

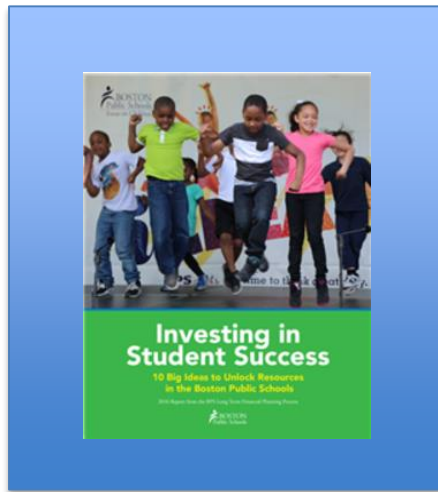


Update from the Budget Equity Workgroup

Presentation to School Committee
January 24, 2018

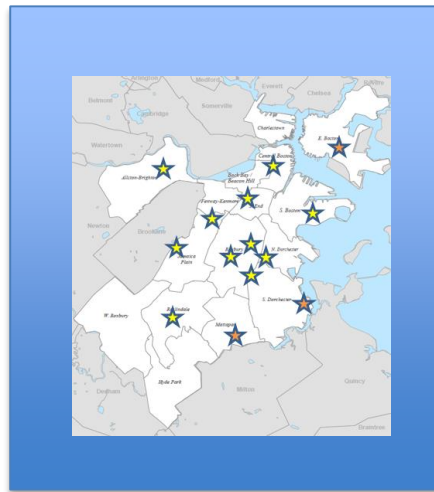
Reminder of the Long Term Financial Planning Process (LTFP)

We released a report with “10 Big Ideas” to free up resources...



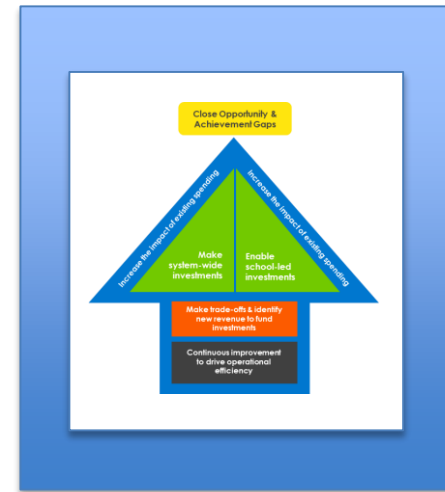
October 2016

...we solicited input across the community...



Winter 2016 / Spring 2017

...and are engaged with a Budget Equity workgroup to draft an investment framework.



Now

Where are we now?

We have successfully integrated the work of the **Opportunity and Achievement Gap Task Force** and long term financial planning to develop **guiding principles** for budget development

We have stabilized the BPS budget in order to focus on **multi-year investment priorities**

Budget Equity Working Group Members

Goal: to craft a set of equity-driven principles and investment priorities that will ultimately guide the creation of the Boston Public Schools budget

BPS
Staff

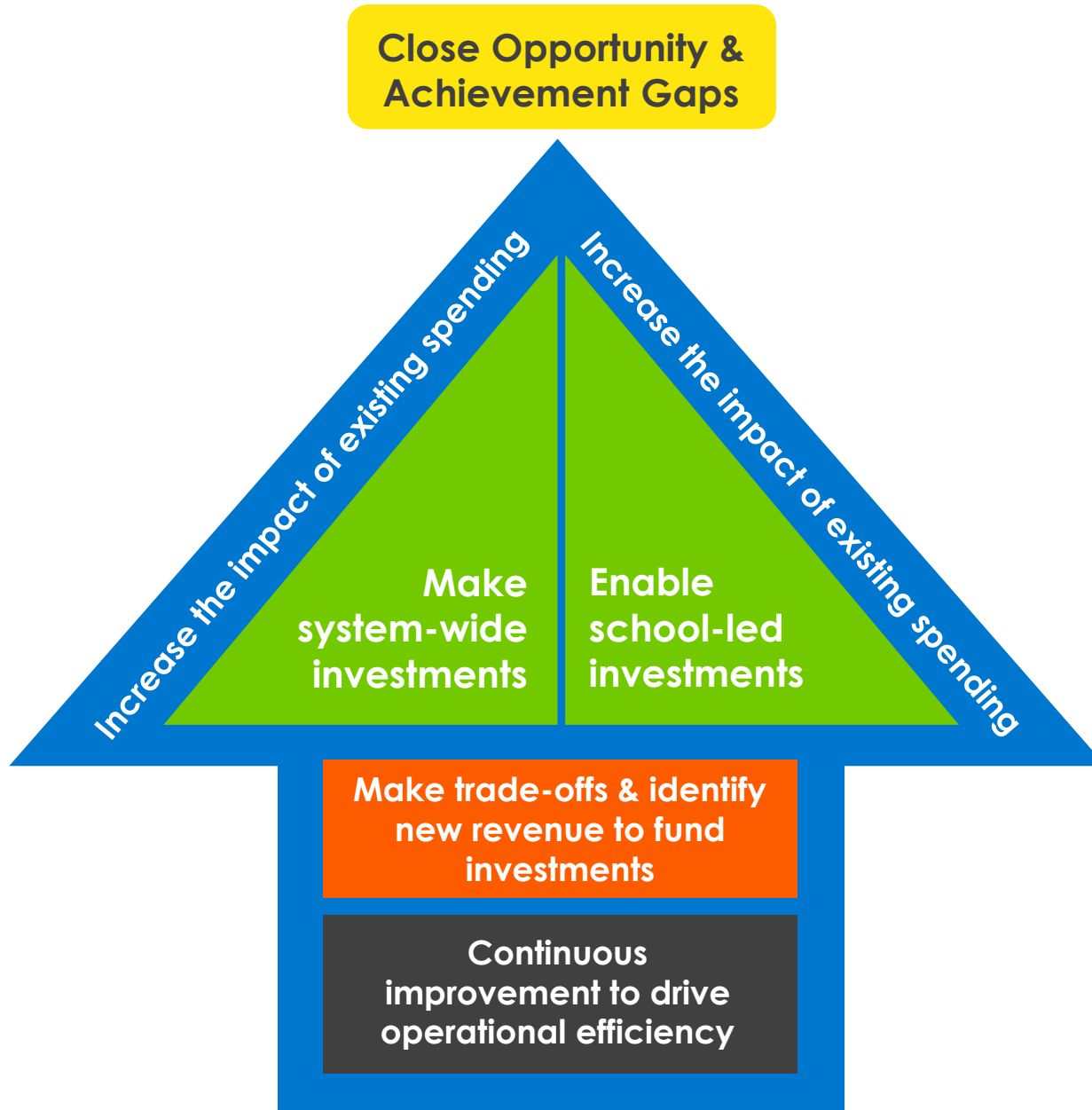
- **Colin Rose**, Assistant Superintendent for Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (BPS)
- **Eleanor Laurans**, Chief Financial Officer (BPS)
- **Erika Giampietro**, Managing Director of Long Term Planning (BPS)

OAG
Task
Force

- **Alexandra Oliver-Dávila**, Executive Director of Sociedad Latina and member of the BPS School Committee
- **Ayele Shakur**, Regional Executive Director of BUILD Greater Boston, former chair of the NAACP Education Committee, current co-chair of the Opportunity and Achievement Gap Task Force
- **Samuel Acevedo**, Executive Director of Boston Higher Education Resource Center, current co-chair of the Opportunity and Achievement Gap Task Force
- **Adrienne Level**, Vice-President of Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM)
- **Carline Pignato**, Principal of William E. Channing Elementary School
- **Jennifer Aponte**, Sheltered English Immersion Teacher at the David A. Ellis Elementary School
- **Sherman Zemler Wu**, BPS parent and School Site Council member at the Mather Elementary School

LTFP
Adv.
Comm.

- **Maria Dominguez Gray**, BPS parent and Executive Director of the Phillips Brooks House Association
- **Will Thomas**, Headmaster of Charlestown High School



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

CLOSE OPPORTUNITY & ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

Above all else, the principle of equity should guide funding decisions in the BPS – we have long acknowledged and will continue to embrace that equal is not equitable. We look head-on at the structures that drive inequity in our system and we actively strive to change them because we believe deeply that every student deserves access to high-quality opportunities. We must act urgently, and decisions must be guided by an unrelenting pursuit of excellence - innovating, assessing, and funding what works.

MAKE SYSTEM-WIDE INVESTMENTS

It is the role of the district to create the conditions that schools need to succeed. In recent years, we've made critical research-backed investments to do just that. These are investments that schools cannot pursue on their own (for instance those which require collective bargaining), those which are unaffordable to schools on their own, or those which benefit from economies of scale. We should continue these worthy investments, while focusing new funding on school-led investments.

ENABLE SCHOOL-LED INVESTMENTS

We believe in schools as the unit of change. School leaders with the right supports and systems will propel their schools and communities forward, providing the opportunities that every child needs and deserves. For this reason, our top-priority investment going forward is putting more dollars and resources in the hands of school communities serving the highest need students. We should pioneer in the way we assess student need, utilizing as many different sources and types of data as possible, and these next generation metrics should guide future resource allocation. We also believe that schools are most often in the best position to determine what specific services their students need and should be given discretion on how to deliver them.

MAKE TRADE-OFFS & IDENTIFY NEW REVENUE

We believe that in order to fund new investments, we must pursue increases in revenue at the federal, state, and private levels and work together to support associated legislation; and at the same time, we cannot depend on new revenue as the only path to make new investments. We must also explore trade-offs with current spending.

Close Opportunity & Achievement Gaps

Increase the impact of existing spending

Increase the impact of existing spending

Make system-wide investments

Enable school-led investments

Make trade-offs & identify new revenue to fund investments

Continuous improvement to drive operational efficiency

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

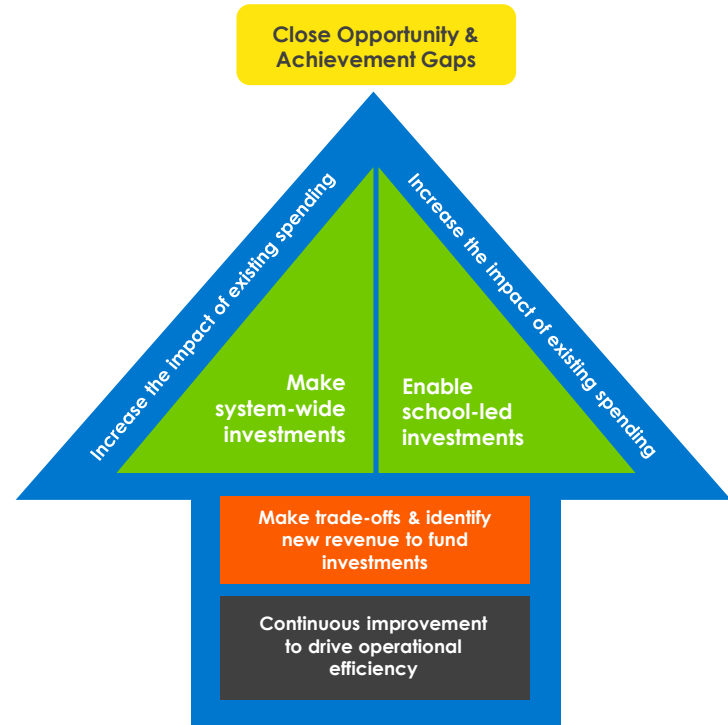
INCREASE THE IMPACT OF EXISTING SPENDING

We believe that increasing the impact of existing spending is as important as making new investments; in particular:

- Footprint: Changes are necessary so the footprint of our school buildings and classrooms becomes more coherent and strategic in order to better concentrate resources and enable the programmatic and instructional models every student deserves. We acknowledge that this may require reconfiguring schools to meet these needs. Any path forward will require community input through the BuildBPS process as well as equity analysis and careful planning to ensure affected students are provided better opportunities and transition support for any school changes.
- Human Capital: Offering strong staff compensation is critical for closing opportunity and achievement gaps and is the right thing to do for our dedicated educators. At the same time, we must partner with our unions to develop sustainable collective bargaining agreements that focus on and align with the best interests of students in their classrooms and schools.
- Special Education: We remain deeply committed to serving the unique needs of every student in BPS. In order to accomplish this, we should invest in early intervention. Additionally, changes are necessary to ensure that we both fully serve students who need special education supports while also making sure that students are not placed in special education or substantially separate settings who would be better served in other environments. This is not only an issue of effective spending but also a core equity issue.

CONTINUOUS OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

High quality operations and central office supports are part of well functioning schools. Our goal is to continuously drive efficiencies in Central Office, central services, and transportation, without compromising students' rights to access high-quality schools and city resources. These kinds of efficiencies are the first place we look to free up money to reinvest in schools and balance the budget.



What's next?

- February 7th BPS will propose the FY19 budget which will reflect the guiding principles presented tonight
- We are confident we will be able to present a strong FY19 proposal for your review, with investments in school budgets and a continued focus on closing opportunity and achievement gaps

