



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 1, 2017

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on November 1, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, School Committee chamber, Roxbury, Massachusetts. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael D. O’Neill; Vice Chair Hardin Coleman; Michael Loconto; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Keondré McClay.

School Committee Members Absent: None.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Grants for Approval Totaling \$32,491:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Focus Area(s)	Site
\$5,000	2017	Financial Education Innovation Fund	New	College and Career Readiness	CASH
\$7,500	2018	Massachusetts 21st Century Community Learning Centers - Enhanced Programs for Students on an IEP	New	Extended Learning Time	Gardner Pilot Academy
\$19,991	2018	Quality Enhancements in After-School and Out-of-School Time	New	Extended Learning Time	Gardner Pilot Academy

Opportunity Index Power Point and Equity Impact Statement

BPS Office of Secondary Schools Power Point and Equity Impact Statement

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CALL TO ORDER

Mr. O'Neill led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order.

DIPLOMA PRESENTATION

The School Committee and Superintendent Chang presented a Boston Public Schools diploma to retired Chief Petty Officer Joseph Ensko, who left Roxbury Memorial High School in 1947 to serve in the U.S. Navy.

MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the October 25, 2017 School Committee meeting as amended to better capture the testimony of Grisilda Bakiasis and Steve Cremer.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening, everyone. Thank you for joining us tonight. I'd like to start by congratulating the Mildred Avenue K-8 School in Mattapan. Today, the school won EdVestor's 2017 Thomas Payzant School on the Move Prize. This is a \$100,000 award for schools in Boston that show rapid improvement. It was incredible to see tears of joy on the faces of the staff who have worked so hard to transform the school. Principal Andrew Rollins and his staff should be incredibly proud of their work, as academic outcomes and school culture continue to improve. The two finalists should also be congratulated for their amazing work: The Donald McKay K-8 and the Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary in East Boston. McKay principal Jordan Weymer, P.J. Kennedy Principal Kristin Goncalves, and former P.J. Kennedy principal Walter Henderson were all there today. All three schools implemented strategies to support the whole student, recognizing that both academics and social-emotional learning are critical for success. I'd like to give my sincere thanks to EdVestors for providing this incredible gift for the past 12 years. Again, congratulations to the Mildred Ave., the McKay, and the P.J. Kennedy, for all of the amazing work that you do to help our students succeed.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to our Fall Open House. We had several impactful discussions on important topics, including the "STEM Workforce of the Future," grade configurations, the BuildBPS master plan, and school day start- and end-times. We also had lots of fun activities for kids, as you can see from these photos. We also collected three bins of clothing and supplies to benefit our new students and families from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As of today, 72 students from Puerto Rico have enrolled in BPS since the hurricane. The donations from the Open House are in addition to another large donation we received from Cradles to Crayons. This week they increased their donation to 900 coats and hats, and 1,000 backpacks with school supplies. An enormous thank-you to Cradles to Crayons, and everyone helping to support these families at such a critical time. I'd also like to thank the many

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people who attended the Open House. I'd like to thank the panelists, including our keynote speaker, Ann Klee, President of the GE Foundation, for taking a look at important issues affecting our students.

Over the last week, more than 1,000 students at the Edwards, Timilty, and McCormack middle schools have received iPads and free internet access thanks to a great new partnership with Verizon. I was at the McCormack and the Timilty when the students and their families picked up their iPads last weekend. Mayor Walsh joined me at the Timilty as well. Verizon was there to teach students about the technology, and had some fun activities for the students. By 2022, there will be more than 9 million jobs in STEM. It's critical that we remove all barriers to success for our students as they embark on the careers of tomorrow. I'd like thank Verizon for being an important partner as we bridge the digital divide for our students.

The Superintendent showed a clip from a music video produced by the administration of East Boston High School as part of their accreditation visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges last weekend. Mr. O'Neill added that he was honored to participate in East Boston High School's accreditation visit last Sunday. He praised the school community for its preparation and enthusiasm.

The School Committee approved the Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

BSAC STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Mr. McClay provided a brief update on the current the activities led by the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC). BSAC recently held a forum to discuss high school start times. It is currently conducting a listening project to gather student feedback on student discipline. BSAC continues to promote its Student Rights App and solicit new members for the 2017-18 school year. Nickoliss Twohads, a senior at Urban Science Academy, will serve as the BSAC representative on the School Committee's Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force.

Mr. O'Neill asked Mr. McClay to report back to the Committee in December with a list of BPS high schools that do not have BSAC representatives.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jose Martinez, alumnus, Brighton High School, requested the reinstatement of the school's STEM programs.

Rodolfo Aguilar, advocate, Massachusetts Parents United, testified in favor of STEM education and closing the achievement gap.

Peggy Wiesenberg, speaking as an individual, testified regarding the district's process for conducting an equity analysis of the home base assignment system.

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ACTION ITEMS

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$32,491.

REPORTS

Opportunity Index – Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Dr. Colin Rose presented the framework of an Opportunity Index, an innovative new tool that integrates data from students' home neighborhoods, along with individual and family level data, as a means for measuring opportunity gaps throughout the district. Progressive and equity-driven, the Index could be used to make decisions on matters such as resource allocation, program evaluation, and other prospective and retrospective assessments. It's also a dynamic tool that can be updated regularly to ensure that the most predictive factors and recent information are used while making important decisions. The Opportunity Index is the collective work of the BPS Office of Finance, Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps, and the Boston Area Research Initiative (BARI). Dr. Rose was joined by co-presenters Dr. Dan O'Brien of Northeastern University and Dr. Nancy Hill of Harvard University, both of whom are members of BARI.

Mr. O'Neill praised the district for conducting this is potentially groundbreaking work. He reminded the Committee that tonight's presentation is an opportunity to receive a high level overview of the Index as a concept, noting that the Committee feedback will be incorporated as the Superintendent and his team further refine the Index.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila and Dr. Uriate both expressed concerns about messaging. Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked the district to solicit feedback from students and families. Dr. Uriate questioned the district's decision not to include data on sending schools, saying that schools matter.

Ms. Regina Robinson said that having an educated community is a commodity, and encouraged the district to partner with Boston's higher education community to increase opportunities for adult education and networking.

Mr. Loconto asked the presenters for examples of custodianship besides the City's 311 reporting system. Dr. O'Brien agreed to provide the Committee with additional research.

Ms. Jeri Robinson asked how the city is partnering in this work. The Superintendent explained that the Opportunity Index has the potential to be used by various city departments, as well as the state and national level.

Mr. McClay advocated for strong student engagement in this process.

Dr. Coleman asked a number of questions about the thought-process behind the creation of the Opportunity Index.

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Mr. O'Neill summarized the discussion, saying that the Committee is clearly intrigued by the Opportunity Index and applauded the hard work thus far. He affirmed that schools do matter and cautioned the district about messaging and unintended consequences. He said the district must balance theoretical thinking with practicality. He added that he personally struggles with idea of using the Index to make key funding decisions.

The Superintendent closed the discussion by saying that the district needs to study the Opportunity Index and add guardrails. He cautioned the Committee, however, not to let perfection get in the way of progress.

BPS Office of Secondary Schools – Assistant Superintendent of High School Redesign/College and Career Readiness Dr. Ligia Noriega-Murphy and Director of Postsecondary Partnerships and Initiatives Marsha Innis-Mitchell provided an overview of the Office of Secondary School's work on the high school redesign programming for college and career readiness. They explained the current landscapes of BPS high schools, the needs of high school students, and the portfolio of options that the district is expanding. The principles of high school redesign include a focus on the whole person, with teaching and learning that is rigorous, dynamic, and expansive. BPS continues to increase Advanced Placement and dual enrollment opportunities. The district is also using data-driven tier support systems to boost student achievement and graduate all students ready for college, career, and life.

Mr. McClay encouraged the district to expand the use of Naviance, a college and career readiness solution. He also advocated for more guidance counselors and more opportunities for students to participate in internships.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila emphasized the need for more for dual enrollment opportunities and internships for BPS students. She added that guidance support is critical to increase college going rates for English Language Learners.

Ms. Regina Robinson, who also serves as Cambridge College's Dean of Student Affairs, offered to help bridge the gap of college and career readiness, explaining that it is the responsibility of college leadership to support K-12 education.

Ms. Jeri Robinson encouraged the district to better prepare students for high school success by strengthening intervention supports. Dr. Noriega-Murphy said that a forthcoming study on off-track youth by the Parthenon Group will provide more data.

Mr. Loconto asked about teacher engagement. The Superintendent explained that the district is introducing Linked Learning, which is an approach, not a program, designed and implemented at by teachers at the ground level of participating schools.

Mr. O'Neill requested that the district present the Committee with a separate report on alternative education, as well as a report on the high schools that are struggling the most. He noted that the Mildred Avenue K-8 School, which was awarded the 2017 Thomas Payzant School on the Move Prize from EdVestors, had a successful intervention model that was teacher-

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driven. He encouraged district leaders to study the school's success to look for areas of replication.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.


NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O'Neill noted that today is a historic day for Boston Latin School, as BLS alumna Rachel Skerritt assumed the position as the school's first headmaster of color, calling it a watershed moment.

ADJOURN

At approximately 9:30 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary