



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 7, 2017

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on June 7, 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: Vice-Chair Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael Loconto; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Keondre McClay.

School Committee Member Absent: Chairperson Michael D. O'Neill.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Grant for Approval: Supplementary Support to School Districts with High School Concentrations of At-Risk Students: MassGrad Promising Practices Summer Focus - \$20,000

Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA) Charter Renewal Power Point

BDEA Application for Renewal of a Horace Mann Public School Charter

BDEA Appendices

BPS Department of Global Education Update

2017 Wellness Policy Revisions

Memo from Amalio Nieves, Assistant Superintendent of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness to Boston School Committee members Re: Request for Approval of Recommended Wellness Policy Updates, June 1, 2017

BPS District Wellness Policy Draft

June 7, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Dean Coleman led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order.

CITATIONS

The School Committee and Superintendent Chang presented citations to the following recipients:

- Farah Raslan Haniff, 4th grader, Winship Elementary School - Scripps National Spelling Bee contestant
- Dr. Mary Zortman Cohen, BPS Behavioral Health Services Department, MA School Psychologist of the Year

Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) Graduating Seniors:

- Crystal, Aneke, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
- Ebony, Campbell, Charlestown High School
- Melissa Duran, Brighton High School
- Anthony Englert, Boston Latin Academy
- Staphanaika Janvier, Margarita Muniz Academy
- Fania Joseph, Dorchester Academy
- Caroline Mayer, Boston Latin Academy
- Gabriela Medina, Urban Science Academy
- Hibo Moallim, Brighton High School
- Joseph Okafor, Urban Science Academy
- Lakendra Ross-Williams, Boston Day and Evening Academy
- Ericlyn Teah, Community Academy of Science & Health
- Angel Wilder, Dearborn STEM

Keondre McClay, who is wrapping up his year as student representative on School Committee, took a moment to say goodbye and thank you.

MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the May 31, 2017 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

June 7, 2017

Good evening, everybody. It's nice to see all of you tonight. We've finally reached June, the month of celebration of student learning. Hopefully the weather will finally warm up so that we can have some great graduation and moving-on celebrations over the next few weeks!

Before graduation, it's prom night for many seniors. It can be such a special moment for all of our students.

I'd like to give a shout-out to an organization called "Giving the Glam," which helped several students at BINcA and TechBoston have a prom night to remember. We're showing some photos of these marvelous-looking seniors from BINcA on the screen right now. This year, Giving the Glam provided 32 students from Boston International Newcomers Academy... and nine students from TechBoston Academy an all-expenses-paid prom experience, paying for attire, hair and makeup artists, and limo rides to prom. The founder of Giving the Glam, Maristela Rapo has been covering the cost of proms for a growing number of students in BPS and METCO since in 2014. We thank her so much for giving back. Giving the Glam not only provides our students — and particularly our recent immigrant students — a memorable prom night... but she's boosting their spirits as they walk the line to receive their high school diplomas.

Speaking of graduations, our first graduation ceremony of the season is happening tonight. Congratulations to the seniors at West Roxbury Academy, whose ceremony is being held at UMass Boston. Tomorrow night, 10 schools will hold their graduation ceremonies, including TechBoston Academy, where I will have the honor of attending. It's inspiring and humbling to see so many students reaching this important milestone on their way to college and career. At the School Committee's Valedictorian Luncheon last week, we met many students who moved to the United States only recently... and experienced an incredible ride to the top of their class. We also have many students who aren't valedictorians ... who overcame so many obstacles to get to this point. We should celebrate the diversity of our students, and their incredible determination... and all of the hardworking, and passionate teachers, school leaders, and parents who helped our students reach this milestone.

I'd like to take a brief moment to celebrate and reflect on the life of Barbara Elam, who passed away a few weeks ago at the age of 88. Ms. Elam was a mother, grandmother, and had a deep passion for reading, writing, and providing literacy opportunities for children of color. After graduating in 1945 at the age of 16 from Roxbury Memorial High School, and attended Simmons College. She became a children's librarian at the East Boston and South End branches of the Boston Public Library in the 1950s. She made great strides to obtain books by Black authors to ensure that children saw characters that looked like them. In the mid-60s, Ms. Elam began at the Joseph Lee School in Dorchester, and later at Brighton High School, where she ordered several copies of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley after discovering that this piqued the interest of students at the school. As we work to provide content that is more culturally relevant for our students, we should all look to Barbara Elam as a role model in the work that we do. There is a nicely-written obituary about her in today's Boston Globe, and I'd suggest all of you read this article to understand the positive legacy she had on the Boston Public Schools.

I'd like to thank Mayor Walsh for his continued support of the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

June 7, 2017

The Mayor joined local and national leaders for a highly attended discussion here at the Bolling Building on Friday to discuss mentoring recruitment and implicit bias training efforts.

One special guest was Broderick Johnson, chair of the national My Brother's Keeper Task Force, and former Cabinet Secretary for President Obama. Mr. Johnson also met with 20 students at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School on Friday. The Mayor also announced the establishment of a My Brother's Keeper Advisory Board. Our own managing director and senior advisor of external affairs, Dr. Makeeba McCreary, was named to the advisory board, along with representatives from several city agencies and community partners.

I had the honor of providing a keynote speech at a forum to discuss dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline at the Kroc Community Center on Tuesday along with two other speakers: Lynsey Heffernan of the Department of Youth Services, and Ron Ferguson, director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School. In my remarks, I touched upon the three phases of work in our multi-year trajectory of developing culturally and linguistically sustaining practices to close opportunity and achievement gaps by reducing the negative impact of systemic biases over time. I'd like to thank our Office of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness, the Youth Transitions Task Force, and the Boston Opportunity Youth Collaborative for facilitating this important discussion.

I'd like to thank the many BPS staff and community partners who attended the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Model (CBHM) Showcase on Tuesday here at the Bolling Building. CBHM is a multi-tiered system of support model that is now in 50 Boston public schools. Many of our important partners in this work, including Boston Children's Hospital, were here to facilitate important discussions around the intersection of school climate, social-emotional and behavioral health support, and academic success for our students. I'd like to thank Andria Amador, senior director of Behavioral Health Services for BPS, in being instrumental in organizing this successful event.

Earlier today, I provided my initial release of Brighton's and Excel high schools' Level 4 turnaround plans. We have been working with both school communities throughout the year, since their Level 4 designations at the end of September, to develop turnaround plans for the schools. As indicated in state law, these initial plans have been provided to each school's local stakeholder group, this committee, and state Commissioner Mitchell Chester; we are also posting the plans on our website. Over the next 30 days, all three of these parties have the opportunity to review the plans and propose modifications to me; I will consider any proposed modifications before I release a final version of each school's plan. I will be meeting with both the Brighton and Excel local stakeholder groups in the upcoming weeks to hear their thoughts directly, and I look forward to the committee's thoughts as well. I'd like to thank the many members of the Brighton and Excel communities who provided important input into these plans; the committee will notice that both local stakeholder group recommendations and student focus group input influenced our strategies. I look forward to meeting with the Brighton local stakeholder group on June 22nd from 2:00-3:30 p.m. and the Excel local stakeholder group on June 26th from 3:30-5 p.m. to discuss their feedback with them directly. These meetings will be held at the schools and open to the public. I encourage people to attend. There was a comprehensive effort across central office to support plan development. We will continue to support the schools throughout the

June 7, 2017

summer -- under the leadership of headmasters Renee McCall and Rob Rametti -- to begin plan implementation and ensure a strong start for School Year 2017-2018.

I want to quickly congratulate all of the students who participated in the BuildFest Pitch Challenge event at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. Student entrepreneurs presented ideas to a panel of VIP judges in a “Sharktank” style competition. This is a great way for our students to understand how their creativity and ideas can work in today’s economy.

I had the honor of kicking off the fifth-annual BPS City-Wide Arts Festival on Tuesday. It’s so energizing watching our students sing, play instruments, and dance. Watching their creativity and souls shine bright through the arts is truly a joy. More than 1,000 BPS students in grades K through 8 participated in our annual, three-day festival. It’s a great way to showcase our student talent for the entire city ... and to demonstrate the success of the BPS Arts Expansion Initiative... which has increased the number of students receiving arts education from 67% to 95% since 2009. Coinciding with the Arts Festival is an exciting announcement that I made along with Mayor Walsh and EdVestors which is that we are entering Phase 4 of the BPS Arts Expansion Initiative. One of our goals is to raise \$2.5 million in private funds over the next three years.

Six third, fourth, and fifth grade students from the Harvard-Kent School in Charlestown got a huge surprise on Friday. In a very public way, these students received \$1,000 scholarships from the Harvard-Kent Leadership and Scholarship Partnership. I was on hand to see the sheer excitement on the students’ faces when their names were called ... as they joined their families joining them on stage. They were rewarded for all the right reasons: doing well academically, promoting school spirit, being peer leaders, and most importantly being a good friend. What I think is truly remarkable about this is that it gets *all of the students at the Harvard-Kent* thinking about college and career at an early age in a truly engaging way that promotes school spirit. I’d like to thank all of the community volunteers, along with Harvard-Kent Principal Jason Gallagher, for hosting this event every year. I’d also like to thank Mayor Walsh, BTU President Richard Stutman, State Rep. Daniel Ryan, Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George and all of those who made this a special day for our students.

We had a great turn-out once again for the Promising Pals Breakfast at the Timilty Middle School in Roxbury last Friday. Incredibly now in its 31st year. Promising Pals is a pen-pal program that bridges students with positive role models in the community. Wally the Green Monster was on hand to get students and adults excited about Promising Pals, which does a great job of helping build students’ literacy, networking, and friendship-building skills. We had a number of members of BPS leadership participate in the program this year, including Chief of Staff Rob Consalvo, and Operational Superintendent Sam DePina, along with folks from the Boston and School police departments, the U.S. Postal Service, FEMA, MIT, UMass Boston, Sojourner House, Salesforce, Delta Airlines, and many other organizations. Thank you all for continuing to support the growth of our students.

June 7, 2017

And, finally, I'd like to highlight the growth of a really cool project at the Haley School in Roslindale. Through a partnership through Community Boat Building, every year the fifth graders work on building canoes at school throughout the year.

This year, the boat-building teacher, Sarah Besse, has collaborated with the school's art teacher, Amy Tatreau, in painting themes on the boats in order to give students creativity and ownership over their work. This year's theme was "Messages to Change the World," with a focus on social justice issues. In addition to painting beautiful images, the students painted messages promoting peace and civil rights. There is going to be a boat launch tomorrow, and again on Tuesday, from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM on Jamaica Pond, where parents and the community can admire the boats as they're used to boat around the pond.

And, with great pride, I now want to introduce to the School Committee and the public the new and veteran principals and headmasters who will be leading new schools beginning July 1:

Phineas Bates Elementary School: Mr. Rodolfo Morales
Blackstone Innovation School: Mr. Jamel Adkins-Sharif
Boston Latin School: Ms. Rachel Skerritt
Brighton High School: Mr. Rob Rametti
Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH): Ms. Robin Lee
Excel High School: Ms. Renee McCall
Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Ms. Maritza Ciliberto
John F. Kennedy Innovation School: Dr. Christine Copeland
Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary School: Ms. Kristen Goncalves
John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science: Dr. Tanya Freeman-Wisdom
John D. Philbrick K-8: Mr. Danladi Bobbitt
Timilty Middle School: Ms. T'Sheba Martin
Trotter Innovation K-8 School: Ms. Sarita Thomas
Young Achievers K-8: Mr. Sean Guthrie

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Wiesenberg, Access to Justice Fellow, testified regarding school assignments and transportation.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent a grant in the amount of \$20,000.

Approved – The Committee approved, by roll call, a Horace Mann charter school renewal application for Boston Day and Evening Academy.

June 7, 2017

REPORTS

BPS Department of Global Education Update – BPS Director of Global Education Brittany Wheaton Calloway and Assistant Superintendent of Academics and Professional Learning Doannie Tran provided an update on the work of the BPS Department of Global Engagement, which was established in 2010 under former Superintendent Carol Johnson to focus on more equitable access to experiential learning programs abroad.

The BPS Office of Global Education has increased learning abroad opportunities for students and expanded the cross-collaboration among schools and outside resources. Each year, more BPS students are studying abroad, building their sense of global citizenship and cultural proficiency. The Office of Global Education is focused on increasing equity and has set a goal to increase the number of student travelers who are male and people of color, who have traditionally been underrepresented.

Boston Latin Academy student Arianna Dixon-Ortiz spoke about her experience traveling to Cuba to study the arts as part of the district's first districtwide international trip last February. Nasha Lee-Bailey, Madison Park Technical Vocational High School Allied Health Instructor, spoke about her experience organizing the school's first-ever study abroad opportunity this year.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged the district to explore pairing up schools that regularly organize trips with less experienced schools. Ms. Wheaton welcomed the idea and said that her office is empowering teachers by training them to be chaperones. She also noted that some travel vendors are providing students with payment plans, making study abroad opportunities more affordable.

Ms. Regina Robinson encouraged the district to provide students with cultural exposure at home before they travel aboard.

Mr. Loconto praised the report and the district's efforts to broaden international travel opportunities for students.

Ms. Jeri Robinson praised the concept of district-wide international travel opportunities, which incorporate students from a variety of schools. She also encouraged offering domestic travel opportunities for undocumented students.

Dr. Uriarte asked about the district's strategies for attracting more male student traveler. Ms. Wheaton said that boys often prefer travel that includes athletic opportunities and service-learning trips, which the district hopes to expand.

2017 Wellness Policy Revisions – On behalf of the District Wellness Council, Assistant Superintendent of Social Emotional Learning Amalio Nieves and Executive Director of Health and Wellness Jill Carter presented recommendations and updates to the District Wellness Policy. The federal government requires that BPS revises its Wellness Policy by June 30th. The recommended revisions are a result of an iterative editing process led by the District Wellness

June 7, 2017

Council Subcommittee Co-Chairs and involved district leaders, school leaders, school-based staff, and community partners. Feedback was also sought from BPS students and families.

The presenters explained that healthy kids are better learners and that a focus on health and wellness can help close opportunity and achievement gaps. The BPS Wellness Policy was initially approved by the School Committee in 2006 and was last updated in June 2013. The Committee is expect to vote on the recommendations on June 21st.

Mr. Loconto expressed enthusiastic support for the proposed 20 minute minimum recess requirement, which is based on recommendations from the Center for Disease Control. Other new policy implications include more social-emotional learning (SEL) standards.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked about supports offered during recess. The district has a partnership with Playworks to teach SEL skills. Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged the district to get the most out of its partnerships. She also suggested that the wellness policy be better integrated with the district's work around cultural proficiency, and safe and supportive schools. The Superintendent agreed to better integrate the policy.

Dr. Uriarte encouraged the presenters to revise the policy so that it more explicitly discusses English Language Learners, as well as the value of school nurses.

Ms. Jeri Robinson asked about accountability for the approximately 40 percent of schools that have not submitted wellness action plans. BPS operational leaders and instructional superintendents will work with school leaders to focus on data, capacity, and accountability.

Dean Coleman requested data on the state accountability level of the 40 percent of schools that have not submit wellness action plans.

Ms. Regina Robinson praised the work of the District Wellness Council as critical. She encouraged connections the Council to make connections with the new school leaders who were introduced earlier in the evening.

Dean Coleman proposed that the Committee schedule a separate time to discuss minimum staffing. Dr. Uriarte agreed. Mr. Loconto cautioned that entertaining such a discussion could potentially limit the Committee's ability to make difficult decisions in the future, though he is not opposed to the conversation.

NEW BUSINESS

Dean Coleman said that Chairman O'Neill is recovering from back surgery.

Dr. Uriarte said that the Committee needs to have a conversation about minimum staffing at schools. Ms. Oliver-Dávila suggested that the Committee's discussion focus on optimal, rather than minimal, staffing. Dean Coleman clarified his suggestion, saying that he'd like the Committee to discuss staffing theoretically as a broad concept. Ms. Regina Robinson agreed,

School Committee Meeting
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
School Committee Chamber

June 7, 2017

saying it would be valuable for the Committee to hold such a conversation outside of the annual budget process.

Dr. Uriarte requested that Committee members receive a schedule of meeting topics months in advance.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila requested that the Committee receive monthly budget updates on projections vs. actuals.

ADJOURN

At approximately 8:56 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary