
*The following is a brief summary of the public meeting of the Boston School Committee held on **Wednesday, December 17**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Edward Winter Chambers, 26 Court Street. This summary is not intended to serve as official minutes of the meeting.*

For more information about any of the items listed below, contact the office of the Boston School Committee: feedback@boston.k12.ma.us or 617-635-9014.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent thanked Enrollment Services for organizing a successful Showcase of Schools last Saturday, December 13 and reminded everyone that registration begins in January for students entering kindergarten and grades 6 and 9 in September 2009 and in February for students entering all other grades. www.bostonpublicschools.org.

In its annual ranking of the 100 Best High Schools in America, *U.S. News & World Report* magazine has recognized Boston Latin School as one of the best in the country. The study released last week – which examines a variety of factors about a school's performance and ability to prepare students for college – ranks BLS number 27 out of more than 21,000 high schools nationwide. In addition, the magazine's December issue commends an additional 504 schools around the country with silver medals, including Boston Latin Academy and the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. Five other Boston Public Schools were among the 1,321 schools awarded bronze medals: Another Course to College, Boston Community Leadership Academy, Charlestown High School, Excel High School and Health Careers Academy. <http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/node/1776>

Dr. Johnson recently attended the release of *Boston's Education Pipeline: A Report Card*, a new report prepared by the Boston Foundation as part of its ongoing Boston Indicators Project. The report documents the successes of Boston's schools while highlighting the work that remains. <http://www.tbf.org/utility/navigation/multimedialibrary/newsdetail.aspx?id=9384>

BPS has been notified by the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) that all city swimming pools will be closed as of Friday, December 19 for maintenance required by a new federal law which requires specific types of drain covers to be installed in all publicly and privately operated swimming pools. The community centers must follow these guidelines. There are about 12 schools that have adjoining community centers with pools that will be affected by this closure; BCYF anticipates that the pools should reopen sometime in January.

The state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is considering closing the Uphams Corner Charter School. If the Board should vote to close the school, BPS will welcome any Uphams Corner students into the Boston Public Schools and will send letters to Upham's Corner families informing them about the BPS school choice and registration process.

The Superintendent wished all students, families and staff a happy holiday season.

REPORTS

FY 2010 Budget Update: Chief Financial Officer John McDonough presented the district's initial plans for responding to the challenging fiscal environment. FY2010 will represent the most difficult budget challenge that the Boston Public Schools has faced in many years. Mr. McDonough noted that the BPS budget calendar, which requires budget development based on revenue assumptions that precede state budget proposals, drives uncertainty. He noted that the FY2010 budget will need to respond to both a decrease in appropriation and an increase in the cost of doing business, which will result in substantial changes to the district's FY2010 spending plan. In developing the FY2010 budget, Mr.

McDonough emphasized that the interests of students, not adults, will be primary and decisions will be guided by the district's core mission: academic achievement. Every departmental budget and every school budget is under review, and the district recognizes that the scope of this challenge will require an overall reduction in resources for both schools and central support services.

Wait List Policy Modification: Assistant Chief Operating Officer Craig Chin presented a brief report on the Superintendent's recommendation to modify the existing BPS wait list policy.

ACTION ITEMS (VOTES)

Approved: The Committee voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that Boston Public Schools modify its existing wait list policy to make it more consistent. The updated policy allows families registering for any grade, K0 through 12, to be placed on up to three wait lists.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee member Marchelle Raynor asked for an update on school police incident reports at an upcoming meeting.

Vice-chairperson Reverend Groover raised the issue of finding ways to allow students to watch the presidential inauguration on January 20. The Superintendent will remind schools about this and encourage them to find ways to incorporate the inauguration into classroom learning.

Several Committee members thanked School Committee Chairperson Elizabeth Reilinger for her years of leadership on the Committee. Dr. Reilinger is stepping down as Chairperson at the end of this calendar year.

<http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/node/1778>