

From the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee - Regular Meeting

August 5, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Held in and broadcast from the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge, and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge for the purpose of discussing the agenda items listed below.

Individuals may sign up in advance to provide public comment for the August 5 Regular Meeting: The sign-up window is Friday, August 1 through Tuesday, August 5 at 12:00 PM (by phone) and 4:30 PM (online).

To register for public comment during the sign-up times:

- Visit the School Committee online portal: https://secure1.cpsd.us/school_committee.
- Or contact the School Committee office at 617.349.6620.

Regular Meetings will be live-streamed at www.cpsd.us and broadcast on Cambridge Educational Access TV (CEATV) Channel 26, as usual. The meeting can also be viewed on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96081106637>. This meeting will be video and audio recorded which may include third party devices.

AGENDA

1. Public Comment (3 Minutes)

2. Student School Committee Report: None

3. Presentation of 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

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar: None

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. 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.

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.

7c. District Plan None

7d. Consent Agenda

- #25-190** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Rights & Responsibilities Handbook (First Reading)
- #25-191** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to School Department's Civil Rights Grievance Procedures Policy (First Reading)
- #25-192** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to School Department's Policy Regarding Transgender & Gender Nonconforming Students (First Reading)
- #25-193** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Cambridge School Department's Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Policy (Second Reading)
- #25-194** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Student Attendance Policy (First Reading)
- #25-195** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Physical Restraint Policy (First Reading)
- #25-196** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to School Department's Non-Discrimination Policy (First Reading)
- #25-197** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Homebound Instruction Policy (First Reading)
- #25-198** Recommendation: Approval of Adjustments to CRLS Club Advisor Stipends In the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Cambridge School Committee & The Cambridge Education Association Units A & B
- #25-199** Recommendation: Approval of a Request from the School Committee to the Election Commission for Mailing Addresses
- #25-200** Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from The Cambridge School Department
- #25-201** Recommendation: Contract Award: uAspire: Educational Support Services
- #25-202** Recommendation: Contract Award: Enroot: Educational Services
- #25-203** Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Housing Authority: Educational Services
- #25-204** Recommendation: Contract Award: Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc: Educational Support
- #25-205** Recommendation: Contract Award: Edia Learning Inc.: Professional & Instructional Services
- #25-206** Recommendation: Contract Award: Yondr Inc.: Instructional Materials
- #25-207** Recommendation: Contract Award: DJT Transportation: Student Transportation
- #25-208** Recommendation: Contract Award: Bunker Hill Community College: Dual Enrollment Program for CRLS Students
- #25-209** Recommendation: Contract Award: BCM Controls Corporation: Security Maintenance & Upgrades
- #25-210** Recommendation: Contract Award: Brightly Software: Computer Software
- #25-211** Recommendation: Contract Award: Interpreters & Translators, Inc.: Translation Services
- #25-212** Recommendation: Contract Award: Gold Star Foods: DESE Mandated USDA Commodities Storage & Trucking Company

- #25-213 Recommendation: Contract Award: Produce Connection: Groceries
- #25-214 Recommendation: Contract Award: Rosev Dairy: Milk Delivery & Purchases
- #25-215 Recommendation: Contract Award: Thurston Foods, Inc.: Produce Supply & Delivery
- #25-216 Recommendation: Contract Award: Scenario Learning dba Vector Solutions: Computer Software
- #25-217 Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers:Tech Hardware-AMENDMENT
- #25-218 Recommendation: Contract Award: Creative Office Pavilion, LLC Db a Creative Office Resources
- #25-219 Recommendation: Contract Award: The Metro Group, Inc.: Chemical Water Treatment
- #25-220 Recommendation: Contract Award: Burgess Pest Management: Pest Management Services
- #25-221 Recommendation: Gifts Miscellaneous Receipts
- #25-222 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Popplestone Foundation (SC26695)
- #25-223 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Strengthening Career & Technical Education (Perkins) Secondary & Postsecondary Program Improvement & Equipment Grant (SC26696)
- #25-224 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Food & Nutrition Services Appropriation (SC00402)

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

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

- #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 be introduced, interviewed, and voted upon, no later than August 15, 2025.

#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.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers:

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