

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF BOSTON



MEMORANDUM

TO: Fellow Boston School Committee Members
FROM: Jeri Robinson, Chairperson
SUBJECT: Superintendent Search Committee Membership and Charge
DATE: March 2, 2022

At tonight's special Boston School Committee meeting, I will provide an update on the Superintendent's Search Process, including a full list of the proposed membership of the Superintendent Search Committee. I want to thank you for your input on membership. The nine proposed members represent a broad and diverse set of constituencies from across the City that reflect the strength of Boston. Included in the proposed membership are:

- Current Boston Public Schools parents and a current student;
- School leaders with a wealth of teaching and administrative experience at elementary and secondary levels with demonstrated success in exiting Turnaround status, inclusion settings, and strong parent-school relationships;
- Leaders from the teachers' union and higher education community;
- Individuals with deep understanding of the needs of students with disabilities and special education settings and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.
- Multiple members who speak languages beyond English and have a focus on the needs of our English Learner student population.

Beginning next week, the Search Committee will hold a series of public listening sessions to solicit public feedback and input into the desired qualities for our next superintendent. There will be additional opportunities to solicit public input on the finalists later in the process. We will also launch an online survey that will be translated into the major BPS languages.

In keeping with past practice and as allowed by our by-laws, close cooperation with the Mayor with regards to the search committee is both advisable and worthwhile for the District. This recognizes that the Superintendent, though hired, evaluated, and paid by the School Committee, is also a member of the Mayor's Cabinet and is responsible for the single largest line item in the

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City's budget and oversees the largest number of City employees of any Cabinet member. Thus, the recommended make-up of the search committee was done in discussion and cooperation with Mayor Michelle Wu and her team.

The proposed search committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Pam Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College, our colleague Lorena Lopera, and Fenway High School's senior Marcus McNeill. The full list of recommended members for the search committee is included below. I will formally present this list for your consideration at our meeting this evening. I will ask the Committee to take a vote on the full search committee membership tonight so that they may immediately get to work. This Search Committee, when approved, will begin the process to solicit, vet and narrow the list of candidates for superintendent. They are specifically charged with naming up to three finalists for the Boston School Committee, Mayor Wu, and the greater public to consider, with a final decision to be made by the Boston School Committee. Additionally, the Search Committee leadership have agreed to strive to make the process as transparent as possible incorporating public input, while still preserving candidate confidentiality when necessary.

Expected steps are as follows, once approved by the Boston School Committee:

March-April: Search Committee holds a series of public listening sessions to solicit public feedback and input into desired candidate's qualities as well as the interview and selection process. This will be helpful to ensure that diverse voices are heard early in the process. An RFP review team reviews proposals from search firms that responded to the RFP, which are due by March 18, 2022.

April: School Committee approves a search firm, the Superintendent job description, and issues a call for qualified applicants.

April-May: Search firm completes initial vetting and background checks on candidates; Search Committee reviews applications and selects candidates to interview in executive session, so as to preserve confidentiality of candidates. Following interview rounds, the Search Committee selects finalists for public presentation.

Early-to-Mid June: School Committee announces final candidates and the schedule for final interviews. Public interviews for finalists.

Late June: School Committee votes on candidate to offer the position of Superintendent.

In keeping with past practice from previous searches, I am requesting that the Search Committee, its membership, charge, and timeline be approved the same night it is formally presented, to allow the Committee to begin their process as soon as possible.

I would like to propose that we have three co-chairs: Dr. Eddinger, Ms. Lopera, and Marcus McNeill - an educator, a School Committee member, and a student. This is the right approach for this type of endeavor at this moment.

2022 Boston Public Schools Superintendent Search Committee

- **Dr. Pam Eddinger, Co-Chair**
President, Bunker Hill Community College
- **Roxi Harvey**
Chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPac)
- **Lorena Lopera, Co-Chair**
Member, Boston School Committee and Executive Director at Latinos for Education, New England
- **Marcus McNeill, Co-Chair**
Senior, Fenway High School
- **Michael O'Neill**
Vice Chair, Boston School Committee and Executive Vice President, Zozimus
- **Dr. Carline Pignato**
Principal, Channing Elementary School and member, Opportunity & Achievement Gaps Task Force
- **Gene Roundtree**
Secondary Superintendent, Boston Public Schools
- **Jessica Tang**
President, Boston Teachers Union
- **José Valenzuela**, 11th and 12th grade history teacher at Boston Latin Academy

I look forward to tonight's discussion and moving this critical work forward on behalf of our students.