

From the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee - Regular Meeting

March 4, 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, Cambridge for the purpose of discussing the agenda items listed below.

Individuals must sign up in advance to provide public comment for the March 4 Regular Meeting: The sign-up window is Friday, February 28 through Tuesday, March 4 at 12:00 PM (by phone) and 5:30 PM (online).

To register for public comment during the sign-up times:

- Visit the School Committee online portal: https://secure1.cpsd.us/school_committee.
- Or contact the School Committee office at 617.349.6620.

Regular Meetings will be live-streamed at www.cpsd.us and broadcast on Cambridge Educational Access TV (CEATV) Channel 26, as usual. The meeting can also be viewed on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96081106637>. This meeting will be video and audio recorded which may include third party devices.

AGENDA

- 1 Public Comment (3 minutes):**
- 2. Student School Committee Report:**
- 3. Presentation of Records for Approval:**
 - January 28, 2025, Special Meeting
 - February 4, 2025, Special Meeting
 - February 4, 2025, Regular Meeting
- 4. Reconsiderations: None**
- 5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:**

#24-259 Tobin Montessori Preliminary Report – Member Hudson and Member Harding

WHEREAS: The Tobin Montessori School was recently recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and by the Cambridge Public Schools Superintendent for its high student achievement;

WHEREAS: The Tobin Montessori School is leading the way within the Cambridge Public School District, delivering clear, measurable progress in narrowing gaps in achievement between students with different backgrounds – an issue that the District has long stated is its most important; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee went on record a year ago supporting the expansion of the and directed the Superintendent to "...provide a report and recommendation to the committee a plan of action for the possible next steps..."; and

WHEREAS: No report nor recommendation was ever made; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee request that the Superintendent provide a preliminary report on the feasibility of making this change, and a recommendation from the Superintendent as to whether next steps are warranted and what those next steps would be, no later than December 31, 2024 (with the definition of preliminary to be determined by the Superintendent). Tobin Montessori program (specifically, "...to explore the recommendation of the American Montessori Association Accreditation team to extend the Tobin Montessori Upper Elementary Program to three years...") and referred the matter to the Superintendent "...for further review of the recommendations from the Accreditation team to explore implications of such a change including but not limited to the budget impact, upper school enrollment, and feeder patterns..."

- 6. Awaiting Reports: None**
- 7. 7a. Superintendent's Update:**

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

7b. Presentations:

The Interim Superintendent and district administrators will present to the Cambridge School Committee findings from the Centers for Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered during the spring of 2024 and how those findings have informed practices and goal-setting in the Cambridge Public Schools during the 2024 - 2025 school year and beyond.

David Murphy, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Jamie McCarthy, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator Health, Physical Education & Wellness
Kim Huffer, Director of Social Emotional Learning
Jennifer Amigone, Director of Data, Assessment & Accountability

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

- #25-024** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Civil Rights Grievance Procedures Policy (First Reading)
- #25-025** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Non-Discrimination on Basis of Sex Policy (First Reading)
- #25-026** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to School Department's Non-Discrimination Policy (First Reading)
- #25-027** Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available From the Cambridge School Department
- #25-028** Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HIQ Computers: Computer Hardware & Supplies
- #25-029** Recommendation: Contract Award: Bredy Network Management: Firewall Monitoring
- #25-030** Recommendation: Contract Award: Mo Trailer Corp.: Crew Trailer
- #25-031** Recommendation: Contract Award: BPU Acquisition, LLC: Professional Development
- #25-032** Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts
- #25-033** Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Expanded Homeless Shelter Funding (SC25218)
- #25-034** Recommendation: Grant Award: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B (IDEA) Federal Targeted Special Education Program Improvement Grant (SC25674)

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

- #25-035** School Councils Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report, January 28, 2025
- #25-036** Reaffirm the Educational Priorities of CPSD – Member Hudson and Member Harding

WHEREAS: The mission of our schools is to equip students with the skills necessary for success in an increasingly competitive economy, ensuring they graduate with strong literacy, numeracy, critical thinking abilities and skilled technical/trade skills; and

WHEREAS: It is also our mission to expose students to a broad range of opportunities and career pathways, helping them discover their interests and strengths, and the places where they will want to go apply those skills; and

WHEREAS: It is not the role or purpose of this district to adopt or impose any singular framework, ideology, or lens through which students must view the world; rather, our responsibility is to equip students with the tools to be intelligent, critical thinking independent consumers of information, capable of forming their own well-reasoned conclusions; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That Cambridge Public School System affirms its commitment to an education system that prioritizes academic and skilled technical/trade excellence and career readiness, without being swayed by shifting political mandates or ideological trends; and be it further

RESOLVED: That our district is further committed to treating all students equally, ensuring that every child—regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, immigration status, or national origin—receives a high-quality education, is encouraged to meet high academic and skilled trade standards, and is given the same opportunities to succeed; and be it further

RESOLVED: That whereas our primary focus is on delivering rigorous academic content and trade skill training, we acknowledge that many students require additional support and disability accommodations to fully engage with these opportunities, and we adopt the responsibility to make this available. To that end, we will continue to provide (and improve in providing) essential wraparound services to ensure that every student can focus on learning, believes in their ability to succeed, and thrives in our schools, and to make operational accommodations at the discretion of the Superintendent.

#25-037 Teen Health Survey Presentation – Member Harding and Member Hudson

That the interim superintendent gives a presentation to the School Committee on the Teen/Middle Grades Health Survey based on the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

#25-038 Report on Staffing Support for Upper School Math – Member Hudson and Member Harding

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District will be reintroducing Algebra to Upper School students starting in the fall of 2026; and

WHEREAS: This will be the first time in its history that the District will be taking all of its 8th grade students through this material; and

WHEREAS: Students today differ in preparedness, but it is our responsibility to ensure that they all have a great experience in the course, and successfully work through all material; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent will report to the School Committee – before the final budget presentation – how we will be staffing our Upper School mathematics classrooms, such that the Committee can determine if additional support will be required, in its opinion.

#25-039 Report on General District Staffing Allocation – Member Hudson and Member Harding

WHEREAS: We will shortly be reviewing the budget for the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS: It is our responsibility to understand how our existing resources are allocated, before making decisions about how to augment or change allocations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent provide a report describing how our human resources are allocated across the district – breaking staff down by student facing (involved in day to day classroom instruction); and non-student facing staff (and within non-student facing staff, breaking out operational roles necessary for the safe functioning of our facilities, from administrative or other program or support staff).

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences):

**#25-040 Title IX Aurelia Advocates MSSADA Award – Member Weinstein, Member Rachel,
and Mayor Simmons**

WHEREAS: The Title IX Aurelia Advocates is an independent Cambridge Rindge and Latin School student group that has advocated for Cambridge Public School District compliance with federal Title IX regulations, increased consent education, and stronger consent culture in CPSD; and
WHEREAS: Title IX Aurelia Advocates has made a significant positive impact on the CRLS school culture as well as the culture of athletics in Cambridge Public Schools; and
WHEREAS: The Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Title IX Aurelia Advocates have been selected by the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association as the recipient of the MSSADA Mickey Sullivan Award; and
WHEREAS: The Mickey Sullivan Award was established to honor outstanding Student-Athlete Achievement in the State of Massachusetts; and
WHEREAS: this award will be presented in their honor to Athletic Director Tom Arria at the MSSADA Annual Luncheon Banquet March 26th, 2025, and will then be presented to the Title IX Aurelia Advocates at CRLS; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the School Committee congratulates the Title IX Aurelia Advocates on their achievements and this well-deserved recognition; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the School Committee thanks Athletic Director Tom Arria for his collaboration with the Title IX Aurelia Advocates; and be it further
RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution will be presented to the members of the Title IX Aurelia Advocates.

#25-041 Scholastic Art Award Winners – Member Weinstein, Member Harding and Member Rojas

WHEREAS: 46 Cambridge Rindge and Latin School students were recognized with 93 awards from the 2024-25 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running, most prestigious award and recognition program to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talents; and
WHEREAS: CRLS students received 22 Gold Keys, 1 Silver Key Portfolio, 26 Silver Keys, and 44 Honorable Mentions for the Massachusetts Region; and
WHEREAS: The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the nation's longest running, most prestigious award and recognition program for creative teens, now in the 102nd year of its existence. Submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts. National Medalists are eligible for scholarships of up to \$12,500; and
WHEREAS: The mission of The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Awards; and
WHEREAS: Some alumni of the awards include Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana, Amanda Gorman, Langston Hughes, Judy Blume, Richard Avedon, Cy Twombly, Ezra Jack Keats, Ken Burns, Stephen King, Edwidge Danticat, Sylvia Plath, John Updike, Red Grooms, Zac Posen, David Sedaris, Ocean Vuong and many more great artists; and
WHEREAS: During the 2024 program year, more than 110,000 teens from U.S. territories, Canada, and every state in the nation entered nearly 340,000 works of art and writing to the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards for consideration; and
WHEREAS: This year, the Massachusetts region had 7,898 Individual Art Entries and 216 Art Portfolios; and
WHEREAS: Tufts University will host the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Massachusetts Gold Key art exhibition from March 15-22 and the Award Ceremony on March 16; and
WHEREAS: These students were supported by extraordinary CPSD writing and visual arts teachers, including Melissa Chaney, Bianca Hegre, Amanda Kilton, Michele Watson, Deborah Milligan, and Jesse Young who guided, taught, and supported CRLS students through the long process to submit work to the competition, while teaching the Awards' core values of originality, skill, and emergence of a personal voice or vision; and
WHEREAS: The list of writing and art award winners can be viewed [here](#) along with the winning artwork; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the School Committee goes on record congratulating the CRLS students who have created this excellent work on this wonderful accomplishment and thanking the CRLS writing and visual arts educators who have taught and supported these students.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: None