



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 5, 2017

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, School Committee chamber, Roxbury, Massachusetts. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael D. O'Neill; Vice-Chair Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael Loconto; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Regina Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Keondre McClay.

School Committee Member Absent: Jeri Robinson.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School – China – April 12-22, 2017

International Travel Request: Charlestown High School – France – May 31-June 5, 2017

International Travel Request: East Boston High School – Italy, France, and Spain – April 15-23, 2017

International Travel Request: Donald McKay K-8 School – Costa Rica – April 17-25, 2017

International Travel Request: John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science – England, France, and Italy – April 13-21, 2017

International Travel Request: Snowden International School at Copley - Ireland and United Kingdom – April 13-21, 2017

International Travel Request: Snowden International School at Copley – China – April 12-24, 2017

Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School: Memorandum of Understanding Minor Amendment

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2017 Massachusetts School Building Authority Core Program: Statement of Interest - Carter School

Interim Salary and Non-Personnel Payments on External Funds

BPS District Wellness Policy School Year 2014-15 Annual Report Power Point

Implementation of the BPS Wellness Policy Annual Report School Year 2015-2016 Executive Summary

Code of Student Conduct

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. O'Neill led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order.

MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the March 22, 2017 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening, everyone. I'm going to start by celebrating the life of Vice Chairperson Hardin Coleman's father, William T. Coleman Jr., who passed away on Friday at the age of 96. I have expressed my condolences directly with Dean Coleman.

I'd like to share some history on William T. Coleman Jr. and his extraordinary legacy as a civil rights pioneer. As an attorney, Mr. Coleman is best known for helping draft the landmark 1954 school desegregation case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, working alongside Thurgood Marshall, who became the first African-American justice in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Coleman worked on many civil rights cases during pivotal moments in our nation's history, serving as president and later as chairman of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund. Other legal cases that Mr. Coleman successfully litigated included *McLaughlin v. Florida* in 1964, in which the Supreme Court overturned a Florida law that barred interracial couples from living in the same home. Another notable case, in 1982, was *Bob Jones University v. United States*, which barred private schools from receiving federal funding if they engage in racial discrimination.

A progressive Republican, Mr. Coleman was an adviser to every president, Republican and Democrat, from Dwight D. Eisenhower to George W. Bush. In 1975, Mr. Coleman was appointed Transportation Secretary by President Gerald Ford, a position he held for about two

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years. In 1995, Mr. Coleman received the country's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from President Bill Clinton.

William T. Coleman Jr. is an inspiration to us all. We have all learned from him, and will continue to learn from his legacy. Again, my deepest condolences to Dean Coleman and his entire family.

BPS is guided by three values: equity, coherence and innovation. As the leadership of Boston Public Schools, we are striving to do what has never been done in an urban school system.... To create the conditions for success so the opportunity and achievement gaps disappear for all students. These gaps are most often measured by standardized tests which do not always capture the entirety of a student's learning or educational experience. Even so, we are working to close these gaps. As the testing season is now underway, I'd like to update the School Committee on MCAS testing.

Testing began on Monday for grades 3 through 8 in ELA and Math for paper- and computer-based testing, which will go through May 3rd. On Tuesday, testing began for schools using paper-based and online testing, and that will run through May 26th. Starting today and lasting until May 26th, 5th and 8th grade science testing will take place for all paper-based schools. Grade 10 math testing will take place on May 16th and May 17th. Grade 10 science testing will occur on June 5th and June 6th. The Office of Data and Accountability (ODA) and the Office of Instructional and Information Technology (OIIT) are working together closely to support schools who are administering MCAS 2.0 (both online and paper based).

Let me give an example of how one dedicated school leader is going to new heights to get his students excited about MCAS testing. Craig Martin, principal of the Perkins Elementary School, dressed up as a Power Ranger to motivate his students for MCAS testing. There are many other examples of teachers and principals going to incredible lengths on social media.

The Office of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness held its second annual Social Emotional Learning Forum last Tuesday at The Lantana function hall in Randolph. We had attendees from various departments at BPS, as well as several partners, including SEL4MA, Ivy Child, the PEAR Institute, and the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. The keynote speaker was George T. Mumford, the president of Ivy Child International, and a mindfulness expert who worked with NBA coach Phil Jackson to teach mindfulness techniques to players on the Los Angeles Lakers, Chicago Bulls, and New York Knicks. The breakout sessions were on topics such as trauma sensitive schools, supporting SEL skills in LGBTQ students, the power of play, using multiculturalism to support SEL, and unlocking children's potential through mindfulness.

The Boston Debate League just celebrated the end of another successful debate season. Tonight, I'd like to recognize the students of the McCormack Middle School, who are here with us tonight, who continue to be part of one of the strongest middle school debate teams in the country. McCormack student Genesis Valdez in particular gave an inspiring speech at the recent End of Year Awards Ceremony about the numerous benefits of debate. Please join us in

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congratulating the McCormack on being the team with the best win/loss record of the Boston Debate League tournament season.

Yesterday, I was pleased to participate in the announcement of the Boston Educators Collaborative with the Boston Compact and Teach Plus in an event at the Mission Grammar School. I was honored to join Mayor Walsh; Kathy Mears, Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Sharon Varon, Chair of the Boston Charter Alliance; Nathan Lewallen, STEM teacher from the Mary Lyon K-8 School; and Paul Toner, Executive Director of Teach Plus, in announcing this groundbreaking new learning collaborative, in which Boston Public Schools, charter schools, and Catholic schools in Boston work together to support best teaching practices and professional development across the city.

Through the Collaborative, selected teachers will lead five-week, 15-hour university courses on key topics that ensure instruction reaches all learners, provides rigorous curricula and is culturally proficient. These courses will help foster the collaboration across all three sectors – district, charter and Catholic schools – and bring the skills back to the students in classrooms across the city.

I'm excited that this new collaboration will bring educators together from across the city. We can learn from one another and build on each other's strengths. Collaboration of best practices is a proven way to improve strategies that increase academic rigor and narrow opportunity and achievement gaps for all of our students. I'd like to thank the Boston Compact for continuing to bring everyone to the table on these efforts.

On Saturday, a wide range of computer science experts from companies such as Microsoft, Google, and FedEx, Uber, and premier academic institutions including Harvard, Boston University, MIT, and Northeastern, participated in the first-ever BPS Transportation Challenge at District Hall in the Seaport District.

Essentially, BPS is crowd-sourcing a set of highly complex data related to our school bus transportation system, and trying to find efficiencies. These efficiencies could result in potential cost savings for the district, and could provide more cohesive and equitable school day start- and end-times.

We kicked off the event with a great panel discussion with industry and BPS leaders, including Committee member Regina Robinson; and had really productive break-out sessions. The Challenge will take place over the next three months, and I'm really excited to see what kinds of innovative ideas will help the district in the near future.

I want to take an opportunity to thank the East Boston community for coming out to our BuildBPS Town Hall-style event in English and Spanish at the East Boston branch of the Boston Public Library last Thursday. I was pleased to see so many of our families from East Boston participate in dialogue and ask some really pointed questions about our educational and facilities vision for the next 10 years and beyond. We also had some wonderful performances from the Verónica Robles Cultural Center. It's energizing to see so many families engaged around the

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future of BPS, and I look forward to more opportunities to speak about Build BPS at our upcoming community forums all around the city.

Just in time for Opening Day, last Monday the Boston Red Sox distributed more than 40,000 Red Sox baseball caps to students and staff in 104 schools serving grades K-8. We have some nice photos and videos from the public event at the West Zone Early Learning Center and Hennigan K-8 School on our website, BostonPublicSchools.org. I joined Mayor Walsh along with Red Sox President Sam Kennedy, Red Sox Foundation Board Member Linda Henry, JetBlue Executive Vice President Martin St. George, and others for the fun event celebrating our favorite baseball team. Thank you to the Red Sox and JetBlue for creating an exciting day for our students.

On Monday, students from the O'Bryant School for Math and Science and the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers met U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and other elected officials at a ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Science and Engineering Building on the campus of Northeastern University. Northeastern invited these students specifically because they are the future stars of the STEM fields.

Thank you to Boston Celtics player Gerald Green, who visited the Winship Elementary School in Brighton to encourage literacy in our youngest students through the team's Read to Achieve program. Gerald read *Miss Moore Thought Otherwise* by Jan Pinborough, and, to the excitement of students, generously donated 50 copies of the book and 70 tickets to an upcoming Celtics game! We thank the Celtics for using this opportunity to make reading fun and exciting for our students.

I'd also like to thank another community leader for helping to emphasize literacy skills for our students. Boston Police Commissioner William Evans read to students last Friday at the Murphy K-8 School in Dorchester. We appreciate Commissioner Evans' strong support for the Boston Public Schools, and for helping us emphasize literacy and building relationships with members of the community.

Ms. Regina Robinson extended her condolences to Dr. Coleman on the passing of his father. She also lauded students from the McCormack Middle School who are part of the Boston Debate League. Ms. Robinson, who served as a moderator at the BPS Transportation Challenge on April 1st, thanked everyone at BPS who organized the event.

The School Committee approved the Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Street, professor, Regis College testified regarding later school start times for middle and high school students.

Megan Wolf, member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), testified regarding an equity analysis of the home base student assignment plan and presented the Committee with a cake.

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John Mudd, advocate, testified regarding the home base student assignment plan.

Karen Oil, member, QUEST, testified regarding the home base student assignment plan relating to East Boston.

Kevin Murray, member, QUEST, testified regarding the home base student assignment plan.

Stephanie Bode Ward, BPS parent, testified regarding the home base student assignment plan.

Nora McManus Vincent, parent, Bates Elementary School, and member of QUEST, testified regarding the home base student assignment plan.

Elica Hector-Varrs, parent, Mattahunt Elementary School, testified regarding student assignment placements for Mattahunt Elementary School students.

Meghan Doran, BPS parent and professor, UMass Boston, testified regarding the home base student assignment plan.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. O'Neill asked about safety protocols for student international travel. Brittany Wheaton Calloway, director of Global Education, explained that BPS follows US State Department travel warnings and partners with On Call International to review trip itineraries. Ms. Wheaton Calloway added that she is on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to China from April 12-22, 2017.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from Charlestown High School to travel to France from May 31-June 5, 2017.

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Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from the Snowden International School at Copley to travel to China from April 12-24, 2017.

Approved – By roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a minor amendment to the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School’s Memorandum of Understanding.

REPORT AND ACTION ITEM

2017 Massachusetts School Building Authority Core Program: Statement of Interest - Carter School – Carleton Jones, executive director of BPS Capital and Facilities Management, Brian McLaughlin, chief of staff with the City’s Public Facilities Department, and Mark O’Connor, principal of the William E. Carter School, presented a statement of interest for the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)’s Core Program for the Carter School. The Carter School currently serves approximately 25 students with multiple physical challenges in its one-story facility on Northampton Street. The district is seeking MSBA support to renovate the facility to better meet the needs of its students, including the addition of an aquatic therapy pool. A renovated facility could potentially serve up to 60 students.

Committee members asked clarifying questions about the proposal and MSBA reimbursements, all of which were answered by the presenters.

Approved – By roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a 2017 Massachusetts School Building Authority Core Program Statement of Interest for the William E. Carter School.

REPORTS

Interim Salary and Non-Personnel Payments on External Funds – Director of Federal and State Grants Anu Jayanth presented the Superintendent’s request for the Committee to approve an interim salary payment order for personnel paid from external funds, as well as encumbrances for non-personnel. These grants are projected to be awarded for FY18 and will be submitted for approval at future School Committee meetings, as they are awarded. This order has been requested annually at this time of year due to the delay in receiving external fund award letters and finalized budgets from the various funding sources.

Dr. Uriarte asked for an example of a grant that would be considered to be of little or no risk. Ms. Jayanth said that Title I funding would be one such example. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the request on April 26th.

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BPS District Wellness Policy School Year 2014-15 Annual Report – Assistant Superintendent of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness Amalio Nieves, and Executive Director of Health and Wellness Jill Carter, presented the district’s annual report on the district’s Wellness Policy.

The presenters discussed the district’s progress on the implementation of the wellness policy from school years 2013-14 to 2015-16, along with bright spots and challenges. The district offers a cross-section of physical wellness, social wellness, and emotional wellness strategies to help students become healthy individuals in multiple facets of their lives.

BPS aims to be one of the healthiest school districts in the country by actively promoting the social, emotional and physical wellness of all students to support both their healthy development and readiness to learn.

Mr. McClay encouraged student representation on the District Wellness Council and offered to help engage students in the work.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged the district to use more accurate and effective measurements to track cultural proficiency and bullying. She suggested that district leaders learn from the new trauma informed facility at Codman Academy Charter Public School.

Mr. Loconto emphasized the importance of staff wellness.

Dr. Uriarte and Dr. Coleman encouraged the district to use better metrics that are less process oriented, such as measuring language capacity and using more school-based data.

Mr. O’Neill said that the physical, mental, and emotional health of students and staff are critical. He encouraged the district to partner with teaching hospitals and nursing schools to provide additional support for students.

Code of Student Conduct – Assistant Superintendent of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness Amalio Nieves, Operational Superintendent Albert Taylor Jr. and Executive Director of Data and Accountability Nicole Wagner Lam provided an update the district’s implementation of the Code of Conduct which has helped lower suspension rates and provide appropriate supports for students over the past four years.

When students are suspended, they are losing opportunities for learning. Suspensions also contribute to exclusion of students from their usual educational setting. Exclusionary practices contribute to decreased academic achievement and involvement in juvenile justice.

Last year, BPS convened local and national leaders to learn from each other and to analyze BPS’s data. This year, Boston will host the Aspen Institute’s Opportunity Youth and Collective Impact Convening the week of May 22. The headline to this presentation is that the data show that BPS suspension rates have been declining across all student subgroups since the 2012-2013 school year. Teachers and staff across multiple departments are placing a major focus on individualized supports and positive behavioral interventions.

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Unfortunately, Black and Latino students, as well as students with disabilities, continue to be suspended at higher rates than their White and Asian peers. The district recognize that it has more work to do in terms of prevention and intervention with greater focus on the most marginalized youth. This work must be a collaborative effort between the central office and schools. The district is grateful to the Code of Conduct Advisory Council (COCAC) for continuing to partner with BPS to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

Karla Gandiaga, principal of the Sarah Greenwood K-8 described how she implemented new practices that lowered the school's suspension rate from 14% to 4 % in just one year.

Mildred Avenue K-8 School principal Andrew Rollins discussed how he reduced disciplinary problems by making scheduling changes, reduced transitions, adding more structure.

Mary Lyons High School Headmaster Jean-Dominique Anoh described the restorative justice practices that he has implemented at the school, with a focus on mindfulness and the creation of de-escalation spaces.

Boston Student Advisory Council member Hibo Moallim talked about BSAC's Student Rights app, and said that BSAC is currently reviewing the district's cell phone policy.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila emphasized that the district's goal should be a zero suspension rate. She also encouraged the district to track chronic absenteeism and other valuable data points.

Dr. Uriate said that she is glad to see schools examining their practices.

Dr. Coleman encouraged the district to think about gender, noting that males are more likely to be suspended than females. He expressed concern about suspensions in transition years and asked the district to reflect on how it manages transitions.

Mr. O'Neill asked Headmaster Anoh about the dynamic of students attending school together from grades K-12. Mr. Anoh said that students at the Mary Lyon have strong disability awareness. He also underscored that partial day suspensions are not an acceptable practice.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O'Neill thanked the organizers of the BPS Arts Exhibit in the lobby of the Bolling Building and welcomed the relocation of a student-crafted mosaic from the lobby of Boston City Hall to its new home opposite the School Committee chamber. He also requested that the Committee receive an update on the Mattahunt School in May.

School Committee Meeting
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
School Committee Chamber

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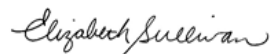
The Superintendent announced that Dr. Tanya Freeman-Wisdom has been appointed the permanent headmaster of the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, while Rachel Skerritt has been appointed permanent headmaster of Boston Latin School.

Dr. Uriarte requested that the Committee receive a formal analysis of the home base student assignment system.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 10:04 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary