

June 22, 2026

Hola Amigos Community!

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Amigos 8th Grade Graduation ceremony taking place at 3:00pm Tuesday, June 23rd. It will be a great opportunity to celebrate another successful school year and to honor our 8th grade students as they make their well-earned transition to high school.

During my conversations with Principal Bartels Marrero we have been discussing an issue that may affect the Amigos School at some point in the future. Before the school year concludes, in the spirit of transparency, I wanted to acknowledge and communicate about that issue directly to you.

At the conclusion of last school year the Cambridge Public Schools made the difficult but necessary decision to close one of our elementary schools, the Kennedy Longfellow School. The building that housed the Kennedy Longfellow is located in East Cambridge at 158 Spring Street. We are currently partnering with the City of Cambridge to determine what renovations and capital improvements might be feasible during the period that the building is vacant. Based on available funding capacity, we will not be constructing a new school facility at the location for the foreseeable future.

The building at 158 Spring Street however features a number of significant amenities that make the building an important asset for our school system. It has well-sized community spaces including but not limited to a cafeteria, gymnasium and auditorium. When it opened in 1970, it was designed to serve as a 700-student Kindergarten through 8th grade school, meaning it also features appropriately sized classrooms and specialized learning spaces like a science lab, etc. It also happens to sit on a campus with a significant amount of outdoor and recreational space that is scheduled to be renovated and upgraded over the next year.

No final decisions have been made with respect to what will occupy 158 Spring Street, and the building will not reopen until the fall of 2027 at the very earliest. The Amigos School is the one K to 8th grade school in our district and the Upton Street building that currently houses the Amigos presents several significant logistical challenges. As the discussion over the facility at 158 Spring Street develops, it is inevitable that the prospect of the Amigos moving from Upton Street to Spring Street at some point in the future will be seriously considered. As we move forward, Principal Bartels Marrero will continue to be fully involved with these discussions to ensure we capitalize on opportunities to engage the broader Amigos community where appropriate.

Later in the summer and at the start of the new school year, we will be hosting additional community forums to discuss the district's options as they relate to 158 Spring Street. In those meetings, we will discuss what a potential move from one building to another might mean for Amigos students, families and staff. Our team looks forward to engaging with you on this topic and ensuring that the Amigos continues to be a thriving dual language immersion K-8 school for future generations of students.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. In the coming months we will provide additional information about the opportunities and challenges represented in this matter. Until then, a sincere congratulations to all of the Amigos students, educators, support staff, families and caregivers on the successful completion of the 2025-2026 school year.

¡Felices vacaciones de verano!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "M".

David Murphy