

School Committee - Regular Meeting

January 7, 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:

- December 10, 2024, Special Meeting
- December 17, 2024, Regular Meeting
- December 19, 2024, Special 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...”

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7. 7a. Superintendent’s Update:

An update on pending matters and highlight various initiatives taking place across CPS school communities to advance the district strategic priorities for the 2024 -2025 school year.

7b. Presentations:

A summary of the Cambridge Public Schools FY 26 Operating Budget development process as well as the annual summary of CPS enrollment data and projections information. The presentation will include an analysis of the district's annual and anticipated budgetary expenditures.

David Murphy, Interim Superintendent
Ivy Washington, Chief Financial Officer

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

- #25-001** Recommendation: Contract Award: Day & Residential Program Services not Available From the Cambridge School Department
- #25-002** Recommendation: Gifts/Miscellaneous Receipts
- #25-003** Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Multilingual Newcomer & Homeless Support Grant (SC25863)
- #25-004** Recommendation: Grant Award: FY25 Broad Institute Coding Clubs (SC25153)

8. Non-Consent Agenda:

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

- #25-005** December 5, 2024, Special Education & Student Supports Subcommittee Report

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

- #25-006** Dr. Robert S. Peterkin Condolence – Mayor E. Denise Simmons & 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.

- 11. **Announcements:**
- 12. **Late Orders:**
- 13. **Communications and Reports from City Officers:** None