



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 7, 2018

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on February 7, 2018 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 Loconto; Vice Chairperson Hardin Coleman; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Michael O’Neill; Jeri Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Keondré McClay.

School Committee Member Absent: Regina Robinson

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Grants for Approval Totaling \$23,000:

- Financial Education Innovation Fund – BCLA - \$5,000
- Financial Education Innovation Fund - Boston Latin - \$5,000
- Financial Education Innovation Fund - Fenway - \$5,000
- Financial Education Innovation Fund – Greater Egleston - \$5,000
- Special Education Early Childhood Discretionary Program Improvement Grant - \$3,000

International Travel Request: Boston Latin Academy – Spain and Portugal – April 11-22, 2018

International Travel Request: John W. McCormack Middle School – Costa Rica – April 18-26, 2018

International Travel Request: Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School – Costa Rica – April 10-18, 2018

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Boston Adult Technical Academy (BATA) Proposal Power Point

BATA Proposal Equity Impact Statement

Memo from Deputy Superintendent of Strategy Donna Muncey to Boston School Committee Re: Boston Adult Technical High School Support for Students Over Age 22

Build BPS Update II Power Point, January 24, 2018

Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Proposal Power Point

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Proposal Equity Impact Statement

Memo from Superintendent Chang to School Committee Members Re: FY19 Budget Proposal dated February 7, 2018

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Tables: Account Summary & Details; Program Summary & Details; Department Summary & Details.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Loconto led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order. He announced that interpretation services are available in Spanish and Haitian Creole.

MEETING MINUTES

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the January 24, 2018 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening. I hope everyone has rebounded from the Patriots stinging defeat in Sunday's Super Bowl. There were a lot of long faces around here on Monday morning, mine included. I was really looking forward to collecting on my wager with School District of Philadelphia Superintendent William Hite. But instead of me eating a delicious Philly cheesesteak sandwich, I'll be sending him a New England lobster roll, thanks to the Patriots loss. Even though the Patriots season didn't end the way we all wanted it to — with them raising a sixth Lombardi trophy — it was still an exciting year. We are grateful to the Patriots, not just for the thrills its players provide us on the field, but for all that the organization does to support Boston Public Schools. From Pat Patriot putting smiles on the faces of Winship students during the National Walk to School Day in October; and Gronk donating money to BPS to buy athletic gear for our female athletes; to the Patriots teaming up with Southern New Hampshire University to provide a \$25,000 grant to build a technology lab at the Mather School and collaborating with the New

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England Dairy & Food Council to give the Channing a \$10,000 grant to support healthy eating - the organization has been a great partner to BPS over the years.

I would like to provide you an update on Greater Egleston High School. Let me start by emphasizing that all the decisions we make regarding Greater Egleston High School (GEHS) are done with our students' best interests at heart. As a district, we have a deep commitment to ensure that this school, like all of our schools, provides our students a high-quality education. Unfortunately, Greater Egleston has not always delivered on that commitment. As you know, in October 2017, we hired an independent investigator to review the policies and practices of GEHS. We launched an investigation after conducting a routine review of the school's attendance records last fall and discovered numerous irregularities.

The recently concluded investigation found that, in many cases, the school has not been serving its students well. The following are some of the areas of concern that were identified by the investigator:

- GEHS kept students enrolled no matter their attendance, age, or lack of progress in the school.
- There are serious issues with how students received credits at GEHS.
- GEHS initiated few, if any, MCAS appeals (MCAS appeals are sent to the state to appeal the MCAS graduation requirement for students under certain circumstances who have had trouble passing a test).
- The Governing Board was not constituted nor functioning in accordance with the policies and responsibilities for Pilot Schools.

Greater Egleston serves a vital role in providing an alternative education and supports to students for whom other schools were not the right program. It will remain open. However, as a result of these very serious findings, I will be taking the following actions that I believe will put GEHS on a path to best serve our students:

I am placing the school on probation for at least one year. I will also move to dissolve its current governing board, which was not appropriately established, and reconstitute it as outlined in the BPS Autonomous Schools Manual. I've appointed Kevin Brill, the former assistant headmaster of Fenway High School, as the interim headmaster during the probationary period. Mr. Brill has already begun meeting with faculty at the school this week. Headmaster Julie Coles will not be returning to the school. As my designee, Mr. Brill will oversee the development of a redesign plan for the school. Stephanie Sibley, the current interim headmaster, will continue to support the school. We will partner with the Greater Egleston community to address these findings and ensure the school meets the needs of its students. We will be holding a community meeting tomorrow night at 6 p.m. at GEHS to discuss the path forward for this school. We are committed to providing GEHS students with the highest quality education possible, and I am confident that these measures will best prepare them to succeed in college, career, and life.

Boston-based Company One Theatre (C1) kicked off its 19th season with the world premiere of *HYPE MAN*, which tells the story of an interracial Hip-Hop trio on the verge of fame that's shaken by the police shooting of an unarmed black teenager. The play, which has opened to rave

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reviews, happens to star three Boston Arts Academy alumni: Kadahj Bennett, Rachel Cognata, and Michael Knowlton. Shawn LaCount, founder and artistic director of the C1 theater company, said of the three actors: "We're thrilled to welcome back three of our favorite collaborators to bring this Hip-Hop trio to life. They are incredibly dynamic performers, and graduates of Boston Arts Academy, one of our closest partner organizations." LaCount himself is a former BAA theater teacher. BAA Headmaster Anne Clark remarked: "We are very proud of our partnership with Company One and how we, together, have helped nurture the development of Boston's next generation of artists. Company One shares our commitment to equity and access through the arts and to expanding Boston's artistic scene to reflect the diversity of our communities." The show runs until Feb. 24 at the Plaza Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts.

The K1 students in the dual language program at the Mattapan Early Elementary School are the first pre-school students in the nation to be learning to read and write in a Haitian Creole dual language program. The 23 students, including both native Creole speakers as well as students who came to the class only speaking English, recently read the children's classic *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats. The children retold the story in Haitian Creole as their teacher transcribed their words. You can see in these pictures how they are retelling this classic story in very artistic way. Nice work.

On Saturday, January 20th, the Department of Global Education hosted its annual "International Trip Leader Training" at the Bolling Building. This year 60 BPS teachers and administrators (20% more than last year) became certified in international trip leadership. This training focuses on risk management, chaperone best practices, and community building for staff engaged in this work. Our trip leaders will go on to facilitate over 20 international trips this academic school year. These trip leaders will bring an expected 600 BPS student travelers from 24 different middle to high schools to over 22 countries. Our first group of student travelers will leave for Portugal, Italy, France, and Spain this February break for language and cultural immersion themed trips! If you are interested in being trained as a BPS trip leader or are interested in learning more about Global Education and travel opportunities please contact Brittany Wheaton Calloway at Bwheaton@bostonpublicschools.org.

Last month I told you about our collaboration with the Sandy Hook Promise, which works with schools across the country to reduce social isolation among students as a way to reduce gun school gun violence. Social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely or treated like you are invisible. Young people who feel this way may pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development or choose to hurt themselves or others. As part of that partnership, schools across our district, starting this past Monday, kicked off Start With Hello Week. The initiative is aimed bringing attention to the growing epidemic of social isolation in our schools and communities, and empowers young people to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization.

This week three BPS schools: The Lyndon, Murphy and Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, with a combined 2600 students, launched Start with Hello Week. The team from Sandy Hook Promise is giving presentations at each of those schools. Another 11 schools, with 3,250 students, will be launching Start with Hello Week in the coming months. At Madison Park,

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staff greeted students that door first thing Monday morning and had them fill out a “Hello My Name Is” name tag. They also handed out custom-made wristbands that had “Start with Hello” and the school’s initials printed on them. Each day this week they are broadcasting two announcements with inspirational message aimed creating inclusion. And today they created a “photo booth” of sorts where students and staff took pictures holding signs, such as “No One Eats Alone,” and they blanketed social media with the pictures that had Start With Hello Week filter imprinted on them.

Here’s how Kristin Weeks, Madison Park’s assistant principal, described the impact Start With Hello Week has had on the school’s students: “Start With Hello week at Madison Park is what school is all about, coming together to ensure we have safest and most inclusive environment for our students. This week has brought our community together and has brought out the best in both our staff and students. We are excited to continue with this week’s activities and spread the message of inclusion and connectedness at Madison Park.” I also want to highlight that Andria Amador, the senior director of Behavioral Health Services for the Boston Public Schools, talked about a new violence prevention initiative that is aligned with the "Sandy Hook Promise" during recent interview on BNN. To watch the video of the interview, log onto our website at bostonpublicschools.org.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that she was saddened by recent events at Greater Egleston High School, adding that she looks forward to attending the meeting that the district will hold at the school the following day. She also expressed concern that Massachusetts was recently named the worst state for Latinos in terms of income and equality by financial news company 24/7 Wall Street. Finally, she said that she has received positive feedback from students at Another Course to College who recently started a semester at Hale Intrepid Academy.

Ms. Jeri Robinson said that she enjoyed the play HYPE MAN, featuring Boston Arts Academy alumni. She also attended the Boston Teachers Union’s recent parent-to-parent conference, which she called sobering, and stressed the importance of parent voice.

Mr. O’Neill commented that Greater Egleston High School is an important part of the district’s alternative education program. He encouraged students to apply for a scholarship that the GE Foundation and John F. Kennedy Library are offering to a BPS graduate who plans to pursue a STEM major in college. He also noted that BPS Educator of the Year nominations are due on February 23. Finally, he congratulated the students of the Philadelphia Public Schools on the Philadelphia Eagles’ recent Super Bowl win.

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening, everyone. Happy Black History Month! We look forward to continuing the amazing work within the district providing our historical marginalized students of color with the

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world class education they deserve, and providing them with the platform to amplify their voices and engaging in decision making.

In the last several weeks, we have been honored with the opportunity to meet with Chairperson Loconto to discuss our major projects and campaigns and how could we best support him in his new role.

We've also met with Boston City Councilor-at-Large Annessa Essaibi-George to discuss her priorities as Chair of the City Council's Education Committee.

Most recently, BPS Budget Director David Bloom meet with our steering committee to train and aid in organizing of the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC)'s Student Town Halls focusing on the BPS Budget. The result of this initial meeting will be discussed on February 12, when we hold our first of three town halls that will educate and collect feedback regarding the BPS FY19 budget proposal.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding the Superintendent's FY 19 Preliminary Budget Proposal:

- Boston City Councilor Kim Janey
- Shawn Brown, executive director, Becoming a Man (BAM) program
- Rafaela Polanco, parent, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Santa Heredia, parent, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Paula Ortiz, parent, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Karina Paulino, parent, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Tycia Feagan, parent, Hurley School
- Ada Martinez, parent, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Boston City Councilor-at-Large Annessa Essaibi-George
- Lynnelle Pittet, parent, Winship Elementary School
- Audrey Martínez-Gudapakkam, Winship Elementary School
- Matt Hodge, parent, Winship Elementary School
- Lesley Snay, Playworks Program Coordinator
- Myra Rivera, grandparent, Hurley and Blackstone schools, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Jacqueline Rodriguez, school psychologist
- Alexis St. James, school psychologist
- Kelly Gallagher, school psychologist
- Christine Rinaldi, school psychologist
- Christine Langhoff, Dorchester resident
- Carla Tejada, parent, Hernandez K-8 School
- Chris Fung, parent, Russell Elementary School

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The following people testified in favor of the district using the Opportunity Index to allocate Partnership Funding:

- Mark O'Connor, principal, The Carter School
- Eugene Roundtree, headmaster, Snowden International School at Copley
- Velecia Saunders, headmaster, McKinley Schools
- Courtney Sheppeck, Murphy K-8 School
- Sean Guthrie, principal, Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School
- Sandra Lopez-Burke, executive director, City Year Boston
- Todd Fishburn, principal, Dever Elementary School
- Katie Grassa, principal, Curley K-8 School

Travis Marshall, parent, Bates Elementary School, shared his concerns regarding the distribution of Partnership Funding.

Peggy Wiesenbergl testified regarding leadership and governance changes at Greater Egleston High School.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$23,000.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request for students and chaperones from the Boston Latin Academy to travel to Spain and Portugal from April 11-22, 2018.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request for students and chaperones from the John W. McCormack Middle School to travel to Costa Rica from April 18-26, 2018.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request for students and chaperones from Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School to travel to Costa Rica from April 10-18, 2018.

Approved – The Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, a one-year exception to the age 22 mandatory transfer policy, allowing Boston Adult Technical Academy to continue academic programming for students who are over age 22 for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Approved – The Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, Massachusetts School Building Authority accelerated repair program statements of interest for the Rafael Hernandez K-8 School; Patrick Lyndon K-8 School; Donald McKay K-8 School; John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science; James Otis Elementary School; Josiah Quincy Elementary School; and Snowden International School at Copley.

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REPORTS

Superintendent's FY19 Preliminary Budget Recommendation – BPS Chief Finance Officer Eleanor Laurans and Deputy Chief Finance Office Nate Kuder presented the Superintendent's preliminary \$1.109 billion Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget recommendation that includes a \$48 million projected increase over last year's appropriation, marking the largest proposed BPS budget in the city's history. The proposed budget features investments in individual school budgets, extended learning time, hiring effective teachers, supports for students experiencing homelessness, and an empowerment program for young men of color, among other vital supports. The City of Boston's allocation to BPS has increased by \$170 million, or 18 percent, over the past five years. Next year's proposed appropriation is in addition to a collective bargaining reserve to be used when union negotiations are completed.

The increased funding from the City comes despite the Governor's proposed budget that would decrease net state aid to Boston by \$17 million. While Mayor Walsh has increased BPS' annual budget by \$170 million since taking office, the state's Chapter 70 funding has only increased by \$8 million. The Commonwealth also continues to underfund charter school reimbursements for cities and towns, which under the Governor's proposed budget translates into \$27 million in lost funding in Boston in FY19 alone and more than \$100 million over the last five years. The City is bridging this gap and contributing additional resources to strengthen BPS' efforts to provide each of its students a high-quality education in a 21st-century learning environment.

The proposed FY19 budget focuses on a deep investment in the budgets of individual schools. In total, funding going directly to schools will increase by \$40 million in FY19, which includes approximately \$30 million toward higher teacher salaries and an additional \$10 million in further investments.

Those additional investments are focused on the district's highest-need schools and supporting schools in transition due to enrollment shifts. In the proposed budget, no school will see a financial impact for the first one percent of an enrollment decline. In total, BPS has proposed dedicating \$3.4 million to ensure smooth transitions for schools with fluctuating enrollments, including a \$1 million reserve to support lower performing schools with declining enrollment.

Additionally, using a new formula that measures student need and is in adherence with the BPS Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Policy, BPS will be reallocating \$5.8 million in external partnership funding to schools with our highest-need students. The district will also be providing an additional \$3 million to schools to impact high-need students.

In developing the proposed FY19 budget, the members of the Boston School Committee's Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force, along with members of the BPS offices of Finance, Opportunity and Achievement Gaps, and Equity, analyzed figures to ensure that dollars are being directed toward students with the highest need in an equitable fashion.

For the first time, \$5.8 million in Partnership Funds will be allocated to schools with the highest concentration of need using the Opportunity Index.

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Committee members asked questions about changes to partnership funding distribution, support for student experiencing homelessness, and the expansion of Excellence for All, social-emotional supports, and community engagement, all of which were answered by the budget team.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila requested a copy of the Opportunity Index with scores by school. She also requested a full presentation from the BPS Office of Health and Wellness in the near future.

Dr. Uriarte requested further analysis of per pupil spending by race.

Mr. O'Neill spoke about the impacted that the decline in charter school reimbursement and the design of Chapter 70 is having on the district. He urged the BPS community to advocate for an increase in charter school reimbursement, noting that the Mayor of Salem has offered to join BPS in advocating at the state level.

Dr. Coleman encouraged BPS to work with the community to supplement support for the district's public health needs. He also requested data on how school performance is correlated with opportunity index. The district is doing that analysis.

Ms. Jeri Robinson proposed the creation of an Experience Index to complement the Opportunity Index.

Mr. Loconto summarized the discussion, saying that there are lots of good stories in the FY19 budget proposal. He emphasized the need to advocate the Boston delegation for more state aid, revisions to the Chapter 70 formula, and an increase to the charter reimbursement. He noted that Boston is constrained when it comes to increasing property taxes, and suggested that leaders consider an increase to the meals tax or a ride sharing tax to generate new forms of revenue. He also invited people to share their feedback on the FY19 budget proposal at a series of upcoming budget hearings.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

Peggy Wiesenberg, advocate, testified regarding the Superintendent's FY19 budget proposal.

John Mudd, advocate, requested an expanded BPS program budget.

Megan Wolf, member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), advocated for more support for isolated incidences of student poverty.

Mary Battenfield, member, QUEST, advocated for more funding for BPS and called for more transparency and clarity in the budget process.

Lynnelle Pittet, parent, Winship Elementary School testified regarding the potential impact that the proposed FY19 budget could have on the Winship School.

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Jacqueline Rodriguez, school psychologist, advocated for increased staffing for school psychologists and pupil adjustment counselors.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

At approximately 10:41 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary