

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF BOSTON



MEMORANDUM

TO: Boston School Committee and Interim Superintendent Laura Perille
FROM: Michael Loonto, Chairperson, Boston School Committee
SUBJECT: English Language Learners Task Force Nomination: Dr. Lorna Rivera
DATE: February 27, 2019

Tonight, I nominate School Committee member Dr. Lorna Rivera to serve as co-chair of the Committee's English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force. Dr. Rivera will fill the leadership role formerly held by Dr. Miren Uriarte, who stepped down from the Committee last December.

Dr. Rivera is the director of the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development & Public Policy, and an Associate Professor of Women's & Gender Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. She is also a Boston Public Schools parent. Currently, Dr. Rivera is working on the Latinx Student Success Initiative, a partnership with Bunker Hill Community College, to improve retention and graduation rates for Latinx college students. Dr. Rivera also works with the Talented & Gifted (TAG) and Proyecto Alerta afterschool programs that serve Latinx bilingual students in the Boston Public Schools. She has extensive community service and co-founded a national nonprofit, WE LEARN, dedicated to advancing women's literacy.

Dr. Rivera serves on the Advisory Boards of the Center to Support Immigrant Organizing and the Latino Education Institute, and on the Board of Directors for the Hyde Square Task Force, an arts-based youth development organization serving Afro-Latinx youth in Boston.

Dr. Rivera holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from DePaul University, state of Illinois licensure in Language Arts & Social Studies grades K-9, and a Masters and Doctorate in Sociology from Northeastern University. Between 1994 and 2001 she taught G.E.D. classes and also was the director of the Adult Learners Program at Project Hope in Dorchester.

I am confident that Dr. Rivera's extensive background in student advancement and strengthening diverse communities will make her wonderful addition to the ELL Task Force. I look forward to discussing Dr. Rivera's nomination at tonight's meeting, and request that the Committee take action on this matter at our March 20, 2019 meeting.