

November 28, 2014

The Boston School Committee
c/o Liz Sullivan
26 Court Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Boston School Committee,

As the recently appointed members of the Boston Educational Development Foundation (BEDF) Board of Directors, we would like to note some of the changes that have been made since 2012 to strengthen accountability and spending controls in the foundation that provides critical support to the students of the Boston Public Schools.

The issues raised by the Boston Finance Commission and reported November 18 in the *Globe* covered a period from 2009-2012. In 2012, the Boston Public Schools proactively took an important step that shut down the process of directing revenue raised by City assets, such as renting parking spaces, into the fund. This was the right thing to do. Now, these dollars are properly placed into public accounts that follow the same standards and spending protocols as the regular city budget.

We did not stop there. We, the recently appointed members of the BEDF Board, serve as individuals: a BPS parent, a financial services expert, a seasoned lawyer, a philanthropist, Boston residents, and taxpayers; we do not work for the District and, when we were asked to join the BEDF board, we arrived determined to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in all aspects of the operation. This is what we have done. We have revised our bylaws to expand the number of independent voices on the board. We have brought on new BEDF staff and a new director, all while expanding our external accounting support and while strengthening our internal controls and processes.

Public education foundations are not unique to the City of Boston; most all urban districts and many suburban districts rely on the fundraising efforts of foundations to increase opportunities for students and families. Many programs, such as after-school opportunities, scholarships, arts, athletics, academic coaching and field trips, would not be possible without them. Equally important as the foundation itself is the trust our community places in us. We have taken many steps to ensure this trust is always at the very center of all we do.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Boston Educational Development Foundation, Inc.