

*From the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee*

**School Committee - Regular Meeting**

**June 3, 2025, 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 June 3 Regular Meeting: The sign-up window is Friday, May 30 through Tuesday, June 3 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](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](http://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:**

- May 14, 2025, Special Meeting

**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.

**7b. Presentation**

A brief presentation on the high school experience at CRLS, RSTA, and HSEP. The presentation will include an overview of program priorities and goals for the 2025–2026 school year.

David Murphy, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Allan Gehant, Interim Principal, CRLS  
Linda Radzvilla, Executive Director, RSTA  
Ryan Souliotis, Principal, HSEP  
Jennifer Amigone, Director, Data, Assessment & Accountability

**7c. District Plan** None

**7d. Consent Agenda**

**#25-134** Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department

- #25-135 Recommendation: Contract Award: Boston Behavior Learning Center: Special Education Services (FY26 Contract)
- #25-136 Recommendation: Contract Award: New England Home Health Services, Inc.: Special Education Nursing Services (FY26 Contract)
- #25-137 Recommendation: Contract Award: Marathon Nursing: Nursing Services for Special Education Student (FY26 Contract)
- #25-138 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cartwheel Health Services P.C.: Mental Health Services (FY26 Contract)
- #25-139 Recommendation: Contract Award: Project Wayfinder, Inc.: Site License Renewal, Training & Support (FY26 Contract)
- #25-140 Recommendation: Contract Award: Lesley University: Instructional Services (FY26 Contract)
- #25-141 Recommendation: Contract Award: Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology: Instructional Services (FY26 Contract)
- #25-142 Recommendation: Contract Award: B & H Photo Video, Inc.: Multi Media Equipment (FY26 Contract)
- #25-143 Recommendation: Contract Award: Vespoli USA, Inc.: Crew Boats
- #25-144 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers: Computer Maintenance (FY26 Contract)
- #25-145 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers: Tech Hardware (FY26 Contract)
- #25-146 Recommendation: Contract Award: CDW Government LLC: Computer Software (FY26 Contract)
- #25-147 Recommendation: Contract Award: Next Gen Supply Group: Custodial Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-148 Recommendation: Contract Award: Aramsco, Inc.: Custodial Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-149 Recommendation: Contract Award: Filter Sales & Services: HVAC Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-150 Recommendation: Contract Award: F.W. Webb: HVAC Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-151 Recommendation: Contract Award: WW Grainger: Facilities Equipment & Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-152 Recommendation: Contract Award: Home Depot: Carpentry & Maintenance Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-153 Recommendation: Contract Award: Metropolitan Pipe: Plumbing Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-154 Recommendation: Contract Award: New England School Services: Doors & Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-155 Recommendation: Contract Award: NorthEast Electrical: Electrical Supplies (FY26 Contract)
- #25-156 Recommendation: Contract Award: Pasek: Locks, Keys & Hardware (FY26 Contract)
- #25-157 Recommendation: Contract Award: Republic Services: Dumpster Services (FY26 Contract)

**8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

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

**#25-158 Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Report – March 6, 2025**

**#25-159 Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee Report – March 10, 2025**

**#25-160 Cell Phone Usage – Member Hudson, Member Harding and Member Weinstein**

WHEREAS: Research and experience suggest that unrestricted cell phone use in high school may contribute to academic distraction, social conflict, and mental health challenges among students; therefore be it  
RESOLVED: That the School Committee directs the Superintendent to assess and report back on the feasibility and potential benefits and challenges of implementing a school-wide policy restricting student cell phone use during the school day—beginning at school entry and not reliant on classroom-level enforcement—and, if feasible, to recommend a proposed process and timeline for implementation.

**#25-161 Preservation and Digitization of School Records – Mayor Simmons**

WHEREAS: The preservation of the Cambridge Public Schools' historical and administrative records is vital to maintaining institutional memory, transparency, and accessibility for current and future generations; and  
WHEREAS: Past practices of document disposal have resulted in the loss of valuable historical materials and records that are important to the school community and its legacy; and  
WHEREAS: Digitization of records, including but not limited to yearbooks, student newspapers, and all other historical files, will ensure their preservation, improve accessibility, and safeguard against loss or damage; now therefore be it:  
RESOLVED:  
That the Cambridge School Committee formally adopts a policy that no school records and documents (including but not limited to transcripts, yearbooks, and student newspapers) shall be destroyed going forward; every pertinent document generated or received by the School Department must be preserved in accordance with applicable laws and best practices

- That the School Committee directs the School Department to undertake an immediate and comprehensive collection and digitization effort of all such historical records, including yearbooks, all copies of the Register Forum student newspaper, and any other existing archival materials.
- That the School Committee shall determine and designate a secure, centralized location—physical or digital—where all school records and archives will be stored and maintained with appropriate security and access protocols.
- That the School Committee will identify and appoint appropriate personnel or a dedicated team responsible for the management, digitization, maintenance, and preservation of all school records. This designee(s) will also oversee the development of ongoing record-keeping protocols to ensure consistent preservation going forward.
- That the School Committee requests a report outlining the proposed digitization plan, resource requirements, timelines, and staffing recommendations be submitted for review and approval within 90 days.

**#25-162 Extension of Interim Superintendent Contract – Mayor Simmons and Vice Chair Hunter**

WHEREAS: The School Committee recognizes the importance of the role of Interim Superintendent of Schools as the lead administrator of the school district, responsible for the day-to-day operations and implementation of policies set by the school committee; and  
WHEREAS: The Committee and the Interim Superintendent desire to enter into a continued written employment contract until such time that a permanent Superintendent of Schools is hired; and  
WHEREAS: The employment contract for the current Interim Superintendent of Schools, Mr. David Murphy, is

set to expire on June 30, 2025; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee vote to extend the current contract for Mr. David Murphy as the Interim Superintendent of the Cambridge Public Schools; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the contract extension become effective July 1, 2025 and sunset on or before the adoption & ratification date of a contract for a permanent Superintendent.

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

**#25-163 Congratulations and Gratitude to Student Member Urbana Barua – Vice Chair Hunter & Mayor Simmons**

WHEREAS: Member Urbana Barua has enthusiastically embraced the diverse educational and cultural opportunities offered by Tobin Montessori School, Vassal Lane Upper School, and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, where she earned induction into the National Honor Society, an honor that recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character; and

WHEREAS: In addition to her academic achievements, Urbana served as a warm and welcoming voice during the CRLS morning announcements, helping her fellow students start their day informed and uplifted; and

WHEREAS: Member Barua extended her academic pursuits beyond CRLS, participating in the prestigious Crimson Summer Academy at Harvard University and Radcliffe's Emerging Leaders Program, where she developed a project addressing racial inequities in CRLS AP courses; and

WHEREAS: She has demonstrated a deep commitment to youth empowerment in Cambridge, serving as an organizer of the CRLS Youth Equity Summit, where she was one of four students selected to speak on the youth activism panel, and was honored with the Youth Equity Leaders Award; and

WHEREAS: As a member and co-chair of the Cambridge Youth Council, Member Barua helped lead advocacy efforts that successfully secured a \$250,000 increase in the City budget to expand free student bus passes, and represented Cambridge as a delegate in the National League of Cities 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Conference in Tampa, Florida; and

WHEREAS: She is committed to climate justice and ensuring girls are exposed to STEM opportunities. She served as an Intern Junior Park Ranger with the National Parks of Boston, where she facilitated youth workshops, as well as a Junior Mentor for Science Clubs for Girls she shared her knowledge of biology and physics; and

WHEREAS: Member Barua's love for dance led her to take on leadership roles in the CRLS Modern Dance Company as a dancer, choreographer, and publicity manager. In addition, she served as a teaching assistant at the Tamrochura Dance School, where she deepened her skills in Bengali and Indian classical dance; 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 championing efforts to increase youth participation in the district's budgeting process; and

WHEREAS: She will continue her academic journey at Barnard College of Columbia University, where she will explore the intersection of healthcare, law, and public policy, and the ways in which policy decisions impact healthcare systems and communities. We are enormously proud that she will be representing Cambridge in New York City; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee hereby recognizes Member Barua 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 Urbana Barua in honor of her achievements and service and with the Committee's immense gratitude.

**#25-164 Congratulations and Gratitude to Student Member Hermela Shimelis – Vice Chair Hunter & Mayor Simmons**

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.

**11. Announcements:**

**12. Late Orders:** None

**13. Communications and Reports from City Officers:** None