



## Boston School Committee Meeting

**July 8, 2009**

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*The following is a brief summary of the public meeting of the Boston School Committee held on **Wednesday, July 8, 2009** 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](mailto:feedback@boston.k12.ma.us) or 617-635-9014.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

School Committee members present: Rev. Groover (Chairperson); Ms. Raynor (Vice Chairperson); Ms. Dájer; Ms. Harris; Mr. Martinez and Mr. O'Neill.

School Committee Chairperson Reverend Groover called the meeting to order.

### **CITATIONS**

The School Committee and Superintendent presented a citation to Richard Jacobs, Director of Transportation, who is retiring after nearly 35 of service to the Boston Public Schools.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

More than 140 principals and headmasters gathered last week for the 2009 Boston Public Schools Leadership Conference, along with teacher leaders, district administrators and other educators. The three-day conference at the University of Massachusetts Boston culminated with the presentation of awards to schools and principals. Superintendent Johnson and her executive team added an awards program to the annual event this year in order to recognize successful schools and school leaders. Honorees included:

- Principal of the Year: **Margarita Muñiz**, Rafael Hernández K-8 School;
- Rookie of the Year (first-year principals): **Margarita Ruiz**, Adams Elementary School;
- Family & Community Engagement Award: **Tamara Blake**, Russell Elementary School;
- Best Student Attendance, Elementary: **Suzanne Lee**, Quincy Elementary School (97.9% average daily student attendance);
- Best Student Attendance, Middle: **Amy Marx**, Harbor School (95.3% average daily student attendance);
- Best Student Attendance, High: **Lynne Mooney Teta**, Boston Latin School (96.8% average daily student attendance);
- Best Teacher Attendance: **Valerie Gumes**, Haynes Early Education Center (99.5% average daily teacher attendance);
- Most Improved School in Mathematics: **Catherine Constant**, Holmes Elementary School; and
- Most Improved School in English Language Arts: **Nadia Cyprien**, Monument High School.

<http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/node/3505>

Kevin Youkilis Hits for Kids has launched the "Batting for Books" campaign to benefit school libraries in the BPS. Together with the City of Boston and the Boston Red Sox, the slugger's charitable organization is dedicated to enhancing the Boston Public Schools by collecting over 100,000 new or gently used books. Book donations will be collected at each of Fenway Park's five gates during the Red Sox weekend series against the Kansas City Royals on Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12. <http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/node/3497>

## **ACTION ITEMS (VOTES)**

Approved: Relocation (from the Madison Park complex to the former P.A. Shaw building, 429 Norfolk Street Dorchester) and change in hours (to 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.) for Boston Adult Technical Academy.

Approved: Renaming of the merged Academy of Public Service and Noonan Business Academy to Dorchester Academy.

Approved: Eight grants totaling \$3,105,816.

Approved: Membership in the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) for the 2009-2010 school year, with annual dues of \$7,115.

Approved: Eleven bus vendors to provide field trip transportation services during the upcoming school year.

## **REPORTS**

*Council of the Great City Schools report on Special Education:* Superintendent Johnson commissioned a peer review to help guide the district's work to improve the delivery of special education services to students with disabilities. Michael Casserly, Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, presented the findings of the Strategic Support Team, including promising practices, areas of concern, and recommendations. Dr. Casserly was joined by Sue Gamm, former Chief of Specialized Services, Chicago Public Schools, and Julie Wright Halbert, legislative counsel for the Council of the Great City Schools. <http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/node/3509>

*In-District Charter Schools:* Dr. Johnson presented an update on legislation that Mayor Thomas M. Menino filed today to help transform underperforming schools by converting them to in-district charter schools with greater autonomy and flexibility. <http://www.cityofboston.gov/news/default.aspx?dept=55>

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Johnson reported that Assistant Superintendent Eileen de los Reyes will present an update on English Language Learners instruction at an upcoming meeting.

Student representative Michael Davis reported that the Mayor's Youth Council is devising and executing new strategies to inform and engage students.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The School Committee adjourned to executive session to discuss collective bargaining.