

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

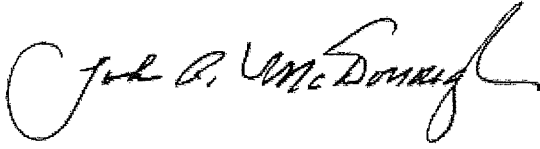


BSC 04DEC'13 PM 4:50

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members
Boston School Committee

FROM: John P. McDonough
Interim Superintendent 

DATE: December 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Update on the Superintendent's Recommendations for Facilities Actions

At the November 20th meeting, the School Committee approved the first phase of recommendations under our capital facility master plan, Grow With Boston. Among other outcomes, these recommendations expanded the successful Montessori program in East Boston, opened 6 new early education classrooms at the P.A. Shaw building, supported the creation of a new, three-strand dual language program and a K-12 inclusive pathway, and promoted predictability and consistency in school choices by creating additional K-8 schools.

We continue to develop final recommendations for several other facilities. Over the past few weeks, we have made progress by working closely with the impacted school communities; however, we are not satisfied that we have completed the level of engagement needed for any vote. Therefore, we anticipate bringing these recommendations for a vote at the December 18th meeting.

In the meantime, please find below brief updates on the progress of discussions with each school community:

- **Boston Adult Technical Academy (BATA):** We are identifying a new location for BATA, since its current location (the P.A. Shaw building) will hold elementary classrooms next year. We have identified a likely location for the school at 20 Church Street, currently occupied by the BPS Office of English Language Learners (OELL). In moving to Church Street, BATA would maintain its current grades and student population. We are in the process of identifying an appropriate workspace for

OELL staff to relocate temporarily before the opening of the new BPS offices in Dudley Square.

- **Dearborn:** In consultation with the Dearborn community, we have identified a space that could be used as swing space during the construction of a new, STEM-focused facility. However, we recently began exploring another option that we believe would offer a number of benefits for Dearborn students. We are seeking to learn more about this alternative prior to putting forward any recommendation for a School Committee vote.
- **Haley:** We are working closely with the Haley school community to finalize our recommendation for the Haley K-8 expansion. At this point, we believe that the best solution will be to erect modular classrooms for students in the middle grades at the Haley, and we are working to finalize a proposal for siting these modular classrooms.
- **Condon:** We will not be moving forward with a proposed K-8 expansion at the Condon for the 2014-15 school year. Instead, we will use SY14-15 as a planning year for a future K-8 expansion. A meeting with Condon families took place on Monday evening, December 2nd, to explain the rationale for this decision and to answer questions from parents and community members.
- **Another Course to College (ACC) and Boston Green Academy (BGA):** We continue to engage in conversations with the school leaders at both ACC and BGA. We are not prepared with a final recommendation at this time, but we anticipate reaching a consensus about a future course for both schools and presenting this recommendation for a vote at the December 18th meeting.

We look forward to sharing this update at tonight's meeting and answering any questions you may have about these facilities proposals. Thank you.