

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Boston School Committee Nominating Panel**
Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 4:05-4:55 p.m.
Meeting by remote participation via Zoom

Members Present:

Laurie Ciardi, Chairperson, Mayoral appointee
Angelina Camacho, Boston Parent Organizing Network
Joanne Freeman, Citywide Parent Council
Jerry Howland, Mayoral appointee
Charlie Kim, Special Education Parent Advisory Council
Michael Maguire, Boston Teachers Union
John Riordan, Boston Municipal Research Bureau
Rhoda Schneider (for MA Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education)

1. Call Meeting to Order

Laurie Ciardi, Chairperson of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. She noted that Betty Francisco's appointment to the Panel expires today with the end of Acting Mayor Janey's term. Ms. Ciardi said she has asked Mayor Wu's transition team to have Mayor Wu fill this seat on the Panel by November 29. Panel members thanked Ms. Francisco for her work on the Panel and encouraged her to seek reappointment.

2. Review and Discuss Two Applications Submitted by November 5 Deadline but Received on November 10, 2021

Ms. Ciardi said the IT Department notified her that the City's spam filter had screened out two applications that were submitted electronically by the 11:59 p.m. November 5, 2021 deadline; she received them on November 10 and forwarded them to Panel members. Ms. Ciardi said the school committee application entry point has been switched to a Boston Public Schools domain and she has back-up access, so this technical problem should not happen again.

Ms. Ciardi noted these two applicants each indicated they would like to be considered for both the current round (the two open School Committee seats currently held by Lorena Lopera and Rafaela Polanco Garcia: two-year terms expiring 1/1/2024) and the upcoming round (two seats with four-year terms expiring 1/5/2026). She said the City Law Department advised that the Panel could decide how to proceed.

The Panel discussed whether to interview either of the two applicants for the current round or hold their applications for consideration in the next round. A motion was made and seconded to interview applicant #1 for the current round. The motion failed, 1-6-1. Mr. Maguire voted in favor; Ms. Schneider abstained. A motion was made and seconded to interview applicant #2 for the current round. The motion failed, 1-6-1. Mr. Maguire voted in favor; Ms. Schneider abstained. Ms. Ciardi confirmed that the Panel will consider both applications in the next round.

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 9, 2021.

4. Finalize List of Recommended Nominees to Mayor Wu for Two Current Vacancies

Ms. Ciardi said the City Law Department recommended that the Panel vote again on the lists to send to Mayor Wu for the current round, noting those two seats are vacant as of today. The Panel discussed the lists it had voted to submit at the November 9 meeting as well as the process for deciding on lists for more than one seat. There was consensus that for the next round, the Panel should review and clarify the process for members to vote on the names to submit, especially when deliberating on lists for more than one seat.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** to reapprove the following names to submit to Mayor Wu for her to consider for appointment to the two open School Committee seatsⁱ:

Seat A

Stephen Alkins
Lorena Lopera
Rafaela Polanco Garcia

Seat B

Stephen Alkins
Lorena Lopera
Rafaela Polanco Garcia

The vote was 6-2. Mr. Kim and Mr. Maguire voted in opposition. Ms. Ciardi said she would submit the lists to Mayor Wu tonight.

5. Public Comment

Ms. Ciardi invited members of the public attending the meeting to submit comments. There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Panel **voted** unanimously to adjourn its meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhoda E. Schneider

ⁱ The City Law Department advised in November 2015 that when more than one seat is open, (1) the Panel must submit a list of 3-5 names for each seat, consistent with the statute, and (2) the Panel may include the same names (one, some, or all) on each list, if it so chooses.