



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

**Regular Meeting**

**August 6, 2024**

Called for 5:00 p.m. in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee.

Members Present: Member Harding, Member Hudson, Vice Chair Hunter (Remote), Member Rachel ABSENT, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein (Remote), Mayor Simmons

Also Present: Dr. Karyn Grace, Assistant Superintendent of the Office for Student Services; Mr. David Murphy, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Attorney Maureen MacFarlane, General Counsel; Ms. Siobhan Mulligan, Director of Mathematics

**Mayor Simmons** in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and read the call of the meeting.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call vote for the purpose of a soundcheck: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Harding PRESENT; Member Hudson PRESENT; Member Weinstein PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter ABSENT; Mayor Simmons PRESENT

**Vice Chair Hunter** joined the meeting at 5:10 pm.

### **1. Public Comment:**

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave., spoke regarding #24-157 and #24-158
- Tony Clark, Mass Ave., spoke regarding #24-153
- Andrew Groh, Columbia Street, spoke regarding #24-204
- Becca Lester, William Street, spoke regarding #24-100 and #24-153
- Maia McAleavey, Garden Street, spoke regarding #24-153
- Pamela Pecchio, Hollis Park, spoke regarding #24-153
- Guy Rosenzweig, Raymond Street, spoke regarding #24-153

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Member Harding public comment was closed after remaining open for an hour on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

### **2. Student School Committee Report: None**

### **3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:**

- June 13, 2024, Special Meeting
- June 18, 2024, Regular Meeting
- June 25, 2024, Special Meeting
- June 28, 2024, Special Meeting

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson the records were accepted as presented on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

**4. Reconsiderations: None**

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:**

**#24-100 Motion by Member Rachel**

WHEREAS: School Committee [policy ABA](#) notes the Committee's commitment to seeking and encouraging public participation in the body's decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS: The body's Rules do not specify when meeting registration opens to the public, but past practice has been two days before the meeting; and

WHEREAS: The Committee intends to remove barriers to participation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That meeting registration and public comment sign-up will be available to all members of the public beginning at the time a meeting is officially noticed with an agenda or designated purpose.

**Mayor Simmons** informed the Committee that Member Rachel would like to table motion **#24-100** until the next meeting, when she will be present and able to discuss the motion.

**#24-153 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Vice Chair Hunter and Member Rachel**

WHEREAS: School Councils are established by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ([General Laws Part I, Title XII, Chapter 71, Section 59C](#)); and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District's [School Council Handbook](#) was drafted by a working group that included Cambridge parents, caregivers, community members, and CPSD staff and was adopted as policy by the School Committee June 20, 2023; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education advises that the "[law provides for an explicit oversight role for school committees](#)" with respect to School Councils; and

WHEREAS: In Cambridge the School Council has the following main responsibilities, as noted in the School Council Handbook:

- Adopt educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards;
- Identify the educational needs of students attending the school in the relation to the goals;

- Collaborate with school community and district instructional staff to form an annual School Improvement Plan (SIP) to be reviewed by the School Committee prior to approval by the Superintendent;
- Review the school budget annually;
- Review the student's Rights and Responsibilities handbook regularly to ensure the school discipline policies.
- Assess student discipline data; and
- 

WHEREAS: The School Committee plays a critical role in policymaking, establishing the CPSD budget, and reviewing School Improvement Plans; and

WHEREAS: This School Committee is committed to supporting the caregivers, staff, teachers and community members serving on School Councils with the shared goal of best supporting the education and growth of all of the children of Cambridge; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee establishes a School Councils Subcommittee; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Councils Subcommittee will be focused on supporting the School Councils; coordinating the School Committee's review of School Improvement Plans; providing a forum to review and support School Councils and their work; and will undertake other work determined by the chair of the subcommittee, in consultation with the members of the subcommittee, to be relevant and timely.

A robust discussion followed **#24-153**.

**Member Weinstein** shared his beliefs that School Councils deserve greater support from the School Committee which would also allow the Committee more insight into School Improvement Plans (SIPs). He stressed that it is not his intention for the Committee to police Student Councils, but to offer a supportive role with elections and assist with the Handbook. He shared the subcommittee could be reevaluated after a year. Vice Chair Hunter agreed and highlighted that a subcommittee could help ensure that there is uniformity across the district.

**Member Harding** underscored his concerns that the Committee may be exerting too much influence and responding to the unrest of a small subset of School Councils. He noted that Committee members are able to attend School Council meetings if they choose. **Member Rojas** shared his concern that the Committee would become too operational. He inquired if there were other School Committees with similar subcommittees and suggested that this issue may warrant an ad-hoc subcommittee. **Member Hudson** wondered if an ad-hoc committee could fit within an existing subcommittee. **Mayor Simmons** felt like the subcommittee would be a response to a particular problem and it might politicize School Councils.

**Member Harding** asked Interim Superintendent Murphy to share his thoughts. Mr. Murphy acknowledged that School Councils do have variability across the district. He believes that they are inclusive vehicles and he would like to see them prioritized. He noted that School Councils, in their current state, do warrant the Committee's attention and the issue is also a priority for district leaders. Ultimately, he believes that the strength and effectiveness of a School Council is dependent upon the school leader. He believes that School Council elections are being held with integrity, but noted that the Handbook outlines a process-heavy election system. He noted that the Handbook has a contradiction in the timing of elections as outlined in the Handbook's appendix. **Member Weinstein** shared that he believes that there is a call for this subcommittee from caregivers across the district. He believes that the Committee should be more involved with the review of SIPs. He also highlighted that the motion's co-sponsor, Member Rachel, was not in attendance to share her insights.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Harding, the motion was placed back on the table on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

**Late Order Joint Motion by Member Rojas and Member Rachel**

Timeline for 2024 Superintendent Search

That the School Committee discuss and adopt the following timeline for the Superintendent Search

**CPSD Superintendent Search 2024**

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Action</b>
By July 15	Name Ad-Hoc Superintendent Search Sub-Committee
By July 22	Engage with MASC and/or Search Firm to help with search process
By July 29	MASC and/or Search Firm draft community surveys
July 30	Ad-Hoc Subcommittee meeting to review surveys
By Aug 5	Send community surveys
By Sep 15	Posting goes live
By Sep 30	Finish vetting applications
By Oct 21	School Committee finishes 1st round of interviews of candidates
By Nov 4	Compile feedback from community of top candidates
By Nov 18	If finalist(s) are identified, School Committee finishes 2nd round of interviews. If not, adopt a calendar for extended search.
By Dec 16	School Committee appoints new Superintendent

**Member Rojas** requested that the **Late Order** stay on the table for the next meeting.

**6. Awaiting Reports: None**

**7. Superintendent's Agenda**

**7a. Superintendent's Update:**

**7b. Presentations:**

Preparations for the Opening of the Cambridge Public Schools .....David Murphy  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Highlights:

- Inaugural Cambridge Preschool Program (CPP)
- Support for CPS Students Residing in Temporary Emergency Shelters
- Preparations and objectives for SY 24-25 Administrative Week and All Staff Colloquium

Mr. Murphy gave the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#). In addition, Mr. Murphy referred to the following documents which can be found [here](#).

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed CPP placements and confirmed that all high-priority 3-year-olds were able to be placed. Mr. Murphy noted the number of students served were similar to past years. He highlighted the district's commitment to supporting staff. The application window has moved up to October 1 from the previous year of a December opening which has many benefits in allowing for additional planning. **Member Hudson** urged that the district should be proactive in reaching out to families who did not receive their first-choice placements. Committee members shared their appreciation to district and City leaders for their hard work in implementing the CPP. Regarding the Emergency Assistance Shelter, the group noted the district's commitment to educating students living in shelters and the students' right to a continuity in education. Mr. Murphy underscored the challenges of the situation and the district's commitment to work with families and City and State administrators.

7c. **CPS District Plan:** None

**7d. Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Member Harding the items were adopted on the following roll call vote, **#24-161, #24-162, #24-163, #24-164, #24-165, #24-166, #24-168, #24-169, #24-170, #24-171, #24-172, #24-174 #24-175, #24-176, #24-177, #24-178, #24-179, #24-180, #24-181, #24-182, #24-183, #24-184, #24-185, #24-186, #24-187, #24-188, #24-189, #24-190, #24-191, #24-192, #24-193, #24-194, #24-195, #24-197, and #24-198** Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

**#24-161 Recommendation: Approval of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex-Title IX Policy First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy, including renaming the policy as Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex - Title IX Policy as detailed in the [attached document](#).

**#24-162 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy**

**(First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy as detailed in the [attached document](#).

**#24-163 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Rights & Responsibilities Handbook (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to *the Rights & Responsibilities Handbook* as detailed in the [attached document](#).

**#24-164 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Cambridge School Department's Non-Discrimination Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to Cambridge School Department's Non-Discrimination Policy detailed in the [attached document](#).

**#24-165 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Non-Discrimination on the Basis Of Sex Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Policy detailed in the [attached document](#)

**#24-166 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Civil Rights Grievance Procedures Policy Formerly Known as the Uniform Grievance Procedures Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to Civil Rights Procedures Policy formerly known as the Uniform Grievance Procedures Policy detailed in the [attached document](#).

**#24-168 Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee award contracts to the institutions as detailed in the list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts funds to be provided from the General Fund and/or Grant Fund Budget.

Description: SY24-25 Placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:	18	\$1,622,126.97
Residential Program Contracts:		
45 Day Program Contracts:	<u>1</u>	<u>\$34,428.15</u>
Total	19	\$1,656,555.12

**#24-169 Recommendation: Contract Award: Burgess Pest Management: Pest Management Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

Burgess Pest Management, 177 South Main Street, West Bridgewater, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$70,620.00.

**#24-170 Recommendation: Contract Award: Ascentis Corporation: Time & Attendance System be adopted as follows:** 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.

Ascentis Corporation, 9680 Haven Avenue, #200, Rancho Cucamonga, CA for the period of July 1, 2024 to January 24, 2025 in the amount of \$33,320.70.

**#24-171 Recommendation: Contract Award: Lesley University: Instructional Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

Lesley University, 29 Everett Street, Cambridge, MA for the period of September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$67,728.00

**#24-172 Recommendation: Contract Award: Nimbello: Invoice Computer Software be adopted as follows:** 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.

Nimbello, 7321 Heritage Square, Suite 2140, Granger, IN, for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

**#24-174 Recommendation: Contract Award: Republic Services: Dumpster Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

Republic Services, 848 Adams Street, Abington, MA, for the period of September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$80,000.00.

**#24-175 Recommendation: Contract Award: uAspire: Educational Support Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

uAspire, 31 Milk Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA, for the period of September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$60,000.00.

**#24-176 Recommendation: Contract Award: Youth Guidance: Educational Support be adopted as follows:** 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.

Youth Guidance, 1 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 900, Chicago, IL, for the period of July 15, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$175,000.00.

**#24-177 Recommendation: Contract Award: Breakthrough Greater Boston: Educational Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

Breakthrough Greater Boston, c/o CRLS, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA, for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$96,910.00.

**#24-178 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge School Volunteers: Student Support Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

Cambridge School Volunteers, 459 Broadway, Cambridge MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$246,365.00.

**#24-179 Recommendation: Contract Award: Metropolitan Foods DBA Driscoll Foods: Groceries be adopted as follows:** 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.

Metropolitan Foods dba Driscoll Foods, 6 Westbelt, Wayne, NJ, for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00

**#24-180 Recommendation: Contract Award: W.B. Mason: Food Paper Products be adopted as follows:** 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.

W.B. Mason, 647 Summer Street, Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$250,000.00.

**#24-181 Recommendation: Contract Award: Troy Group, Inc.: Laser Printers be adopted as follows:** 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.

Troy Group, Inc., 3 Bryan Drive, Wheeling, WV, for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$27,787.48

**#24-182 Recommendation: Contract Award: Rosev Dairy: Milk Delivery & Purchases be adopted as follows:** 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.

Rosev Dairy, 8 Griffin Way, Chelsea, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

**#24-183 Recommendation: Contract Award: Produce Connection: Groceries be adopted as follows:** 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.

Produce Connection, 96 Audubon Rd. Wakefield, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

**#24-184 Recommendation: Contract Award: Fantini Baking Company: Bread Products be adopted as follows:** 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.

Fantini Baking Company, 375 Washington Street, Haverhill, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

**#24-185 Recommendation: Contract Award: Enroot: Educational Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

Enroot, 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$70,000.00.



**#24-186 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Housing Authority: Educational Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

Cambridge Housing Authority, 362 Green Street, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$231,391.00.

**#24-187 Recommendation: Contract Award: Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc.: Educational Support be adopted as follows:** 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.

Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc., 225 Windsor Street, Cambridge, MA Cambridge for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$43,120.00

**#24-188 Recommendation: Contract Award: Interpreters & Translators, Inc.: Translation Services be adopted as follows:** 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.

Interpreters & Translators, Inc., 232 Williams St. E, Glastonbury, CT for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$200,000.00

**#24-189 Recommendation: Contract Award: BCM Controls Corporation: Security Maintenance & Upgrades be adopted as follows:** 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.

BCM Controls Corporation, 30 Commerce Way, Woburn, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$200,000.00.

**#24-190 Recommendation: Contract Award: Amplify: Instructional Materials & Professional Development (Amendment) be adopted as follows:** 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.

Amplify, 55 Washington St, Suite 500, Brooklyn, NY, for the period of April 5, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$43,832.60.

**#24-191 Recommendation: Contract Award: Facing History & Ourselves: Professional Development be adopted as follows:** 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.

Facing History & Ourselves, 89 South St., Suite 401, Boston, MA for the period of August 28, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$30,000.00.

**#24-192 Recommendation: Contract Award: Shore Educational: Professional Development be adopted as follows:** 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.

Shore Educational Collaborative, 100 Revere Beach Parkway, Chelsea, MA for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

**#24-193 Recommendation: Contract Award: Marathon Nursing: Nursing Services for Special Education Student be adopted as follows:** 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.

Marathon Nursing, 140 Wood Rd, Suite 100, Braintree, MA for the period of September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

**#24-194 Recommendation: Contract Award: Mirah: Measured Based Care System be adopted as follows:** 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.

Mirah, 1 Washington Mall #1111, Boston, MA for the period of September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$48,000.00.

**#24-195 Recommendation: Approval of the Cambridge Public Schools Breakfast & Lunch Prices for SY2024-2025 be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee approve the following prices for school breakfast and lunch as follows:

	<u>SY 24 - 25</u>	<u>Change from SY23-24</u>
PreK- 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Paid Lunch	\$0.00	\$0.00
High School Paid Lunch	\$0.00	\$0.00
A la Carte Milk	\$0.00	(\$0.50)
Students Qualified for Reduced	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Breakfast (All students)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Adult Lunch-Elementary	\$6.00	\$1.50
Adult Lunch-High School	\$6.00	\$1.00

**#24-197 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Municipal Local Cybersecurity Grant (SC25861) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY25 Municipal Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SC25861) Federal in the amount of \$84,700.00 for the period of August 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

**#24-198 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY 25 Food & Nutrition Services Appropriation (SC00402) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY25 Food & Nutrition Services Appropriation (SC00402) Federal and State in the amount of \$1,600,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

## 8. Non-Consent Agenda

**#24-157 Recommendation: Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee & Cambridge Education Association Unit D for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026** be adopted as follows: That the School Committee ratify and approve the Tentative Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee (the

"Committee") and Cambridge Education Association Unit D for a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026 as detailed in the [attached document](#).

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas, **#24-157** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA, Ms. Catchings, ABSENT

**#24-158 Recommendation: Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee & Cambridge Education Association Unit C for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026** be adopted as follows: That the Superintendent's Recommendation #24-158 be adopted as follows: That the School Committee ratify and approve the Tentative Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee (the "Committee") and Cambridge Education Association Unit C for a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 as detailed in the [attached document](#).

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas, **#24-158** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA; Ms. Catchings, ABSENT

**#24-159 Recommendation: Approval of Adjustments to CRLS Club Advisor Stipends In the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Cambridge School Committee & Cambridge Education Association Units A & B** be adopted as follows: That the Superintendent's Recommendation #24-159 be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve adjustments to the CRLS Club Advisor Stipends set forth in the collective bargaining agreement between the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge Education Association Units A&B as detailed in the [attached document](#).

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas, **#24-159** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA; Ms. Catchings, ABSENT

**#24-160 Recommendation: Approval of the Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee & The Cambridge Education Association Units A & B** be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve the [attached agreement](#) with the Cambridge Education Association Units A&B which addresses a change in the collective bargaining agreement language between the Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Education Association Units A&B with respect to upper school clubs.

A brief discussion followed **#24-160**.

**Mr. Harding** asked for clarity regarding the voting process for the contracts absent a representative from the City of Cambridge. Attorney MacFarlane shared that the vote would remain valid and that the instance was not the first time a union agreement had been approved without a City representative. Attorney noted that the absence of a City representative was not the fault on the City's side.

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas, **#24-160** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA; Ms. Catchings, ABSENT

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas it was voted to suspend the Rules for the purpose of moving reconsideration of the foregoing vote on **#24-157, #24-158, #24-159, and #24-160** on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

The Rules having been suspended, on a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rojas to reconsider the foregoing vote, hoping the same would not prevail, was adopted: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas NAY; Member Harding NAY, Member Hudson NAY, Member Weinstein NAY, Vice Chair Hunter NAY, Member Simmons NAY.

**#24-167 Recommendation: Approval of a Request from the School Committee to the Election Commission for Mailing Addresses be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve a formal request to the Cambridge Election Commission for mailing addresses.

A discussion followed **#24-167**.

**Member Harding** asked for more clarity regarding the request for mailing addresses. The group discussed that the lists would be provided to the Student Registration Center for mailings to families of our youngest students. A formal request for the lists must be made by the School Committee.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rojas, **#24-167** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

**#24-173 Recommendation: Contract Award: Public Consulting Group be adopted as follows:** 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.

Public Consulting Group, 148 State Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA, for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$62,000.00.

A brief discussion followed **#24-173**.

**Member Hudson** asked if the software was related to data analysis of the Climate Survey. Dr. Grace shared that the software was for staff and related to the new IEP format.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Harding **#24-173** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

**#24-196 Recommendation: Gifts and Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described.

1. DONATION - CPS received a \$791,595 donation to the CRLS boys and girls rowing teams from the Estate of Marie Hagelstein. This is the third of multiple donations from the estate

which are restricted for the exclusive use of the CRLS boys and girls rowing teams. This brings the total donations to date to \$1,671,110.00. Funds are placed into a Trust with the City of Cambridge and are available solely for the operations of the boys and girls rowing teams, including equipment purchases. CPS is authorized to use both the principal and the interest of the trust funds.

2. DONATION - \$870.94 for Kennedy-Longfellow School from HELPSY in return for items collected in the school's clothing/book donation collection box. Funds will be used for the general support of the school.
3. DONATION - \$1,000.00 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to enhance STEM activities and initiatives at the Amigos School.

A brief discussion followed **#24-196**.

**Member Weinstein** acknowledged the generosity of the Estate of Marie Halestein and he and **Member Rojas** highlighted that CPSD sports were free for all students.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Harding **#24-196** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

#### 9. School Committee Agenda:

**#24-199 June 11, 2024, Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Report**

**#24-200 June 12, 2024, Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee Report**

**#24-201 July 9, 2024, Special Education and Student Supports Subcommittee Report**

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas, **#24-199, #24-200 and #24-201** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

#### **#24-202 Joint Motion by Member Harding and Member Hudson**

WHEREAS: The School Committee is committed to ensuring that students are held to uniform standards across the district; now therefore it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee requests a detailed report from the Interim Superintendent outlining disciplinary actions, including suspensions, among the upper schools.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Harding, **#24-202** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

#### **#24-203 Motion by Member Harding**

WHEREAS: The School Committee is interested in learning more about the experiences of families and students who are accessing special education services; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee requests from the Interim Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent an update from the School Climate survey that relates to special education.

A brief discussion followed **#24-203**.

**Member Harding** noted that the Committee and CPSD leadership were in alignment regarding their shared commitment to serving Special Education families and students. He offered to include Member Hudson as a co-sponsor and she accepted. The motion was amended to include Member Hudson as a co-sponsor

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, **#24-203** was amended on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

Motion **#24-203** was accepted as amended on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

**#24-204      Joint Motion by Member Hudson, Member Harding and Member Weinstein**

WHEREAS: Algebra I is an important gatekeeper course for STEM careers; and

WHEREAS: CPSD has a history of successfully offering Algebra I prior to 9th grade at multiple CPS schools at various points; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Education encourages communities to offer Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, stating that “[t]aking Algebra I before high school, such as in 8th grade, can set students up for a strong foundation of STEM education and open the door for various college and career options;” and

WHEREAS: It is inequitable to require individual families whose students are ready for this content to seek opportunities outside of CPSD, and outside of the regular school day; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is on record with policies calling for CPSD to offer Algebra I instruction in 8th grade in 1992, 1998, 2010, 2012, and 2013; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is on record more generally with an Academic Challenge Policy that states that the “[c]urriculum will be designed to provide a range of opportunities for challenging, intellectually stimulating experiences“ for all students, including those working above grade level, and that “[m]athematics instruction will meet the needs of all students;” therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That, by the fall of 2025, the Cambridge Public Schools will provide in-school, school-year opportunities for Upper School students to complete Algebra 1; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, during the 2024-2025 school year, the District will offer programming during (but not limited to) the school day, that affords 7<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to participate in advanced math work to ensure that they have the foundation required to successfully complete Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade; and be it further

RESOLVED: That whereas the special programs would be available to all students, and their completion would be required for students wishing to take Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2025-2026 school year, not all students would be required to enroll in these special programs, nor required to enroll in the 8<sup>th</sup> Algebra I course during the 2025-2026 school year; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, by the fall of 2026 - if CPSD elementary and upper school math educators and administrators deem us ready - the District will revert to its original plan of heterogeneous instruction, with all students completing an Upper School math sequence that includes all Algebra I units; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, during the 2024-2025 school year, elementary and upper school math educators and administrators will be convened on a regular basis to discuss what will be needed – at both the elementary and upper school levels - to be truly successful in our long term goal of graduating all students through a curriculum that includes all Algebra I units before 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and how we're doing in providing these resources, with a report to be distributed to CPSD elementary, upper school, and high school administrators, elementary and math educators, curriculum leaders, families and the School Committee for visibility; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this plan will be communicated and coordinated with CPSD elementary, upper school, and high school administrators, elementary and math educators, curriculum leaders, and families, immediately upon adoption.

A robust discussion followed **#24-204**.

**Member Rojas** asked for Mr. Murphy's feedback regarding his Algebra 1 memo. Mr. Murphy referenced the memo he submitted prior to the meeting. He is committed to involving the math instructional staff in these deliberations.

The district will undertake the work of providing students to take math acceleration programming inside and outside of school time including boot camps and programming over school breaks. Algebra 1 would be offered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders in 2025-2026 for those who participated in the accelerated programming this year.

**Member Rojas** suggested a Roundtable in the coming year to evaluate the math programming. The Committee discussed the long history of motions put forth by the Committee regarding Algebra 1 offerings. Members stressed the importance of equity in its implementation and monitoring data to ensure this was happening.

**Member Weinstein** drafted additional text to include to the motion to ensure that equity issues were addressed. **Member Weinstein** shared the following italicized amended language to be included with the 5<sup>th</sup> "Resolved" with the Committee:

*...these resources, including identifying any disparities in opportunities and outcomes by race, gender, English Language Learner status or disability status or other relevant demographic categories so those can be addressed, with a report ...*

Motion by Member Weinstein seconded by Member Harding the amended language was accepted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

Mr. Murphy invited Ms. Mulligan to speak regarding the process of operationalizing the motion. She noted that there would be challenges, but that the district and educators were committed to the process. She is committed to revisiting the data with an equity lens.

Mr. Murphy wanted to clarify the following issues with the Committee that related to the motion's language below:

RESOLVED: That, during the 2024-2025 school year, the District will offer programming during (but not limited to) the school day, that affords 7<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to participate in advanced math work to ensure that they have the foundation required to successfully complete Algebra I in 8th grade; and be it further

He noted that for the upcoming school year that the majority of the enrichment opportunities would most likely be offered outside of the school day. Many of the class schedules have already been determined by principals. There is a chance that there could be inconsistencies across Schools. **Mayor Simmons** appreciated his transparency.

RESOLVED: That, by the fall of 2026 - if CPSD elementary and upper school math educators and administrators deem us ready - the District will revert to its original plan of heterogeneous instruction, with all students completing an Upper School math sequence that includes all Algebra I units; and be it further

Mr. Murphy highlighted that if a consensus is not reached by math educators and administrators for a heterogeneous plan, the district will continue with a tiered approach for fall 2026. He noted that this approach is not ideal and that the district will remain committed to determining the best heterogeneous pathway as soon as possible. He noted that the Superintendent is the ultimate decisionmaker.

He stressed the importance of communicating the plan with families and stakeholders and asked for some patience in the timing of the outreach.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, the motion was accepted as amended on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas PRESENT; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

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

### **#24-205 Resolution by Member Harding**

WHEREAS: Cambridge Rindge and Latin Boys Basketball Coach, George "Geo" Rodriguez, was named Massachusetts Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association;

WHEREAS: Coach Geo was recognized for his unwavering commitment to leading the 2024 team to a regular season finish with a 17-3 record, climbing as high as the #10 spot in the statewide Boston Globe Top 20 rankings;

WHEREAS: Coach Geo proudly represents the rich history of Cambridge basketball, having been a member of the 2001 CRLS state championship team;

WHEREAS: As Cambridge's Recreation Activities Coordinator, Coach Geo has welcomed more than 450 Cambridge youth to the summer basketball leagues creating a strong sense of community and fostering positive relationships; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee goes on record recognizing Coach Geo's achievement as the Massachusetts Coach of the Year and his many contributions to the Cambridge community.



On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Vice Chair Hunter, **#24-205** was put forth by the Committee as a Whole and accepted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

#### **11. Announcements:**

**Member Weinstein** recognized the ongoing work of the Ed Redesign Lab in creating student success planning.

**Vice Chair Hunter** attended the College Board workshop which featured the CRLS success of the African American Studies AP course. She highlighted with work of Rachel Williams-Giordano and the CRLS history department.

**Mayor Simmons** shared the Safe Streets meeting to be held on August 7.

#### **12: Late Orders**

##### **Late Order by Mayor Simmons**

That the School Committee meeting scheduled for September 3, 2024 be moved to September 10, 2024 due to the state primary elections being held on the original meeting date.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rojas, the Late Order was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

#### **12. Communications from City Officers:**

Memo to Mayor E. Denise Simmons from David Murphy, Interim Superintendent  
RE: CPS Students Residing in the Temporary Emergency Shelters

Memo to Mayor E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge City Council and Cambridge School Committee from David Murphy, Interim Superintendent  
RE: Inaugural Class – Cambridge Preschool Program

Memo to Mayor E. Denise Simmons from Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services  
RE: Cambridge Preschool Program

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, the memos were placed on file on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA.

**Email communications:**

- Lilly Havstad
- Sarah Klionsky
- Dan Monahan
- Catherine Rich

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Member Hudson on the following roll call vote the meeting was adjourned: Member Rachel ABSENT; Member Rojas YEA; Member Harding YEA, Member Hudson YEA, Member Weinstein YEA, Vice Chair Hunter YEA, Member Simmons YEA (8:30 p.m.)

Attest:



Katherine Christo  
Interim Executive Secretary to the School Committee