



## CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### (Official Minutes)

#### Regular Meeting

August 5, 2025

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, Member Rojas, Member Weinstein, Mayor Simmons

Others Present: Allan Gately Gehant, Interim Principal, CRLS; David Murphy, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Carolyn Turk, Director of Educational Policy, Mayor's Office

**Member Rachel** in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:03 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 Hudson, PRESENT; Member Rachel, PRESENT; Member Rojas, ~~ABSENT~~; Member Weinstein, PRESENT; Vice Chair Hunter, ~~ABSENT~~; Member Harding, PRESENT; Mayor Simmons, ~~ABSENT~~

**Member Rojas** arrived at 5:11 p.m.

**Vice Chair Hunter** joined at 6:30 p.m.

**Mayor Simmons** arrived at 6:45 p.m.

#### 1. Public Comment

The following individuals were heard:

- Jess Goetz, Pemberton Street, Superintendent Search **#25-227**
- Chris Montero, Warren Road, Framingham Superintendent Search **#25-227**
- Gabriel Robinson, McTernan St. #3, AI Policy **#25-226**
- Arjun Jaikumar, Richdale Avenue, AI Policy, **#25-226**, Superintendent Search **#25-227**
- Ann Coburn, Otis Street, Superintendent Search **#25-227**
- LaQueen Battle, Otis Street, briefly spoke on a non-agenda item and was connected with a CPS administrator to follow-up.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rojas, public comment was closed on a voice vote.

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

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

- June 3, 2025, Regular Meeting
- June 17, 2025, Regular Meeting
- June 20, 2025, Roundtable Meeting
- June 24, 2025, Special Meeting
- July 11, 2025, Special Meeting

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, the records were approved on a voice vote.

**Member Hudson** inquired about suspending the rules to bring forth the *Communications from City Officers* to discuss the superintendent search. As Mayor Simmons had not yet joined the meeting, Member Hudson did not move forward with making a motion to suspend the rules.

**4. Reconsiderations:** None

**5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:** None

**6. Awaiting Reports:** None

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

*An update on pending matters and highlight various initiatives taking place this summer in preparation for the 2025 - 2026 school year.*

Interim Superintendent Murphy expressed appreciation to staff who dedicated significant time over the past five to six weeks to facilitate summer programs. He also expressed gratitude to families who participated. He noted the lengthy vendor agreements to be voted on which was common for the summer meeting. He shared that there would be a communication going to families the following day which would include activities and events in late August and early September.

He acknowledged the inclusion of the School Committee's motion on AI and agreed that it was important to engage in a thoughtful conversation. He also highlighted the meeting's presentation on the CRLS protocols and policies that are currently being reviewed.

**7b. Presentation**

*The Interim Superintendent and administrative team will present on modifications to building-based protocols pertaining to the cell phone access during the school day at CRLS along with policies pertaining to academic integrity, student attendance and other policies under review for the start of the new school year. The presentation will include a response to the school committee's June 3, 2025 Order to review the feasibility of more restrictive cell phone policies.*

Interim Superintendent Murphy and CRLS Principal Gately Gehant gave the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

Highlights of the presentation and discussion include:

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Curriculum Update

- Focus on aligning instructional materials with the science of reading.
- First year of district-wide implementation of CKLA in elementary grades.
- Implementation of Fishtank curriculum in upper schools and common assessments at CRLS.
- Emphasis on supporting educators through professional development and other resources.
- A comprehensive bias review was conducted on over 700 lessons.
- Student Feedback:
  - 96% reported high levels of learning.
  - 93% found the work appropriately challenging.
  - 96% reported high levels of enjoyment with instructional content.
- Academic Outcomes:
  - Grade 1: 26% increase in students on/above grade level.
  - Grade 2: 10% increase, with 80% now meeting benchmarks.
  - Grades 3–5: 70–82% of students on/above grade level.
  - Highest growth among English learners, Black/African American, and multiracial students.

- Students averaged 175% progress toward typical growth expectations.

#### Mathematics Curriculum Update

- Ongoing rollout of Illustrative Mathematics curriculum, with differentiated progress across grades.
- Supports implemented:
  - Accelerated 6th/7th grade curriculum.
  - Afterschool and vacation programs.
  - Bridge to Algebra program.
  - Algebra 1 lessons introduced in Grade 8.
- Outcomes:
  - Grades 3–5 showed strong growth on spring screener data.
  - Grades 6–8 showed high growth in Grade 8, but disparities persist in high-needs subgroups.
  - Math mindset surveys showed improved belonging and engagement, especially in elementary grades.
- Plans include:
  - Strengthening upper school implementation.
  - Enhancing inclusive practices and targeted intervention strategies.
  - Increasing co-teaching with special educators and interventionists.

#### Family & Community Engagement:

- Caregiver-focused materials include unit preview letters, QR-coded websites, and at-home learning tools.
- Multiple events held: school presentations, webinars, and a successful Flagway Tournament (CPS schools took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place nationally).
- Increased cross-department collaboration, including with Special Education and Multilingual Learners offices.

#### Next Steps for 2025-2026

1. Strengthen curriculum implementation through deeper professional development and minimal curricular changes.
2. Expand collaborative practices using data-driven instruction across departments.
3. Enhance shared knowledge among all instructional staff, including SPED and ELL providers.

#### School Committee Discussion:

- **Member Hudson** raised concerns about the long-term stagnation of MCAS scores and the disconnect between different assessments (i-Ready, mCLASS, MCAS).
  - Emphasized the need to present multiple data sources with context.
  - Expressed skepticism due to similar promises made over past decades.
- **Vice Chair Hunter** commended the academic team and acknowledged historical challenges around equity and access to rigorous instruction.
- **Member Rojas** praised the progress and asked for clarity on support for Hispanic students and how remaining students below grade level would be supported. Ms. Bryan noted that the platform does not currently track Hispanic students which she intends to rectify.

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

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Hudson, Public Comment was reopened to allow Ann Coburn to speak on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, ABSENT.

Ms. Coburn spoke regarding **#25-227** and expressed her disappointment that the School Committee summer meeting was scheduled for an hour earlier at 5:00 p.m. She felt the public was not made fully aware of this information.

On a motion by Member Weinstein, seconded by Member Hudson, Public Comment was closed on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, ABSENT.

**7d. Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Member Harding seconded by Member Hudson, the items **#25-190, #25-191, #25-192, #25-193, #25-194, #25-195, #25-196, #25-198, #25-199, #25-200, #25-202, #25-203, #25-206, #25-207, #25-209, #25-210, #25-211, #25-212, #25-213, #25-214, #25-215, #25-216, #25-217, #25-218, #25-219, #25-220, #25-221, #25-222, #25-223, and #25-224** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**#25-190 Recommendation: Approval 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.

**#25-191 Recommendation: Approval Revisions to Civil Rights Grievance Procedures Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Department's Civil Rights Grievance Procedures Policy as detailed in the attached document.

**#25-192 Recommendation: Approval Revisions to Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Students Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Department's Policy Regarding Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Students as detailed in the attached document.

**#25-193 Recommendation: Approval Revisions to Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Cambridge School Department's Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Policy as detailed in the attached document.

**#25-194 Recommendation: Approval Revisions to Student Attendance Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Student Attendance Policy as detailed in the attached document.

**#25-195 Recommendation: Approval Revisions to Physical Restraint Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Physical Restraint Policy as detailed in the attached document.

**#25-196 Recommendation: Approval Revisions to Non-Discrimination Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the School Department's Non-Discrimination Policy as detailed in the attached document.

**#25-198 Recommendation: Approval Adjustments to CRLS Club Advisor Stipends be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the adjustments to CRLS Club Advisor Stipends in the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Cambridge School Committee & the Cambridge Education Association (CEA) Units A & B at detailed in the attached document.

**#25-199 Recommendation: Approval Request to Election Commission for Mailing Addresses be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the request from the School Committee to the Election Commission for mailing addresses as detailed in the attached document.

**#25-200 Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services (Chapter 766 Placements) 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, for placement of students in private schools for implementation of educational plans in accordance with Chapter 766.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:	3	\$260,731.92
Residential Program Contracts:		
45 Day Program Contracts:		
Total	3	\$260,731.92

**#25-202 Recommendation: Contract Award: Enroot (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.

Enroot, 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$70,000.00.

**#25-203 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Housing Authority (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.

Cambridge Housing Authority, 362 Green Street, Cambridge, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$231,632.00.

**#25-206 Recommendation: Contract Award: Yondr Inc. (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.

Yondr Inc., 12503 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA for the period of August 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$69,575.00.

**#25-207 Recommendation: Contract Award: DJT Transportation (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.

DJT Transportation, 121 Hazelton Street, Mattapan, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (Year Two Renewal) in the amount of \$97,905.00.

**#25-209 Recommendation: Contract Award: BCM Controls Corporation (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.

BCM Controls Corporation, 30 Commerce Way, Woburn, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$200,000.00.

**#25-210 Recommendation: Contract Award: Brightly 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.

Brightly Software, 11000 Regency Parkway, Suite 400, Cary, NC for the period of September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 in the amount of \$29,784.16.

**#25-211 Recommendation: Contract Award: Interpreters & Translators, Inc. (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.

Interpreters & Translators, Inc., 232 Williams St E, Glastonbury, CT  
for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$78,000.00.

**#25-212 Recommendation: Contract Award: Gold Star Foods (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.

Gold Star Foods, 127 Smith Pl, Ste 2A, Cambridge, MA  
for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

**#25-213 Recommendation: Contract Award: Produce Connection (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.

Produce Connection, 96 Audubon Rd., Wakefield, MA  
for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$250,000.00.

**#25-214 Recommendation: Contract Award: Rosev Dairy (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.

Rosev Dairy, 8 Griffin Way, Chelsea, MA  
for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$175,000.00.

**#25-215 Recommendation: Contract Award: Thurston Foods, Inc. (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.

Thurston Foods, Inc., 30 Thurston Drive, Wallingford, CT  
for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000.00.

**#25-216 Recommendation: Contract Award: Scenario Learning dba Vector Solutions (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.

Scenario Learning dba Vector Solutions, 4890 W. Kennedy Blvd, Suite 300, Tampa, FL  
for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$29,114.58.

**#25-217 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers:Tech Hardware-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.

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 amended amount of \$1,200,000.00.

**#25-218 Recommendation: Contract Award: Creative Office Pavilion, LLC Db a Creative Office Resources 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.

Creative Office Pavilion, LLC dba Creative Office Resources, 44 Thompson Place, Boston, MA for the period of August 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amended amount of \$136,289.00.

**#25-219 Recommendation: Contract Award: The Metro Group, Inc.: Chemical Water Treatment 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.

The Metro Group, Inc., 155 West Street, Suite 3, Wilmington, MA for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amended amount of \$68,277.00.

**#25-220 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, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amended amount of \$68,780.00.

**#25-221 Recommendation: Gifts Miscellaneous Receipts be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the following donations as described:

IN-KIND: VPA received donated photography equipment from a community member including cameras, film, and accessories.

DONATION - \$375.06 to Cambridgeport, \$560.28 to King Open, and \$560.28 to MLK from HELPSY in return for items collected in the Cambridgeport and Kennedy Longfellow clothing/book donation boxes. Funds will be used for the general support of the schools.

DONATION - \$526.09 from Vision, Inc. dba O'Connor Studios to Cambridgeport School for the general support of the school.

DONATION - \$10,000 from Harvard University to CRLS for the Emerging Leaders Program - a youth leadership development program that brings together local high school students and Harvard undergraduates. Funds will be used for stipends for two CRLS teachers to help lead the program.

DONATION - \$2,000 from the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation to CRLS to support Girls Flag Football.

DONATION - \$1,246.50 from the Boston Bruins Foundation to RSTA to support the carpentry program. These are the proceeds from the sale of chairs designed and made by RSTA students using donated hockey equipment from the Bruins in SY24-25.

DONATION - \$108.75 from the Estate of John Tobin for dictionaries for the Tobin Awards. These awards are given to one student from each of the five upper schools annually.

**#25-222 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Popplestone Foundation (SC26695) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY26 Popplestone Foundation (SC26695) - Targeted in the amount of \$121,234.12 for the period of September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025.

**#25-223 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Strengthening Career & Technical Education (Perkins) Secondary & Postsecondary Program Improvement & Equipment Grant (SC26696) be adopted as follows:** that the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY26 Strengthening Career and Technical Education (Perkins) Secondary and Postsecondary Program Improvement and Equipment Grant (SC26696) – Federal Through State Targeted in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the period of July 14, 2025 to September 30, 2025.

**#25-224 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 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:

FY26 Food & Nutrition Services Appropriation (SC00402) – Federal and State receipts in the amount of \$1,600,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

## **8. Non-Consent Agenda:**

**#25-197 Recommendation: Approval Revisions to Homebound Instruction Policy (First Reading) be adopted as follows:** That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Homebound Instruction Policy as detailed in the attached document.

Although policies are typically adopted on the second reading, Interim Superintendent Murphy recommended suspending the rules to adopt revisions on first reading, aligning CPSD policy with DESE regulations by the state-imposed deadline. **Member Hudson** expressed her concerns about the need to have clearer communications about the policy to impacted families. Mr. Murphy agreed.

On a motion by Vice Chair Hunter, the revisions were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson PRESENT; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

On a motion by Member Weinstein seconded by Vice Chair Hunter, the rules were suspended and the **#25-107** was adopted on its first reading on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**#25-201 Recommendation: Contract Award: uAspire (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.

uAspire, 31 Milk Street, Boston, MA for the period of September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$60,000.00.

**Member Hudson** questioned usage data. Mr. Murphy acknowledged a need for more robust data but emphasized uAspire's longstanding partnership and endorsement from CRLS staff.

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Member **#25-201** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**#25-204 Recommendation: Contract Award: Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc. (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.



Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc., 225 Windsor Street, Cambridge, MA  
for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$43,120.00.

**Member Hudson** raised concerns about fragmented tutoring programs across the district and urged a comprehensive review of services. Mr. Murphy agreed that a centralized review of tutoring partnerships is needed but noted the value of longstanding community partnerships. **Member Weinstein** highlighted success planning and the need for navigators to ensure equitable access. **Vice Chair Hunter** emphasized the integrity and popularity of Tutoring Plus, urging strong support.

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Member Weinstein, **#25-204** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**#25-205 Recommendation: Contract Award: Edia Learning Inc. (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.

Edia Learning Inc., 690 Long Bridge Street, San Francisco, CA  
for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$34,500.00.

**Member Hudson** asked about teacher feedback and general practice for vetting new instructional programs. Mr. Murphy supported the need for structured review but cautioned against relying solely on popularity; confirmed department-level support for the program. **Member Rojas** asked about origin and district comparisons; Mr. Murphy explained the program is a pilot AI-based instructional tool for advanced learners, with positive early reviews.

On a motion by Member Rojas seconded by Member Hudson, **#25-205** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**#25-208 Recommendation: Contract Award: Bunker Hill Community College (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.

Bunker Hill Community College, 250 New Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown, MA  
for the period of September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$150,000.00.

**Member Harding** inquired about enrollment numbers, capacity, and whether college credits are transferable. Mr. Murphy confirmed that credits were transferable.

On a motion by Member Harding seconded by Member Weinstein, the rules were suspended and the policy was adopted on its first reading on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

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

At the start of the School Committee agenda, it was discussed to suspend the rules in order to take Items **#25-225** (Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee Report), **#25-226** (Artificial Intelligence Policy), and **#25-228** (CRLS Updates) out of order, followed by a short recess. The Committee planned to discuss the Superintendent Search **#25-227**, and it was decided that Mr. Murphy (a potential finalist candidate for the superintendent position) should not be in the room.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Weinstein, the rules were suspended on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**#25-225 Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee Report – June 12, 2025**

A brief discussion followed **#25-225**. **Member Rojas** presented updates on projects, including the Kennedy-Longfellow School and discussions on parking. Mr. Murphy shared that a public engagement session at 158 Spring Street was well attended and productive. **Mayor Simmons** clarified that parking lot usage decisions fall under School Committee authority.

On a motion by Member Rojas, seconded by Member Harding, **#25-225** was accepted as presented on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**#25-226 Establishing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy – Member Hudson and Member Harding**

WHEREAS: Students in our district are already using artificial intelligence (AI) tools to complete academic work; and

WHEREAS: The district does not want students to rely on AI to the exclusion of developing the core skills and knowledge necessary to meet graduation requirements independently; and

WHEREAS: It is equally important that students graduate with a deep and practical familiarity with modern AI tools — including how they work, what they are useful for, and what their limitations may be — and the ability to think critically about these questions from first principles, as these tools will be a major part of the economy and society they will enter; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Cambridge School Committee requests the Superintendent to develop and present a formal district-wide policy on the use of AI in Cambridge Public Schools. This policy should safeguard the development of foundational academic skills while also promoting thoughtful, age-appropriate engagement with AI tools. It should prepare students not only to use these technologies effectively, but to understand and evaluate them as informed participants in a rapidly changing world.

A lengthy discussion followed **#25-226**. **Member Hudson** and **Member Harding** shared the background for their motion and their strong belief that the district needs a formal policy. Mr. Murphy agreed that a policy was needed.

**Member Rojas** offered amendments to align with current CPS ICTS guidance and existing policies, as well as updated terminology (*policy* to *plan*).

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson, the amendments to **#25-226** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

On a motion by Member Hudson, seconded by Member Rojas **#25-226** was adopted as amended on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**#25-228 Series of Updates on CRLS Programs, Policies, and Structure – Member Hudson and Member Harding**

WHEREAS: High school represents a pivotal stage in a student's educational journey, shaping both academic and postsecondary outcomes, and we acknowledge that there is still work to be done to ensure that every student at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) receives the strongest possible preparation; and

WHEREAS: In recent years, the high school has made multiple modifications to its grading policy—both formal and informal—without the School Committee having the opportunity to review or weigh in, and some of these changes may unintentionally undermine student growth and the cultivation of a serious academic environment; and

WHEREAS: CRLS offers strong technical education pathways that are both popular with students and aligned with labor market demands, and these programs may benefit from additional support, expansion, or greater emphasis; and

WHEREAS: It has been some time since the School Committee has formally reviewed whether the current administrative structure of CRLS is optimally designed to support the improvements and outcomes we are seeking; now therefore be it;

RESOLVED: That the School Committee requests a series of formal updates from the Superintendent during the 2025–2026 school year on the status and direction of CRLS. These updates should include, but need not be limited to: the school's grading policies, course offerings (particularly in technical and career-oriented education), administrative structure, and overall scheduling. The purpose of these updates is to ensure that the School Committee, families, and the broader public are confident in the path the school is on, and to identify and implement any improvements that may be deemed necessary.

A brief discussion followed **#25-228. Member Hudson** and **Member Harding** stressed that CRLS is the district's flagship school and stressed the importance of reviewing policies, structure and strategic planning. **Member Weinstein** expressed support and emphasized that educator, student and caregiver voices need to be involved. **Member Rojas** expressed concerns about the motion and Committee shifting from its intended focus on policy to day-to-day operations.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Hudson **#25-228** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, NAY; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, PRESENT; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, PRESENT.

Following the discussion, **Mayor Simmons** called a five minute recess. During this time, Mr. Murphy departed the meeting.

#### **#25-227 Further the Superintendent Search – Member Hudson**

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District is currently in the process hiring a permanent Superintendent; and

WHEREAS: We have completed the semi-finalists interviews, but have not yet established dates for all remaining required events, meetings and interviews; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee establish dates for all events at which finalists will introduced, interviewed, and voted upon, no later than August 15, 2025.

**Member Hudson** introduced her motion asking for more clarity regarding names, dates and locations for all steps in the superintendent search through the final vote. Several members suggested integrating the motion's discussion with the agenda item #13, Communications from City Officers.

On my motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Rachel, the rules were suspended and agenda item #13 was brought forward for discussion on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, YEA; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA.

**Mayor Simmons, Vice Chair Hunter** and Dr. Turk shared updates regarding the process. Highlights included:

- **Applications:** 20+ received June–July 2025; semifinalist interviews held July 15–16.
- **Finalists:** Four candidates selected
- **Reference Checks:** To be completed by August 8.
- **Listening Sessions (virtual):**
  - August 20 – CEA Union (6 PM)
  - August 21 – Families of Color (6 PM)
  - August 22 – School Council caregiver co-chairs/designees (6 PM)
  - Additional larger community session under consideration.
- **Performance Task:** To be conducted the week of August 18. Candidates will complete a proctored, scenario-based written response virtually.
- **Site Visits:** Week of September 15.
- **Public Interviews of Finalists:** September 30 and October 1.

- **Selection of Appointee:** October 6.
- **Contract Negotiations:** October 6–20
- **Onboarding/Transition:** To follow contract completion.

**Member Rachel** requested public forums where finalists engage with students, caregivers, and educators; noted need to adjust schedule for Yom Kippur (October 1). **Member Harding** emphasized expanding outreach beyond affinity groups; suggested including principals, guidance staff, and city partners (e.g., Human Services, Public Health). **Member Hudson** requested early clarity on question-setting process for candidate interviews; opposed restrictive limits on questions. **Member Weinstein** supported structured but flexible interviews with opportunity for follow-up questions; requested a firm date for when the Committee will finalize questions. **Vice Chair Hunter** emphasized fairness, anti-bias training, consistency, and integrity in process; and ensuring the process remains confidential.

Following the discussion, **Mayor Simmons** exercised her Charter Right and placed **#25-227** on unfinished business/calendar.

#### 11. Announcements:

- **Member Weinstein** congratulated CRLS Math Teacher Nathan Whitfield and students for their work showcased at the Cambridge-Harvard Summer Academy Exhibition Night.
- **Mayor Simmons** announced that participants in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program were hosting a reception for their project on Harriet Jacobs, titled *From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of How Harriet Jacobs Freed Herself*. Students also constructed a model of the attic where Jacobs hid for seven years.
- **Vice Chair Hunter** acknowledged the retirement of Attorney MacFarlane.

#### 12. Late Orders: None

#### 13. Communications and Reports from City Officers:

*Superintendent Search Update from Mayor E. Denise Simmons and Vice Chair Caroline Hunter*

This agenda item was taken up as part of the discussion with **#25-227**.

##### Email communications:

- ✓ Andrea M Duchesneau
- ✓ Anne Coburn

On a motion by Member Rachel, seconded by Member Harding, the meeting was adjourned on the following roll call vote: Member Hudson YEA; Member Rachel, YEA; Member Rojas, ABSENT; Member Weinstein, YEA; Vice Chair Hunter, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Madam Mayor, YEA. (9:40 p.m.)

Attest:



Katherine Christo  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee