



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REMOTE
BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 5, 2020

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on August 5, 2020 at 5 p.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee, 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 Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael O’Neill (joined one minute after the meeting began); Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; and Quoc Tran (joined one minutes after the meeting began).

School Committee Members Absent: None.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: July 22, 2020

Grants for Approval Totaling \$2,996,376

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Representative Relationship to Grant	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$2,000,000	2020	Boston Resiliency Fund	New	Nate Kuder	Chief Financial Officer	COVID-19 Relief	Districtwide

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\$50,000	2021	(CTE) Partnership Implementation	New	Michelle Sylvaria	Executive Director of Career and Technical Education	Career and Technical Education	Boston Day and Evening Academy
\$25,000	2021	(HQPBL) Curriculum Development and Implementation Enhancement Grant	New	Huijing Wu	Engineering & Robotics Specialist	Curriculum & Implementation	Eliot K-8
\$21,061	2021	Kaleidoscope Cohort School Funds	New	Huijing Wu	Engineering & Robotics Specialist	Innovation	Eliot K-8
\$490,315	2021	OST Strategic Support Grant	New	Margaret Reardon	Principal	School Turnaround	Dever Elementary
\$410,000	2021	Promoting Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV Prevention	New	Jill Carter	Assistant Superintendent, Office of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness	Health and Wellness	Districtwide
\$410,000	2021	Promoting Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV Prevention	New	Jill Carter	Assistant Superintendent, Office of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness	Health and Wellness	Districtwide

Update on Columbia Point Parcel Request for Proposals (RFP) PowerPoint

Placemaking for Boston Youth PowerPoint

Columbia Point RFP Update Equity Impact Statement

BPS School Reopening Plan PowerPoint Draft 1, August 5, 2020

School Reopening Fall 2020 Draft 1: Returning Boston Strong

Temporary Suspension of Maximum Age Assignment and Enrollment Policy PowerPoint

Temporary Suspension of Maximum Age Assignment and Enrollment Policy Equity Impact Statement

Racial Equity Planning Tool Summary: Temporary Suspension of Maximum Age Assignment and Enrollment Policy

Composite Superintendent's School Year (SY) 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation

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Superintendent's SY 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation: Chair Loconto

Superintendent's SY 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation: Vice Chair Oliver-Davila

Superintendent's SY 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation: Hardin Coleman (posted online after the meeting)

Superintendent's SY 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation: Michael O'Neill

Superintendent's SY 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation: Lorna Rivera

Superintendent's SY 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation: Jeri Robinson

Superintendent's SY 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation: Quoc Tran

Superintendent's Self-Evaluation, SY 2019-20

Memo from Superintendent Cassellius to Boston School Committee Re: FY20 Superintendent Evaluation, June 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Loconto called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Tran were absent at the time of roll call but joined the meeting within two minutes. All other members were present. Mr. Loconto said that tonight's meeting was being streamed live on Zoom and on YouTube. It will be rebroadcast on Boston City TV. It will also be posted at www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee. He announced that interpretation services were available Spanish; the interpreter introduced himself. Meeting documents were publicly posted at www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee prior to the start of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JULY 22, 2020

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the July 22, 2020 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

Thank you everyone for joining us this evening. We have a lot to cover, so I'd like to discuss a few updates and highlights from around the district.

First let me start by recognizing some amazing BPS staff members who make us BPS Proud! I'd like to highlight a couple BPS staff members who were recently recognized with awards. Jack

Yessayan who has worked for BPS for more than 43 years, was recently named one of the recipients of this year's 2020 Shattuck Public Service Awards. Jack is on our Technology team and delayed his retirement earlier this spring so that he could stay on and support his colleagues and the district as we transitioned to remote learning and worked to distribute more than 32,000 Chromebooks to our students. Jack is the definition of a public servant and we are so lucky to have had him on the BPS team for four decades.

Last week, N'Dia Riegler, a teacher at The Eliot K-8 Innovation School in the North End, was named the 2020 Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year, an award presented annually by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. I've heard from so many colleagues who were not the least bit surprised that Ms. Riegler was recognized with this honor. In the press release announcing the award, Ms. Riegler is quoted as saying, "As an educator of color, in an urban school district, it is important that I create a safe and supportive classroom culture. To foster student inquiry, I encourage participation, critical thinking and inclusive perspectives." I am so #BPSproud not only of N'Dia's award, but that we have so many educators like N'Dia who work day in and day out to cultivate warm, respectful, and culturally affirming learning environments. Congratulations to both Jack and N'Dia!

The Boston Public Schools is committed to continually and authentically engaging the many cultural and ethnic communities who are the Boston Public Schools. Over the past year, the Office of English Learners has collaborated with leaders of the Cabo Verdean community as part of our work to implement the LOOK Act. In response to a July 16 request from community leaders, and following the work of the OEL team, BPS is adopting the term "Cabo Verde" instead of "Cape Verde" to refer to the country, and "Cabo Verdean" instead of "Cape Verdean" to refer to the people of the nation's heritage. Southern New England has the largest Cabo Verdean-American population and this is an important step in our work to create culturally affirming learning and work environments. We will be working with OEL and our departments and schools to ensure that all communications will be updated moving forward to reflect this important change.

I want to provide a brief update on exam school admissions, following the recommendation I set forth during our last meeting to create an Exam School Admissions Working Group. As we all know COVID has revealed significant disparities that are disproportionately affecting our Boston Public School students and also raises real equity questions given COVID. To that end, I am glad to announce that this working group has been established to tackle these very real, complex and difficult decisions.

- Members include:
 - Samuel Acevedo, Opportunity and Achievement Gap Task Force Co-Chair
 - Acacia Aguirre, John O'Bryant Parent
 - Michael Contompasis, Former BLS Headmaster and BPS Interim Superintendent
 - Matt Cregor, on behalf of the Boston Branch NAACP
 - Tanya Freeman-Wisdom, John D. O'Bryant Head of School
 - Katherine Grassa, Curley K-8 Principal
 - Zena Lum, Boston Latin Academy Parent

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- Rachel Skerrit, Boston Latin School, Head of School
- Tanisha Sullivan, President of the Boston Branch NAACP

I know the members of the working group take this responsibility seriously and will deliberate over the next several weeks to determine recommendations for this next school year. The Working Group held its first meeting yesterday to launch its work and plans to meet weekly. The Group, facilitated by Chief of Advancement, Monica Roberts, will use the Racial Equity Tool to apply an equity lens to their work and recommendations. The meetings will be closed so they can do their work and recommendations will be brought forward on September 21st.

I'd like to provide a few updates on technology, particularly as it pertains to our reopening planning. Any student that did not receive a new Chromebook in the spring will receive a new one during reopening. Chromebooks are being configured for students as we speak so we are ready to hit the ground running! We have an additional 1,400 new hotspots arriving to BPS this week and we have established a fund to help families with home broadband service. The City has committed to providing 2,500 families with home broadband through their Digital Equity Fund. Families can continue to receive Comcast Internet Essentials free through December and after that at a reduced rate. We have a joint Tech Task Force with the BTU to help steer the adoption of new tools and make sure that we are bringing teacher and school leader voice into any new tech adoptions, including hybrid teaching technology. Each school will have a Tech Coordinator stipend to assist with coordination of new devices and home Internet in each building. We are grateful to the staff that stepped up to volunteer during closure and this stipend will help to sustain these efforts during reopening. We are evaluating camera/speaker packages to assist with hybrid instruction. The task force is helping to evaluate this tech and make sure that we provide the right training and support. Thank you to our amazing BPS Technology team for all their work, particularly since the school closure!

As we continue preparing for the successful launch of the 2020-2021 school year, we made the difficult decision to pause the adoption of the Wit & Wisdom literacy curriculum materials for the district. Our singular focus must be on ensuring students, teachers, and school leaders are ready for the new school year. The next few weeks are critical to our preparation, and we need everyone focused on planning for the delivery of high quality instruction via remote and blended learning. Pausing this literacy adoption will provide BPS the time and space to address more fully the concerns surfaced around the curriculum materials due to issues of cultural relevance and representation. Literacy is fundamental to all learning and continues to be a priority, however, after much deliberation and meeting with the publisher, we are still not comfortable moving forward. We will work with our teachers and academics team to address the existing shortcomings of the materials we have as we shift our focus to a successful return to school. We will revisit the curriculum adoption next year and will conduct a thorough bias review and revision process for whatever materials are ultimately chosen. We will be asking for school leaders, teachers, and external stakeholders and experts to engage in this process and will share further details with you after the school year is launched

This week, summer school officially ends and I'd like to thank our teachers and school leaders for their work this summer with our youth. I would also like to thank our many partners and

Boston After School and Beyond for helping us reinvent summer learning and for providing engaging and enriching opportunities for our students. Earlier today, we sent a letter to families and staff updating them on our plans for the fall and the start of the new school year. We have also published our first draft of the Reopening Plan and it can be found at www.bostonpublicschools.org/reopening and you can provide feedback at reopening@bostonpublicschools.org. I will provide more details during my presentation in just a moment but before I do, I'd like to take a moment to thank Pastor Thompson at Jubilee, Reverend Groover at Charles Street AME, and Reverend Eugene and Dr. Jackie Rivers for their love and support this past Monday. This past Monday they organized a meeting for me to share our BPS vision with faith leaders. I want to thank each of them for their belief in the capacity, worth and potential of our children, especially our Black and Brown children. As you know, I spent many Sundays visiting churches this past fall and with the closure I lost that ability, so this was a great way to get reconnected and reconnect to more intentionally working together --with our faith leaders-- and our many partners as we look ahead to reopening our schools. This uncertain time and the complex nature of meeting the needs of our children and families will require an All Hands on Deck effort and I can't thank the faith community and our many other partners for their incredible generosity and support.

Dr. Rivera asked about the process for putting together the membership of the Exam School Admissions Working Group and suggested adding a student representative. The Superintendent said that the working group is made up primarily of school leaders and BPS parents. Mr. Loconto said that he selected stakeholders who are familiar with the history and policies of exam schools. He noted that the working group has already been charged and has held its first meeting. The group will work quickly and make its recommendations by September 21st.

Mr. O'Neill praised the composition of the Exam School Admissions Working Group. Ms. Robinson asked if recent BPS graduates were asked to return their laptops and if current students' laptops will be fixed or replaced by the district if needed. The Superintendent responded yes to both questions. Ms. Robinson requested an update on the district's efforts to decolonize the curriculum. The Superintendent said that the Academics Department will conduct a bias review of curriculum materials.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked if out-of-school partners can assist with the distribution of Chromebooks to BPS families. The Superintendent said yes. Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked how the district is supporting families during the pandemic. The Superintendent said that family liaisons will support students' linguistic needs. She said that the BPS Family Hotline is available in multiple languages. BPS is also holding Parent University remotely.

Mr. Tran asked what criteria the working group will use to evaluate exam school admissions. Mr. Loconto said that the group will examine student demographic data and academic measures, as well as other information as determined by the group. The Superintendent said that the criteria will be shared with the Committee in September along with the recommendations.

Mr. O'Neill expressed his condolences to the people of Lebanon and to Boston's Lebanese community following the recent explosions that killed hundreds and injured thousands.

Mr. Loconto praised Mr. Yessayan for receiving the 2020 Shattuck Public Service Award and thanked him for delaying retirement to support BPS during the pandemic.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the Superintendent's report.

REPORT

School Reopening Draft Plan - Mr. Loconto said that *The Boston Globe* story published this afternoon about BPS reopening contained inaccurate information and has been corrected. BPS will continue to follow guidance from the Department of Public Health and the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Mr. Loconto explained that the School Committee will not vote on the district's reopening plan, which is an operational decision made by the Superintendent. He said that collective bargaining negotiations remain ongoing.

Senior Advisor Tammy Pust presented a 63-page report, *School Reopening Fall 2020 Draft 1: Returning Boston Strong*. She explained that BPS must present three different plans to the state by August 10th (this deadline was later moved to August 14th): fully remote; hybrid/blended; all in person. Families can choose to have students continue learning remotely if desired. They can also opt out of yellow bus transportation. The hybrid model ("hopscotch model") would consist of:

- 2 Days of In-Person Learning + 3 Days of Remote Learning
- Group A in-person + Group B online - then switch
- Teachers teach remotely and in-person simultaneously
- Six feet of social distancing maintained

Ms. Pust said that no final decision has been made. She stressed that science will drive the decision, adding that once a decision is made, it may change based on new information. The decision will not be made until partners and community are heard. She acknowledged that the draft hybrid model is not perfect. She said that no matter how BPS starts school in the fall, the district expects to be back in school buildings in some manner, on some schedule, at some point during the 2020-21 school year.

Dr. Rivera asked why COVID testing would not be required for initial returns. Ms. Pust said that delays in testing results make it prohibitive. She added that temperature testing is not being advised because some people with COVID don't exhibit high temperatures. Instead, BPS is recommending daily home health screening for families. Protocols will be put in place for students who are sick. Dr. Rivera asked if teachers will be expected to work in school buildings on Wednesdays under the hybrid plan. Ms. Pust said that is the current plan, adding that the matter is currently being discussed with the Boston Teachers Union. Dr. Rivera said that she supports a remote learning plan for all students.

Mr. Loconto recommended that people visit <https://www.buoyhealth.com/symptom-checker/> to conduct a daily self-check for COVID-19 symptoms.

Dr. Coleman thanked the Superintendent for taking a data-driven approach to school reopening. He suggested that the Superintendent's Office or a designee be given the authority to make decisions about classroom closures. He expressed concern about the well being of student teachers and volunteers coming into BPS buildings. He asked how the ill district will collect data on outcomes. The Superintendent said that teachers will grade students and conduct interim assessments. The district will monitor student remote participation and achievement. Assistant Superintendents will monitor the data and oversee accountability. Dr. Coleman said that he looks forward to seeing how the district assesses mastery learning.

Ms. Robinson asked if the district will increase its maintenance staff to keep up with COVID cleaning protocols. The Superintendent said that additional custodians are joining the district and that windows in need of repair are being fixed. Ms. Pust said that the district has conducted a window audit and will repair windows before the start of school. She noted that the hybrid model would put schools at half capacity which would allow for easier cleaning. Ms. Robinson asked strategies to combat warm temperatures in classrooms. Ms. Pust said that BPS is looking to add fans in classrooms. Ms. Robinson asked how inclusion teachers will manage to teach in-person and remotely simultaneously under the hybrid model. The Superintendent spoke about what a typical day might look like for a teacher under the hybrid model.

Mr. O'Neill said school reopening is one of the most difficult issues he has had to deal with as a member of the School Committee. He thanked those who have emailed the Committee with their feedback about reopening. He asked for the results of summer learning. The Superintendent said that the district has not yet completed its assessment of summer learning but that she will follow up with a complete analysis. Mr. O'Neill asked how classrooms will be configured. Ms. Pust said that different classrooms have different types of furniture, adding that district leaders are looking at different early childhood models. He asked how many classrooms in the district. Ms. Pust said that she would follow up with the exact figure. The Superintendent said that the district is ready to order thousands of portable cameras to support classroom learning under the hybrid model. Ms. Pust said that the district currently has between 60,000-80,000 masks and more are being ordered. She thanked the Boston Red Sox for donating 60,000 reusable masks to BPS. Mr. O'Neill suggested setting up school buildings and buses to show families what they would look like through video. He said that he was recently on a call with White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx who said that Boston is among the cities that health officials are watching closely because of a recent uptick in new COVID-19 cases. He stressed that communication is critical. He asked about the cost of the hybrid learning model which Ms. Pust estimated to be about \$50 million.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked for clarity on the hybrid learning schedule. Ms. Pust said that teaching and learning day will take place every day, including Wednesdays. Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked everyone who has written to the Committee to share their perspective on reopening. She

expressed concern about exposure for students taking the MBTA. She said that if BPS decides to go fully remote, it must be of excellent quality.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia testified regarding school reopening plans and the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo testified regarding school reopening plans.
- State Representative Liz Miranda testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Jessica Tang, president, Boston Teachers Union, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Marcus McNeill, BPS student, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Calvin Tran, BPS student, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Rama Bangura, BPS student, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Jocelyn Sammy, BPS student, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Robert Jenkins, BPS alumnus and volunteer, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Neema Avashia, teacher, McCormack Middle School, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Laura Carroll, attorney, Harbor Point Community Task Force, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Antonietta Brownell, BPS parent and teacher, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Samantha Laney, teacher, Holmes Innovation School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Ashley Clerge, teacher, O'Donnell School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Ashawn Dabney-Small, Alum, McCormack Middle School/Candidate For Boston City Council District 3, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Sabine Ferdinand, teacher, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Joel Richards, BPS teacher, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Lindsay Eldridge, teacher, Lee Academy, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Edith Bazile, president, Black Educators of Massachusetts (BEAM), testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Maryclare Flores, BPS teacher, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Doug McNicol, teacher, McCormack Middle School, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.

- Mike Heichman, member, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision and school reopening.
- Christine Langhoff, Dorchester resident, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Iris Diaz, parent, Blackstone K-8 School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Tarina Harrison, parent, Orchard Gardens K-8 School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Xiomara Garcia, parent, Hurley K-8 School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Kade Crockford, ACLU of Massachusetts, testified regarding remote learning.
- Tim Maher, parent, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Matthew Ruggerui, BPS teacher, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Kenneth Reardon, Urban Planning Scholar, UMass Boston, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Sarah Kroesser Nichols, school social worker, Boston Arts Academy, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Marta Bausemer, school nurse, Boston Green Academy, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Travis Marshall, parent, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Denise Mercedes, parent, Blackstone and Lilla Frederick schools, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Tatiana Williams-Rodriguez, teacher, Boston Latin Academy, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Dianne Lescinkas, BPS parent, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Russell Weiss-Irwin, teacher, Sarah Greenwood K-8 School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Chantei Alves, BPS teacher, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Peggy Wiesenber, former BPS parent and Access to Justice Fellow, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision
- Melanie Allen, parent and teacher, Hernandez K-8 School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Sharon Harrison, school nurse, William E. Carter School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Meira Levinson, advocate, Harvard University, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Jasen Lambright, parent, Lee Academy, testified regarding school reopening plans
- Lauren Peter, parent, Sumner Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Ross Kochman, parent and teacher, Henderson Inclusion School, testified regarding

school reopening plans.

- Ann Mosley, parent and co-chair, Young Achievers Math and Science Pilot School Parent Council, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Michelle Carroll, BPS teacher, testified regarding school reopening plans
- Ashley Barker, teacher, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Nancy Lessin, BPS grandparent, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Eugenia Corbo, parent, East Boston Early Education Center and Umana Academy, testified regarding school reopening plans
- Yrmaris Matias, parent, Orchard Gardens K-8 School, testified regarding mental and emotional support during Covid-19.
- Mike Szkolka, Dorchester resident, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- David Noiles, community advocate, REEP, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Michelle Caine, teacher, Excel High School, testified regarding school reopening plans
- Adina Schecter, teacher, McCormack Middle School, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision
- Lisa Green, parent and Boston Coalition for Education Equity, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Jonathan Haines, school nurse, McKinley Middle School, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Patricia Chapple, teacher, Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Karley Ausiello, parent and community advocate, United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- James Morton, community advocate, YMCA of Greater Boston, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Celina Miranda, community advocate, Hyde Square Task Force, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Helen Russell, community advocate, Apprentice Learning, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Emily Lewis, community advocate, Sociedad Latina, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Chris Smith, community advocate, Boston After School & Beyond, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Rosy Hosking, parent, parent to incoming K1, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Allison Doherty, BPS parent and teacher, Fenway High School, testified regarding school

reopening plans.

- Kamilah Washington, community advocate, Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Bianca Perilla, Harbor Point community resident, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Aolani Perilla, Harbor Point community resident, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Richard Fullam, Dorchester resident, Corcoran Jennison Companies, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Ryan Bettez, CMJ Management, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Rebecca Mulligan, teacher, BINCA, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Alexander Reyes, parent and community member, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision.
- Danielle Tierney, BPS parent and member, Boston Special Education Advisory Council, testified regarding school reopening plans,
- Nora Paul-Schultz, teacher, O'Bryant School of Math and Science, testified regarding school reopening plans.
- Michael Corcoran, Columbia Point property owner, Corcoran Jennison Companies, testified regarding the Columbia Point parcel subdivision,
- Jacqueline Rodriguez, bilingual school psychologist, Sumner Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening plans.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$2,996,376.

Mr. Loconto briefly reviewed the Columbia Point Parcel RFP process to date. In May 2018, the School Committee voted to authorize the RFP, with a condition that the district would come back to the Committee for a vote should a favorable RFP be received and the district sought to surplus the land. “Surplus” would entail handing over the land to the custody of the City for disposal. Here, the district has obtained a favorable RFP that is recommended by the superintendent for approval. However, the district will retain ownership of the land and sublease the property under the proposed terms. The Committee does not typically take a vote on subleases; however, given its prior commitments on this issue, the Committee has scheduled a vote tonight on the proposal.

The Superintendent spoke about the Mayor's commitment to maintaining green space at the site and addressing flooding issues. The City of Boston has committed \$200,000 to begin a public process to study future design improvements to the remaining open space at the Columbia Point

Parcel. The process will include students, teachers, community members, School Committee and other external stakeholders. After this public process is complete, funding will be allocated as part of the Capital Budget to begin the renovations.

Dr. Coleman said that he felt too uniformed to vote on the recommendation.

Mr. O'Neill requested that the Committee be explicit in the motion by stating that first priority be given to Dever-McCormack students and athletic teams, second priority to BPS students, and third priority to the Harbor Point community. Mr. Loconto said that the language can be added to the lease.

Dr. Rivera stated that she does not support the recommendation, saying that a solid plan is needed for the 7-12 McCormack School before the district should take such action on the parcel.

Mr. Tran expressed support for the proposal.

Ms. Robinson expressed concern about the process. She asked about the timeline for the redesign of the McCormack 7-12 school. The Superintendent said that the renovation is at least another year away and could be longer. Ms. Robinson suggested that the district wait for a broder plan before developing the land. Mr. Loconto said that lease could specify priorities, as suggested by Mr. O'Neill.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila spoke about the need for the district to engage better with the community. She asked for a guarantee that BPS will prioritize use of the field house and grounds for the Dever McCormack schools, BPS students and Harbor Point community. She suggested that a Harbor Point community representative serve on the Impact Advisory Group (IAG).

Mr. Loconto read aloud for the record the amended motion, which read, "Ordered, That the Boston School Committee hereby authorizes the subdivision of the parcel located at 315-325 Mount Vernon Street, Dorchester, and approves the selection of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester as the most advantageous proposal in response to a Request For Proposals offering a 30-year lease of the subdivided parcel located at 315 Mount Vernon Street. The lease shall specify that work on the parcel will not begin until all applicable permits and approvals have been obtained and Boston Public Schools has issued a written notice to proceed. *The lease shall also require that guaranteed priority use of the Field House shall be given first to Dever-McCormack students (or the successor schools on that property), secondly to other BPS students, and thirdly to the Harbor Point residents.* This action has been recommended by the Superintendent of Schools."

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked about the possibility of limiting rentals at the proposed field house. Mr. Loconto questioned placing such a limitation on the facility but said that the Committee has asked the district to provide adequate notice before they can proceed. He said the issue of rentals could potentially be part of the IAG process.

Mr. Tran stated that he feels uneasy with the amended language which he said could potentially be perceived as exclusionary. Mr. Loconto clarified that the preference language is not to the exclusion of others.

Mr. O'Neill suggested that the McCormack School partner with Boston College High School or UMass Boston to use their outdoor athletic fields.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee approved the Columbia Point Parcel Subdivision (315-325 Mount Vernon Street, Dorchester) and Request for Proposals Selection of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester.

YEAS – Michael D. O'Neill; Vice Chairperson Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, and Chairperson Michael Loconto - 3

NAYS – Lorna Rivera; and Jeri Robinson - 2

ABSTAINED – Hardin Coleman; and Quoc Tran - 2

REPORTS

Temporary Suspension of Maximum Age Assignment and Enrollment Policy - Manny Allen, director, BPS Re-Engagement Center and Carols Diaz, coordinator of School Services for Alternative Education, presented the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the temporary suspension of the district's Maximum Age Assignment and Enrollment policy. Mr. Allen and Mr. Diaz explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unanticipated challenges that have greatly affected the district's most vulnerable populations. The recommendation to temporarily suspend the policy would provide all students who would have been required to transition from their home school due to their age with the opportunity to continue their enrollment through the end of School Year 2020-21 or until they meet graduation requirements, whichever occurs first.

One hundred forty-six currently enrolled students are or will be 21+ on or before August 31, 2020:

- 17 are BDEA students (their charter agreement with DESE allows enrollment to their 23rd birthday)
- 61 are Special Education students who have transition plans for after their 22nd birthday, per the IEP
- 68 remaining students would benefit from the one-year AMT-5 policy suspension, greatly increasing the likelihood that these high needs students will graduate from their home school, rather than requiring other adult programs to attain their diploma.

The Committee had no questions on the report. Mr. O'Neill expressed support for the recommendation. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the recommendation on August 19th.

Composite Superintendent's School Year 2019-2020 Performance Evaluation - Dr. Coleman presented a composite of Superintendent Cassellius' School Year 2019-2020 performance evaluation. The Committee praised the Superintendent for her noteworthy accomplishments in the areas of increasing financial support, strategic vision and community engagement, focus on equity, and pandemic planning. The Committee identified the following Central Office structure and stability, culturally and linguistically relevant pedagogy, and creating consensus. The Committee identified the following priorities for the next academic year: build an organizational structure that will drive improvement now, and sustain equity and excellence over time; Opportunity and achievement gap reduction; and expand resources. Overall, the Committee rated the Superintendent's performance as effective (or a 3 on a 4 point scale).

Dr. Coleman asked the Committee if the suggested performance goals are the right goals. Mr. Loconto responded yes. Dr. Coleman suggested adding an explicit focus on organizational structure.

Ms. Robinson praised the Superintendent's performance in her first year and spoke about the importance of reflecting on lessons learned from the pandemic.

Mr. O'Neill lauded the Superintendent's visits to all BPS schools, her ability to quickly pivot to remote learning, her strategic plan development, and her deep commitment to equity. Going forward, he encouraged her to focus on getting buy-in from BPS stakeholders and delegating responsibilities to avoid potential burnout.

Dr. Rivera expressed appreciation for the Superintendent's focus on racial equity.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila praised the Superintendent's focus on strengthening community engagement and rebuilding trust. Looking ahead, she encouraged the Superintendent to focus on building her internal team and increasing collaboration. She asked for people to have patience as Dr. Cassellius addresses inherited problems. She called for everyone to work together to reach our shared goal of student success.

The Superintendent said that she will continue working to cultivate trust, increase opportunities, and improve access.

Mr. Loconto thanked the Superintendent for being a valued partner. The Committee will vote on the Superintendent's final SY 2019-2020 performance rating on August 19th. He suggested that the Committee further discuss the Superintendent's SY 2020-21 goals after school reopens in September.

Mr. O'Neill spoke about the importance of modeling the performance evaluation process, suggesting that the Committee conduct a self-evaluation.

Dr. Coleman asked Committee members to review the Superintendent's draft performance goals for SY 2020-21 and be prepared to discuss them at the August 19th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

At approximately 12:43 a.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary