

School Committee - Regular Meeting

January 21, 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. 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. This meeting will be video and audio recorded.

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 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:

An update on pending matters and highlight various initiatives taking place across CPS school communities including recent recognitions of significant accomplishments by CPS educators

7b. Presentations:

The Interim Superintendent and members of the district leadership team will provide concise updates on matters previously presented to and discussed by the Cambridge School Committee as part of a mid-year check-in by the administration.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

- #25-008** Recommendation: Approval of Revisions to the Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Policy (First Reading)
- #25-009** Recommendation: Contract Award: Day & Residential Program Services not Available From the Cambridge School Department
- #25-010** Recommendation: Contract Award: Student Logistics: Cost Share Transportation Services
- #25-011** Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Public Health: Nursing Services
- #25-012** Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

- #25-013** January 14, 2024, School Councils Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report

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

#25-014 CRLS Boys Basketball Domestic & Gender Based Violence Prevention

Vice Chair Hunter, Mayor Simmons and Member Rachel

WHEREAS: The CPS Director of Athletics, Tom Arria, the Cambridge Athletic Department, and the CRLS Boys Basketball Team have been working in coordination with Shameka Gregory, Coordinator, Domestic and Gender Based Violence Prevention Initiative for the City of Cambridge, and with Kimberly Sansoucy, Executive Director, Cambridge Commission on the Statue of Women, and the Lincoln Sudbury Boys Basketball Team and Coaches; and

WHEREAS: The CRLS Boys Basketball Teams and Coaches and the Lincoln Sudbury Boys Basketball Teams and Coaches have completed an educational workshop on prevention of domestic and gender-based violence, and

WHEREAS: The theme of the night for the January 14th CRLS Boys Basketball Game Cambridge vs. Lincoln Sudbury was Players for Prevention; and

WHEREAS: The game's theme aligned with the consent education work done by our student advocates Title IX Aurelia Advocates and Train the Trainer (T3) in building a culture of consent throughout our athletic teams, school, and community; and

WHEREAS: The CRLS Boys Basketball Teams and Coaches and the Lincoln Sudbury Boys Basketball Teams and Coaches stood together and took a pledge against gender based domestic violence; and

WHEREAS: The following individuals and organizations attended in solidarity with both teams and coaches to stand against gender based domestic violence: Shameka Gregory, Coordinator, Domestic and Gender Based Violence Prevention Initiative in the City, Kimberly Sansoucy, Executive Director, Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women, Caitlin Dube, Consent Counts, Caroline Berz, T3 Instructor, along with the following groups and students belonging to those groups, Transition House Cambridge, Sisters on the Runway, Train the Trainer students, Title IX Aurelia Advocates, BARCC, WOW, and BAM; and

WHEREAS: The Players for Prevention Game, and the activities and efforts for the CRLS Boys Basketball Team and Coaches along with those of the Lincoln Sudbury Boys Basketball Team and Coaches have created awareness campaign and have made a significant impact on the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence for their fellow students and the community in attendance; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee go on record appreciating the leadership of and congratulating the CRLS Boys Basketball Team and Coaches, along with Athletic Director Tom Arria, and the Athletic Department.

11. Announcements:

12. Late Orders:

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: None