



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

459 BROADWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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CHAIR

DAVID J. WEINSTEIN

VICE CHAIR

CAITLIN DUBE

MEMBERS

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

January 20, 2026

ORDERED:

Referred to the Governance Subcommittee:

WHEREAS: The School Committee seeks to make certain that all stakeholders feel empowered to express their opinions through public comment to the School Committee and the Superintendent within a reasonable time frame; and

WHEREAS: Meaningful public participation is a cornerstone of democratic governance and public trust, and the School Committee recognizes that urgent matters of public concern may arise which are not yet reflected on a published agenda but which fall squarely within the Committee's responsibility to oversee the district; and

WHEREAS: The Committee wishes to provide the Chair with flexibility to adjust public comment time based on the number of speakers and meeting constraints, while ensuring that any such adjustments are applied uniformly to all speakers; now therefore be it;

RESOLVED: That the School Committee amend Rule 4.2 (Public Comment) as follows:

1. Public comment shall be permitted on agenda items and on any matters within the jurisdiction and authority of the School Committee.
2. The default time allotted for public comment shall remain three (3) minutes per speaker.
3. When ten (10) or fewer speakers are signed up for public comment, the Chair may increase the time allotted per speaker to no more than five (5) minutes.
4. When the number of speakers or time constraints require, the Chair may reduce the time allotted per speaker to no less than two (2) minutes, consistent with current practice.
5. Any adjustment to the time allotted for public comment:
 - o Shall be announced at the start of the public comment period; and
 - o Shall apply uniformly to all speakers during that public comment period.
6. All other provisions of Rule 4.2 shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion #26-014

cc:

Member de Paula Santos

Member Harding

Member Hudson

Vice Chair Dube

Member Jaikumar

Mayor Siddiqui

Chair Weinstein

Superintendent

C26-022

CHAIR
DAVID J. WEINSTEIN

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MEMBERS
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RICHARD HARDING, JR.
ELIZABETH HUDSON
ARJUN JAIKUMAR
MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI

February 3, 2025

ORDERED as AMENDED:

WHEREAS: The School Committee values the perspectives, priorities, concerns, recommendations and feedback of various stakeholders, including current and former Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) educators, in conducting its work; and

WHEREAS: There are currently insufficient opportunities for current or former CPS educators to engage directly during School Committee meetings other than during public comment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee undertakes to provide additional opportunities for direct educator participation in School Committee meetings beyond the limited time afforded in public comment; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to the Governance Subcommittee to be considered as a part of the annual review of the School Committee rules; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Governance Subcommittee will also discuss and research mechanisms for structured parent and caregiver input during School committee meetings , including but not limited to: A non-voting membership for important parent and community stakeholders, such as the Families of Color Coalition, Cambridge Special Education Parent Advisory Council, Families of Asian Descent, and the Cambridge Advance Learning Association; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Governance Subcommittee will discuss and research this matter; shall consider various alternatives, including but not limited to amending the agenda to include a designated or optional educator presentation, a non-voting membership, or any other proposal; and shall recommend to the full School Committee one or more options to better ensure frontline educator perspectives, priorities, concerns, recommendations and feedback are heard by the Committee.

Motion #26-017

cc:

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