

School Committee - Regular Meeting

October 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Held in and broadcast from the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge, and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge. To sign up to call in using the ZOOM app on your computer or mobile device: visit www.cpsd.us/school_committee/virtual

Regular Meetings will be live-streamed at www.cpsd.us and broadcast on Cambridge Educational Access TV (CEATV) Channel 26, as usual.

AGENDA

1 Public Comment (3 minutes):

2. Student School Committee Report:

3. Presentation of Records for Approval:

- September 10, 2024, Regular Meeting
- September 17, 2024, Regular Meeting

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

**Late Order 2024 Superintendent Search Timeline
Joint Motion by Member Rojas and Member Rachel June 18, 2024**

REVISED September 17, 2024

#24-227 Joint Motion by Member Rojas, Member Rachel and Member Weinstein

That the School Committee discuss the following and other timeline options for the Superintendent Search

CPSD Superintendent Search 2024-2025

Timeline - By when to target making a job offer	Pros	Cons
By Dec 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In line with Mass Association of School Committees (MASC) recommendation- Take advantage of larger pool of candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Less time for community input and development of job description
By April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Allow focus on starting school year well- Provide more time for community input and development of job description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Challenge of having a smaller pool of candidates

<p>By Dec 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modified MASC recommendation - Take advantage of larger pool of candidates - Provide more time for community input and development of job description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Longer period for interim superintendent OR - Need for 2nd interim superintendent - Possible delays in hiring other leadership positions
---------------------------	--	---

Attachments:

- Model Timeline from Mass Association of School Committee’s “A Vacancy in the Superintendency, Key Decisions for School Committees Planning for a Transition”
- Timeline for Dr. Salim’s hire
- Timeline for Dr. Young’s hire
- Mayor’s Communication re: Plan of Work for Superintendent Search, September 10, 2024
- Mayor’s Communication re: Update on Plan of Work for Superintendent Search, September 17, 2024

Model Timeline from Mass Association of School Committee’s “A Vacancy in the Superintendency, Key Decisions for School Committees Planning for a Transition

**DRAFT SEARCH TIMELINE
SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH - Model Timeline**

This timeline can take from 2-5 months depending the level of “process” and the size of the search committee. It is important to be flexible, allowing sufficient time to make up for unanticipated delays. The most likely delays would be on the search committee end because of the number of potential member schedule conflicts. A, earlier start date, such as over the summer, allows more time to plan, recruit, and interview. A late start will still work well if the school committee expedites the process. A very late start (March/April) would require expediting the process and imposing sharp deadlines.

October 1 – 15, 2023	School Committee receives preliminary documents, approves draft timeline, sets focus group meetings, makes decisions about recruiting search committee, etc.
	Search Committee Appointed and Orientation (Set Fixed Date)
	Focus surveys planned and on-line survey developed; materials development completed and ready for distribution
October 15	Advertisements/E-Mail and General Mail distribution of materials. Also, distribution of search information to recruitment networks.
	Materials mailed and distributed.
	Candidate recruitment is ongoing.
By November 19	Focus Groups will take place
	Search Committee will organize to prepare for screening of candidates, scheduling of interviews, and preparation of questions.
November 30, 2023	Deadline Set for Filing Applications (3:00 p.m. EST via mail, e-mail, fax or personal delivery to search coordinator)
Immediately After Deadline	Applications are compiled and prepared for the Search Committee to review during school vacation. Review begins immediately.
	Search Committee begins initial screening, selection and initial interviews. Process culminates with recommendations to the School Committee.
Week of December 10	School Committee receives report and recommended finalists. Interviews candidates, conducts site visits, and other due diligence steps are scheduled.
December 12-19, 2023	School Committee interviews finalists are completed. Site visits take place.
Mid-January, 2024	School Committee makes hiring decision.
July 1, 2024 or Sooner	Superintendent takes office <u>or before if so needed and negotiated.</u>

Timeline for Dr. Salim's Hire

Superintendent Search 2015-2016: Dr. Kenneth Salim	
DATE	MEETING/ACTION ITEM/ANNOUNCEMENT
April 7, 2015	SC selects Executive Director of HR (Barbara Allen) official Superintendent Search Liaison Designee (Order C15-091)
April 7, 2015	Supt. Search Ad Hoc Subcommittee be comprised of the Committee of the Whole (Order C15-090)
April 7, 2015	Draft Supt. Search Timeline (Order C15-089)
April 7, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Discuss Supt. Search Timeline
April 28, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Review & Approval of RFP for Search Firm
May 21, 2015	Request for RFPs Supt. Search Firm
June 9, 2015	SC Special Meeting/Exec. Session Minutes: Evaluate Search Firm Proposals
June 16, 2015	SC establish Special Meeting schedule with Exec. Search Firm (Order C15-196)
June 16, 2015	Executive Search Contract Awarded to Hazard, Young, Attea Associated (HYA) (Order C15-165)
July 1, 2015	Planning Meeting with HYA (HYA Binder located in SC Office)
July 1, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Meeting with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) Search Firm
July 14, 2015	Framework with Updated Search Timeline (Order C15-207)
July 14, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Discuss Supt. Search Interview Committee Make Up
July 28, 2015	Amended Composition of Supt. Search Interview Committee to include 3 SC members (Order C15-208)er C15-208)
August 20, 2015	Supt. Search Community Survey from Barbara Allen
August 26, 2015	HYA Leadership Profile Meeting Schedule
August 26, 2015	Supt. Search Focus Group & Community Forum Schedule
September 9, 2015	Public-facing Schedule of Community Meetings from Barbara Allen
September 16, 2015	Leadership Profile Report from HYA
September 16, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Meet with HYA to discuss Leadership Profile Report
October 1, 2015	Supt. Search Interview Committee Listing
October 13, 2015	Press Release of Supt. Finalists
October 14, 2015	Final Candidates Itinerary
October 15, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: Community Forum/Town Hall to meet the Supt. Final Candidates
October 16, 2015	Draft Interview Questions for Finalists
October 16, 2015	SC Special Meeting Minutes: SC Interviews with Final Candidates
October 22, 2015	Supt. Site Visit Protocols
October 27, 2015	SC appoints Dr. Salim as Supt. contingent on reaching negotiated agreement (Order C15-329)
October 27, 2015	SC Special Meeting: Consider Appointment of Supt. (Vote taken to appoint Dr. Salim.)
December 15, 2015	Executive Session Meeting Minutes - Negotiating Contract and Vote
December 15, 2015	Regular Meeting Minutes - Vote to Approve Contract
December 15, 2015	Consider Adoption of Dr. Kenneth Salim Contract (Order C15-290)
January 5, 2016	Dr. Salim contract ratified (Order C16-009)
January 12, 2016	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Dr. Salim's Learning-based Entry Plan
March 24, 2016	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Discuss Transition Planning for Dr. Salim
June 13, 2016	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Review & Monitor Dr. Salim's Onboarding Plan
July 1, 2016	Dr. Salim begins at CPSD
September 22, 2016	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Prioritize Short-Term Issues for Dr. Salim
January 12, 2017	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Transition Planning Meeting: Review Findings from Supt. Listening/Observing Tours

Timeline for Dr. Young's Hire

Superintendent Search 2008-2009: Dr. Jeffrey Young	
DATE	MEETING/ACTION ITEM/ANNOUNCEMENT
July 15, 2008	SC Meeting Minutes: Glenn Koocher (MASC) Presentation re: Search Process
July 31, 2008	Special Meeting Minutes: Discuss Process of Supt. Search
July 31, 2008	SC authorize School Dept. to draft RFP for Search Firm (Order C08-291)
August 12, 2008	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt. Search Minutes: Establish Calendar for Supt. Search
September 8, 2008	Memo from City Manager: Procurement Process for Search Firm
September 9, 2008	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt. Search Minutes: Supt. Search Timeline
September 16, 2008	Draft Supt. Search Timeline by Barbara Allen
November 8, 2008	Search Process and Timeline by Ray & Associates (search firm)
November 18, 2008	Search Firm Contract Awarded to Ray & Associates (Order C08-438)
November 18, 2008	Consultant's Contacts: HR Director Allen and SC members Mayor Simmons & Schuster (Order C08-485)
December 1, 2008	Supt. Search Advertising Opportunities (undated)
December 1, 2008	Supt. Search Advertising Flyer (undated)
December 1, 2008	Suggested Interview Questions (undated)
December 1, 2008	Evaluation Process of Candidates by Ray & Associates (undated)
December 11, 2008	Supt Search Update Memo from Barbara Allen
January 9, 2009	Supt. Job Description
February 10, 2009	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt Search Minutes: Update on Supt. Search
March 11, 2009	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt Search Minutes: Preliminary Screening of Candidates
March 19, 2009	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt Search Minutes: Preliminary Screening of Candidates
March 20, 2009	Ad Hoc Subcomm Supt Search Minutes: Preliminary Screening of Candidates
March 30, 2009	Special Meeting Minutes: Town Hall to Meet Supt. Finalists
March 31, 2009	Special Meeting Minutes: Interviewing Finalists
April 7, 2009	SC Offer Supt. Position to Dr. Jeffrey Young (C09-097)
April 23, 2009	Ad-hoc Committee Created to Assist with Supt. Transition Plan (C09-123)

Mayor's Communication re: Plan of Work for Superintendent Search, September 10, 2024

September 10, 2024

Re: School Committee Plan of Work for Superintendent Search

Dear Members of the School Committee,

As we move forward with the search for our next permanent School Superintendent, I want to outline a clear process to ensure a thorough, collaborative, and focused effort. Our commitment to selecting the right leader for Cambridge Public Schools is critical, and this Plan of Work is designed to guide us in that effort. Below, please see my proposed plan that includes the following key steps:

School Committee Visioning Session

The School Committee shall engage in a visioning session to align our goals for the Superintendent role. This will take place at a retreat on September 26th at a location to be determined in order to dive deeper into discussions about the leadership qualities and priorities we wish to emphasize moving forward.

Guidance on the Search Process

In October, we shall meet with Glenn Koocher for an in-depth session on best practices for conducting an effective Superintendent search. This session will provide valuable insights on the search process structure and help us refine our approach.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Focus

DEI training for the School Committee will be essential to ensure that equity and inclusivity are at the forefront of our search. This will reinforce our commitment to finding a leader who can uphold these principles in Cambridge Public Schools.

Implementation of the Superintendent Search

Following these preparatory steps, we will then move into the implementation phase, ensuring that all key considerations, including our district's needs and the leadership qualities we have identified, remain central to the search process.

I believe that this plan shall help guide us toward selecting the best candidate for the role, and I look forward to discussing this with you during the School Committee meeting on September 10. I thank you for your ongoing dedication to this critical work.

Mayor's Communication re: Update Plan of Work for Superintendent Search, September 17, 2024

Re: Update to the School Committee On Plan of Work for Superintendent Search

Dear School Committee Colleagues,

As a follow up to our brief discussion during the September 10th School Committee meeting regarding the Committee's Plan of Work for the Superintendent Search, I want to propose the following recommendation as laying the groundwork for our next steps for moving forward:

1. Leave the current Late Order (#24-227) on the calendar as submitted on September 10, 2024 (see attached).
2. Bring together both the calendar included in Late Order #24-227 and the attached updated Superintendent Search Process DRAFT timeline for CPS document.
3. Identify a mutually agreed upon date in October for the Committee to engage in a Special Meeting specifically for the purpose of discussing the search process and inviting Mr. Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, to be present at this meeting to serve as a resource for the discussion.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you at this evening's School Committee meeting, and I thank you again for your shared commitment to this important work.

Superintendent Search Process DRAFT Timeline for CPS [Updated 09/2024]

Phase	Suggested Time Allotment	Description of Suggested Events or Tasks
Planning Oct. 01- Oct. 31	3-4 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC reviews desired search process SC of • the Whole discusses items such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short & long term district goals (district plan) ○ District strengths & challenges ○ Characteristics desired in the next Superintendent (creation of draft Leadership Profile & Selection Criteria document) ○ Stakeholder input process ○ Identify Search firm if desired
Engagement Nov. 01- Dec. 15	4-6 Weeks Suggested Job Offer Target 1 of 3 = Dec of 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search Firm: Gather stakeholder input through interviews, surveys & focus groups to build the leadership profile & selection criteria
Advertising Recruiting Reference Checking Dec. 16 - Jan. 31 (02/07)	6-8 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search Firm: Develop position posting using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Input received from stakeholder groups ○ Description of CPS & the Cambridge community ○ Include key dates/timeline as determined by SC discussions • SC reviews & approves draft position posting • Search Firm: Seek candidates through job postings, advertisements and active recruitment • Search Firm: Conduct reference checks on all potential candidates • Search Firm: Conduct individual interviews with all potential candidates to be moved forward to the School Committee for consideration to interview. The SC created Leadership Profile should be used as part of this step.
Selection Feb. 01 - Mar 15	4-6 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC & Search Firm meet to review all applicants • SC: The CPS Leadership Profile & Selection Criteria documents are used to discuss candidates & determine best-qualified candidates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SC: Confirms <u>Round #1 candidates</u> to interview • SC & Search Firm review the interview process & prepare interview questions • SC with support from Search Firm conducts Round #1 interviews

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SC: Based on Round 1 interviews, finalist candidates are identified ● SCwith support from Search Firm conducts <u>interviews with Finalists</u> and site visits as appropriate ● SC <u>selects Finalist</u> ● Search Firm informs all candidates of outcome
Transition Mar. 16 - Apr 18	3-4 Weeks Suggested Job Offer Target 2 of 3 = Apr of 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SC ensures all steps of a hiring validation process have been completed prior to official contract offer ● Search Firm assists the School Committee with contract preparation ● SC negotiates contract and announcement agreement with selected finalist ● SC takes action at a regularly scheduled SC meeting to employ new Superintendent ● Superintendent begins position 07-01-2025 ● SC& Superintendent engage in a retreat to clarify vision, goals, priorities, roles/responsibilities, and other matters as appropriate.
	Suggested Job Offer Target 3 of 3 = Dec of 2025	

6. **Awaiting Reports:** None

7. **7a. Superintendent’s Update:**

Brief comments by the Interim Superintendent regarding the first month of school, including:

- Naming of the MLK Elementary School a National Blue Ribbon School and the Tobin Montessori Elementary School a School of Recognition by DESE,
- Ongoing challenges with respect to transportation services,
- Other matters related to ensuring a productive and successful start to the 2024 - 2025 school year

7b. Presentations:

CPS district administrators will be joined by the school leaders from the MLK & Tobin schools to highlight several points of strength and pride found in the accountability & achievement data released by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education via the 2023 - 2024 MCAS results.

David Murphy, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Lendozia Edwards, Chief of Academics
Dr. Chad Leith, Chief of Accountability
Jaime Frost, Principal, Tobin Montessori School
Gerald Yung, Principal Martin Luther King

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

- #24-237** Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department
- #24-238** Recommendation: Contract Award: Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute Of Technology: Instructional Services
- #24-239** Recommendation: Contract Award: Christopher Vick: Collete Preparation

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

#24-240 Appointment of Executive Secretary - Vice Chair Hunter and Member Rachel

WHEREAS: The School Committee relies on an Executive Secretary for management of the Committee's office, including but not limited to scheduling meetings, ensuring procedural rules are followed, responding to constituent inquiries, and documenting official business; and
WHEREAS: The Committee and administration engaged in a thorough hiring process to fill the Executive Secretary position, which was vacated in May 2024; and
WHEREAS: There was unanimous recommendation emerging from the hiring process that Ms. Katherine Christo be appointed as Executive Secretary; and
WHEREAS: Ms. Christo has an exemplary record of service as the Confidential Secretary to the School Committee, and has performed the work of both the Confidential and Executive Secretaries for many months, allowing the Committee to continue operations without any hindrance; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee appoint Ms. Katherine Christo as Executive Secretary and thanks her for her ongoing service to our students, families, staff, and policy makers.

#24-241 Six Minutes Public Comment CEA President – Member Weinstein and Member Rojas

WHEREAS: The public comment portion of regular Cambridge School Committee meetings is an important opportunity for speakers to share their views with the School Committee in a format that is accessible to the public; and
WHEREAS: Each speaker is allotted three minutes to speak during public comment, and past practice of the Cambridge School Committee has been to allot six minutes of speaking time to the president of the Cambridge Education Association (CEA); and
WHEREAS: This practice of allotting six minutes to the president of the CEA has not been formally established in the School Committees rules or procedures; and
WHEREAS: The president of the CEA, when speaking in their capacity in that role, is representing 1,500 Cambridge Public Schools educators and is elected to serve as their representative; and
WHEREAS: Hearing the perspectives, priorities, concerns, recommendations and feedback of those educators is valuable to the work of the School Committee; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the president of the CEA is allotted either six minutes of speaking time to deliver public comment at regular Cambridge School Committee meetings when the regular time limit is three minutes or they are allotted four minutes when the time limit is reduced to two minutes by the Chair based on the number of individuals signed up to speak; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the president or similar designated representative of any bargaining unit that has a contract with the Cambridge Public School District also be allotted the same minutes of speaking time as the president of the CEA to deliver public comment at regular Cambridge School Committee meetings.

#24-242 Disaggregation of MCAS Data – Member Hudson and Member Harding

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District uses Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) scores as one measure by which to assess school and district performance and progress; and

WHEREAS: The District has long had – and taken note of – persistent disparities in scores, between students of different family income levels (with ~ ¾ of lower income students failing to meet state standards in English and math); and

WHEREAS: Almost a quarter of the District's students high income students – those who we presume to be in a relatively solid position to learn – also failing to meet state standards; and

WHEREAS: It's important for us to understand whether these scores reflect the quality of the education that we're providing, or whether they're a reflection of the fact that we're an urban district, with lots of movement of students into and out of our schools, and a resulting limited amount of time to make an impact; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Administration will break out both English and Math MCAS scores by the length of time the student has been in our District and present these data to the Committee and the Community no later than November 1, 2024.

#24-243 Superintendent Search Process – Member Hudson, Member Weinstein and Member Rachel

WHEREAS: The hiring of a Superintendent is the most consequential decision the School Committee will make; and

WHEREAS: Many timelines for the search have been proposed, but none yet adopted; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee will commit to a search timeline no later than October 15, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the timeline will explicitly include interim dates by which the following milestones will have taken place: 1) Hiring of a Search Firm; 2) Stakeholder Meetings Ahead of Job Posting; 3) Job Posting Approved; 4) Job Posting Publicly Released and Advertised; 5) Application Deadline; 6) Search Firm Review of Applicants, and Proposal of Shortlist; 7) Shortlisted Candidate Interviews; 8) Offer Made; and be it further

RESOLVED That the School Committee will make clear, in writing, who will be responsible for drafting a timeline for the Committee to consider, who will be responsible for organizing the Stakeholder meetings, and who will serve as the Hiring Committee.

#24-244 Transportation – Member Hudson and Member Harding

WHEREAS: In a District with a school choice system - wherein parents can select a school at any location within the city – timely, and well-orchestrated, transportation is critical; and

WHEREAS: The District has long had a focus on supporting families most in need; and

WHEREAS Buses arriving late impact both the children (who miss classroom time), and parents (who may not have the luxury of being late to work); and

WHEREAS: This issue is not new – having been communicated clearly and repeatedly by families; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Transportation Department will establish and Service Level Agreement wherein they will commit to responding to all parent communications within 5 business days; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Transportation Department will provide a weekly update to all families on routes without a working bus tracker, stating what actions are being taken to resolve the issue, and by what dates those actions will be completed.

#24-245 Public Speaking Time – Member Hudson

WHEREAS: All residents are welcome to speak during Public Comment – but some residents have been elected by large groups of residents, to speak on their behalf; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That any elected representative of a group with a membership larger than 500 individuals (living or working within the District) and all union leaders be entitled to twice the time allocated to an individual at a given meeting, not to exceed 6 minutes.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences): None

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: None