



School Quality Working Group Preliminary Recommendations

Presentation to School Committee
June 4, 2014

Creation of the SQWG

**External Advisory
Committee on
Student Assignment**
(March 2012 – Feb. 2013)

- Heard from more than 5,100 community members across the city, and one of the key messages was the importance of school quality
- Recommended a system of student assignment that includes four tiers of schools (with tiers determined by MCAS scores/growth)
- Also recommended creating a working group to develop a more comprehensive way to examine school quality and determine school tiers



**School Quality
Working Group**
(May 2013 – present)

Structure of the School Quality Working Group

Co-Chairs:

- **Meg Campbell**, School Committee member, Founder and Director of Codman Academy Charter Public School
- **Rahn Dorsey**, Evaluation Director, Barr Foundation

Community Engagement

Co-Chairs:

- Betty Francisco
- Anh Vu

Members:

- Michael Curry
- Geralde Gabeau
- Denise Gonsalves
- Marchelle Raynor

Metrics

Co-Chairs:

- Rahn Dorsey
- Marinell Rousmaniere

Members:

- Craig Lankhorst
- Meredith Liu
- Elaine Ng
- John St. Amand
- Josh Weiss

Policy & Implementation

Co-Chairs:

- Kathleen Colby
- Ron Ancrum

Members:

- Jill Harrison-Berg
- Myriam Ortiz
- Rhiannon Varmette

Purpose and Use of the Quality Framework

- The SQWG was charged with developing a Quality Framework that includes the core indicators of quality
- This Framework includes both measures of quality and features or attributes of a school that may play a role in school quality for some families and students
- The Framework has several purposes:
 - **To inform school choice** by giving families more information about schools and helping to determine the school choices available to students
 - **To ensure transparency around school quality** in order to promote greater public accountability
 - **To educate stakeholders** about the many aspects of school quality



The SQWG used a variety of sources to determine the characteristics of a quality school...

Boston Public Schools
The Seven Essentials of Whole-School Improvement

ESSENTIAL: STUDENT WORK & ASSESSMENT
Essential: Student Work & Assessment is the foundation of a quality education and professional development.

ESSENTIAL: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Essential: Professional Development is the foundation of a quality education and professional development.

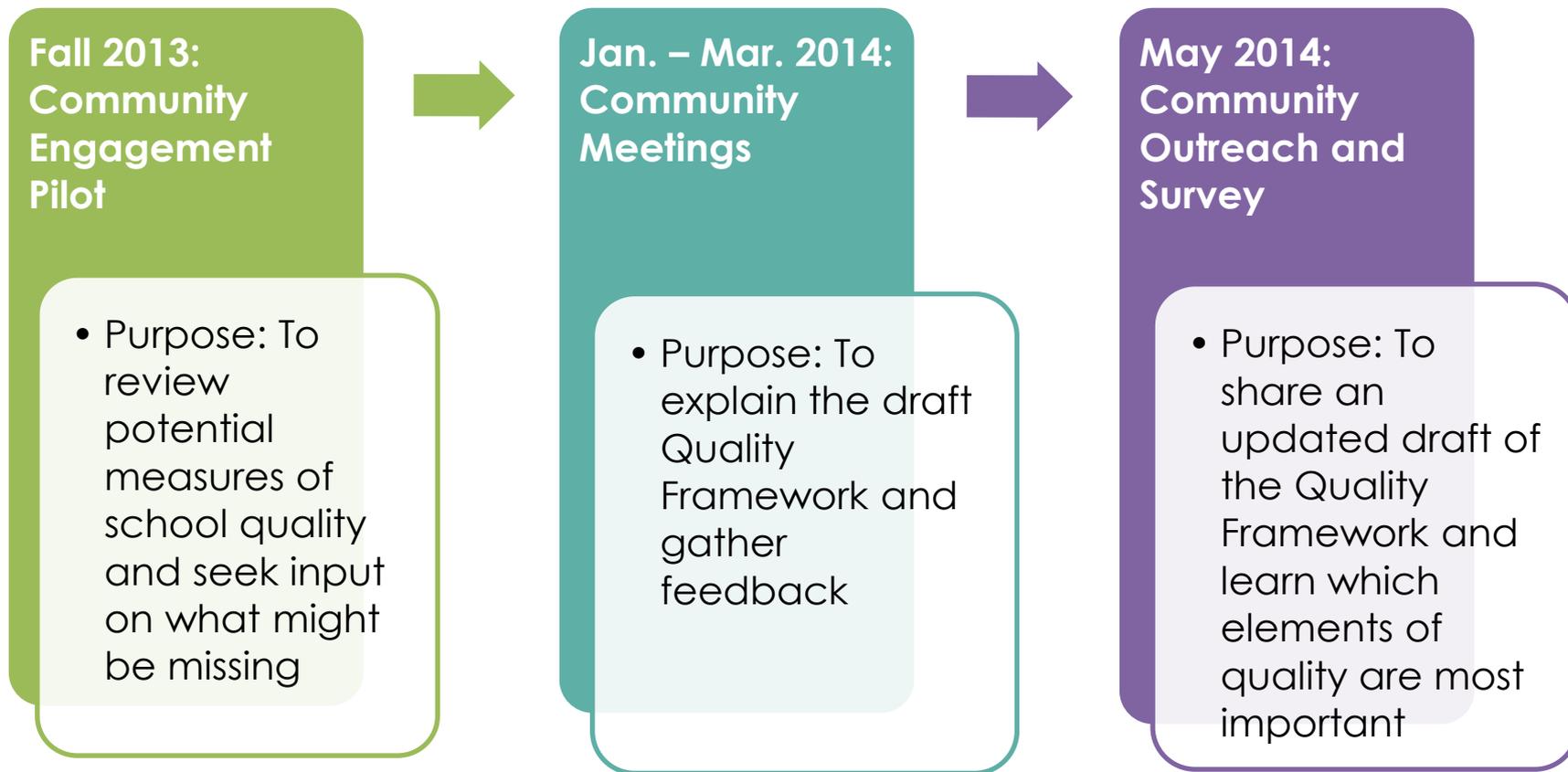
ESSENTIAL: SHARED LEADERSHIP
Essential: Shared Leadership is the foundation of a quality education and professional development.

ESSENTIAL: RESOURCES
Essential: Resources is the foundation of a quality education and professional development.

The B Closing the Gap
In every grade, every student will meet special educational needs.

- Recommendations from the External Advisory Committee
- Existing BPS policies and practices:
 - Policy on Eliminating the Achievement Gap
 - Seven Essentials of Whole-School Improvement
 - Five Core Elements of Family and Student Engagement
- Recommendations from the 2004-2005 Quality Work Group
- Work from BPS and other districts to create a school performance index

...including feedback from students, parents, and community members

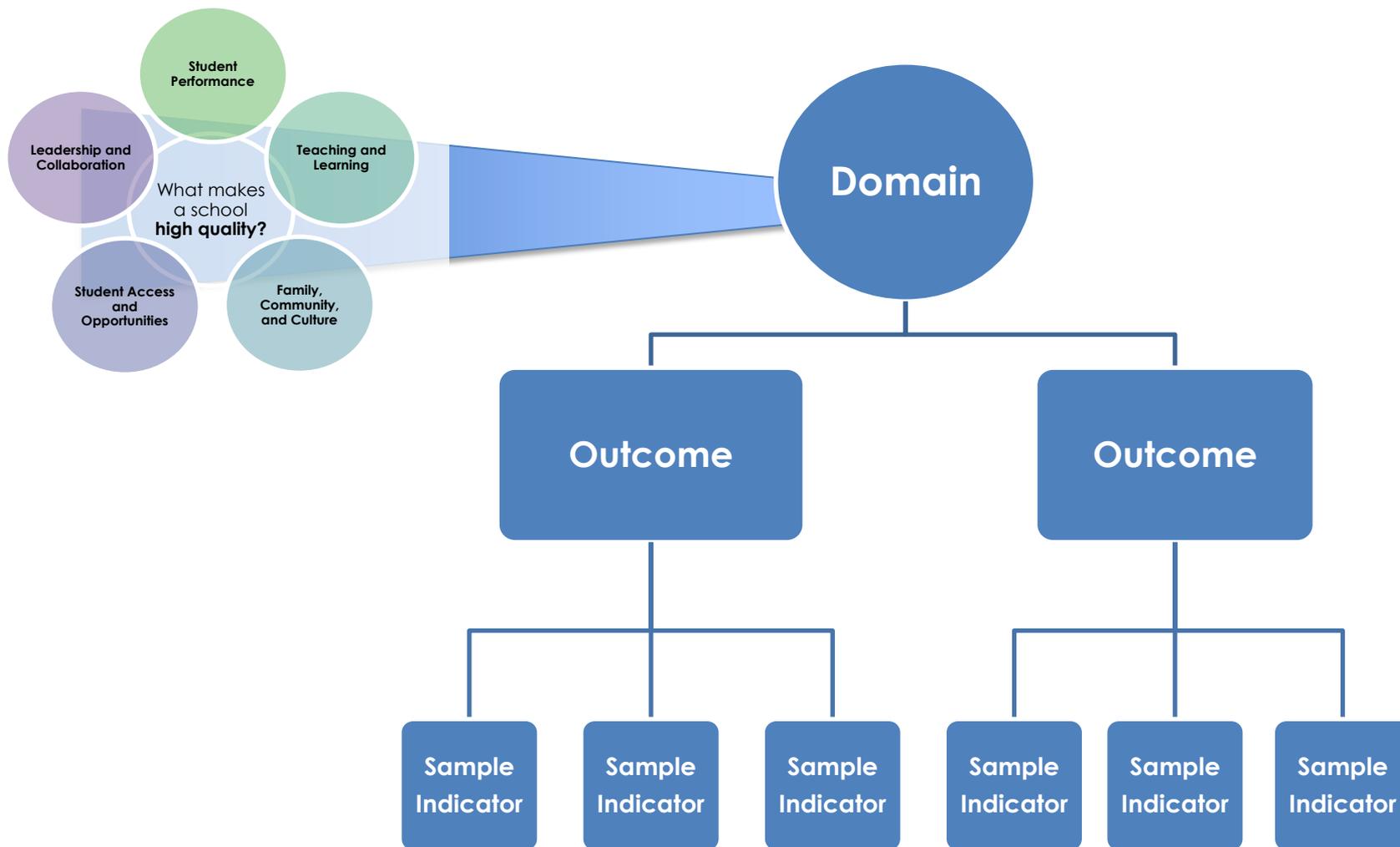


- **Several community groups were also active participants** in SQWG meetings throughout the year, particularly the NAACP and QUEST

Proposed School Quality Domains



Structure of School Quality Domains



Policy and implementation of the Quality Framework

- Each domain will be measured by a number of **metrics** (specific data points, such as graduation rate or climate survey results)
- We will use these metrics to **calculate an overall score** on the five domains, then assign each school to an assignment tier based on its score
- These **new assignment tiers** will replace the current MCAS tiers in the student assignment plan starting this fall
- We will **update the data each year** to show a school's "snapshot tier" (the tier that it would belong to given the most recent data)
- However, **assignment tiers will not change every year**; instead, we will reconvene a stakeholder group in 2016 to review the data and recommend how to update assignment tiers in the future
- See the Policy Statement for more detailed recommendations

Next steps

- June 18th:** School Committee votes on the current drafts of the framework and policy recommendations
- June/July:** BPS gathers data and analyzes the recommended metrics
- July:** SQWG discusses how to assign weights to different parts of the framework
- August:** SQWG discusses the cut-offs for each tier of schools and recommends a final School Quality Framework
- September:** School Quality Framework is presented to the School Committee for review and approval
- November:** School choice season begins using the new assignment tiers

