



#25-310

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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That the School Committee adopt the attached proposed changes and amendments as a working document, to be reviewed and provisionally adopted at the Meeting of Organization, with the understanding that further revisions may be made at a later date.

DRAFT

CHAPTER 1: ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1: ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The School Committee of the City of Cambridge shall meet on the first Monday of January after each biennial election, at a time to be designated for the purpose of organization. **The Mayor shall be Chair of the School Committee.** A Vice-Chair shall be elected by roll call vote.

SECTION 2: REGULAR MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the School Committee shall be held on the first and third Tuesday evening at 6:00pm during the months of September through June. During the summer, one regular meeting of the School Committee shall be scheduled for the first Tuesday of August. No meeting of the School Committee shall go beyond 10:00pm. Any extension of the meeting beyond 10:00pm requires a motion and a two-thirds vote of the School Committee as provided below in Chapter II, Section 4.1. If necessary, the Chair shall have the option of calling a meeting as provided below in Chapter I, Section 3, Special Meetings.

SECTION 2.1: CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS

No meeting of the School Committee shall be canceled or otherwise postponed unless four (4) members shall notify the Executive Secretary to the School Committee in writing prior to the meeting. The Executive Secretary to the School Committee shall notify the City Clerk and the Office of the Superintendent immediately following receipt of notification of cancellation of a meeting. No meeting of any sub-committee of the School Committee shall be canceled or otherwise postponed unless a majority of members of the sub-committee, one of whom must be the chairperson, shall notify the Executive Secretary to the School Committee in writing, by telephone or in person prior to the meeting, except that the Sub-committee on the Budget shall cancel or postpone its meeting only upon the written notification to the Executive Secretary to the School Committee by not less than four members. The Executive Secretary to the School Committee shall notify all members of the School Committee in the event of a cancellation or postponement of any meeting. In the event of an emergency due to extraordinary circumstances, the requirement that notification of cancellation be provided in writing shall be waived, and members may notify the Executive Secretary to the School Committee of their desire to cancel a meeting by telephone, email, or in person. Any verbal request for cancellation must be followed by a written request. No regular meeting of the School Committee shall be canceled or otherwise postponed without the affirmative decision of two-thirds of the membership of the School Committee.

SECTION 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the School Committee may be called by the Chair and shall be called by the Executive Secretary upon the written request of not less than three members of the School Committee. Not less than forty-eight (48) hours (excluding Saturday, Sundays and holidays) notice of a special meeting shall be given to each member. The Executive Secretary shall notify all members by telephone,

email, and/or in person and shall follow any verbal notification with a written notification of such meeting to each member. The question or proposals for consideration shall be specifically stated in the notice and no other matter shall come before the meeting. The time and place of special meetings shall be designated in the call.

SECTION 3.1: HEARINGS

The second Tuesday of each month, during the months of September through June, shall be set aside for hearings required by law or as the Superintendent and School Committee jointly deem advisable. If no hearing is scheduled for the second Tuesday, the School Committee shall not be convened for that purpose. To give the School Committee an opportunity to study the matters heard, action on these matters will be deferred to a regular meeting of the School Committee. If necessary, the Chair shall have the option of calling a roundtable as provided for below in Chapter I, Section 3.2. Roundtables.

SECTION 3.2: ROUNDTABLES

The date for a particular roundtable shall be set in accordance with the provisions of Chapter I, Section 3. Special Meetings. At a Roundtable meeting, no votes shall be taken except upon a motion to adjourn.

Roundtable meetings may be live streamed and broadcast and should not exceed two (2) hours. The Chair of the School Committee and the Superintendent shall jointly determine the agenda for a roundtable meeting in consultation with the other members of the School Committee.

SECTION 3.3: JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

The Chair of the School Committee will schedule three annual joint meetings with the City Council - a budget meeting and no fewer than 2 additional meetings. Communication between the City Council and the School Committee will take place through the Chair of the School Committee and/or the School Committee's Executive Secretary.

SECTION 3.4: STANDING MEETING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the School Committee will, when needed, have a standing meeting with the Superintendent prior to any scheduled public meeting, workshop or hearing to collaborate on Agenda setting and to help focus both the Agenda of the School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools on the goals of the School Committee. Such standing meetings will be held by agreement between the Superintendent and the Chair and/or Vice-Chair.

SECTION 3.5: WORKSHOPS

The date for a particular workshop shall be set in accordance with the provisions of Chapter I, Section 3. Special Meetings. At a workshop, no votes shall be taken except upon a motion to adjourn. The meeting shall be broadcast on cable television and online. The Chair of the School Committee and the Superintendent shall jointly determine the agenda for a workshop in consultation with the other members of the School Committee.

SECTION 3.6: RETREATS

The date for a particular retreat shall be set in accordance with the provisions of Chapter I, Section 3. Special Meetings. At a retreat, no votes shall be taken

except upon a motion to adjourn. The meeting shall not be broadcast on cable television or online. The Chair of the School Committee and the Superintendent shall jointly determine the agenda for a retreat in consultation with other members of the School Committee.

SECTION 4: MINUTES

The Minutes of the School Committee shall be published and distributed under the direction of the Executive Secretary. Minutes shall include the date, time, place; members present or absent; and a complete record of all decisions made, and actions taken at each meeting, including a record of all votes and a summary of the discussions on each subject. On all matters on which there has been a roll-call vote, the Minutes shall reflect the votes of the individual members. A list of all documents and other exhibits used at the meeting must also be included in the Minutes.

SECTION 5: STATE AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The School Committee shall maintain active membership(s) in state and national school committee associations. Members of the School Committee who travel or attend meetings and conferences at school department expense shall be required to file with the Executive Secretary to the School Committee within thirty (30) days following the close of such meetings and conferences, a written statement of their expenses, including without limitation, copies of all receipts for expenses incurred in connection with such attendance.

SECTION 6: SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committees, except the Sub-committee on the Budget, which shall be a Committee of the Whole, shall be comprised of three Members. The Vice-Chair shall appoint the sub-committees as needed and designate the Chair of each sub-committee. The current sub-committees of the School Committee are as follows:

- Budget – (Committee of the Whole)
- Buildings and Grounds
- School Climate
- Curriculum and Achievement
- Communication/Community Relations
- Governance
- Special Education and Student Supports

A quorum for sub-committees, in order to conduct business, shall be two, but no binding action shall be taken, only recommendations made to the full School Committee.

The time devoted to sub-committee meetings shall not be more than two (2) hours at any one sitting. Any meeting not completed within the specified time may be continued to another meeting. Sub-committee Meetings can be held in-person or virtually and will be live-streamed on Cambridge Education Access TV Channel 99 and on the School Committee CPSD webpage.

No votes will be taken at Sub-committee Meetings with the exception of voting to forward recommendations to the full School Committee and other appropriate parliamentary procedures. Public Comment may be heard at the discretion of the Sub-committee Chair in accordance with Chapter II, Section 4.2

A Sub-committee may take up all business that may properly come before it and matters that are referred by the entire School Committee. The Superintendent or their designee shall be assigned to each sub-committee established.

The School Committee, by a vote of a majority of the total membership of the School Committee, shall reserve the right to recall any matter from sub-committee. A matter so recalled shall not again be eligible for referral to sub-committee without a vote by a majority of the total membership of the School Committee.

SECTION 6.1: SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEES AND AD-HOC SUB-COMMITTEES

Special sub-committees and ad hoc sub-committees may be established as proposed by the Vice-Chair and confirmed by vote of the School Committee with such membership and duties and for such duration as the School Committee deems fit. The Vice-Chair shall appoint members of any such special sub-committee and/or ad hoc sub-committee.

SECTION 7: STUDENT REPRESENTATION

Student representatives are encouraged to participate in School Committee meetings and can exercise their non-binding voting rights on all motions and resolutions that come before the School Committee.

CHAPTER 2: RULES OF PROCEDURE

SECTION 1: SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

All School Committee business that requires action by the School Committee at its meeting must be received in the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee by 4:00 pm on the preceding Wednesday of the next regular meeting of the School Committee, and the agenda, including the Superintendent's recommendations, motions by members, reports of sub-committees and other communications and reports to School Committee, shall be delivered to the School Committee by 4:00 pm on the Wednesday before the regular meeting. Supplemental recommendations from the Superintendent are to be submitted before 4:00 pm on the Monday preceding the meeting. Members of the School Committee will make every effort to ask questions about the Superintendent's recommendations and/or supplemental recommendations to the Superintendent and/or their designee on the Monday preceding the Tuesday meeting.

In the event of School closure, the Executive Secretary to the School Committee, after consultation with the Chair, may change the deadlines accordingly for matters that must be included on the meeting agenda.

Requests to the Superintendent for information regarding matters that have previously been referred to the Superintendent for repair or replacement of items or attention to, or implementation of matters which do not require School Committee action shall not be placed on the agenda but shall be referred directly to the Superintendent by the member making the request.

SECTION 1.1: ORDER OF BUSINESS

At every regular meeting of the School Committee the order of business shall be as follows*:

- 1. Public Comment**
- 2. Student School Committee Report**
- 3. Presentation of the Records for Approval**
- 4. Superintendent's Agenda**
- 5. Reconsiderations**
- 6. Calendar**
 - **Charter Right**
 - **Unfinished Business**
 - **On the Table**
- 7. Non-Consent Agenda**
- 8. School Committee Agenda**
- 9. Resolutions**
- 10. Communications from City Officers**
- 11. Late Orders**
- 12. Announcements**

13. Adjournment

*The Chair may suspend the regular order of business by a majority vote of those members of the School Committee present.

SECTION 1.2: NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Except in an emergency, notices for all meetings of the School Committee shall be posted on the Cambridge public schools' website, filed with the Office of the City Clerk, and posted in the Office of the School Committee at least forty-eight (48) hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, prior to such meetings. Except in an emergency, copies of the Notices of Meetings shall be made available at the Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge Public Schools Office of the Superintendent and Office of the School Committee and on the School Committee website at least forty-eight (48) hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, prior to such meetings.

SECTION 1.3: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished Business of the School Committee shall be addressed in the following manner:

- A. Calendar. All items that are placed on the School Committee Calendar, pursuant to the provisions of the last sentence of Chapter II, Section 5, below, shall automatically be placed on the School Committee's Agenda to be addressed and reviewed by the School Committee at its next scheduled meeting.
- B. Awaiting Reports. Members of the School Committee will be limited to two report requests at any one time from the Superintendent's Office. This limitation includes reports requested by sub-committees of the School Committee. Report requests must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the School Committee and may include a timetable for completion. The Superintendent will designate a staff person to research and expedite these reports in a timely fashion. Upon completion, the report will be distributed to all members of the School Committee. The Superintendent will have the right to report back to the School Committee with an estimate of resources and/or cost for completion of the report and request a further vote of the School Committee to authorize the expenditure of such resources or costs. The Superintendent will provide the School Committee with the reports called for by the School Committee policy. Any questions by a member about the timeframe of a response to a report shall be directed to the Superintendent outside regular business meetings.

SECTION 1.4: POLICY REVIEW AND ADOPTION

The first time that a policy recommendation appears on the Agenda, the School Committee shall hear the public comment on the item and engage in discussion and comment on the policy recommendation (hereinafter referred to as the "First Reading"). The matter shall then be placed on the Calendar in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.4(A) above to be placed on the School Committee's Agenda to be addressed and reviewed by the School Committee at its next scheduled meeting (hereinafter referred to as the "Second Reading"). The Superintendent will be expected to respond to comments,

questions, and concerns that are raised at the First Reading of the policy recommendation. If the proposed policy recommendation is modified by the Superintendent after the First Reading, then the School Committee shall permit the Superintendent to substitute the revised policy recommendation and the revised policy recommendation shall be the basis for public comment and discussion and comment by the School Committee at the Second Reading, otherwise, the original policy recommendation shall be the basis for public comment and discussion by the School Committee at the Second Reading. In accordance with the provisions of Chapter II, Section 16 of these Rules, the School Committee may suspend the Rules pertaining to this process by a two-thirds vote.

SECTION 1.5: REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation at meetings of the Cambridge School Committee and its Sub-Committees. Members of the School Committee will make every effort to attend in-person though, if one member is remote then all votes shall be conducted by roll call. If members of the School Committee are unable to attend in-person, they must inform the Executive Secretary who will make the accommodations for their participation.

SECTION 2: QUORUM

Four members of the School Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Chair, or in their absence, the Vice-Chair, shall call the meeting to order. In the absence of a quorum, the presiding officer, as the case may be, shall cause the Executive Secretary to determine whether there are sufficient members in the building to provide a quorum. Should the answer be in the negative, the presiding officer shall be required to rule “no quorum” and adjournment of the meeting shall be taken without the transaction of any business.

SECTION 3: OPEN MEETINGS

All meetings of the School Committee, and any of its sub-committees, shall be open to the public and press; however, the School Committee has the right to sit in an executive session, closed to the public and the press, when it meets the following procedural conditions imposed by state law:

1. The School Committee shall first convene in an open session for which notice has been given.
2. The Chair, or in their absence, the presiding member, shall state the purpose for the executive session, stating all subjects that may be revealed without compromising the purpose for which the executive session was called.
3. The Chair, or the presiding member, shall state whether the School Committee shall reconvene in open session after the executive session.
4. A majority of the members must vote to enter the executive session with the vote taken by roll call and recorded in the official minutes.
5. The School Committee shall enter executive session only to:

- a. discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties.
- b. conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.
- c. discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.
- d. discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto.
- e. investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to discuss the filing of criminal complaints.
- f. consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.
- g. comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.
- h. consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of a preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening.
- i. meet or confer with a mediator, as defined in section twenty-three C of chapter two hundred and thirty-three, with respect to any litigation or decision on any public business within its jurisdiction involving another party, group, or body, provided that: (a) any decision to participate in mediation shall be made in open meeting session and the parties, issues involved and purpose of the mediation shall be disclosed; and (b) no action shall be taken by any public body with respect to those issues which are the subject of the mediation without deliberation and approval for such action at an open meeting session.

In the case of 5(a) above, an open meeting shall be held if the individual requests an open meeting. To this end, any matter legally qualifying for discussion in closed session under 5(a) above shall be placed on the Calendar, and due notice shall be given to the individual involved within five (5) days after the regular meeting at which the matter was first raised. If the individual fails to inform the Executive Secretary to the School Committee at least four (4) days prior to the next scheduled regular meeting of the School Committee as to whether the issue should be discussed in open or executive session, the School Committee shall act as it sees fit, within the framework of the law and the best interests of the school department. Accurate records of the proceedings conducted in the executive session shall be kept, setting forth the date, time, place, members present or absent, and action taken at each meeting.

The records of each meeting shall become a public record and be available to the public; provided, however, that the records of any executive session may remain secret as long as publication may defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session, but no longer. All votes taken in executive session shall be recorded roll call votes and shall become a part of the record of said executive sessions. The School Committee shall ratify and affirm all votes taken in executive session in an open meeting.

The Superintendent or their designee shall attend all executive sessions of the School Committee, except those that pertain to strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with the Superintendent and/or strategy sessions with respect to litigation between the Superintendent and the School Committee. The School Committee and/or Superintendent may invite staff members and others to attend such executive sessions at their discretion.

SECTION 4: ORDER

The presiding officer shall preserve order in the meetings and decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the School Committee by any member, which appeal shall be decided without debate.

SECTION 4.1: STARTING AND ENDING TIMES OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings will begin promptly at 6:00 PM. (assuming a quorum) and end by 10:00 PM. Motions to extend the meeting will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

SECTION 4.2: PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Regular and Special Meeting

- a. Under the provisions of Chapter 43, Section 98 of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, individuals, and employees of the Cambridge Public Schools shall have reasonable opportunity to be heard at regular and special meetings of the School Committee in regard to any matter considered thereat. Opportunities for individuals and employees of the Cambridge Public Schools to be heard at all regular and special meetings, except for roundtable/working meetings. Members of the public may comment upon items in the following categories of business: **INSERT ITEMS WHICH CAN BE SPOKEN TO IN PUBLIC COMMENT.**
- b. Each speaker shall limit their comments to no more than three minutes. In the event there are 20 or more speakers signed up for public comment, the amount of time allocated will be two minutes. If there are more than 75 speakers, the amount of time allocated will be one minute. Individuals are not permitted to allocate the remainder of their time to other speakers.
- c. Procedure: An individual may signup to speak before the School Committee on-line via the CPS website from 9:00 a.m. on the Friday before the meeting until 6:00 pm the day of the

meeting or via telephone to the School Committee office on the day of the meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm Individuals will be heard in the order that they signed up whether they are participating in person or remotely.

2. Roundtable/working meetings.

Public comment shall not take place at roundtable/working meetings of the School Committee, where no matter being discussed may be finally considered, in that no votes may be taken. Written comments will be accepted and made part of the record of the roundtable/working meeting. The opportunity for the public to make oral comments on items discussed at roundtable/working meetings shall be at the regular or special meetings at which the item may be considered for action by the School Committee.

SECTION 4.3: MEETING ETIQUETTE

To promote efficient orderly meetings and in keeping with Robert's Rules of Order, the Chair will work to:

- Refer new matters that need further study or questioning to the Superintendent or to the sub-committee on budget or collective bargaining negotiations or any other sub-committee agreed upon by the School Committee and the Superintendent;
- Encourage late orders to be reserved for motions that are ceremonial rather than substantive;
- Repeat the motion on the floor to make sure all members know what is being discussed and/or voted;
- Allow enough time after a main motion is introduced for members to bring in amendments and other types of motions as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order;
- Call for a second, if one has not been heard, and announce failed motions and motions without a second so that it is clear that such motions have failed or do not have a second;
- Promote a formal atmosphere, with members referring to other members in the third person, and speaking to each other and to members of the public through the Chair; and
- Promote a courteous and respectful tone throughout the meetings.

SECTION 4.4: DEBATE ON MOTIONS

Debate on motions will be limited to five (5) minutes per member in the first round and two (2) minutes in the second round. The Executive Secretary will keep time. The Chair may change the amount of time allotted to each member and may elect to use a "round robin" format to promote more efficient debate. The Chair will work to make sure comments are relevant to the motions on the floor.

SECTION 5: MOTIONS

The names of members introducing motions, orders and resolutions shall be recorded in the School Committee records. Motions, orders and resolutions shall require a second and no debate shall be in order until the Chair states the immediately pending question. Any order, motion or resolution may be

passed through all its stages of legislation at any one session, except as hereinafter defined, provided that no member of the School Committee objects thereto; but if any member of the School Committee objects the measure shall be postponed for that meeting. Any measure postponed under this provision and placed on the School Committee's Calendar shall, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 1.4(A) above, automatically be placed on the School Committee's Agenda to be addressed and reviewed by the School Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

SECTION 6: PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS

When motions are made naming sums or fixing times, the largest sum or longest time shall first be put to a vote. If a question is under debate, the only motions in order shall be: (1) to adjourn; (2) to suspend the rules; (3) to lay on the table; (4) for the previous question; (5) to postpone to a day certain; (6) to commit or recommit; (7) to amend; (8) to postpone indefinitely. The motions shall have precedence in the order named.

SECTION 7: NON-DEBATABLE MOTIONS

Motions to adjourn, to lay on the table or take from the table and for the previous question shall be decided without debate unless unanimous consent of the School Committee is granted a member to speak. The previous question shall be put in this form, "Shall the main question now be put?" The adoption of this question shall end debate and bring the School Committee to a vote on pending amendments, if there are any, and then upon the main question.

SECTION 8: ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except when a member has the floor or a question has been put and not decided.

SECTION 9: RESCIND

Any motion to rescind shall lay on the table until the next regular meeting and shall require four (4) votes for passage.

SECTION 10: RECONSIDERATION

The actions of the School Committee on any question shall not be reconsidered at the same meeting except under suspension of the Rules. If any member shall give notice in writing to the Executive Secretary to the School Committee at the meeting or before 5:00pm of the second day following that on which the meeting was held of their intention to do so, they may move reconsideration at only the next meeting of the School Committee. Only one motion for this purpose shall be in order.

SECTION 11: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO RETAIN PAPERS

The Executive Secretary to the School Committee shall retain in their possession all papers upon which action has been taken by the School Committee at any meeting. Additionally, all documents and other exhibits used at any meeting must be retained.

SECTION 12: VOTES

A majority of the members present shall suffice to pass any vote, order or resolution (except as hereinafter defined), but motions calling for the appropriation or expenditure of money shall require the affirmative vote of four (4) members.

SECTION 13: ROLL CALL

The call of the roll shall be taken on any question whenever a member shall so request and the order of roll call shall rotate alphabetically from meeting to meeting.

SECTION 14: APPEALS FROM RULING OF THE CHAIR

The Chair or the presiding officer in the absence of the Chair shall have the sole authority to rule on all questions of order subject to appeal by any member of the School Committee. The question shall be, "Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained?" Such appeal, if seconded, shall immediately be put to vote, without debate, save that the Chair or the presiding officer in the absence of the Chair shall be permitted two (2) minutes in which to explain the ruling in question. An affirmative vote of the majority vote of those present shall be required to reverse a ruling by the Chair or the presiding officer in the absence of the Chair.

SECTION 15: AMENDMENTS

Any amendment of these Rules shall be proposed at a regular meeting in writing but shall not be voted upon before the next meeting.

SECTION 16: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The conduct of the meetings and business of the School Committee shall be in accordance with the rules of parliamentary procedure as laid down in the most recently revised edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, except as specifically provided elsewhere in these Rules of the School Committee or by law. In accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, the School Committee may suspend parliamentary rules of order by a two-thirds vote.

SECTION 17: BIENNIAL ELECTION YEAR

No appointment or promotion shall be made or recommended and no increase in salaries of any of the personnel shall be granted after the date of the biennial election to hold anyone beyond the term of the present School Committee. Further, this rule shall not apply to the appointment of teachers.

SECTION 18 ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L.c. 44, §53A, the Superintendent or their designee may submit applications for grants or gifts from federal, state, charitable foundation, private corporation or individual. Grant or gift awards for educational purposes must be submitted to the School Committee for acceptance and approval prior to expenditure.

SECTION 19: APPROVAL OF SERVICE CONTRACTS AND TRAVEL

Service contracts and travel by staff under twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) will not require approval by the School Committee with the exception of service contracts, travel by staff that cumulatively total more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in a fiscal year, or when the City's Purchasing Director authorizes an emergency procurement under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30B, Section 8 over twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). If such emergency procurements occur, the School Committee would be notified by the Superintendent of designee. Contracts will be submitted in a timely fashion and stale dates will be the exception not the rule. A list of contracts under twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) will be forwarded to the School Committee semi-annually, and a list of all travel by staff under twenty-five (\$25,000) will be forwarded to the School Committee semi-annually.

SECTION 20: ANNUAL REVIEW OF RULES

The School Committee will annually review these Rules and shall bring forward proposed amendments or revisions in accordance with the provisions of Chapter II, Section 15 above. Any amendments or revisions that are adopted by the School Committee shall be incorporated into the text of the Rules of the School Committee.

SECTION 21: CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION REQUESTS

All requests for information or motions passed by the Cambridge City Council that pertain to the Cambridge Public School Department shall be sent to the School Committee for part of the agenda. The School Committee will refer such requests for information or motions to the Superintendent.

CHAPTER 3: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SECTION 1: SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Secretary shall be present and act as Executive Secretary at all School Committee meetings.

SECTION 2. GENERAL DUTIES

The Executive Secretary shall give the members of the School Committee written notice of all meetings, call special meetings of the School Committee when requested to do so by the Mayor or three or more members of the School Committee, attend the meetings of the School Committee, record its votes, orders, and proceedings in a permanent record book, be the custodian of the School Committee's records and other papers. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that the Minutes are posted on the School Committee web page as soon as they have been approved by the Committee. The duties of the Executive Secretary are further defined in a job description for said position.

SECTION 3: CUSTODIAN AND AGENT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Executive Secretary shall be custodian of the School Committee's records and other papers and preserve files of communications and documents of the School Committee. Additionally, the Executive Secretary shall act as an agent of the School Committee.

SECTION 4: SIGNING OF APPROVED AGREEMENTS

The Executive Secretary shall sign any agreements that have been approved by a majority of the School Committee on a roll call vote. A copy of the order approving said agreements shall be attached to the signature page of said agreements.

ADDENDUM: SCHOOL COMMITTEE NORMS

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

We acknowledge that a School Committee meeting is a working meeting of the School Committee that is held in public, not a public meeting. The norms below will ensure that committee meetings are effective and efficient.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE:

- The School Committee will remain respectful and professional while deliberating issues collaboratively. The School Committee will focus on issues rather than individuals.
- The School Committee and Superintendent recognize the importance of proactive communication and agree there will be no surprises. If members of the School Committee or the Superintendent have questions or concerns, they agree to contact each other well in advance of the meeting to facilitate informed and reflective conversation.
- School Committee members agree to refer important questions they receive from members of the school community to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will investigate and provide ALL members with the information needed to respond to an issue.
- It is our responsibility to set the tone for the entire school system, and we will make every effort to promote a positive image for our school system. We will operate transparently and respectfully, maintain confidentiality, and respect the Open Meeting laws.
- School committee members will channel requests for information, reports and data through the Superintendent and the School Committee Chair rather than directly to staff. The Superintendent will ensure that each member has equal access to this information.
- The Superintendent and School Committee recognize the importance of working collaboratively with City officials to improve our schools, and we will actively seek ways to enlist their support in our efforts.

HOW WE GOVERN:

- The School Committee will strive to reach decisions by consensus.
- Members should bring their best intentions and an open mind to each meeting to seek creative solutions to the issues before them.
- The School Committee as a whole is a policy-making body and members are elected to represent the entire Cambridge community. The powers of the School Committee are granted to the committee of the whole when a quorum exists, and not to individual members.
- School Committee members agree to thoughtfully seek and support solutions that will provide the greatest benefit to students. Once the School Committee has taken action, Committee members will support the official position of the School Committee.
- We acknowledge the importance of sub-committees, and we agree to treat sub-committee membership and participation with the same gravity and weight as the Committee as a whole. We

agree to utilize them to focus on a specific topic in-depth and prepare for presentation, deliberation, and possible action by the full School Committee. The sub-committee will not usurp the authority of the Committee of the whole.*

HOW WE IMPROVE:

- The School Committee is committed to implementing an ongoing norm monitoring process and an annual self-assessment.
- School Committee members and the Superintendent recognize the importance of joint professional growth and development, and they agree to participate in experiences designed to deepen knowledge and strengthen working relationships to advance the work of the Cambridge Public Schools.
- The annual Superintendent evaluation is the responsibility of the School Committee as a whole and will represent the composite of all member feedback.
- We recognize the importance of honoring our agreed-upon norms and beliefs, and we agree to take responsibility for reminding one another when we get off track.

DRAFT