



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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CHAIR

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MEMBERS

LUISA DE PAULA SANTOS
RICHARD HARDING, JR.
ELIZABETH HUDSON
ARJUN JAIKUMAR
MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI

April 7, 2026

ORDERED as amended:

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) is committed to family and community engagement as a key to strengthening schools, and Superintendent Murphy continues to emphasize a commitment to improving family engagement; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 59C establishes School Councils to "assist in the identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school, make recommendations to the principal for the development, implementation and assessment of the curriculum accommodation plan, assist in the review of the annual school budget and in the formulation of a school improvement plan"; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District (CPSD) School Council Handbook outlines the role of School Councils in collaborating with and advising school leadership to strengthen schools; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee has a statutory and moral responsibility to ensure that School Councils are functioning as intended and that parent and caregiver voices are meaningfully incorporated into school-level decision-making; and

WHEREAS: From March to June 2021 a School Council Working Group consisting of CPSD parents, educators and staff and Cambridge community members convened with the support of then-Director of Family and Community Engagement Robin Harris and drafted the School Councils Handbook, later revised and adopted as policy by the School Committee in June 2023; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee in conjunction with the Superintendent and their designees should establish a School Councils Working Group, with membership to include parent/caregiver representatives who are current or former school council members at each school, educators and community representatives, selected through an open application process with attention to diversity across schools and grade levels; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Councils Working Group will be supported by the CPSD Director of Family and Community Engagement and/or another designee appointed by the superintendent; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Councils Working Group will convene before the end of the 2025-26 school year, and will meet regularly thereafter; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Councils Working Group will be charged with

- Establishing a cadence for their meetings,
- Reviewing the School Councils Handbook and proposing any updates they recommend,

- Making recommendations for trainings and induction supports for new school council members and ongoing supports for sitting members,
- Soliciting feedback from the school councils and making recommendations for district supports for school councils based on that feedback, and
- Other work in support of school councils; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Councils Working Group will report back to the full School Committee at a public meeting prior to the end of the 2026-27 school year with updates and recommendations, and the School Committee will receive and review recommendations and requests submitted by the Working Group via the Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee before then as well.

Motion #26-064

cc:

Member de Paula Santos
Vice Chair Dube
Chair Weinstein
Member Harding
Member Hudson
Member Jaikumar
Mayor Siddiqui
Superintendent