

Welcome to a meeting of the

Boston School Committee





Boston School Committee

26 Court Street, 4th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

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www.bostonpublicschools.org

Cover photo taken January 2010

Standing, left to right: John Barros, Michael O'Neill, Carol Johnson,
Gregory Groover, Claudio Martinez, Michael Davis

Seated: Marchelle Raynor, Alfreda Harris, Mary Tamer

Boston Public Schools

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

Boston School Committee

Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Sr., D.Min., *Chair*
Marchelle Raynor, *Vice-Chair*
John Barros
Alfreda J. Harris
Claudio Martinez
Michael D. O'Neill
Mary Tamer
Michael Davis, *Student Representative*

Carol R. Johnson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Our Mission

We welcome the children of this city into the Boston Public Schools, where effective teaching and learning prepare all of our students to achieve at high levels, and where the entire community works together to focus on children.

The Boston Public Schools does not discriminate in its programs, activities, facilities, employment, or educational opportunities on the basis of race, color, age, disability, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.

About the Boston School Committee

The Boston School Committee is the governing body of the Boston Public Schools.

The School Committee is responsible for:

- ☑ defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;
- ☑ establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- ☑ hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- ☑ setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

Appointment of Members

The seven members of the School Committee are Boston residents appointed by Mayor Thomas M. Menino to serve four-year staggered terms.

In November 1989, the citizens of Boston approved a non-binding referendum to replace the existing 13-member elected School Committee with a seven-member mayorally-appointed committee. In July 1991, the governor and State Legislature signed a Home Rule Petition submitted by the mayor and City Council enacting legislation to create the appointed board. The first appointed School Committee was sworn into office in January 1992. In a November 1996 referendum, voters chose to maintain the appointed School Committee structure.

The mayor appoints members from a list of candidates recommended by a 13-member Citizens Nominating Panel composed of parents, teachers, principals, and representatives of the business and higher education communities. Under the legislation that established the appointed School Committee, “the Mayor shall strive to appoint individuals who reflect the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the city.”

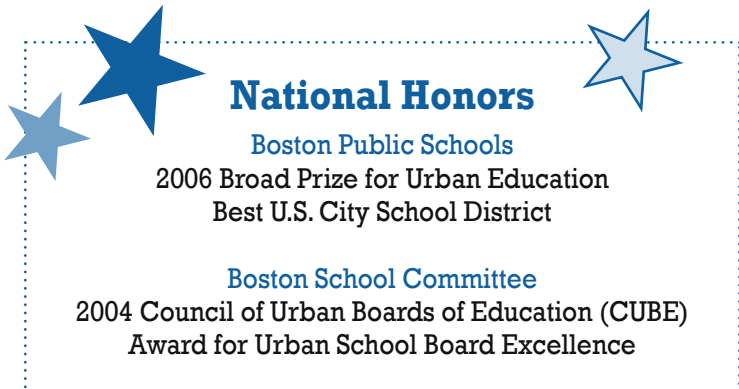
Meeting Schedule

The School Committee meets several times each month during the school year to adopt, review, and modify policies and practices that support the sound operations of the Boston Public Schools and that enhance teaching and learning and improved student achievement. On the first Monday of the year, the committee holds its annual organizational meeting, at which time the members elect a chair and vice-chair and determine the meeting schedule for the upcoming calendar year.

All meetings are posted at least 48 hours in advance at the Office of the City Clerk and at Boston Public Schools headquarters, 26 Court Street. Most meetings are held on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Edward Winter Chambers, 26 Court Street, first floor. To confirm the date, time, location, or agenda of any meeting, contact the School Committee office.

Order of Business

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Citations (optional)
4. Superintendent's Report
5. Public Comment on Action Items
6. Action Items (i.e., matters that require vote)
7. Reports
8. General Public Comment
9. New Business
10. Executive Session (optional)
11. Adjournment



Public Comment

Every School Committee meeting includes opportunities for parents and other members of the community to address the committee about school and district issues.

Testimony pertaining to matters scheduled for a vote by the School Committee at the same meeting takes place during “public comment on action items.” Testimony pertaining to all other matters takes place during “general public comment.” To request participation in the public comment period of any meeting, call the School Committee office (617-635-9014) or speak to the executive secretary before the start of the meeting.

To ensure an orderly and open meeting, participants are asked to comply with the state’s Open Meeting Law and with School Committee rules, which include the following:

- ☑ Each individual or group must limit presentations to three minutes. Speakers cannot reassign their time to others.
- ☑ A maximum of 30 minutes will be allowed for each of the two public comment periods.
- ☑ Questions on specific school matters may not be answered at the time but may be referred to the superintendent for a later response.
- ☑ Questions on policy matters may not be answered at the time but may be the subject of later discussion by the committee.

Executive Sessions

School Committee meetings are conducted in accordance with the state’s Open Meeting Law. All regular meetings are open to the public.

The law also permits the convening of an executive session, a portion of a meeting not open to the public. An executive session can be held only to discuss certain matters, including but not limited to collective bargaining (union contract negotiations) and litigation strategy (deliberation about pending legal matters).

Members



Chair: Rev. Gregory G. Groover Sr., D. Min., was appointed pastor of the historic Charles Street A.M.E. Church in Roxbury, Massachusetts in June 1994. As the vice-president and chairman of the Education Committee of the Black Ministerial Alliance (BMA), he has been instrumental in bringing together public school officials, teachers, community leaders, parents and the clergy in the planning and the development of the BMA After School Program, a \$1.5 million initiative. He also served on the Mayor's 2-6 After-school Initiative Task Force (1999) and the BPS Student Assignment Task Force (2004) and co-chaired the Superintendent Search Committee that led to the hiring of Dr. Carol Johnson. Rev. Groover is a resident of Roxbury and the parent of a student at Boston Arts Academy. He was appointed to the School Committee in 2007.



Vice-chair: Marchelle Raynor is the program director at the Gertrude E. Townsend Head Start Learning Center. A licensed clinical social worker, Ms. Raynor is a former director of the Boston Public Schools High School Parent Information Center. She serves on the board of the Hawthorne Youth and Community Center and is a member of the City of Boston Scholarship Committee and the Boston Educators of the Year Selection Committee. Ms. Raynor, who lives in Roxbury, was appointed to the School Committee in 1999.



John F. Barros has served as the Executive Director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative since 2000. A native of Roxbury, Mr. Barros attended the Boston Public Schools before heading off to Dartmouth College. He is currently a candidate for a Masters in Public Policy at Tufts University and sits on several boards, including the Boston Parent Organizing Network, the Roxbury Master Plan Strategic Oversight Committee, and the Northeastern University Institute on Race and Justice. He is also a member of the Boston School Committee's Task Force on English Language Learners. The first Cape Verdean to serve on the Boston School Committee, Mr. Barros was appointed in 2010.



Alfreda J. Harris, a School Committee member since 1993, is a former deputy commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. She is a founder and former administrative coordinator of the Shelburne Recreation Center in Roxbury, where the gymnasium is named in her honor. Ms. Harris also founded the Women's Boston Neighborhood Basketball League and the Boston Shoot-Out Basketball Tournament. A former head women's basketball coach at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Roxbury Community College, and Emerson College, Ms. Harris currently lives in Roslindale and works as a consultant for Legacy Consultants.



Claudio Martinez has been the Executive Director of the Hyde Square Task Force since 1998. Under his leadership, the organization has grown tenfold in budget and staff size and number of youth served, and received many awards, including the Civic Engagement Award from the Boston Foundation, and a Best Practice Award in Teen Programming for Youth Leadership and Achievement by Boston's After School for All Partnership. A resident of Jamaica Plain, Mr. Martinez served for five years as co-chair of the citywide Boston Parents Organizing Network and is a member of the Boston Foundation's Education Advisory Committee. He also sits on the Board of

Martinez, continued

Directors of Boston After School and Beyond and is a member of the Latino After School Initiative Steering Committee. Mr. Martinez is the co-chair of the Boston School Committee's Task Force on English Language Learners. He was appointed to the School Committee in 2008.



Michael D. O'Neill is senior vice president at U.S. Trust, Bank of America. A graduate of the Boston Public Schools, Mr. O'Neill is the board chair for the Boston Private Industry Council's Youth Council and a member of the Boston PIC Workforce Development Committee. He is a former board member of the BPS School-to-Career Planning Committee and the Hyde Park High School Academy of Finance. A resident of Charlestown, Mr. O'Neill was first appointed to the School Committee in July 2008.



Mary Tamer is a freelance writer and communications professional with more than 20 years of experience in the educational sector. She has written and edited articles for the Kennedy School of Government, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and for the MIT Sloan School of Management. A resident of West Roxbury, Ms. Tamer is a graduate of the Boston Public Schools, and is an active volunteer in her sons' school, the Joyce Kilmer in West Roxbury. She has also facilitated voter registration drives in a number of the city's high schools and community events as part of her work with the League of Women Voters of Boston. Ms. Tamer is a longtime volunteer and supporter of the Boston Latin School Association, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and ReadBoston. She was appointed to the School Committee in 2010.

Superintendent



Carol R. Johnson, Ed.D., has been superintendent of the Boston Public Schools since August 2007. Dr. Johnson has devoted her career to public education as a teacher, principal, and administrator. She previously served as superintendent of the Memphis (TN) City Schools and Minneapolis (MN) Public Schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Fisk University in Nashville, and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Minnesota. She serves as secretary-treasurer of the Board of Directors for the Council of the Great City Schools, is on the Spencer Foundation Board and the Harvard University Urban Superintendents' Advisory Board, and has served on the College Board.

Executive Secretary



As Executive Secretary, **Elizabeth A. Sullivan** manages the School Committee office, maintains the official records of all School Committee proceedings, and coordinates the public comment periods of BSC meetings. Liz formerly worked in the office of Mayor Thomas M. Menino, first as a press aide and later as Director of Speechwriting. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Boston University with a bachelor of science degree in journalism. A resident of West Roxbury, she grew up in Roslindale and graduated from Boston Latin School.

Student Representative



Michael Davis is a senior at East Boston High School. A life-long Roxbury resident, Michael has spent his entire educational career with the Boston Public Schools. He has volunteered with many youth advocacy organizations, including the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC), the Mayor's Youth Council, the National Black College Alliance (NBCA), and Summer of Opportunity. Michael has worked at the Mayor's Youthline since October 2008. He aspires to enter public service to change skewed perceptions of black youth, particularly those with a troubled past.

**Boston School Committee meetings
are taped and broadcast on**



Cable television about the Boston Public Schools

Comcast Channel 24 ■ RCN Channel 13

Weekdays
8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Thursdays
4:00–6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays
6:00–8:00 p.m.

Saturdays
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

www.bostonpublicschools.org/bps-tv/

Mayor's Office of Cable Communications

Thomas M. Menino, *Mayor* ■ Mike Lynch, *Director*

For more information...

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