

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Boston School Committee Nominating Panel**
Friday, January 29, 2021, 5:03-6:25 p.m.
Meeting by remote participation via Zoom

Members Present:

Laurie Ciardi, Chairperson, Mayoral appointee
Tony Barros, City of Boston, Mayoral appointee
Michelle Cannon, Special Education Parent Advisory Council
Angelina Camacho, Boston Parent Organizing Network
Joanne Freeman, Citywide Parent Council
Jerry Howland, Mayoral appointee
Darlene Lombos, Mayoral appointee
Michael Maguire, Boston Teachers Union
Susan Ou, Bilingual Parent Advisory Council
John Riordan, Boston Municipal Research Bureau
Valerie Roberson, Roxbury Community College
Rhoda Schneider (for MA Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education)
William Thomas, Boston High School Heads Association

1. Call Meeting to Order

Laurie Ciardi, Chairperson of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. The main item of business was to decide on applicants to interview for the vacancy on the School Committee: the 1 year remaining in the unexpired term of former School Committee member Michael Loconto. Mayor Walsh appointed Ava Callendar Concepcion to the seat a few weeks ago but she resigned after accepting a new position that conflicted with her service on the School Committee. Within 30 days of today's meeting, the Panel must submit a list of 3-5 names to the Mayor for the vacant seat.

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2021.

3. Review and Discuss School Committee Applications Received

Ms. Ciardi said per the Panel's decision on January 14, she contacted the applicants that the Panel selected for interviews in the most recent round and invited them to apply, giving them the choice to resubmit or revise their recent application, with the understanding that the Panel may or may not select them for an interview in this round. Ms. Ciardi said 11 had reapplied (1 with a new application), and all the repeat applicants told her they would like to be interviewed again if the Panel chose to do so. The Panel also received 6 new applications by the deadline. Members had reviewed the 17 applications in preparation for today's meeting.

The Panel discussed the applicants and took an initial poll on which applicants to interview. After further discussion, members reviewed and reconsidered the initial poll rankings. The Panel agreed by consensus that in the future, it would be best to have more discussion of applicants before taking any polls. There was also a suggestion that it would be helpful to write up the basic procedures for the Panel's operations.

4. Determine List of Applicants to Interview on February 1, 2021

The Panel discussed how many applicants to interview for the open seat and the merits of a longer or shorter interview list at this point. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** to interview the 7 applicants who had received 5 or more affirmative votes in the poll. The vote was 9-4. Ms. Ciardi, Ms. Camacho, Ms. Lombos, and Mr. Maguire voted in opposition. The Panel agreed by consensus to offer a full interview to each of the 7 applicants selected, whether or not the Panel had interviewed them previously.

Ms. Ciardi will schedule the interviews, which the Panel will conduct at its meeting on Monday, February 1. The meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. After concluding the interviews, the Panel will decide on a list of 3-5 names to recommend to the Mayor.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Panel **voted** unanimously to adjourn its meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhoda E. Schneider