

From the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee

School Committee - Regular Meeting

September 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

From the Office of the Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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 September 16 Regular Meeting: The sign-up window is Friday, September 12 through Tuesday, September 16 at 12:00 PM (by phone) and 5:30 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

2. Student School Committee Report:

3. Presentation of Records for Approval:

- September 2, 2025, Regular 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 across CPS school communities.

7b. Presentation

The Interim Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and representatives from the Office of Student Services will present on the recently reviewed Cambridge Public Schools Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

7c. District Plan None

7d. Consent Agenda

#25-243 Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from The Cambridge School Department

#25-244 Recommendation: Contract Award: Fire Equipment Inc.: Fire Alarm Services

- #25-245 Recommendation: Contract Award: Minuteman Regional High School: Student Tuition
- #25-246 Recommendation: Contract Award: Concentric Math: Professional Development
- #25-247 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Title I, Part A Distribution-Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local School Districts (SC26604)
- #25-248 Recommendation: Grant Award: Grant Award: FY26 Title II, Part A Distribution-Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching & Learning (SC26731)
- #25-249 Recommendation: FY26 Title III Distribution-English Language Acquisition & Academic Achievement Program for English Learners & Immigrant Children & Youth (SC26737)
- #25-250 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Title IV, Part A Distribution-Student Support & Academic Enrichment (SC26732)
- #25-251 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (SC26605)
- #25-252 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Early Childhood (SC26607)
- #25-253 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY26 Strengthening Career & Technical Education (Perkins V) Secondary (SC26606)

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

#25-254 District’s Guidance of the Use of AI – Member Rojas and Member Weinstein

WHEREAS: The April 2025 amendments of the beliefs of the National School Board Association (NSBA) included the adoption the following belief regarding Artificial Intelligence in Education:

“NSBA believes that artificial intelligence has transformative potential in education, offering opportunities to enhance teaching, personalize learning, and streamline administrative tasks. At the same time, we are committed to its ethical and equitable use, ensuring transparency, safeguarding privacy, and addressing risks like bias and over-reliance on technology to create a future-ready, human-centered educational environment.”; and

WHEREAS: In January 2025 the EdTech Department of the Cambridge Public Schools published a Generative AI (GenAI) Guidance document ([see attachment for current version](#)). Its opening paragraph states: *“Generative AI (GenAI) holds transformative potential for K-12 education, offering powerful tools to support curriculum development, personalize learning experiences, and enhance communication with families and staff. However, as we integrate AI into educational settings, it is crucial to approach its use with intentionality, transparency, and responsibility. Educators and students alike must develop a clear understanding of GenAI’s capabilities, ethical considerations, and potential limitations, including biases and inaccuracies. The Educational Technology Department is committed to ensuring that all students, teachers, administrators, and staff have equitable access to and become proficient users of Generative AI (GenAI) as a valuable instructional resource. By establishing guidelines for data security, privacy, and proper citation, and by encouraging critical thinking around AI, we can create learning environments where GenAI supports—not supplants—the creative and intellectual work of students and educators. In doing so, we can leverage AI to open new pathways for learning while upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and equity by keeping humans in the loop.”*; and

WHEREAS: The GenAI Guidance document will be updated as we learn more about AI and identify additional guidance to ensure appropriate implementation. The School Committee adopted last month policy order C25-234 requesting the superintendent to develop and present a formal district-wide plan on the use of AI in Cambridge Public Schools, among other things; and

WHEREAS: It is important to socialize the GenAI Guidance document with the public; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: The Cambridge School Committee acknowledges and supports the GenAI Guidance of EdTech Department Cambridge Public Schools.

#25-255 Report on the Effectiveness of the Innovation Agenda – Member Hudson, Member Harding and Member Weinstein

WHEREAS: The district undertook a major reconfiguration of grades and schools through the “Innovation Agenda,” which created a system of dedicated middle schools; and

WHEREAS: This reconfiguration represented a significant investment of district resources, community effort, and educational planning, with the goal of improving student outcomes and providing a stronger middle school experience; and

WHEREAS: More than a decade has passed since the implementation of the Innovation Agenda, and the district now has substantial experience, data, and community feedback regarding the middle school model; and

WHEREAS: The Interim Superintendent’s employment term currently ends on June 30, 2025, unless both parties affirmatively agree to an extension; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee has the responsibility to review past initiatives in order to guide future policy and investment decisions, ensuring that lessons learned are systematically applied; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent shall produce a report during the 2025–2026 school year evaluating the effectiveness of the Innovation Agenda and the creation of middle schools, including but not limited to:

- Academic outcomes across schools,
- Social-emotional and developmental supports for middle-grade students,
- Enrollment patterns (including feeder patterns from elementary schools) and demographic impacts,
- Staffing and resource allocation,
- Parents’ trust and perceptions of the quality of the education we’re offering; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this report shall include both quantitative and qualitative analysis, as well as recommendations on how findings should inform future large-scale district initiatives; and be it finally

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent shall deliver the report to the School Committee no later than June 2026, so that it may be used as guidance for upcoming planning and decision-making.

#25-256 Report on Parent Choice Patterns and Program Preferences in the School Lottery – Member Hudson and Member Harding

WHEREAS: The district operates a controlled choice lottery system to assign students to schools, with the goal of balancing family preference, equity, and diversity; and

WHEREAS: The Committee and the community are currently considering the future use of the new school building at 158 Spring Street; and

WHEREAS: Understanding parent choice patterns within the lottery system is essential to inform decisions about programming and to ensure that offerings align with family interests and community needs; and

WHEREAS: Parent feedback on what programming they most value—including programs not currently available in the district—would provide critical insight as the Committee evaluates future options; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent shall produce a report during the 2025–2026 school year analyzing parent choice patterns in the school lottery, including data on initial rankings, final assignments, and any notable demographic or geographic trends; be it further

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent shall oversee the administration of a survey to families asking:

- What school they would have chosen had they been guaranteed their first choice, and
- What types of programming they would most like to see in the district that are not currently offered; be it finally

RESOLVED: That the report and survey findings shall be delivered to the School Committee no later than June 2026, so that the information may guide deliberations about programming for the building at 158 Spring Street and other future planning decisions.

#25-257 Resume Non-binding Votes by Student School Committee Members – Member Weinstein and Mayor Simmons

WHEREAS: The School Committee updated its rules with the passage of Motion #21-306 on October 5th, 2021 to include the opportunity for Student School Committee Members to cast non-binding votes on motions and resolutions; and

WHEREAS: Student School Committee Members cast these votes starting on December 7, 2021, voting after the members of the Committee and before the Mayor; and

WHEREAS: This practice was the result of the leadership and advocacy of then-Student School Committee Members Anaïs Killian and Nuriel Vera-DeGraff in collaboration with then-Vice Chair of the School Committee Manikka Bowman and then-Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui; and

WHEREAS: Over the course of transitions of Student School Committee membership this practice was inadvertently stopped; and

WHEREAS: This practice placed the Cambridge School Committee at the forefront of efforts to lift up student voice in School Committee deliberations, reflected the value the School Committee places on the role and perspectives of

Student School Committee members, and benefited the Cambridge Public Schools by better incorporating the Student School Committee Members in the work of the School Committee; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That beginning with the next regularly scheduled School Committee Meeting on October 7, 2025, subject to updated review by the CPSD legal department, this practice will resume, and the Executive Secretary of the School Committee will call each Student School Committee Members so that they may cast a non-binding vote on all motions and resolutions.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: