

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Boston School Committee Nominating Panel**
Monday, November 30, 2020, 4:03-5:30 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
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 4:03 p.m. The main item of business was to decide on applicants to interview for the two impending vacancies on the School Committee: one 4-year term (the seat currently held by Michael O'Neill) and the 1 year remaining in the unexpired term of former School Committee member Michael Loconto.

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2020.

3. Review and Discuss Correspondence

Ms. Ciardi asked the Panel to review and discuss the letter she received from Ms. Jane Miller, who asked the Panel to withdraw its past recommendation of a School Committee member, Dr. Lorna Rivera. Ms. Ciardi said when she receives comments from the public about the Panel's work, she acknowledges the comments and forwards them to Panel members. She said this letter warranted discussion because the writer was asking the Panel to take specific action that the writer herself noted is not standard practice. After discussing the matter, the consensus was that while the Panel appreciates the concerns and agrees that School Committee members should treat everyone with respect, the suggested action (withdrawing a nomination after the Mayor has acted) is not within the Panel's role or authority under state law. Panel members affirmed their shared commitment to recommend candidates who are culturally responsive and treat everyone respectfully. Ms. Ciardi said she would respond to the letter on behalf of the Panel.

4. Panel Discussion and Vote on Interview List

The Panel reviewed and discussed the 24 applications that were received by the November 25, 2020 deadline. By consensus, the Panel agreed to interview 15 applicants. Ms. Ciardi will schedule the interviews, which the Panel will conduct at its meetings on Tuesday, December 1, and Thursday, December 3, 2020. Both meetings begin at 2:30 p.m. At the December 3 meeting, after concluding the interviews, the Panel will decide which candidates to recommend to the Mayor. The Panel will send the Mayor a list of 3-5 names for each seat.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Panel **voted** unanimously to adjourn its meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhoda E. Schneider