

School Committee - Regular Meeting

May 19, 2026 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 for the purpose of discussing the agenda items listed below.

Individuals may sign up in advance to provide public comment for the May 19 Regular Meeting: The sign-up window is Friday, May 15 through Tuesday, May 19 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.

A G E N D A

1. Public Comment

2. Student School Committee Report:

3. Presentation of Records for Approval:

- May 5, 2026, Regular Meeting

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

#26-066 Recommendation: SY2026-2027 Cambridge Public Schools District Calendar

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7a. Superintendent's Update:

The Superintendent will provide an update on pending matters and highlight various initiatives taking place across the Cambridge Public Schools. The report will include comments related to at least the following:

(1) An update on several school and district leadership hiring processes, including the recommendations for appointments of highly qualified individuals to the positions of Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education and Legal Counsel. The Superintendent will also provide an update on pending leadership search processes for the position of Principal of Cambridge Rindge & Latin School and Principal of the Fletcher Maynard Academy.

(2) The Superintendent will also provide an update on recent developments in the process of determining the future of the 158 Spring Street facility that formerly housed the Kennedy Longfellow School.

7b. Presentation:

The Superintendent and representatives from the district administration will present to the committee on the ongoing work in response to School Committee Order # 25-316 that directed the administration to assess and analyze the use of screens by students during school and additional conversations with the committee about the importance of determining whether screen time should be reduced in order to maximize instructional value. The administration will outline the findings in the months-long analysis and research that has been conducted as well outline subsequent

steps that will be necessary to address potential challenges and instill greater intentionality and guidance across school communities with respect to specific technology usage.

7c. District Plan None

7d. Consent Agenda

- #26-096** Recommendation: Approval of the Appointment of the Position of Legal Counsel
- #26-097** Recommendation: Approval of the Appointment of the Assistant Superintendent Of Secondary Education Position
- #26-098** Recommendation: Contract Award: GoGuardian: Testing Materials (FY27 Contract)
- #26-099** Recommendation: Contract Award: Project Adventure: Challenge Course inspection and repairs
- #26-100** Recommendation: Contract Award: B & H Photo Video, Inc: Multi Media Equipment (FY27 Contract)
- #26-101** Recommendation: Contract Award: CDW Government LLC: Computer Hardware (FY27 Contract)
- #26-102** Recommendation: Contract Award: Converge One: Computer Hardware (FY27 Contract)
- #26-103** Recommendation: Contract Award: PJ Systems d/b/a HiQ Computers: Computer Hardware (FY27 Contract)
- #26-104** Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts

8. Non-Consent Agenda

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

#26-105 Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Report -May 7, 2026

#26-106 Retirement Plus – Member Jaikumar and Member de Paula Santos

WHEREAS: When the Commonwealth of Massachusetts introduced the Teachers Alternative Retirement Plan, also called Retirement Plus, in 2001, many teachers were unable to enroll, denying them the opportunity to make increased pension contributions in order to earn an increased pension after 30 years of service; and

WHEREAS: The Division of Administrative Law Appeals has made it clear that a legislative fix is required to allow teachers who were unable to enroll in 2001 to opt into Retirement Plus, and the Massachusetts House of Representatives recently passed – unanimously – an amendment to make that possible; and

WHEREAS: For teachers to be able to retroactively buy into Retirement Plus, the Massachusetts Senate must vote on the House legislation and Gov. Maura Healey must sign it into law; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee urges the Massachusetts Senate and in particular the senators representing our City to support the timely passage of this legislation fixing Retirement Plus, and for Gov. Healey to sign it.

#26-107 Ahern Field – Member Jaikumar and Member de Paula Santos

WHEREAS: John A. Ahern Field is a City of Cambridge public park located directly next to the Cambridge Public Schools building at 158 Spring Street, and the City has announced a plan to install synthetic turf on Ahern Field; and

WHEREAS: There has been significant community concern about the decision to install artificial turf; and

WHEREAS: While decisions about Ahern Field rest with the City, those decisions will affect students at 158 Spring Street; and

WHEREAS: The City Council issued a policy order "That the City Manager is requested work with relevant City departments to provide a report on how the decision to install artificial turf at Ahern Field was made, the rationale for artificial turf, and what process was taken to ensure community concerns and public health considerations were fully addressed, and to ensure that construction will not move forward until a report is delivered."; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee supports the City Council's request for further information on the decision to install artificial turf and the process that led to that decision; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the School Committee particularly asks the City Manager's report to include consideration of any effect the heat retention of artificial turf would have on HVAC needs at 158 Spring Street and on the health and safety of children at recess given the fact that children are more vulnerable than adults to extreme heat.

10. Resolutions:

#26-108 Student Member Jama – Chair Weinstein, Mayor Siddiqui and Vice Chair Dube

WHEREAS: Member Zihaam Jama enthusiastically embraced her Cambridge educational experience, beginning at the Haggerty School and continuing through the Darby Vassall Upper School and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, engaging deeply both inside and outside the classroom through clubs, activities, part-time work, and volunteer opportunities; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama has demonstrated a deep commitment to social justice, including food justice and housing equity, through her leadership in Club 4 at CRLS, where she supported local homeless shelters by organizing donation drives, fundraising events, and food preparation volunteer opportunities; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama further pursued her commitment to social impact as a participant in Radcliffe's Emerging Leaders Program, where she spearheaded a research project focused on housing equity, resource distribution, and public policy; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama has been a dedicated leader within the Cambridge community, uplifting younger students and creating opportunities for them to follow in her footsteps, including through her service as a lead presenter and facilitator for the Students of Color Coalition; and
WHEREAS: She served as an active member of the Get Real Teen Council with Planned Parenthood, where she worked to ensure that local youth were empowered with resources and information to support informed decision-making regarding reproductive health; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama also served as a Mentor Lead for PathFinders, where she guided peers by providing tutoring, career advice, and access to internship and academic opportunities; and
WHEREAS: She proudly embraces and shares her East African heritage, serving as Vice President of the East African Club, where she celebrated East African culture, organized community events, and promoted cultural awareness; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama contributed to the advancement of CRLS Falcons athletics, proudly serving as Sports Manager for the girls' softball and basketball teams, where she supported team operations, tracked statistics, and assisted in coordinating practices; and
WHEREAS: Member Jama has served on the Cambridge School Committee during the 2025-2026 term alongside her friend and colleague Member Eva Asraf, advocating for student voices and helping to ensure that decisions reflect diverse perspectives; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee expresses its deep appreciation for Member Jama's many contributions to the Cambridge community and takes great pride in knowing that she will continue her academic journey at Northeastern University; and be it further
RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Member Jama as a token of the Cambridge School Committee's sincere gratitude and warmest best wishes.

#26-109 Student Member Asraf – Chair Weinstein, Mayor Siddiqui and Vice Chair Dube

WHEREAS: The Cambridge School Committee proudly recognizes Student Member Eva Asraf, a graduate of the Cambridge Public Schools who attended the Maria L. Baldwin Elementary School and Rindge Avenue Upper School, for her outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to the students of the Cambridge Public Schools; and
WHEREAS: Member Asraf has demonstrated a deep commitment to public service through her leadership as Co-Chair of the Cambridge Youth Council, where she successfully advocated for increased access and equity, representing Cambridge on a national stage serving as a delegate at the National League of Cities Conference; and
WHEREAS: Her dedication to community impact is further reflected in her role as Co-President of Club 4, where she organized over 1,500 volunteer hours for hundreds of student members, partnered with local nonprofits, and supported community initiatives such as weekly meals at the Harvard Homeless Shelter; and
WHEREAS: Member Asraf proudly embraces her heritage and also fostered cultural awareness and inclusion as Co-President of the South Asian Club, creating meaningful opportunities for student connection and celebration, including organizing CRLS's first Mock Mehndi with over 100 attendees; and
WHEREAS: Her civic leadership extends beyond the school community through her service as an elected member of the Cambridge Family Policy Council and as a Participatory Budgeting delegate, where she contributed to policy

recommendations and equitable allocation of City resources; and

WHEREAS: Member Asraf has balanced her academic and leadership commitments with excellence in athletics and creative endeavors, competing as a varsity fencer and mentoring younger athletes, as well as a skilled tennis player who helped coach Cambridge youth programs. Her artistic talents were also recognized with an Honorable Mention in photography in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

WHEREAS: Throughout her time at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Member Asraf has exemplified integrity, initiative, and a strong commitment to uplifting her fellow CRLS classmates as the voice of morning announcements, leaving a lasting and meaningful impact on the Cambridge Public Schools community; now therefore be it

WHEREAS: Member Asraf has served with distinction as a Student Member of the School Committee, alongside her friend, Member Zihaam Jama, thoughtfully representing the diverse voices and interests of students across the district, and contributing meaningfully to discussions and decisions impacting scholars, educators and families; and

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee expresses its sincere gratitude to Member Asraf for her exemplary service and contributions and wishes her much success with future endeavors at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Member Eva Asraf in honor of her achievements and service and with the Cambridge School Committee's immense gratitude.

#26-110 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards – Chair Weinstein

WHEREAS: 43 Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) students were recognized with 108 awards from the 2025 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running, most prestigious award and recognition program to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talents; and

WHEREAS: CRLS students received 23 Gold Keys, 26 Silver Keys, and 59 Honorable Mentions for the Massachusetts Region; and

WHEREAS: These students were supported by extraordinary CPSD writing and visual arts teachers, including Melissa Chaney, Bianca Hegre, Amanda Kilton, Michele Watson, Deborah Milligan, and Jesse Young and Nicole Walter who guided, taught, and supported CRLS students through the long process to submit work to the competition, while teaching the Awards' core values of originality, skill, and emergence of a personal voice or vision; and

WHEREAS: The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the nation's longest running, most prestigious award and recognition program for creative teens, now in the 103rd year of its existence. Submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts. National Medalists are eligible for scholarships of up to \$12,500; and

WHEREAS: The mission of The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Awards; and

WHEREAS: Some alumni of the awards include Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana, Amanda Gorman, Langston Hughes, Judy Blume, Richard Avedon, Cy Twombly, Ezra Jack Keats, Ken Burns, Stephen King, Edwidge Danticat, Sylvia Plath, John Updike, Red Grooms, Zac Posen, David Sedaris, Ocean Vuong and many more great artists; and

WHEREAS: During the 2025 program year, more than 110,000 teens from U.S. territories, Canada, and every state in the nation participated in the Awards, entering more than 335,000 works for adjudication. Nearly 92,000 regional awards were presented to 50,000 teens, and more than 2,500 works received national medals.

WHEREAS: This year, the Massachusetts region had 8,683 Individual Art Entries including 214 Art Portfolios; and

WHEREAS: Tufts University hosted the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Massachusetts Gold Key art exhibition from March 14-21 and the Massachusetts Award Ceremony on March 15; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee goes on record congratulating the CRLS students who have created this excellent work on this wonderful accomplishment, and thanking the CRLS writing and visual arts educators who have taught and supported these students; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution will be presented to the CRLS student 2025-26 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards winners and to the teachers who supported them in this process.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: