



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 11 2018

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on April 11, 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; Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; and student representative Keondré McClay.

School Committee Members Absent: Michael O'Neill and Dr. Miren Uriarte.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Grants for Approval Totaling \$697,766:

- Ed-Fi CTA – Districtwide - \$384,596
- IDEA – Districtwide - \$96,584
- Inclusive Preschool Learning Environments - Haynes EEC - \$163,902
- Summer Food Service Program: Expansion, Access, Training, and Start-Up – \$46,505
- Title IIA – Improving Educator Quality – Districtwide - \$6,179

Update on Columbia Point School Properties Power Point and Equity Impact Statement

Mattapan Early Elementary School Renaming: Mattahunt Elementary School

Food and Nutrition Services Hub and Spoke Update Power Point and Equity Impact Statement

Interim Salary and Non-Personnel Payments on External Funds Memo

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Boston School Committee and Custodians Tentative Agreement Power Point and Equity Impact
Statement

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Loconto led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order.

CITATIONS

TechBoston Academy Boys Basketball Team – City, MIAA Division 2 South, and Division 2 State Champions.

East Boston High School Boys Indoor Track Team – 2018 City Champions

John D. O’Bryant School of Math and Science Girls Indoor Track Team – 2018 City Champions

Boston Latin Academy Boys Hockey Team – 2018 City Champions

Boston Latin Academy Swim Team - 2018 City Champions

Boston Latin School Girls Fencing Team – 2018 State Champions

Fenway High School Girls Basketball Team - 2018 City Champions and MIAA Division 4 North Champions

Jeremiah E. Burke Boys Basketball Team – MIAA Division 3 South Champions

Mr. Loconto noted that many of the students were Boston Scholar Athletes. Ms. Regina Robinson praised the students for their dedication to athletics as well as their studies.

MEETING MINUTES

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the March 28, 2018 School Committee meeting and the March 31, 2018 School Committee retreat.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening, everyone. I hope you all had a nice Easter, or Passover, since we last met. We’re looking forward to — hopefully — some warmer temperatures for April vacation next week, especially for those of you watching or running the Boston Marathon on Monday. There is a lot going on right now in BPS — and I have many bright spots to share. But, let’s dive into some updates first.

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On Tuesday, The Nation's Report Card was released, showing the results from the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress. This assessment looks at academic progress in all 50 states and 27 urban districts nationwide, including Boston. Boston has been part of the TUDA — the Trial Urban District Assessment program — since 2003. Once again, Boston Public Schools is leading the nation in several areas. BPS is one of only two urban districts to show significant gains in eighth-grade reading; and one of six districts to make any significant gains on NAEP at all since 2015. Since 2003, we've increased our scores in fourth-grade reading by 9 points and in eighth-grade reading by 11 points. Students in calculated subgroups — Black, Latino, low-income, English Learners, or students with disabilities — all scored on-par or above their respective subgroups in 4th and 8th grade reading as well. English Learners in BPS scored the highest in the nation in grade 4 reading. This is something we should all be proud of.

Boston has always invested in education — and these positive NAEP results is one demonstration of that. As a city, we have always put an emphasis on a strong curriculum, training for teachers, and funding for education. However, as we dig into the data, we are noticing there are still persistent achievement gaps among these subgroups within Boston Public Schools. Even though we have experienced gains in some areas, our results, like the rest of the country, have stagnated overall. This underscores why we do the work we are all so heavily focused on doing now — we're focused on increasing rigor, cognitively demanding tasks, professional development, and embracing culturally and linguistically sustaining practices. The Essentials for Instructional Equity, which is something that many of our teachers are using this year, places an emphasis on young people's identities and bringing them into the curriculum. This work is our innovation — and it's going to help us close opportunity and achievement gaps.

Today, The Boston Foundation released its latest report on the college completion initiative with BPS, the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) and Success Boston. The good news is when looking at the students who enroll in college during the first year after high school graduation, their rate of college completion within six years is 52%, which is the highest recorded to date. Even though we are clearly headed in the right direction, we acknowledge that this percentage falls short of a previous administration's aspirational goal of doubling the college completion rate within 10 years. There are also gaps in race and gender, and whether or not the students attended exam schools. We should be proud as a city that many sectors are working together on this important initiative. We are tracking this data to help us make informed choices about how to help students become college and career ready. I'd like to thank the PIC, Success Boston, The Boston Foundation, our local colleges and universities, and all of our partners for helping us work to enhance college readiness in our young people.

Congratulations to iCivics and the BPS History and Social Studies Department for being awarded \$95,000 from NBC Universal on Monday as part of the "Project Innovation" grant competition. I'd also like to congratulate the Mattapan Early Elementary School for winning \$30,000 from EdVestors yesterday as part of its Seed Fund Competition. That money is being used for the school's Haitian-Creole dual-language program. Both of these donations will go a long way in supporting our students. These are two great examples of the corporate and non-profit communities partnering with us to help us develop innovative learning. Thank you to both NBC Universal and EdVestors for your generosity.

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On March 29th, the Hernandez Dual-Language School in Roxbury held a ribbon-cutting to open its brand new playground. This is a truly special project — it all started when students and families began a fundraising effort to build a new playground. After raising thousands of dollars, the Hernandez students contacted Mayor Walsh, and asked if he could help them build their playground. Listening to some of his key constituents, Mayor Walsh went back to City Hall and decided the playground would be included in the city’s Imagine Boston 2030 Capital Plan, which set aside \$1.25 million for the project. I am so proud of our students for learning how to collaborate with one another and advocate for positive change in their school community. Their efforts will not only make their playtime more fun, but it will benefit future students and the community for years to come.

On April 2nd, we were at the Bradley School in East Boston to announce the launch of My Way Cafe. This is an expansion of the “Hub and Spoke” pilot program that began last year with the Shah Family Foundation. The program builds hybrid kitchens in schools without full-service kitchens, allowing them to cook fresh meals on-site. Mayor Walsh joined us in announcing that My Way Cafe will come to 30 schools by next school year, and hopefully to all schools in BPS within the next couple of years. This was a really exciting announcement — and you could see it on the smiles of the students faces. Students in the schools where we launched this program are loving the food, and our increased meal participation rates show that. We know that when food is freshly cooked, healthy, and delicious, more students are going to eat and enjoy the food, and make healthier choices for the rest of their lives. We are very thankful for the support of the Shah Family Foundation and the City of Boston in helping us expand our students’ access to fresh food. Our Executive Director of Food and Nutrition Services, Laura Benavidez, will provide you the details of My Way Cafe in her presentation later this evening.

BPS students got to celebrate Red Sox Opening Day one day early last week with Red Sox Hat Giveaway Day — when all students in grades K-8 received a Red Sox cap, courtesy of the Sox and JetBlue. Students at the Hurley Dual Language School in the South End got a big surprise when former Designated Hitter David Ortiz — Big Papi! — stopped by the school for a special visit with all of the students. I don’t think I’ve ever seen an entire school of students so excited to see somebody stop by. It was incredible. David Ortiz is a legend here in Boston and is truly an inspiration and role model for so many of our young people. I’d like to thank the Red Sox and the BPS Office of External Affairs for working together on this and making it a truly memorable day for so many students.

About 2,000 BPS students participated in Walk to School Day today. Wally the Green Monster walked with the students at the Josiah Quincy School in Chinatown — they were very excited to see him. We also have some photos from the Sarah Greenwood School. This biannual event is part of Safe Routes to School Boston, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies Partnership for Healthy Cities, to make walking to school safe, popular, and fun. This is a great way to encourage healthy habits as the weather warms up. Thank you to everyone who participated in this nice event.

Tonight, eight teachers will be honored with the Educators of the Year Awards during halftime at the Celtics game at TD Garden. Six teachers will receive honorable mentions. All of these

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teachers were nominated for consistently going the extra mile to make lasting impressions on their students and the BPS community. We'll be posting the names of the winners on BostonPublicSchools.org shortly. I'd like to thank the Boston Teachers Union and the BPS Office of External Affairs for honoring our teachers. I would also like to thank all of the BPS teachers for your commitment and dedication to our students every day.

Sunday is One Boston Day in the City of Boston. The day serves as an opportunity to recognize the good in our community, celebrate one another, and reflect on the spirit and resilience of the people of Boston that was exemplified in response to the Boston Marathon Bombings on April 15, 2013. Here at BPS, we are collecting clothing and toiletries for students served by the BPS Homeless Education Resource Network. You can learn more by visiting www.OneBostonDay.org.

Last, but not least, I would like to wish good luck to everyone in the BPS community who is running the Boston Marathon on Monday — including Chairperson Michael Loconto. Michael has been training with the Parkway Running Club in West Roxbury; and is raising funds to support the Boston Educational Development Foundation, which will support the valedictorians and salutatorians in BPS.

Mr. Loconto said that he is excited to run the Boston Marathon to raise funds for the BPS Valedictorians Luncheon.

Ms. Jeri Robinson said that she was impressed with the student projects she viewed at the Rev. Michael Haynes Early Education Center Science Fair on April 10th.

Mr. McClay asked why BPS graduations are not completing college at higher rates. The Superintendent explained that there are a myriad of reasons and reaffirmed the district's commitment to increasing college completion rates.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the Boston Foundation for its long-standing support of the Success Boston initiative. She also noted that the district must find new funding sources to sustain the work in the future.

Mr. Loconto said that the Committee and Superintendent held a retreat on March 31st, at which time the Committee participated in an equity training led by Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Dr. Colin Rose and Assistant Superintendent of Equity Becky Schuster. The Committee also discussed how to be more transparent with the topics planned for upcoming agendas calendar. The Committee discussed holding another retreat in June and may hold similar meetings on a quarterly basis. Mr. Loconto also said that the MA House of Representatives recently released its proposed FY19 budget, which includes an increase to the charter school reimbursement, as well as increases for homeless funding and circuit breaker funding. The Committee is sending letter to the Boston delegation requesting their support of increase to the charter school reimbursement, the expansion of access to high quality early education in Boston, and education finance reform. The Committee then approved the Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

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REPORT

Columbia Point Properties Update – Dr. Makeeba McCreary, managing director and senior advisor for the BPS Office of External Affairs and Sheila Dillon, the City’s chief of Housing and director of Neighborhood Development, presented a proposal to subdivide a piece of land on Columbia Point, near the Dever and McCormack Schools. If the Committee should choose to approve the subdivision, the City’s Department of Neighborhood, with input from BPS, would draft a Request for Proposals (RFP) for redevelopment of the site for educational and community use. Following a community process, DND and BPS could either select the most advantageous proposal, or return the parcel to BPS inventory. Dr. McCreary explained that the land is currently underutilized and has the potential to serve as a model for collaborative space.

Committee members asked questions about the parcel’s current usage, potential usage, and plans for the engagement process. Ms. Jeri Robinson and Ms. Regina Robison encouraged the district to communicate immediately with families at the Dever and McCormack schools, which the Superintendent agreed to do. Dr. Coleman asked the presenters to provide the Committee with state guidelines regarding subdivision.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Zahria Ramos, student, Higginson K-2 School, advocated for the construction of a playground at the school.

Michael Eugene, student, Higginson K-2 School, advocated for the construction of a playground at the school.

Robert Jenkins, resident, testified in support of the Mattapan Early Elementary School (MEES) and the leadership at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School.

Lincoln Larmond, parent, MEES, advocated for more social-emotional supports at the school.

Marie Mullen, principal, Higginson K-2 School, advocated for the construction of a playground at the school.

Louis Elisa, member, Friends of Madison Park, testified regarding the school’s leadership.

Amini Onowho, teacher, Higginson K-2 School, advocated for the construction of a playground at the school.

Jovan Lacet, BPS parent and Mattapan resident, advocated for more social-emotional supports for the MEES.

John Mudd, advocate, thanked the budget team for providing the FY19 program budget; and advocated for more teacher diversity and the closing of persistent achievement gaps.

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Justin Petty, parent, Higginson K-2 School, advocated for the construction of a playground at the school.

Peggy Wiesenberg, advocate, testified regarding the Columbia Point Properties Update and Build BPS.

Megan Sonderegger, parent, Boston Latin Academy, testified regarding her child's experience with special education services at BLA.

Ann Walsh, parent, Boston Latin Academy, testified regarding her child's experience with special education services at BLA.

Barbara Fields, Mattapan resident, testified in support of the Superintendent's recommendation to change the name of the Mattapan Early Elementary School to the Mattahunt Elementary School. She also read a similar statement of support on behalf of Nancy Dickerson, Mattapan resident and retired BPS employee. Ms. Fields also advocated for more social-emotional supports for the MEES.

Kathy Carney, president, Local 230, testified in support of better communication and collaboration regarding the expansion of the My Way Café.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$697,766.

Approved – The Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, the Superintendent's recommendation to change the name of the Mattapan Early Elementary School to the Mattahunt Elementary School, effective School Year 2018-19.

REPORTS

Food and Nutrition Services Hub and Spoke Update – Food and Nutrition Services Executive Director Laura Benavidez presented an update on the Hub and Spoke project, now known as My Way Café. Thanks to financial support from the Shah Family Foundation, meals that are freshly prepared at a full-service cafeteria school are distributed to satellite schools. The program began as a pilot in East Boston last spring as part of the district's efforts to provide more students with healthy, fresh, and tasty meals. The project will expand to 30 schools in Roxbury, Mattapan and East Boston this fall.

Committee members praised the My Way Café and thanked the Shah Family Foundation for its financial support. Members asked questions about engagement, participation and student choice, all of which were answered by Ms. Benavidez. Ms. Regina Robinson suggested that the district hold taste testings for families. Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged the district to use an equity lens when selecting schools for the program's expansion. Mr. Loconto said that the My Way Café

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model offers cost savings that can be reinvested and has the potential to create more jobs for city residents. He requested an update on the district's prepared food vendor Revolution Foods and encouraged the district to explore the use of free-standing school cafeterias.

Interim Salary and Non-Personnel Payments on External Funds – Director of Federal and State Grants Anu Jayanth presented the Superintendent's request for the Committee to approve an interim salary payment order for personnel paid from external funds, as well as encumbrances for non-personnel. These grants are projected to be awarded for FY19 and will be submitted for approval at future School Committee meetings, as they are awarded. This order has been requested annually at this time of year due to the delay in receiving external fund award letters and finalized budgets from the various funding sources. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the request on April 25th.

Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Boston School Committee and BPS Custodians - Interim Director of Labor Relations Jeremiah Hasson and Assistant Director of Facilities Management P.J. Preskenis presented a tentative agreement between the Committee and Local Union 1952, Painters & Allied Trades District Council No. 35 (Custodians) from 2016-2020. The new, four-year agreement (one-year and three-year) includes a wage increase of two percent per year, funding for legal and housing assistance, and paid parental leave. In exchange, the district would gain additional management flexibilities and reforms. The Superintendent is also requesting School Committee approval for an FY18 supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$1,013,216 to cover the cost of the agreement. The agreement has been ratified by the union. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the agreement and the supplemental appropriation request on April 25th.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

Peggy Wiesenberg, advocate, testified in support of the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the Boston School Committee and BPS custodians.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Regina Robinson praised BPS custodians for their dedication and work ethic.

ADJOURN

At approximately 9:20 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary