



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CHARLESTOWN INNOVATION AND
INCLUSIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTUS SCREENING COMMITTEE
REMOTE MEETING**

December 22, 2021

The Charlestown Innovation and Inclusive High School Prospectus Screening Committee held a remote meeting on December 22, 2021, at 2 p.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/domain/162> email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present: Superintendent Brenda Cassellius, Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson; and Boston Teachers Union Vice President Erik Berg.

BPS Staff Present: Lisa Maki, Legal Advisor.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

[Agenda](#)

[Charlestown Innovation and Inclusion High School Innovation School Prospectus](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Cassellius called the meeting to order. Ms. Parvex called the roll. Dr. Cassellius, Chairperson Robinson and Mr. Berg were present.

Ms. Parvex announced that simultaneous interpretation services were available in Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL); and she gave instructions on how to access simultaneous interpretation by changing the Zoom channel.

December 22, 2021

DISCUSSION

Superintendent Cassellius welcomed the members of the public saying they were meeting as part of their statutory obligation to discuss the Charlestown High School Innovation plan submitted by Fabienne Eliacin, Alicia Piedalue, and Karellis Rivera. She explained that the meeting would be operational, focused on setting up the structures to discuss and review the plan that was submitted on November 23, 2021. She also said that the Chair of the Committee would formally share the Charlestown High School Innovation prospectus with the members of the Screening Committee which would begin the 30-day window to review and then vote on the plan.

Superintendent Cassellius began the meeting by voting upon and installing a Chairperson for the Screening Committee. She issued a call for nominations for the office of chairperson. Mr. Berg nominated Jeri Robinson. Dr. Cassellius seconded the nomination.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to close the nominations for chairperson.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to elect Ms. Jeri Robinson as chairperson of the Charlestown Innovation And Inclusive High School Prospectus Screening Committee.

Ms. Robinson thanked Superintendent Cassellius and said that the next order of business was a discussion of the Innovation prospectus. She asked the members of the Superintendent's staff to formally send the Charlestown High School Innovation prospectus to members of the Screening Committee as this opened the 30-day review process for the prospectus. She said that given that most members of the committee had not formally received and reviewed the proposal, they would have a very limited discussion at the meeting. Ms. Robinson said that they looked forward to scheduling additional meetings within the 30-day window to formally discuss and take action on the proposal. She asked Superintendent Cassellius to share her reflections, as she had reviewed the proposal and met with the faculty and staff of Charlestown High School.

Superintendent Cassellius talked about the importance of engagement and said she was committed to leading with engagement and partnership. Therefore, in addition to sharing the prospectus with members of the Screening Committee, they would also post it on the Boston Public Schools website and they were opening up a process for a three-week review and comment period. She said that members of the greater Boston community would have the opportunity to review the prospectus and were encouraged to share their comments to be reviewed by the committee.

Superintendent Cassellius suggested that Dr. Charles Grandson, Chief Equity and Strategy Officer, invite the authors of the prospectus to present at the January 14th virtual Community Equity Roundtable (CERT) meeting. She explained that since April of 2020, BPS had engaged with the CERT as an important and essential step in all policy and decision-making, and that all meetings are open to the public. Dr. Cassellius said that Dr. Grandson would reach out to the

**Charlestown Innovation And Inclusive High School Prospectus Screening Committee Remote Meeting
Zoom**

December 22, 2021

applicants to ensure they engage with his team on their recent submission of a Racial Equity Planning Tool (REPT) for full review, as this was a required step at the very beginning of any planning process for major decisions in the district. She also said that this review would be shared with the Screening Committee prior to the final vote and that the finalized REPT would be posted to the School Committee website.

Finally, she suggested that they analyze the prospectus using a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis through an explicit and clear focus on racial equity. She recommended that before the next meeting, they actively read the proposal, consider, and reflect upon the data that emerges from engagement with the Charlestown faculty, parents, students, the feedback from public comment, and CERT, and the analysis using REPT. She also said that they should prepare their individual reflections on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the proposal centering racial equity, student achievement and opportunity in their analysis as all those data points should inform their actions as they move forward. Superintendent Cassellius said she had asked Chief of Schools Corey Harris and Deputy Superintendent of Academics Drew Echelson to be available to share their analysis of the proposal using SWOT and REPT as an analytic tool at their next meeting.

Ms. Robinson thanked Superintendent Cassellius and asked Mr. Berg for his thoughts.

Mr. Berg emphasized the importance of the voices of the school communities, as it's essential to ensuring that any reform effort works for the students and for the school system. He said that they would like to arrange a meeting with the entire faculty and staff of Charlestown High School before the screening committee concludes its business. He added that he thought it would be important that the upcoming meetings are scheduled after dismissal time for Charlestown High School, so the students and educators have an opportunity to attend.

Ms. Robinson agreed and said she would like to make sure that there is opportunity to hear from current Charlestown High School families.

Finally, Ms. Robinson gave the schedule for review, discussion, and action on the proposal.

- December 22: Screening Committee Meeting (Formally Accept Charlestown Innovation Prospectus and Define Next Steps)
- December 22: Prospectus posted on the School Committee website for public review and public comment period begins
- January 7: Final REPT due from applicants
- January 7: Screening Committee meeting (Review, Discussion, and Open Public Comment)
- January 14: CERT Meeting (tentative)
- January 15: Public Comment period closes and feedback is shared with Screening Committee
- January 19: Screening Committee meeting (Discussion, Decision, and Vote)

**Charlestown Innovation And Inclusive High School Prospectus Screening Committee Remote Meeting
Zoom**

December 22, 2021

Mr. Berg asked where the video would be posted. Dr. Cassellius said that all the materials would be posted on the School Committee website.

ADJOURN

At approximately 2.20 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Lena Parvex
Administrative Assistant