



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

June 3, 2025

Called for 6:00 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, Member Rachel, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Others Present: Student Member Barua; David Murphy, Interim Superintendent; Student Member Shimelis; Allan Gehant, Interim Principal, CRLS; Linda Radzvilla, Executive Director, RSTA; Ryan Souliotis, Principal, HSEP; Jennifer Amigone, Director, Data, Assessment & Accountability; Julia Barriga Cortez, RTSA Culinary Arts Student; Chef Richard McKinney; RTSA Culinary Arts Teacher; Omriqui Thomas, HSEP Student; Neil DiMaio, Tobin Montessori Elementary School Teacher, Nayissa Jean-Michel, CRLS Student; Sharon Lozada, STARs Teacher; Damon Smith, Interim Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Carolyn Turk, Director of Educational Policy, Mayor's Office

Mayor Simmons in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and read the call of the meeting.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call of members present: Member Rachel, PRESENT; Member Rojas, PRESENT; Member Weinstein, ~~ABSENT~~; Vice Chair Hunter, PRESENT; Member Harding, ~~ABSENT~~; Member Hudson, PRESENT; Mayor Simmons, PRESENT

Member Harding arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Member Weinstein arrived at 6:45 p.m.

1. Public Comment

The following individuals were heard:

- Dan Monahan, Lexington Ave, Superintendent Contract
- Ann Coburn, Otis Street, Superintendent Search
- Piotr Mitros, Michael Way, Preservation & Digitization of School Records

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Vice Chair, on voice vote public comment was closed.

Mayor Simmons entertained a motion to suspend the rules for the purposes of bringing forth the Interim Superintendent's special presentation and agenda items **#25-163** and **#25-164**.

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Rojas on a voice vote, the rules were suspended to bring forth the Interim Superintendent's Special Presentation and agenda items **#25-163** and **#25-164**.

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 100th 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.

Mayor Simmons turned the floor over to **Vice Chair Hunter** to discuss **#25-163** and **#25-164**, resolutions honoring Student Members Barua and Shimelis. **Vice Chair Hunter** read the resolutions and shared remarks highlighting the students' accomplishments and their many contributions to the School Committee. Each School Committee member gave congratulatory remarks and thanked them for their service. **Mayor Simmons** presented Challenge Coins as a token of the achievements that have been accomplished and their future successes. Student Members Barua and Shimelis shared their sentiments and highlighted the personal impact of their work with the Committee. Following the presentation of the Challenge Coins, **Mayor Simmons** turned the floor to Mr. Murphy who highlighted the graduating class and asked the following seniors and their CPS mentors to join the meeting:

7a. Superintendent's Update:

- Julia Barriga Cortez '25, RSTA, Culinary Arts and Chef Tom McKinney, RSTA
- Omriqui Thomas '25, High School Extension Program and Neil DiMaio, Tobin Montessori School
- Nayissa Jean-Michel '25, CRLS and Sharon Lazoda, STARs at CRLS

Julia shared that she was an immigrant from Ecuador and that she gained skills and a sense of community through the RSTA culinary program. She expressed a deep appreciation for Chef McKinney's mentorship. She will be attending Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration. Chef McKinney recognized Julia's achievements in state and national competitions and praised her leadership and commitment.

Omriqui shared her history at CPS starting at the Tobin Montessori School. She reflected on her support from Mr. DiMaio who fostered a strong sense of community and practical life skills. At HSEP, she appreciated the safe and student-centered environment and highlighted her internship at the MBTA. Mr. DiMaio praised Omriqui's accomplishments and growth. She will pursue political science in college.

Nayissa was involved in AVID, National Honor Society and Students of Color Coalitions. She shared her appreciation for Ms. Lazoda's mentorship. Nayissa will attend Union College as a Posse Scholar.

Following the remarks of the students and their mentors, Committee members shared their appreciation to the students and the educators. **Mayor Simmons** concluded with a poem of hope and the belief in the possibilities ahead for the graduates. She thanked the educators for their dedication and transformative impact.

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, seconded by Member Harding, the Committee took a two minute recess.

The recess having been expired, on a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Weinstein **#25-163** and **#25-164** were adopted on a voice vote.

To ensure that the Student Members were able to depart the meeting on the earlier side the Mayor asked for their student report.

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Members Barua and Shimelis shared the following highlights for their final report:

- Reflections on the Year:
 - One of their first focuses was MCAS, leading to a broader conversation on defining success in education and advocating for the elimination of MCAS as a graduation requirement.
 - Raised questions about equity in education, citing persistent achievement gaps in MCAS data despite progress in ELA and Math.
- Student Leadership and Transparency:
 - Hosted two successful events:
 - *Club Leaders Roundtable*: “Mo Money, No Problems”
 - *Student Budget Info Session*: “Just Give Me My Money”
 - Partnered with CPS Finance Office to organize events aimed to demystify the school funding process for students and promote budget transparency.
- Community Engagement:
 - Used the Cambridge Youth Council platform to share School Committee discussions and gather student feedback, creating a meaningful feedback loop.
- Reflections:
 - Collected and shared reflections from graduating seniors:
 - Appreciation for cultural awareness (e.g., halal lunches, Eid recognition).
 - Value of unique course offerings (e.g., AP African American Studies).

Following the students’ report, with the rules in suspension, **Mayor Simmons** turned the floor over to Mr. Murphy for his presentation.

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

Mr. Murphy opened the presentation with a brief overview of the breadth and complexity of high school programming and highlighted that the presentation would focus on data-drive analysis of achievement and future objectives.

The group gave the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

CRLS Presentation – Principal Alan Gately Gehant

- MCAS scores consistently outperform state averages.
- Noted a dip in science scores, attributed to curricular misalignment and internal team challenges.
- Participation in AP, early college, and dual enrollment courses continues to grow.
- Strong outreach efforts are credited for increased enrollment, particularly among underrepresented students.
- Added new AP courses (e.g., AP Macroeconomics, AP Music Theory).

- AP scores remain high despite increased participation.
- Chronic absenteeism remains a major challenge; seniors especially disengage during final year.
- Graduation rate remains strong across demographic groups.
- Past grading practices tied to attendance were discontinued in favor of equity-based models.
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High School Extension Program – Principal Ryan Souliotis

- The Bridge Program supports students facing medical, legal, or emotional barriers to in-person attendance.
- Offers highly personalized virtual and community-based instruction.
- The Powderhouse program offers Alternative senior year model focused on project-based learning.
- Expansion planned to accommodate more seniors next year.

Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA) – Executive Director Linda Radzilla

- Strengthened industry partnerships and advisory boards.
- Expansion of industry-recognized credentials (IRCs) in all programs (e.g., ASE, OSHA 10).
- Significant growth in exploratory course participation, especially in 9th grade.
- Pivoted from outdated programs (e.g., graphic communications) to high-interest electives like “Custom Creations.”
- High rates of students continuing in related post-secondary education or entering the workforce directly.
- Programs align with both college and career readiness goals.

Priorities for 2025–2026 School Year

- Review and possible revision of the block schedule.
- Development of a local competency determination to replace MCAS graduation requirement.
- Review and refinement of grading for equity practices.
- Continued work on cell phone policy reform at CRLS to improve focus and engagement.

Discussion Highlights with Committee Members

- Emphasized need for clearer communication with families about high school opportunities starting at the upper school level.
- Encouraged strengthening feedback loops between upper schools and CRLS.
- Suggested more nuanced approaches to support all students interested in advanced coursework.
- Expressed concern about the long-standing attendance challenges and encouraged measurable improvement within the next year.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval:

- May 14, 2025, Special Meeting

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, the records were approved on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Member Harding seconded by Member Weinstein, the items **#25-134, #25-135, #25-136, #25-137, #25-138, #25-139, #25-140, #25-141, #25-142, #25-143, #25-144, #25-145, #25-146, #25-147, #25-148, #25-151, #25-152, #25-153, #25-154, #25-155, #25-156** and **#25-157** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member

Hudson, YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA

#25-134 Recommendation: Contract Award: 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:	1	\$30,000.00
Residential Program Tuition Contracts		
45 Day Program Contracts:		<u>\$30,000.00</u>
Total	1	\$30,000.00

#25-135 Recommendation: Contract Award: Boston Behavior Learning Center: Special Education Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Boston Behavior Learning Center, 109 Oak Street, Newton, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

#25-136 Recommendation: Contract Award: New England Home Health Services, Inc.: Special Education Nursing Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

New England Home Health Services, Inc., 594 Marrett Rd. Suite 11, Lexington, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

#25-137 Recommendation: Contract Award: Marathon Nursing: Nursing Services for Special Education Student (FY26 Contract) 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, 2025 to October 31, 2026 in the amount of \$160,000.00.

#25-138 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cartwheel Health Services P.C.: Mental Health Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Cartwheel Health Services P.C., 625 Massachusetts Ave, 2nd Floor, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 in the amount of \$108,150.00.

#25-139 Recommendation: Contract Award: Project Wayfinder, Inc.: Site License Renewal, Training & Support (FY26 Contract) 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.

Project Wayfinder, Inc., PO Box 2876, Berkeley, CA for the period of July 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026 in the amount of \$94,040.00.

#25-140 Recommendation: Contract Award: Lesley University: Instructional Services (FY26 Contract) 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 August 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$69,084.00.

#25-141 Recommendation: Contract Award: Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology: Instructional Services (FY26 Contract) 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.

Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, 41 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA for the period of September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$70,916.00.

#25-142 Recommendation: Contract Award: B & H Photo Video, Inc.: Multi Media Equipment (FY26 Contract) 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.

B & H Photo Video, Inc., 420 9th Avenue, New York, NY for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

#25-143 Recommendation: Contract Award: Vespoli USA, Inc.: Crew Boats 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.

Vespoli USA, Inc., 385 Clinton Ave, New Haven, CT for the period of May 23, 2025 to October 31, 2025 in the amount of \$93,571.00.

#25-144 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers: Computer Maintenance (FY26 Contract) 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.

PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$700,000.00.

#25-145 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers: Tech Hardware (FY26 Contract) 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.

PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers, 477 Riverside Avenue, Medford, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$800,000.00.

#25-146 Recommendation: Contract Award: CDW Government LLC: Computer Software (FY26 Contract) 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.

CDW Government LLC, 230 N. Milwaukee Ave, Vernon Hills, IL for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$75,000.00.

#25-147 Recommendation: Contract Award: Next Gen Supply Group: Custodial Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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.

Next Gen Supply Group, 11 Norfolk Street, Mansfield, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$450,000.00.

#25-148 Recommendation: Contract Award: Aramsco, Inc.: Custodial Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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.

Aramco, Inc., 1480 Grandview Ave, Paulsboro, NJ for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$200,000.00.

#25-151 Recommendation: Contract Award: WW Grainger: Facilities Equipment & Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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.

WW Grainger, 100 Grainger Parkway, Lake Forest, IL for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#25-152 Recommendation: Contract Award: Home Depot: Carpentry & Maintenance Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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.

Home Depot, 11 Dan Road Canton, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$250,000.00.

#25-153 Recommendation: Contract Award: Metropolitan Pipe: Plumbing Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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 Pipe, 30 Inner Belt Road, Somerville, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#25-154 Recommendation: Contract Award: New England School Services: Doors & Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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.

New England School Services, 98 Hicks Avenue, Medford, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$125,000.00.

#25-155 Recommendation: Contract Award: NorthEast Electrical: Electrical Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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.

NorthEast Electrical, 560 Oak Street, Brockton, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

#25-156 Recommendation: Contract Award: Pasek: Locks, Keys & Hardware (FY26 Contract) 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.

Pasek, 9 West Third Street South Boston, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$65,000.00.

#25-157 Recommendation: Contract Award: Republic Services: Dumpster Services (FY26 Contract) 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 July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$80,000.00.

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

#25-149 Recommendation: Contract Award: Filter Sales & Services: HVAC Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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.

Filter Sales & Services, 15 Adams Street, Burlington, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

A brief discussion followed **#25-149**.

Member Rojas asked for clarification on the contract and noting that many CPSD buildings are either new or have aging infrastructure, and that HVAC systems have been pushed harder due to increased air exchange standards post-COVID. He asked whether the proposed spending was sufficient and how the district is planning long-term for HVAC maintenance and health standards. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Damon Smith explained that the contract applied to primarily older buildings and supports more frequent filter replacement needs.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Rachel **#25-149** was adopted on the following roll call vote on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA

#25-150 Recommendation: Contract Award: F.W. Webb: HVAC Supplies (FY26 Contract) 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.

F.W. Webb, 160 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

There was no discussion related to **#25-150** as the topic was covered for **#25-149**.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Rachel **#25-150** was adopted on the following roll call vote on the following roll call vote: Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Member Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Mayor Simmons, YEA

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

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

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Rachel, **#25-159** was adopted on a voice vote.

#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.

A brief discussion followed **#25-160**

Student members asked about the status of implementing Yondr pouches at CRLS. Mr. Murphy shared that no final decision has been made. He highlighted his goal of ensuring that CPSD pursues the healthiest possible school climate as it relates to phone usage.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Weinstein **#25-160** was adopted on a voice vote.

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

A brief discussion followed **#25-158**. Member Weinstein shared highlights of the subcommittee meeting.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Harding, **#25-158** was adopted on a voice vote.

The meeting approached 10:00 p.m.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Rojas, the meeting was extended by fifteen minutes on a voice vote.

#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.

A discussion followed **#25-161**.

Mayor Simmons shared her motivations for the motion citing the importance of preserving historical documents. **Member Rachel** highlighted that the Committee's Executive Secretary should be included in the ongoing discussions. She suggested an amendment to the language and Mayor Simmons encouraged her to provide additional information at the next meeting. Dr. Turk shared a framework from the National Museum of Education.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Vice Chair Hunter, on a voice vote, **#25-161** was laid on the table.

#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.

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Vice Chair Hunter, on a voice vote, **#25-162** adopted as amended.

11. Announcements:

Vice Chair Hunter

- Superintendent Evaluation on June 24 at 6:00 p.m. Public Comment is welcome.
- CPAC End-of-Year Report on June 10 at Senior Center
- CRLS Invent Team Presentation at MIT on June 11
- AVID Dinner on May 28
- CNA Pinning Ceremony

- Eighth Grade Civics Showcase at the State House.
- FMA Mural Unveiling – June 13

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications from City Officers: None

Email communications:

- ✓ Maggie Schulz
- ✓ Piotr Mitros

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel, on a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned.
(10:14 p.m.)

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee