



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
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June 3, 2025

WHEREAS: Member Shimelis has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her personal education and growth, having embraced academic opportunities at the Morse School, Putnam Avenue Upper School and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School; and

WHEREAS: Her thirst for knowledge led her to engage in academic and leadership programs at Lesley University, Harvard Extension School, Harvard Crimson Academy, and Radcliffe's Emerging Leaders Program. Her academic excellence has been recognized through honors such as National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, and as Best Delegate and Plenary Speaker at the National High School Model United Nations; and

WHEREAS: She has brought her skills and passion to a broader audience, having been selected by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's office as one of only two high school students from the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District to serve as a Summer Organizing Fellow. In that role, she recruited over 100 volunteers for community events to increase turnout in the 2024 primary elections; and

WHEREAS: She is deeply committed to racial justice, having served as a student intern with the ACLU of Massachusetts, where she supported research efforts centered on marginalized communities and helped organize outreach events in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS: Member Shimelis has worked to expand educational access for underrepresented youth, co-producing the Voices of 2 Blocks podcast to address educational disparities and promote community-driven solutions. Her leadership in this area earned her the prestigious Princeton Prize in Race Relations; and

WHEREAS: Member Shimelis proudly embraces and shares her Ethiopian heritage, serving as co-president and captain of the Habesha Club and Eritrean Dance Group. She has led dance workshops for Ethiopian youth and organized performances for the district's highly-attended multicultural celebration; and

WHEREAS: Member Shimelis has been a dedicated leader within the Cambridge community, uplifting younger students and creating opportunities for them to follow in her footsteps. She served as a lead presenter and facilitator for the Students of Color Coalition at the Cambridge Upper Schools and as a workshop host for the Youth Equity Summit at CRLS; and

WHEREAS: She has dutifully served on the Cambridge School Committee in the 2024–2025

term alongside her friend and colleague Member Urbana Barua, advocating fiercely for the voices of all students and successfully advocating for increased financial support of CRLS clubs, as well as efforts to increase youth participation in the district's budgeting process; and

WHEREAS: She will continue her academic journey at Yale University, and we are enormously proud that she will represent the Cambridge community, exemplifying all that a Cambridge education can offer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee hereby recognizes Member Hermela Shimelis for her extraordinary service, leadership, and advocacy on behalf of Cambridge students, and congratulates her on her graduation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Member Shimelis as a token of our deep appreciation and gratitude.