CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

135 Berkshire Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

May 6, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT: Computer Software (FY26 Contract)

RECOMMENDATION:
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.

Contractor	Period of Contract	Amount
Follett Software 1340 Ridgeview Drive McHenry, IL 60050	7/1/25 – 6/30/26	$118,695.83

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for the Aspen student information system that includes teacher, administrator, student and parent interfaces; teacher gradebook; master schedule builder; and full interactive reporting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
See attached supplemental information for additional details.

SUPPORTING DATA, RULES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Chapter III, Section 12..." motions calling for the appropriation or expenditure of money I require the affirmative vote of four members."

BUDGET REFERENCE:

Fund		Account		Dept.	
15000	General Fund	55804	Computer Software	892780	Information Communications & Technology Services

Respectfully Submitted,

David Murphy
Interim Superintendent of Schools

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Follett Software

Purpose: The purpose of engaging with Follett Aspen, through both the SIS renewal and the OLR module, is to provide a comprehensive and integrated platform for managing both student data and streamlining administrative processes within Cambridge Public Schools. This aims to: centralize student information, enhance efficiency, improve communication, support academic success, simplify enrollment, and ensure compliance.

Amount of Contract: $118,695.83

Description/Scope of Services:

The combined scope of service encompasses the functionalities of both Follett Aspen SIS and the Aspen Online Registration module, creating an integrated ecosystem for student lifecycle management.

Follett Aspen Student Information (SIS): The Follett SIS is a centralized platform designed for managing comprehensive student data, including demographic information, enrollment, academics (gradebook, transcripts, curriculum), attendance, discipline, health records, and family information, all stored securely. It enhances communication and collaboration through parent and student portals, and offers robust reporting and analytics tools for state reporting, performance analysis, and identifying at-risk students, including data visualization.

Aspen Online Registration (OLR): Aspen OLR provides a user-friendly online parent portal for electronic submission of registration forms and documents, securely collecting student demographics, emergency contact information, health information, and prior school records. OLR offers seamless integration with the Aspen SIS, ensuring direct and accurate data transfer into student records and real-time synchronization with other modules, eliminating duplicate data entry.