



## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE HYBRID BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 17, 2024

The Boston School Committee held a hybrid meeting on June 17, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, School Committee Chamber, Roxbury, Massachusetts. The meeting was also live-streamed on Boston City TV and Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee), email [lparvex@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:lparvex@bostonpublicschools.org), or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

### ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Jeri Robinson; Vice Chairperson Michael D. O'Neill; Student Representative Diego Mehta. Stephen Alkins; Chantal Lima Barbosa; and Quoc Tran.

School Committee Member Absent: Brandon Cardet-Hernandez; Rafaela Polanco Garcia

### DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

#### [Agenda](#)

Meeting Minutes: [June 5, 2024](#)

[Grants for Approval Totaling \\$25,038,880](#)

[Interim Salary and Non-Personnel Payments on External Funds](#)

[Memo Renaming Burke Proposal](#)

[Equity Impact Statement Burke Proposal](#)

[PowerPoint Renaming Burke Proposal](#)

[Memo 2024 School Proposals](#)

[Updated Equity Impact Statement Frederic Lilla Middle School and West Zone ELC](#)

[BPS Report on Long-Term Facilities Plan Data Framework](#)

[BPS School Proposals 2024](#)

[PowerPoint Capital Planning Presentation](#)

[BSAC Student Representative's Report](#)

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jeri Robinson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Robinson said that tonight's meeting was being live-streamed on Boston City TV and Zoom. It will be rebroadcast and the video will be posted at [bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee) and on YouTube. She announced that simultaneous interpretation services were available virtually in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cabo Verdean, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and American Sign Language (ASL). Translated meeting documents were posted at [bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee) prior to the start of the meeting.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez and Ms. Polanco Garcia were absent. Dr. Alkin and Ms. Lima Barbosa arrived after the beginning of business. All other members were present.

## PRESENTATION OF CITATIONS: BOSTON STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair Robinson presented citations to the following Boston Public Schools (BPS) graduating seniors who are ending their terms as student leaders with the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC):

- Ludgie Agela, New Mission High School
- Shahed Ananzeh, Boston International Newcomers Academy
- Jarai Barrie, Boston Latin Academy
- Zinia James, TechBoston Academy
- Diego Mehta, Boston Arts Academy
- Kayli Reinoso, Boston Latin Academy

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

**Approved** – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the June 5, 2024 meeting.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As prepared for delivery:

Thank you, Chair Robinson. Good evening. I would like to begin tonight with exciting news from BPS Athletics because yesterday was an historic afternoon. English High School Eagles won the MIAA Division 5 State Baseball Tournament 7 to 1 over Georgetown at Polar Park in Worcester. This is the first time that the City League Champions in baseball also won a state title since 1971! Congratulations to the team on this incredible achievement - we are so proud of you!

As school year 2023 - 2024 comes to a close on Friday, June 21st, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about our progress this year and review some of our accomplishments and highlights from the past year. We are continuing to build the academic foundation that will support the district's major shifts into the next year:

- Our district wide implementation of Inclusive Education;
- An increase in bilingual education programs;
- Growing our early college and career pathways;
- And continuing the expansion of the Hub Schools model.

We are making our vision for Inclusive Education a reality by implementing inclusive classrooms across our schools for our students in K0, K1, and K2 Grades 7 and 9, and our schools will continue to engage in our inclusion planning process next year. BPS will add five new DESE- approved programs dedicated to serve multilingual learners which include three newcomer programs (Brighton, East Boston and Charlestown high schools). We will continue to make investments to ensure that all students have access to native language instruction in the classroom.

BPS continues expanding our early college and career pathways programming to help students earn the college credits they need to graduate and pursue their dreams:

- Bunker Hill Community College is expanding its partnership with Charlestown High School;
- Roxbury Community College is establishing a new partnership with Boston International Newcomers Academy (BINcA), the Margarita Muñiz Academy, and English High School to expand access to college coursework for our multilingual learners;
- And Mass-General Brigham is expanding its partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Academy to help create more pathways for our students to join the healthcare profession.

Currently, we have 14 HUB schools and we're expanding. I am proud of the progress we have made on expanding this model including our transformative work at the newly renamed Ruth Batson Academy - our first University-Assisted Community Hub School in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Boston. Ruth Batson students will have unprecedented access to UMass Boston coursework and opportunities and will partner with talented educators from both institutions and help develop UMass Boston graduate students into future teachers and counselors. This partnership accompanies Ruth Batson Academy's planned renovations to create a state-of-the-art high school campus embedded in the Columbia Point community. Students who are interested in becoming teachers will also be eligible for a new scholarship to UMass Boston. Senior Johanna Pena received the inaugural Robert and Ruth Endowed Scholarship this year, which will ensure she receives ongoing support and graduates debt-free.

More than 80 percent of our schools are using high quality instructional materials in at least one subject; As you heard in our June 5th presentation, we have begun to see an increase in our reading and writing outcomes for students who are using those materials.

We have made continued progress with our yellow bus transportation service for Boston students: We started the year fully staffed with bus drivers and with nearly 200 more bus

monitors than the prior year. We have continued hiring and will end this school year fully staffed with both drivers and monitors, with a strong hiring and training pipeline to maintain full staffing going forward. We have made consistent progress in improving on-time performance, reducing the number of uncovered trips, and reducing missing data. For the SY23-24 school year, 90 percent of scheduled morning buses have arrived on time and 98 percent have arrived within 15 minutes of the scheduled time, before accounting for any trips missing data.

### *Food Service*

- Served more than 8 million meals this year
- Cooking and offering daily salad bars at 101 schools
- Launched halal and kosher meals at all 47 sites where the community requested them.
- Focused on local procurement, for example, for the first time all 975,000 apples served came from New England

We established the BPS Office of Emergency Management. The five-member team is led by director Christian Tre' Woodson and responds to critical events in the BPS and works to keep our schools safe and welcoming.

On the Community Engagement front, our Community Engagement Advisory Collective - or CEAC - saw its biggest growth in membership since its inception with more than **60 organizations** represented and attending bimonthly meetings led by our Community Engagement Team. I also met with dozens of community groups through my community engagement tour this past year. I was able to connect with leaders and representatives of the district's diverse communities to discuss how we can work together to support our students. Community Engagement also includes our internal engagement tour. We want to make sure we listen to the many leaders within our organization leading critical work to support our schools and our students. We will continue the Community Engagement tours next year as well and I look forward to listening to community members, students, and our teams.

Overall we have seen a decrease in chronic absenteeism, but we know there is more to do. That is why earlier this spring we launched the new "WIN THE DAY" campaign pilot aimed at significantly improving student attendance rates across 10 schools in region 8. The team reached more than 800 students in Region 8 through the campaign and drew them back to school with creative strategies like:

- Home visits, transportation support and credit recovery;
- Before school intramural sports including basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer which promotes both exercise and friendship;
- And community incentives like visits to the nail and hair salon and local pizza shops.

We chose Region 8 due to its high rate of chronic absenteeism and the diversity of schools and will expand the campaign across other regions next year. This campaign helps our schools think creatively about how to make students feel welcomed and supported and hope to learn from the pilot to scale out the support for 2024-2025.

We hosted 13 recruitment fairs specifically engaging diverse professionals with over 1100 candidates attending expressing interest in the Boston Public Schools. The Bilingual

Educator-Accelerated Community to Teacher program graduated 24 diverse community members who are provisionally licensed and SEI endorsed to be hired into the BPS. There are 67 applications for the SY24-25 program.

The BPS Teaching Fellowship graduated 36 first-year educators who are now initially licensed in moderate disabilities and/or ESL so they may be retained in the district. There are 55 applications for the SY24-25 program And over 50 free MTEL prep courses were held enrolling over 1,000 employees with a 74% pass rate and provided over 300 exam vouchers. We will continue to provide during the summer for staff who need support passing the teachers exams.

We continue to see strong graduation rates for our 4-year cohort - 80.5 percent - especially since the state reinstated the MCAS requirement. And this year BPS had a record number - 350 students - attend at least one Historically Black College or University tour.

In addition to all this there were so many moments of joy for our students:

- We were visited by Gronk, Jayson Tatum, and Wally and Tessie - at the annual Red Sox hat give-away;
- Our students won five state championships in athletics, played at the Boston Garden and threw a first pitch at Fenway Park and were recognized with a celebration parade to City Hall;
- They displayed their incredible art work and talents around the city and through visual arts and musical performances including a show-stopping homage to icon Tina Turner;
- They visited several countries including Costa Rica, Montreal, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Japan, Dominican Republic and as well as other states including Washington DC;
- They organized and spoke out about the issues facing our world and our city while supporting one another;
- They explored STEM and STEAM competed in the citywide competitions;
- This school year, we welcomed 2,587 students from our migrant families to our city, and to our schools;
- And one of our Burke High School students even flew an airplane for the first time - proving the sky really is the limit for BPS!

As we look toward next school year and continue to plan, I am excited about the work ahead. Our mission is grounded in our vision of ensuring that every student in every school has access to a high-quality education.

Thank you to Mayor Wu and her team, the members of the Boston City Council, and the School Committee for working with us this year. I also want to thank our teachers and school and district staff, families, students and numerous community partners for their support this year and their ongoing generosity to BPS students. We will need everyone's ongoing collaboration to do the work that lies ahead. I hope that everyone finds time this summer to relax, rest and recharge!

I would like to provide you with an update on our planning for the summer. As you know, we will begin our summer programming on Monday, July 8th. We are offering more than 125 Summer Learning Academies, Course Completion and High School Credit Recovery Programs across 67 BPS facilities. As of June 11th, we have enrolled more than 3,000 students for Summer Learning Academies and more than 1,800 students in credit recovery courses. Thank you to Chief Sanchez for leading the charge. We are focusing our outreach to families in multiple languages and using multiple media outlets through multiple modalities.

Regarding hiring, we have 730 5th quarter positions across our Summer Learning Academies and High School Credit Recovery Programs. We've submitted more than nearly 80 percent of summer 5th quarter staffing for hire including:

- 294 teachers
- 78 site coordinators
- 94 paraeducators
- 8 Community Field Coordinators
- 22nurses
- 3 Operational Leaders

More than 10,000 youth have applied to jobs with City departments and nonprofit organizations, about half of them are BPS students.

The District English Learners Advisory Committee's Connect Conference 2024 was held last week here at the Bolling Building. The BPS Office of Multilingual and Multicultural Education - or OMME - was honored to welcome keynote speaker Montserrat Garibay, US Department of Education Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director of the Office of Language Acquisition. Assistant Deputy Secretary Garibay delivered an inspiring message to our multilingual learner families, who gathered in-person for the first time post-pandemic. She spoke about the critical importance of establishing meaningful partnerships between our schools and our families - something we strive to do here at BPS every day. She also learned about our work to support our multilingual learners and dual language, while visiting the Otis and Umana schools in East Boston, where she saw some of the incredible work our school leaders, teachers, students and families are doing to nurture and elevate the learning experience of our multilingual learners. Many thanks to the Umana and Otis communities for hosting Garibay's visits. I also want to thank member Polanco Garcia for serving as a panelist at the event.

On June 6th, BPS hosted its annual Spring Fling - a special, inclusive prom hosted by the office of Specialized Services. Students spent the evening dancing, listening to music and having fun together at Florian Hall in Dorchester. It was a joyful night!

Students at the Ellis Elementary School this week marked the final session of the Youth Cycling Program this school year. Students received certificates of completion and showed off their bicycle skills. The Youth Cycling Program brings bikes, helmets, instructors, and an active curriculum to schools across the district. Instructors spend two weeks helping students from grades K2 through eight learn bicycle safety through lessons, practice, and having fun.

Students from the Boston Arts Academy participated in Boston's 2024 Pride Parade on Sunday, June 9th. The students constructed the float during the school's intermission period learning both technical skills and teamwork, and created tie-dye t-shirts. I'd also like to note that Carina

Badalamenti from our Performance Management and Evaluation team and co-leader of our LGBTQ Affinity Group also volunteered with Boston Pride for the People. Thank you for representing BPS at this year's Pride!

As you know, it is graduation season at BPS. Last week, I had the honor of attending high school graduations at three BPS high schools - Boston Arts Academy, Boston Green Academy and Excel High School. It's always a thrill for me to gather with teachers, staff, families and students to celebrate our students' hard work and achievements. This year I had the pleasure of watching School Committee member Diego Mehta cross the stage. Congratulations, Diego on your graduation and all of your accomplishments this year. We know you will do great things at Northeastern University and beyond. We are so proud of you and we will miss you! Later tonight, we will hear from Diego in his report on the Boston Student Advisory Council's work this year.

This year's graduates were freshmen when the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted their education. As they made their way through high school, they learned resilience, tenacity and to expect the unexpected. We are celebrating that perseverance and determination as each student crosses the stage and moves their tassel from one side of their mortar board to the other. I speak for the entire district when I say we are so proud of these students! Congratulations, Diego, the BSAC graduates, and to the entire class of 2024!

In preparation of the merger of the Sumner and Philbrick schools, the family liaisons pictured here - Diana Fortin, Renel Jean and Erin O'Brien - are leading some creative and fun engagement activities. Students in grades one through six from each of the schools began writing monthly letters to each other since January. The liaisons planned two Pen Pal Meet-Ups last week at nearby Healey Park, which included games and blowing bubbles. This innovative relationship-building effort will continue throughout next year.

And that is my Superintendent's Report. Thank you, Chair.

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Mr. O'Neill asked about schools using pre-packaged meals and their improvement plans. The Superintendent mentioned 14 schools still using them and highlighted a pilot program by School Services to centrally cook and distribute hot meals to address kitchen facility shortages.

Mr. O'Neill inquired about the increased summer program enrollment and asked about the district's strategy to manage it. He also asked about recent changes in enrollment for the Exam School Initiative (ESI) and what actions are being taken in response. The Superintendent noted that this year the ESI has experienced a surge in demand. She mentioned that plans are underway to initially expand by 100 seats to manage the increased interest, with efforts focused on addressing staffing, space, and funding challenges as they arise.

Mr. O'Neill said that he enjoyed seeing graduation photos, celebrating six students receiving Green Garner Scholarships, and participating in graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Tran asked about schools consistently arriving within 15 minutes of their scheduled time and inquired about routes where some schools are occasionally late. The Superintendent explained that the transportation team has used data to identify late routes. They've proposed tier changes,

including adjusting school start times by 5 to 10 minutes next year to address these delays, representing a significant portion of affected routes. Daniel Rosengard, Executive Director of Transportation, noted that a major challenge revolves around schools starting in the second tier, particularly at 8:30 AM, which accommodates the highest number of schools and poses capacity issues. He said efforts are focused on redistributing routes across tiers to address this concern.

Mr. Tran asked about the likelihood of reaching a contract agreement soon with the Teachers' Union, noting there are several items still unresolved. The Superintendent highlighted the early start of negotiations, which began six months ago, allowing for deeper collaboration and progress. She said that despite several outstanding issues, both sides maintain optimism and a commitment to ongoing progress. They are actively seeking to identify common ground and prioritize core issues to advance the negotiations.

Dr. Alkins congratulated the graduates and redirected to Vice Chair O'Neill's concerns about enrollment trends in high school credit recovery, highlighting the Committee's need to address potential capacity issues. The Superintendent discussed enrollment in credit recovery courses, highlighting initiatives like Succeed Boston for comprehensive student support. She also noted efforts to offer these programs at high school sites to increase participation and ensure all students receive needed support to graduate.

Ms. Robinson asked about summer program enrollment and plans to engage students who haven't signed up but could benefit. The Superintendent described how they collaborate with school staff to identify students for summer programs but noted they don't always track response rates. She suggested improving registration forms to gather data on how families hear about the programs. Ms. Robinson asked about migrant families' participation in summer programs and their current engagement status. The Superintendent mentioned that district teams facilitated registration for students in shelters to attend camps in February and April. Additionally, they are actively partnering with shelter staff to create opportunities for these students beyond the shelter.

***Approved*** - The Committee approved the Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

#### **ACTION ITEM**

Dr. Alkins asked about the routes planned for the district's upcoming seven electric buses. Alex Oster, Assistant Director of Contract Operations and Fleet, BPS Transportation, mentioned they are considering environmental justice factors for deployment across city neighborhoods. The buses are scheduled for rollout in the school year after next, following infrastructure setup and analysis of current and upcoming electric bus operations.

***Approved*** - The Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$25,038,880.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people testified regarding the West Zone Early Learning Center (WZ ELC) closure and consolidation:



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- Councilor Benjamin Weber, Jamaica Plain resident, and District 6 Boston City Councilor
- Teresa Pregizer, Roxbury resident, former parent
- Nathan Pregizer, Roxbury Roxbury resident, and former student
- Tanya Woodard, James W. Hennigan principal
- Maura Smyth, Jamaica Plain resident, WZ ELC parent
- Melissa Jones, South Boston resident, James W. Hennigan teacher
- Agustina Morón, Jamaica Plain resident, WZ ELC parent

The following people testified in support of Renaming the Jeremiah E. Burke High School to the Dr. Albert D. Holland High School of Technology:

- Craig Lankhorst, West Roxbury resident, and former school leader
- Charlie Titus, Roxbury resident, and community advocate
- Rev. Miniard Culpepper, Dorchester resident, and community advocate
- Abdi Ali, Roxbury resident, and Executive Director of WriteBoston, Inc
- Linda Parker, Dorchester resident, Jeremiah E. Burke alumni

Maria-Jesus Fernandez-Diaz, Arlington resident, and Rafael Hernandez School psychologist, testified regarding staffing cuts.

Deirdre Manning, Dorchester resident, and BPS parent, testified regarding the current exam schools admissions policy.

Jordan Clark, Dorchester resident, Human-iT-E, and former BPS employee, testified advocating for clear policies and accountability in leadership to foster a more equitable environment.

Debra Falzoi, Westborough resident, and Coalition for Accountability and Justice member, presented findings of a report detailing the work environment at BPS's' Central Office.

Erica Herman, Needham resident, and former Gardner Pilot Academy (GPA) Principal, testified regarding personnel matters.

Nicolasa Lopez, West Roxbury resident, and GPA staff, testified regarding personal matters.

Rose Perez, West Roxbury resident, and Trotter and Hale Elementary schools psychologist, testified regarding staffing cuts.

Lauren Lafferty, Connecticut resident, and former BPS employee, testified regarding personal matters.

Kathy Brucker, Roslindale resident, and BCLA-McCormack School (Ruth Batson Academy) teacher, testified regarding facilities needs.

David Lewis, Dorchester resident, and BCLA-McCormack School (Ruth Batson Academy) teacher, testified regarding facilities needs.

John Mudd, Cambridge resident, and BuildBPS Stakeholders, testified regarding community

engagement in the Long-Term Facilities Plan.

Mike Heichman, Dorchester resident, testified about the need for accountability among educational leaders.

Ruby Reyes, Dorchester resident, and BEJA member, testified regarding school buildings.

Cheryl Buckman, South Boston, BPS parent, and FamCosa member testified regarding budget cuts and teacher contracts.

### **ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)**

**Approved** - On roll call, the Committee approved the Superintendent's request to authorize the Business Manager, in cases which he or she judges to be of no risk, to request the City Auditor to approve Interim Salary Payments to School Department personnel and allow for non-personnel encumbrances which have been approved by the Superintendent.

Mr. O'Neill stressed the need for comprehensive technology education and support for alumni connection in the renaming process. Ms. Robinson seconded the requests.

**Approved** - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the renaming of the Jeremiah E. Burke High School to Dr. Albert D. Holland High School of Technology in honor of the former Head of School Dr. Holland.

The Superintendent asked for the School Committee's approval to close the West Zone Early Learning Center and merge it with the Hennigan School, along with closing the Frederick Pilot Middle School, Boston's last standalone middle school. Acknowledging the challenges, the Superintendent thanked the school communities for their engagement and said that the measures are part of our broader capital planning to enhance instruction, facilities, and student access across Boston. She added that the community engagement has been robust, ensuring transparency and addressing concerns as part of Boston Public Schools' long-term strategy for educational equity and efficiency.

Dr. Alkins reflected on the community feedback about timing and depth of engagement in decision-making, particularly regarding closures and consolidations, noting concerns about insufficient early notification and seeking lessons for future engagements. The Superintendent emphasized the importance of allowing a year for transitions, depending on the specifics like mergers or closures, stressing the need for comprehensive community engagement and planning to enhance high-quality seat availability across different regions. Chief of Capital Planning, Delavern Stanislaus, acknowledged community concerns about school closures and stressed the importance of early engagement. She outlined efforts to involve school communities in the decision-making through webinars and workshops, seeking feedback before presenting recommendations to the School Committee. Looking ahead, she highlighted plans to improve engagement strategies based on community input, starting with earlier involvement of school leaders in the planning process next school year.

Dr. Alkins questioned whether stakeholder analyses are shared post-engagement, emphasizing transparency and the use of tools like the racial equity planning tool. He highlighted the importance of openly sharing this analysis with the community for clear communication and accurate feedback. Ms. Stanislaus emphasized their team's commitment to transparency by openly gathering and addressing community questions from meetings. She acknowledged the community's desire for more detailed engagement data and expressed willingness to share this information with both the public and school communities.

Mr. O'Neill praised the community engagement efforts with the Grove Hall community regarding the closure of the Lilla Frederick Middle School, highlighting commitments like retaining the school name and community use. He emphasized these efforts as listening to community needs. Mr. O'Neill also expressed support for the plans for the Hennigan and West Zone, noting their positive impact, especially Hennigan's expansion, and thanked the superintendent for these decisions.

Ms. Robinson praised the early learning centers as a great model but acknowledged they cannot be scaled by the district alone. She stressed the need to expand early childhood programs in collaboration with the city to ensure equitable opportunities for all families.

Mr. Tran acknowledged the difficulty of change but said he supports changes that improve conditions. He questioned the community concerns, suggesting they are based on what he perceived as misinformation. He also emphasized that the West Zone was consolidation rather than closure.

**Approved** - - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved Closure proposals for School Year 2025-2026: the closure of Lilla Frederick Middle School; the closure of the West Zone Early Learning Center, and consolidating it into the Hennigan.

## REPORT

**BSAC Student Representative's Report-** Student Representative, Mr. Diego Mehta gave a short presentation.

Ms. Robinson introduced Mr. Mehta and announced this would be Mr. Mehta's last School Committee meeting. She also congratulated him on receiving the Marion L. Heard Scholarship from the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, highlighting its value over a typical School Committee stipend.

Mr. Mehta highlighted that the academic year focused on student-led initiatives and professional development in areas such as educational equity, mental health, adultism, and anti-racism within BPS. A total of 42 students participated in academic year programming, engaging in affinity spaces, financial literacy workshops, restorative justice, and career development projects. They also launched BSAC Passion Projects which are individual research projects that highlight personal experiences and areas of growth to improve the BPS student experience. BSAC collaborated with over 20 organizations, partners and internal stakeholders over the course of the school year. Looking ahead, a six-week summer program will start in July, focusing on community building, leadership, and curriculum development. Various subcommittees made

significant contributions, including professional development workshops, mental health presentations, and equity awareness initiatives.

The Superintendent praised the showcase and the passion projects, highlighting their enthusiasm in discussing why students choose their topics and what changes they hoped to see.

Mr. O'Neill thanked Mr. Mehta for his service with BSAC and congratulated him on the scholarship. He asked about the representation of all high schools in BSAC. Mr. Mehta didn't have the information at hand but said Ms. Rori could provide it but said he was confident that most schools were represented.

Ms. Robinson praised the BSAC seminar and asked about the projects' impact on high schools and student councils. Mr. Mehta explained that BSAC members, often involved in student government, integrate these projects into their school councils, like the adultism project's professional development workshop.

Ms. Lima Barbosa praised Mr. Mehta for inspiring others to engage in leadership roles and advocate effectively within the BPS system. She congratulated him and looked forward to his future endeavors.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (*CONTINUED*)**

The following people testified regarding BPS engagement with parents at the Manning school:

- Emily Cavanagh, Jamaica Plain resident, and Manning School parent
- Carin Allen, Roslindale resident, and Manning school parent
- Bevin Kenney, Jamaica Plain resident, Manning school parent

Suleika Soto, South End resident, BPS parent, and BEJA member, testified regarding community engagement and school closures and mergers.

Edith Bazile, Hyde Park resident, BPS parent, Community Advocate, and Black Advocates for Educational Excellence, testified regarding issues at the McKinley schools.

Public Testimony on Reports:

Edith Bazile, Hyde Park resident, BPS parent, and Black Advocates for Educational Excellence, testified regarding equitable education, urging fair access and opportunities for all students.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Alkins requested that they ensure follow-up on the issues raised during public comment.

#### **ADJOURN**

***Approved*** - At approximately 8.58 p.m. the Committee unanimously approved a motion by roll call to adjourn to the meeting.

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Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lena Parvex". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Lena Parvex  
Executive Secretary