OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Sumbul Siddiqui
Mayor (2020-21, 2022-23, 2026-27)

To: Cambridge City Council

From: Sumbul Siddiqui, Mayor

Date: November 23, 2026

Subject: Communicating Information from the School Committee

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I write to provide an updated summary of recent Cambridge School Committee activity.

School Committee (Tuesday, November 17, 2026)

Superintendent Updates

The Superintendent began by highlighting an exciting recent accomplishment: the Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA) InvenTeam was one of six teams awarded $5,000 from Lemelson-MIT, a national leader in advancing invention education.

For more than 25 years, Lemelson-MIT has supported invention education, helping thousands of students and educators develop their inventive skills while recognizing hundreds of collegiate and mid-career inventors. Research demonstrates that invention education – a creative, transdisciplinary approach to problem-solving – helps students from all backgrounds.

The RSTA InvenTeam will share the results of its work in Spring 2027. Community members interested in learning more about invention education and student innovation are invited to attend EurekaFest virtually on May 19, 2027, and the MIT Open House on March 20–21, 2027.

Amendments to the Rules of the School Committee 2026-27 (First Reading) (Motion 26-253)

Last February, the Executive Secretary and I began reviewing existing rules to identify areas that needed updating or clarification. This included correcting grammatical and formatting issues, removing provisions no longer reflective of current practices, and identifying broader governance topics that warranted further discussion,

At the September 10, 2026 Governance Subcommittee meeting, members discussed some of the above topics including the process for selecting the presiding officer, meeting etiquette, approval of service

contracts and staff travel, and the Superintendent evaluation process. We also discussed ways to ensure that educator voices are meaningfully incorporated into School Committee deliberations based on prior conversations with members of the Arlington School Committee and their approach to educator engagement.

Committee members discussed various aspects of the proposed amendments, raised questions, and identified areas for further clarification. As this was the first reading, members will have additional opportunities to provide feedback and propose revisions. The School Committee will vote on adoption and any additional amendments proposed at the next meeting, Tuesday, December 1, 2026.

Upcoming Dates

The Superintendent provided an overview of upcoming School Committee updates and presentations, along with key milestones in the FY28 budget development process.

School Committee Updates & Presentations:

- Tuesday, December 1, 2026: Strategic Plan Update (Mission Measures) and CRLS Update
- Tuesday, December 15, 2026: SY 2026-2027 Learning Walk Observations and Feedback
- Tuesday, January 19, 2027: Strategic Plan Proposal

FY28 Budget Timeline:

- December 2026 & January 2027: Meetings with internal and external stakeholders including staff and community members.
- Tuesday, January 5, 2027: Annual Budget Update, including budget process and key dates, enrollment and budget projections, and proposed priorities to guide the budget process.
- Tuesday, February 2, 2027: FY28 Budget Workshop and Update
- Tuesday, March 2, 2027: Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget
- Tuesday, March 16, 2027: Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget
- March 2027: Review of Proposed Budget (Budget Workshops)
- April 6, 2027: School Committee Vote on Adoption of the FY28 Budget
- May 2027: City Council Budget Hearing on the adopted budget

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,



Sumbul Siddiqui
Mayor of Cambridge (2020-21, 2022-23, 2026-27)