Vassall Upper Schools & Community Complex, 181/183 Vassall Lane, Cambridge.

Student School Committee members, Eva Asraf and Zihaam Jama served as hosts of the Inauguration ceremony. They made welcoming remarks and led the audience to Pledge of Allegiance. The CRLS Traveling Chorus, led by Dr. Ivan Stefanov, performed the *National Anthem* and *Lift Every Voice & Sing*.

Student members Asraf and Jama welcomed special guests and congratulated newly elected Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui and the 2026-2027 School Committee members. They introduced Harvard Professor Paul Reville, former Secretary of Education for the Massachusetts and Dr. Sherley Bretous, Executive Director of the Benjamin Banneker Public Charter.

Professor Paul Reville gave remarks. Following his remarks, the CRLS Traveling Chorus performed *Ritual* by Jake Runestad and *The Tree of Peace* by Gwyneth Walker. Dr. Sherley Bretous gave remarks.

Following Dr. Bretous's remarks, student members Asraf and Jama introduced Interim City Clerk Paula Crane and Clerk of Committees, Nicole Irwin to administer the oath of office to the Members-Elect.

Luisa de Paula Santos

Caitlin Dube

Richard Harding, Jr.

Elizabeth Hudson

Arjun Jaikumar

David J. Weinstein

Member Weinstein, the most senior member of the School Committee, came to the podium to chair the organizational meeting. **Member Weinstein** read the Call of the Meeting and gave opening remarks. He asked for a roll call of members present: Member de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Member Dube, PRESENT; Member Harding, PRESENT; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Member Jaikumar, PRESENT; Mayor Siddiqui, PRESENT; Member Weinstein, PRESENT.

Member Weinstein asked for nominations for Chair. **Member Harding** nominated Member Hudson. **Member Dube** nominated Member Weinstein. **Member Weinstein** closed the floor for nominations. **Member Weinstein** asked for a roll call of members to cast their votes:

Member de Paula Santos, MEMBER WEINSTEIN, Member Dube; MEMBER WEINSTEIN; Member Harding, MEMBER HUDSON; Member Hudson, MEMBER HUDSON; Member Jaikumar, MEMBER WEINSTEIN; Mayor Siddiqui, MEMBER WEINSTEIN; Member Weinstein, MEMBER WEINSTEIN.

Member Weinstein asked if members wanted to change their votes to make the decision unanimous. No votes were changed. Interim City Clerk Crane administered the oath of office to **Chair Weinstein**.

Chair Weinstein asked for nominations for Vice Chair. **Member de Paula Santos** nominated Member Dube. **Chair Weinstein** closed the floor for nominations and asked for a roll call vote:

Member de Paula Santos, MEMBER DUBE; Member Dube, MEMBER DUBE; Member Harding, PRESENT; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Member Jaikumar, MEMBER DUBE; Mayor Siddiqui, MEMBER DUBE; Member Weinstein, MEMBER DUBE

Chair Weinstein asked if members wanted to change their votes to make the decision unanimous. No votes were changed. Interim City Clerk Crane administered the oath of office to **Vice Chair Dube**.

Chair Weinstein introduced the last order of business to adopt the Rules of the 2026-2027 School Committee pending revisions and subject to amendments by the School Committee.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Jaikumar the 2026-2027 School Committee Rules were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, PRESNT; Member Dube, PRESENT; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA.

Chair Weinstein gave closing remarks and thanked the speakers, City Clerk colleagues and staff members involved in planning for the Inauguration.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui, the meeting was adjourned on a voice vote. (7:20 p.m.)

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee