



#25-311

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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December 16, 2025

WHEREAS: Member José Luis Rojas Villareal has been an active and committed member of the Cambridge community for more than 25 years, formerly served on the Amigos School Council, and is a proud parent of two sons who benefitted from the Cambridge Public Schools; and

WHEREAS: Member Rojas brought to the School Committee his own experience as an immigrant from Mexico and a multilingual student, he has been a steadfast champion for multilingual education and for addressing the needs of English learners, firmly believing that a diverse community enriches learning and strengthens the district overall; and

WHEREAS: Since joining the Cambridge School Committee in 2020, he has drawn on his extensive experience in economic development and community investment finance, including his work as Managing Director at LEAF, a nonprofit supporting cooperatives and small businesses throughout Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: He consistently emphasized the importance of experiential learning as a powerful tool for student engagement, recognizing that meaningful learning also happens beyond the classroom and serves as essential preparation for life after high school; and

WHEREAS: Member Rojas served as Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee during the unprecedented challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic, listening to and partnering closely with community members, and helping draft the district's Health & Safety Manual, which allowed Cambridge to reopen classrooms safely and earlier than most districts; and

WHEREAS: As Co-Chair of the Budget Subcommittee, he helped shift the district's budget discussions toward monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement, ensuring that resources were aligned with program effectiveness and evolving student needs; and

WHEREAS: Member Rojas helped bring to the forefront the need for thoughtful integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom, encouraging the district to examine how emerging technologies can better meet students' needs while ensuring responsible implementation; and

WHEREAS: He worked to strengthen transparency and accountability within School Committee operations, championing the Committee's self-assessment process and advocating for ongoing Massachusetts Association of School Committees training to ensure members remained grounded in current laws and good governance standards; and

WHEREAS: Member Rojas approached his role as a lifelong learner, consistently seeking information, studying best practices from other districts, and participating in local and national conferences to help inform his fellow Committee members and to better serve Cambridge's students; and

WHEREAS: Member Rojas served with deep humility, integrity, and thoughtfulness, never speaking more than necessary, always preparing for meetings, and voting alone when his conscience called him to; and

WHEREAS: Member Rojas demonstrated his deep respect for and support of Cambridge Public Schools teachers, administrators, and staff in his collaborative approach to crafting policy and setting priorities to meet the needs of Cambridge students; and

WHEREAS: Member Rojas is known for his ability to bring people together across differing viewpoints, often serving as a trusted “voice of reason,” and fostering collaboration in service of the district's shared mission to provide the best possible education for all Cambridge students; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Member Rojas for his dedicated service, thoughtful leadership, and steadfast commitment to the students and families of Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a formal copy of this resolution be prepared by the Executive Secretary to the School Committee and presented to Member José Luis Rojas Villareal with profound gratitude and respect.