

School Committee - Regular Meeting

August 6, 2024, 5:00 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:** None
3. **Presentation of Records for Approval:**
 - June 13, 2024, Special Meeting
 - June 18, 2024, Regular Meeting
 - June 25, 2024, Special Meeting
 - June 28, 2024, Special Meeting
4. **Reconsiderations:** None
5. **Unfinished Business/Calendar:**

#24-100 Motion by Member Rachel

WHEREAS: School Committee [policy ABA](#) notes the Committee's commitment to seeking and encouraging public participation in the body's decision-making processes; and
WHEREAS: The body's Rules do not specify when meeting registration opens to the public, but past practice has been two days before the meeting; and
WHEREAS: The Committee intends to remove barriers to participation; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED: That meeting registration and public comment sign-up will be available to all members of the public beginning at the time a meeting is officially noticed with an agenda or designated purpose.

#24-153 Joint Motion by Member Weinstein, Vice Chair Hunter and Member Rachel

WHEREAS: School Councils are established by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ([General Laws Part I, Title XII, Chapter 71, Section 59C](#)); and
WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public School District's [School Council Handbook](#) was drafted by a working group that included Cambridge parents, caregivers, community members, and CPSD staff and was adopted as policy by the School Committee June 20, 2023; and
WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education advises that the "[law provides for an explicit oversight role for school committees](#)" with respect to School Councils; and
WHEREAS: In Cambridge the School Council has the following main responsibilities, as noted in the School Council Handbook:

- Adopt educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards;
- Identify the educational needs of students attending the school in the relation to the goals;

- Collaborate with school community and district instructional staff to form an annual School Improvement Plan (SIP) to be reviewed by the School Committee prior to approval by the Superintendent;
- Review the school budget annually;
- Review the student’s Rights and Responsibilities handbook regularly to ensure the school discipline policies.
- Assess student discipline data; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee plays a critical role in policymaking, establishing the CPSD budget, and reviewing School Improvement Plans; and

WHEREAS: This School Committee is committed to supporting the caregivers, staff, teachers and community members serving on School Councils with the shared goal of best supporting the education and growth of all of the children of Cambridge; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee establishes a School Councils Subcommittee; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Councils Subcommittee will be focused on supporting the School Councils; coordinating the School Committee’s review of School Improvement Plans; providing a forum to review and support School Councils and their work; and will undertake other work determined by the chair of the subcommittee, in consultation with the members of the subcommittee, to be relevant and timely.

Late Order Joint Motion by Member Rojas and Member Rachel

Timeline for 2024 Superintendent Search

That the School Committee discuss and adopt the following timeline for the Superintendent Search

CPSD Superintendent Search 2024

Timeline	Action
By July 15	Name Ad-Hoc Superintendent Search Sub-Committee
By July 22	Engage with MASC and/or Search Firm to help with search process
By July 29	MASC and/or Search Firm draft community surveys
July 30	Ad-Hoc Subcommittee meeting to review surveys
By Aug 5	Send community surveys
By Sep 15	Posting goes live
By Sep 30	Finish vetting applications
By Oct 21	School Committee finishes 1st round of interviews of candidates
By Nov 4	Compile feedback from community of top candidates
By Nov 18	If finalist(s) are identified, School Committee finishes 2nd round of interviews. If not, adopt a calendar for extended search.
By Dec 16	School Committee appoints new Superintendent

6. **Awaiting Reports:** None

7. 7a. Superintendent's Update:

7b. Presentations:

Preparations for the Opening of the Cambridge Public SchoolsDavid Murphy
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Highlights:

- Inaugural Cambridge Preschool Program
- Support for CPS Students Residing in Temporary Emergency Shelters
- Preparations and objectives for SY 24-25 Administrative Week and All Staff Colloquium

7c. CPS District Plan:

7d. Consent Agenda:

- #24-157** Recommendation: Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee & Cambridge Education Association Unit D for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026
- #24-158** Recommendation: Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee & Cambridge Education Association Unit C for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026
- #24-159** Recommendation: Approval of Adjustments to CRLS Club Advisor Stipends In the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Cambridge School Committee & Cambridge Education Association Units A & B
- #24-160** Recommendation: Approval of the Agreement between the Cambridge School Committee & The Cambridge Education Association Units A & B
- #24-161** Recommendation: Approval of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex-Title IX Policy (First Reading)
- #24-162** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy (First Reading)
- #24-163** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Rights & Responsibilities Handbook (First Reading)
- #24-164** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Cambridge School Department's Non-Discrimination Policy (First Reading)
- #24-165** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Non-Discrimination on the Basis Of Sex Policy (First Reading)
- #24-166** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to Civil Rights Grievance Procedures Policy Formerly Known as the Uniform Grievance Procedures Policy
- #24-167** Recommendation: Contract Award: Approval of Request from the School Committee to the Election Commission for Mailing Addresses
- #24-168** Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department

- #24-169** Recommendation: Contract Award: Burgess Pest Management: Pest Management Services
- #24-170** Recommendation: Contract Award: Ascentis Corporation: Time & Attendance System
- #24-171** Recommendation: Contract Award: Lesley University: Instructional Services
- #24-172** Recommendation: Contract Award: Nimbello: Invoice Computer oftware
- #24-173** Recommendation: Contract Award: Public Consulting Group: License Renewal Easy IEP Module
- #24-174** Recommendation: Contract Award: Republic Services: Dumpster Services
- #24-175** Recommendation: Contract Award: uAspire: Educational Support Services
- #24-176** Recommendation: Contract Award: Youth Guidance: Educational Support
- #24-177** Recommendation: Contract Award: Breakthrough Greater Boston: Educational Services
- #24-178** Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge School Volunteers: Student Support Services
- #24-179** Recommendation: Contract Award: Metropolitan Foods DBA Driscoll Foods: Groceries
- #24-180** Recommendation: Contract Award: W.B. Mason: Food Paper Products
- #24-181** Recommendation: Contract Award: Troy Group, Inc.: Laser Printers
- #24-182** Recommendation: Contract Award: Rosev Dairy: Milk Delivery & Purchases
- #24-183** Recommendation: Contract Award: Produce Connection: Groceries
- #24-184** Recommendation: Contract Award: Fantini Baking Company: Bread Products
- #24-185** Recommendation: Contract Award: Enroot: Educational Services
- #24-186** Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Housing Authority: Educational Services
- #24-187** Recommendation: Contract Award: Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc.: Educational Support
- #24-188** Recommendation: Contract Award: Interpreters & Translators, Inc.: Translation Services
- #24-189** Recommendation: Contract Award: BCM Controls Corporation: Security Maintenance & Upgrades
- #24-190** Recommendation: Contract Award: Amplify: Instructional Materials & Professional Development (Amendment)
- #24-191** Recommendation: Contract Award: Facing History & Ourselves: Professional Development
- #24-192** Recommendation: Contract Award: Shore Educational: Professional Development

- #24-193 Recommendation: Contract Award: Marathon Nursing: Nursing Services for Special Education Student
- #24-194 Recommendation: Contract Award: Mirah: Measured Based Care System
- #24-195 Recommendation: Approval of the Cambridge Public Schools Breakfast & Lunch Prices for SY2024-2025
- #24-196 Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts
- #24-197 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Municipal Local Cybersecurity Grant (SC25861)
- #24-198 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY 25 Food & Nutrition Services Appropriation (SC00402)

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

- #24-199 June 11, 2024, Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Report
- #24-200 June 12, 2024, Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee Report
- #24-201 July 9, 2024, Special Education and Student Supports Subcommittee Report

#24-202 Joint Motion by Member Harding and Member Hunter

WHEREAS: The School Committee is committed to ensuring that students are held to uniform standards across the district; now therefore it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee requests a detailed report from the Interim Superintendent outlining disciplinary actions, including suspensions, among the upper schools.

#24-203 Motion by Member Harding

WHEREAS: The School Committee is interested in learning more about the experiences of families and students who are accessing special education services; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee requests from the Interim Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent an update from the School Climate survey that relates to special education.

#24-204 Joint Motion by Member Hudson, Member Harding and Member Weinstein

WHEREAS: Algebra I is an important gatekeeper course for STEM careers; and

WHEREAS: CPSD has a history of successfully offering Algebra I prior to 9th grade at multiple CPS schools at various points; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Education encourages communities to offer Algebra I in 8th grade, stating that “[t]aking Algebra I before high school, such as in 8th grade, can set students up for a strong foundation of STEM education and open the door for various college and career options;” and

WHEREAS: It is inequitable to require individual families whose students are ready for this content to seek opportunities outside of CPSD, and outside of the regular school day; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is on record with policies calling for CPSD to offer Algebra I instruction in 8th grade in 1992, 1998, 2010, 2012, and 2013; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee is on record more generally with an Academic Challenge Policy that states that the “[c]urriculum will be designed to provide a range of opportunities for challenging, intellectually stimulating experiences“ for all students, including those working above grade level, and that “[m]athematics instruction will meet the needs of all students;” therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That, by the fall of 2025, the Cambridge Public Schools will provide in-school, school-year opportunities for Upper School students to complete Algebra 1; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, during the 2024-2025 school year, the District will offer programming during (but not limited to) the school day, that affords 7th grade students the opportunity to participate in advanced math work to ensure that they have the foundation required to successfully complete Algebra I in 8th grade; and be it further

RESOLVED: That whereas the special programs would be available to all students, and their completion would be required for students wishing to take Algebra I in 8th grade during the 2025-2026 school year, not all students would be required to enroll in these special programs, nor required to enroll in the 8th Algebra I course during the 2025-2026 school year; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, by the fall of 2026 - if CPSD elementary and upper school math educators and administrators deem us ready - the District will revert to its original plan of heterogeneous instruction, with all students completing an Upper School math sequence that includes all Algebra I units; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, during the 2024-2025 school year, elementary and upper school math educators and administrators will be convened on a regular basis to discuss what will be needed – at both the elementary and upper school levels - to be truly successful in our long term goal of graduating all students through a curriculum that includes all Algebra I units before 9th grade, and how we’re doing in providing these resources, with a report to be distributed to CPSD elementary, upper school, and high school administrators, elementary and math educators, curriculum leaders, families and the School Committee for visibility; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this plan will be communicated and coordinated with CPSD elementary, upper school, and high school administrators, elementary and math educators, curriculum leaders, and families, immediately upon adoption.

10. Resolutions (letters of congratulations, letters of condolences):

#24-205 Resolution by Member Harding

WHEREAS: Cambridge Rindge and Latin Boys Basketball Coach, George “Geo” Rodriguez, was named Massachusetts Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association;

WHEREAS: Coach Geo was recognized for his unwavering commitment to leading the 2024 team to a regular season finish with a 17-3 record, climbing as high as the #10 spot in the statewide Boston Globe Top 20 rankings;

WHEREAS: Coach Geo proudly represents the rich history of Cambridge basketball, having been a member of the 2001 CRLS state championship team;

WHEREAS: As Cambridge’s Recreation Activities Coordinator, Coach Geo has welcomed more than 450 Cambridge youth to the summer basketball leagues creating a strong sense of community and fostering positive relationships; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee goes on record recognizing Coach Geo’s achievement as the Massachusetts Coach of the Year and his many contributions to the Cambridge community.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers:

Memo to Mayor E. Denise Simmons from David Murphy, Interim Superintendent
RE: CPS Students Residing in the Temporary Emergency Shelters

Memo to Mayor E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge City Council and Cambridge School Committee
from David Murphy, Interim Superintendent
RE: Inaugural Class – Cambridge Preschool Program

Memo to Mayor E. Denise Simmons from Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human
Services
RE: Cambridge Preschool Program