

School Committee - Regular Meeting

February 4, 2025 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. Registrants must sign-up for public comment in advance, please go to: https://secure1.cpsd.us/school_committee/ for details.

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.

A G E N D A

- 1 Public Comment (3 minutes):**
- 2. Student School Committee Report:**
- 3. Presentation of Records for Approval:**
 - January 7, 2025, Special Meeting
 - January 8, 2025, Special Meeting
 - January 15, 2025, Special Meeting
 - January 21, 2025, Regular Meeting
- 4. Reconsiderations: None**
- 5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:**

#24-259 Tobin Montessori Preliminary Report – Member Hudson and Member Harding

WHEREAS: The Tobin Montessori School was recently recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and by the Cambridge Public Schools Superintendent for its high student achievement;

WHEREAS: The Tobin Montessori School is leading the way within the Cambridge Public School District, delivering clear, measurable progress in narrowing gaps in achievement between students with different backgrounds – an issue that the District has long stated is its most important; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee went on record a year ago supporting the expansion of the and directed the Superintendent to “...provide a report and recommendation to the committee a plan of action for the possible next steps...”; and

WHEREAS: No report nor recommendation was ever made; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee request that the Superintendent provide a preliminary report on the feasibility of making this change, and a recommendation from the Superintendent as to whether next steps are warranted and what those next steps would be, no later than December 31, 2024 (with the definition of preliminary to be determined by the Superintendent). Tobin Montessori program (specifically, “...to explore the recommendation of the American Montessori Association Accreditation team to extend the Tobin Montessori Upper Elementary Program to three years...”) and referred the matter to the Superintendent “...for further review of the recommendations from the Accreditation team to explore implications of such a change including but not limited to the budget impact, upper school enrollment, and feeder patterns...”

#25-006 Dr. Robert S. Peterkin Condolence – Mayor E. Denise Simmons and Vice Chair Caroline Hunter

WHEREAS: The School Committee was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Robert S. Peterkin—a distinguished and visionary educator who leaves a profound legacy of advocacy for children’s rights, dedication to educational innovation, and an enduring impact on countless lives—on December 23, 2024; and
WHEREAS: Dr. Peterkin’s extraordinary 50-year career began in Albany, New York, where he taught emotionally disturbed children and founded an alternative school for high school dropouts, demonstrating his commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable students; and

WHEREAS: As Boston's first Black public school Headmaster, Dr. Peterkin guided The English High School during the busing era, transforming it into an integrated Magnet School for the Arts, and he later served as Deputy Superintendent in Boston and Superintendent of Schools in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he introduced initiatives such as school-level decision-making, bilingual education, and specialized programs for African American boys; and

WHEREAS: In 1991, Dr. Peterkin joined Harvard University as Director of the Urban Superintendents Program, preparing a diverse cadre of urban school leaders, particularly women and persons of color, while serving as an indispensable mentor and advocate for educational equity; and

WHEREAS: Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Peterkin contributed as an educational consultant, court-appointed expert, and board member for organizations including the B.E.L.L. Foundation, National Urban Alliance, TERC, and Boston Youth Theater, further amplifying his impact on education and young people's well-being; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Peterkin was a devoted husband to the late Louise Bauer, to whom he was married for 56 years, and a beloved community figure whose passions for jazz, the New York Yankees, and education reflected his vibrant character; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Peterkin's warmth, wisdom, and unwavering belief in individuals' potential inspired colleagues and students to rise to challenges and achieve their fullest potential, leaving an indelible imprint on the hearts and minds of those fortunate to know him; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee formally go on record in extending its deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Robert S. Peterkin for their tremendous loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Executive Secretary be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Robert S. Peterkin on behalf of the entire School Committee.

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. 7a. Superintendent's Update:

The Interim Superintendent will provide an update on pending matters and highlight various initiatives taking place across CPS school communities including an update on the transition of the Kennedy-Longfellow School.

7b. Presentations:

An update on the developing FY 26 operating budget for the Cambridge Public Schools.

David Murphy, Interim Superintendent
Ivy Washington, Chief Financial Officer

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

#25-015 Recommendation: Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement Between The Cambridge School Committee & Cambridge School Food Service Employee Association, SEU Local 888 for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026

#25-016 Recommendation: Approval of Authorization for the Superintendent to Submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Replacement of the Cambridgeport School Building Roof

#25-017 Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to the Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy (Second Reading)

25-018 Recommendation: Contract Award: Day & Residential Program Services not Available From the Cambridge School Department

#25-019 Recommendation: Contract Award: Star Dance School LLC: Dance Program

#25-020 Recommendation: Contract Award: WW Grainger: Facilities Equipment & Supplies

#25-021 Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information): None

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

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: None