



DATE: June 16, 2017

TO: Members of the Boston School Committee

FROM: Dr. Caren S. Walker Gregory, Headmaster, Kennedy Academy
Elmer Freeman, Chairperson, Kennedy Academy Board of Trustees

RE: Kennedy Academy Charter Renewal Request

As you are aware, Kennedy Academy is a Horace Mann Charter School, chartered by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for a term of five years. Approved originally as a pilot school in 1995, and chartered by Massachusetts in 1998, our charter has been renewed three times without conditions. We are currently coming to the end of year four in a charter that expires in June 2018. As part of the charter school accountability process we are seeking renewal of our charter to permit our continued operation from July 2018 through June 2023.

The renewal process requires that we reflect on our progress over the current charter term, and lay out our plans for the future. Kennedy Academy is a strong and viable organization, with an important place in the Boston high school landscape. Our dual mission of college readiness and health careers preparation has served Boston students well since our inception. With a growing and changing student population of increasingly high-need students, we are proud of our strong and steady MCAS scores. Our graduation rate is among the highest in Boston, and our drop-out rate among the lowest. Our students move on to college in extraordinary numbers, and more than half of them select mission-related majors in the health professions. We are equally proud of our strong partnership with both BPS and the BTU over many years, and look forward to future collaboration to best serve the students of the city.

Because we are a Horace Mann Charter School the application for renewal of our charter requires both the support of the Boston Teacher's Union and an affirmative vote of the Boston School Committee. Attached are draft materials for your review. We look forward to discussing our renewal application with you at the school committee meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2017.

I am available to discuss these documents in advance of the meeting if that would be helpful. You may reach me at (617) 373-8576 or by email at cswalker@bostonpublicschools.org.

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