

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF BOSTON



Date: August 4, 2021
To: Boston School Committee
cc: Superintendent Brenda Cassellius
From: Jeri Robinson, Chairperson
Re: English Language Learner Task Force Co-Chair Nomination

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

Established by the Boston School Committee in 2009, the ELL Task Force serves as a monitoring body and thought partner that supports BPS in addressing the needs of our increasingly multicultural and multilingual district in which nearly one in every two students speaks a language other than English at home and students come from 139 different countries.

A former BPS EL student, Mr. DeAraujo attended Bradley Elementary, Umana Academy and Boston Latin School (BLS), and went on to receive a B.A. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, VA. He credits his mother, a widow who immigrated to East Boston from Colombia, with instilling in him a deep appreciation of the transformative power of education. Mr. DeAraujo serves as the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), among the largest health centers in the nation with over 100,000 patients and 1,400 staff. In addition, he is the former President of NOAH Community Development Corporation, where he oversaw the East Boston-based community development corporation and worked to create affordable housing and community building, especially through youth development and environmental justice. He co-founded a program for East Boston High School, named the Mario Umana Public Service Fellowship, that works to connect students with internship opportunities in government, summer programs and helps students apply to college. Mr. DeAraujo resides with his family in East Boston where he is very involved in the community through his work at EBNHC, and as a former neighborhood liaison for East Boston during the Administration of former Mayor Thomas Menino.

I am confident that Mr. DeAraujo's personal and professional experience will make him a valuable addition to the ELL Task Force. I look forward to discussing his nomination at tonight's meeting, and request that the Committee take action on this matter on September 1, 2021.