



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REMOTE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 16, 2020

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on September 16, 2020 at 4:30 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 (arrived at the start of executive session); Michael O'Neill; Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson (arrived at the start of executive session); Quoc Tran; and student representative Khymani James.

School Committee Members Absent: None.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: August 19, 2020

Returning Boston Strong: BPS Reopening Update PowerPoint, September 16, 2020

Memorandum of Agreement between the Boston Public Schools and Boston Teachers Union, Local 66 AFT-Massachusetts, and the School Committee of the City of Boston Related to the Reopening of Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year during the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic

BPS-BTU MOA PowerPoint

Grants for Approval Totaling \$5,506,693:

Boston School Committee Remote Meeting
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Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Focus Area(s)	Site
\$10,000	2021	Career and Technical Education Partnership	New	Kim Connolly	Career and Technical Education	Districtwid
\$30,000	2021	Engineering Innovation Pathways Implementation Grant	New	Kristen Almquist	College and Career Readiness	Dearbor STEM Academ
\$20,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices Grant – BATA	New	Benjamin Helfat	At Risk	Boston Adu. Technical Academ
\$30,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices - Charlestown	New	Morgan Soares	At Risk	Charlestown High Scho
\$30,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices – Madison Park	New	Anthonie Marsh	At Risk	Madison Par Technical Vocational Hi
\$115,000	2021	McKinney-Vento Homeless Education	New	Brian Marques	At Risk	Districtwid
\$1,632,474	2021	Perkins V	New	Michelle Sylvaria	Career and Technical Education	Districtwid
\$190,909	2021	Promoting Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV Prevention	Increase	Jill Carter	Health and Wellness	Districtwid
\$672,342	2021	Remote Learning Technology Essentials	New	Mark Racine	Career and Technical Education	Districtwid
\$2,399,620	2021	Title III	New	Faye Karp	Opportunity Gap	Districtwid
\$175,920	2021	Title IV	Increase	Nathan Kuder	Opportunity Gap	Districtwid
\$202,428	2021	USFA Support for Emergency Meals	New	Eric Stevens	Food and Nutrition Services	Districtwid

PowerPoint: Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department

Final Draft Policy: Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department (revised since August 19, 2020 presentation)

Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department Equity Impact Statement

PowerPoint: Connecting Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) and Boston Public Schools (BPS): Proposal for a Connector System between UPK programs and BPS

Memo from Superintendent Cassellius to Boston School Committee Re: Boston Universal Pre-K Community Based K1 to BPS K2 Connector Proposal, August, 14, 2020

UPK Connector Equity Impact Statement

Schools with Proposed UPK Priority Seat - UPK Connector

CALL TO ORDER; ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Loconto called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll; all members were present with the exception of Dr. Coleman and Ms. Robinson, who arrived at the start of the executive session and stayed for the duration of the meeting.

Mr. Loconto announced that the Committee would immediately adjourn to an executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy related to negotiations with the Boston Teachers Union. To have such a discussion in an open session could have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position. He said that the Committee would return to public session at approximately 5 p.m.

Approved - The Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy related to the Boston Teachers Union.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Committee returned to public session at approximately 5:10 p.m.

Mr. Loconto announced that the Committee had just returned from an executive session where the Committee had discussed collective bargaining strategy related to negotiations with the Boston Teachers Union. He 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 and American Sign Language (ASL); the interpreters introduced themselves.

Meeting documents were publicly posted at www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee prior to the start of the meeting.

Mr. Loconto welcomed Student Representative Khymani James to the Committee. Mr. James is a senior at Boston Latin Academy and an active member of the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC). He will serve as student representative for the 2020-2021 School Year. Mr. James offered brief remarks expressing his passion for educational equity and his enthusiasm for joining the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 19, 2020

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the August 19, 2020 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

Thank you everyone for joining us. It is nice to be back with my colleagues on the School Committee after a month-long break. I hope everyone enjoyed the last few weeks of summer and that everyone is ready for the new school year. I will be providing a reopening update this evening, but I do want to remind everyone that the first day of school, for students in all grades, is this coming Monday, September 21st. All students will begin the school year learning remotely. More on the start of the school year in a bit. First, I’d like to cover some updates and highlights from the past few weeks.

Yesterday Mayor Walsh invited the new Student Representative of the Boston School Committee, Khymani James, to a swearing in ceremony at City Hall. I was fortunate to be able to attend via zoom with Chair Loconto, Maria Estrada and Jenny Salzama who work directly with our youth on BSAC. You all know how deeply I value and respect student voice and I have admired Khymani for his advocacy, in the testimony I’ve heard from him during our meetings, and also as a member of the Superintendent’s Working Group advising on the policy being voted on later tonight. Khymani is always prepared and as a debater is also clear, concise and he will do his homework so he is knowledgeable on the issues that will come before this Committee. Welcome, Khymani!

Even though it may look a bit different this year, our countdown team has been working to make this year’s Countdown to Kindergarten special. We are keeping our tradition alive in this nontraditional school year of distributing our BPS yellow “I’m going to Kindergarten” T-shirts. Our Countdown to Kindergarten team has been all over the city these past several weeks cheering on our Kindergarten students and families, spreading the joy and getting them excited for the new school year. If you haven’t picked up your Countdown to Kindergarten T-shirt and the special Kindergarten gift, there are a couple more stops on the neighborhood tour. Tomorrow the team will be in Adams Park in Roslindale Square from 11am - 1 pm and later at the Hyde Park branch of the Boston Public Library from 4-6 pm. On Friday the Countdown team will be outside the Fields Corner Branch of the Boston Public Library in Dorchester from 11am - 1pm. I am planning to join the team at one of their last stops this week to greet our new Kindergartners

and their families. Please be sure to wear your mask and practice social distancing when you are coming to pick up your shirts! Also, a reminder that students *in all grades*, including pre-K and Kindergarten, begin learning remotely on Monday.

For the week ending September 7, the 7-day average positive test rate for the City of Boston was 1.6%, and it continues to move in the right direction so we can safely open schools. As you know, we were concerned about East Boston several weeks ago, but with the City really taking a sharp focus there, the 7-day positive test rate was cut in half and is now currently at 6.4%, not quite lower than four, so we need everyone's help to continue to follow guidance so we can safely open our doors. As a reminder, the City of Boston's COVID-19 Mobile Testing Site is now located at Central Square Park in East Boston. The site will be open through this Saturday. Testing is available at no cost for both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. No appointment is needed but registration is required. To pre-register, please call 617-568-4500. It's quick and easy to get tested for COVID-19, and it's encouraged to get tested regularly. We also ask our community to continue to take measures to protect yourself and others. Continue to wash your hands often with soap and warm water, and clean frequently-touched surfaces. If you live in a large household, take care of one another by wearing face coverings, and keeping 6 feet apart. If you are sick, avoid close contact with other members of your household. Remember: People over the age of 65 and people with underlying health conditions are still advised to stay home except for essential errands. If you do need to go out, be sure to practice social distancing and wear a mask. BPS recently sent robocalls and text messages to families and staff of our East Boston schools to notify them of the free testing in the area. Families can visit Boston.gov/coronavirus or call 3-1-1 for more information about this testing site and other sites throughout the city.

As of today, we have served very close to 1.9 million meals since schools closed six months ago. BPS has been providing free meals all summer, and as usual, during the school year, every single student will have access to both breakfast and lunch, every day, regardless of their learning model (hybrid or all-remote). Starting Monday, September 21st, BPS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) will reduce the number of BPS meal sites from 34 schools to 21 "Super Sites." Super Sites will provide 5-day meal packs (5 breakfasts and 5 lunches) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for students learning remotely. When we phase in hybrid learning for students, beginning with our learners with the highest needs on Thursday, October 1, FNS will increase the number of staff to meet the needs of students on site.

Food service staff will provide breakfast and lunch meals to students on campus on the days that they are in school. Based on their school, meals are offered in three different models:

- grab and go from the cafeteria
- grab and go from remote locations (not cafeteria), and
- direct delivery to the classroom.

Staff will also provide a three-day meal pack (three breakfasts and three lunches) for students as they leave on the last day of the week for their A/B group (Tuesdays for Group A and Fridays for Group B). Super Sites will continue to provide five-day meal packs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for remote learners.

While we are reducing the number of sites, the sites that will remain open were all previous meal sites except for Excel High School in South Boston and Madison Park High School in Roxbury. These locations were added after recognizing the need in the area. The full list of sites will be available at bostonpublicschools.org/freemeals after our current sites close for the day on Friday. Thank you again to all our Food and Nutrition and Operations staff for ensuring food access for our community.

We are working to make sure all of our families have access to adequate technology and dependable internet. Around 4,500 incoming families were invited to pick up their Chromebook from September 8 until this Friday, September 18, at six pick-up sites across Boston. Families were provided with instructions to login to their Google account and access Clever and we also provided language-specific family trainings, thanks to our Advancement Office. In addition, trucks delivered Chromebooks to schools this week and each school has received new Chromebooks for returning students who need a device. School leaders and school staff are reaching out to arrange a pickup for students that currently do not have technology in hand. We have already delivered 5,000 devices to schools this week and we anticipate another shipment of 20,000 new Chromebooks in the next two weeks. You may have read that some items, including Chromebooks, are experiencing shipping delays and we are working closely with our vendors to expedite our orders. While we know that we still have work to do, our early actions in the spring and this summer have led to 34,754 students with a new Chromebook this year. And for our educators, after 650 cameras arrived last week, another shipment of close to 3,000 cameras arrived this week and were delivered directly to schools.

Last Thursday, we announced an agreement with the Boston Teachers Union to ensure the safest return possible for our students. Equity, public health, and safety were among the key guiding principles emphasized by both BPS and the BTU throughout our discussions. BPS and BTU will expand training and professional development opportunities in hybrid and remote models of learning while working together to bolster family communication and to continually pursue increased levels of student engagement. I want to thank BTU President Jessica Tang for her stewardship and Mayor Walsh for his commitment to seeing this through, and for his incredible leadership throughout this pandemic. These are truly unprecedented and uncertain times and we all recognize that. We also understand that we all have a responsibility to the children and families of this city and this agreement reaffirms that charge.

Among the supports provided and decisions made:

- Random COVID testing will be administered to 5% of the BTU membership weekly, first by high positivity rate neighborhoods, then by staff populations working with high-risk student populations, then citywide.
- A checklist will be established to verify key health and safety measures before schools are cleared to open for in-person learning, including results from independent air quality tests.
- Educators will receive additional training on best practices for remote learning.

- Educators will have the option to work in the school, even if all of the students they are assigned to teach are learning from home, and also will be able to work remotely if all of the students they are assigned are learning from home.
- While buildings are undergoing additional cleaning on Wednesday, educators will be able to work either in the buildings or remotely.
- Appropriate PPE will be provided by the district to all educators.
- And many others terms and agreements.

I am happy that we all have come to this understanding so that we can continue to support our students and families in this new school year.

Thanks to the partnership our Division of Academics brokered with UMass Boston's Collaborative of Asian American, Native American, Latino and African American Institutes (CANALA) and the BTU, for the first time ever, we have a BPS Ethnic Studies 101 course in our student information system. To help us with this work, we have developed a partnership with internationally renowned scholars in the field at CANALA. In addition, we worked to hire a teacher leader to coordinate the Ethnic Studies Now work this past summer and are stipending three teacher leaders of the BTU Ethnic Studies Now committee to compensate them for curriculum development. The Introductory Course in Ethnic Studies will be taught in the fall by five teachers in five schools. The class will be an interactive introduction to the experiences of people of color in the United States. The focus of the course is on the construction and transformation of identity, power, and collective action. Professional development for the course, Boston Through a Wider Lens, was facilitated through the Returning Boston Strong: Educator Summit for nearly 20 participants, including direct learning in the morning and experiential learning in the afternoon. A small set of identity-specific courses (e.g. Black Studies, Latinx Studies) will be available in the spring; CANALA is currently building out these courses which will be MassCore aligned. This is important, strategic work that we continue to move forward despite the pandemic response, and I am excited to introduce this curriculum to our students.

On Monday, our first Vietnamese Dual Language BPS Classroom will open! Thanks to the work and effort of multiple offices including Finance and Early Childhood, as well as leadership from the Office of English Learners and the English Learner Task Force, our K2 classroom is equipped, staffed and ready to go. We are grateful for the partnership with VietAid and the Vietnamese Dual Language Committee for support and accountability to get us here. After reopening, we look forward to having a final, permanent location announced for the program in alignment with enrollment season.

One last highlight, Ahmed Noor, Director of English Learner Community Outreach, has been asked by DESE to serve on the English Learner/Bilingual Education Advisory Council (ELBAC) for DESE. His term will last three years, at which time he may request another term. The ELBAC meets at least three times each year to discuss and provide input on items related to that year's charge. Congratulations, Ahmed, and thank you for continuing to represent the district, and the Office of English Learners so well.

It's Latinx Heritage Month as of yesterday. That is my Superintendent's Report for this evening.

Dr. Rivera praised the Superintendent and her team for their work on the LOOK Act and the development of ethnic studies courses.

Mr. James thanked City and district leaders for their focus on reducing COVID rates in East Boston. He asked about free meal distribution for BPS families. Information can be found <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/reopening>.

Ms. Robinson noted that Countdown to Kindergarten celebrations are taking place virtually.

Mr. O'Neill said he looks forward to hearing Mr. James speak next month at the virtual Fall Conference of the Council of Great City Schools, where Mr. O'Neill serves as Chair of the Board.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila welcomed Mr. James, and spoke about the importance of youth voice. She praised the district's partnership with local experts to create the ethnic studies program, which she hopes will be fully funded.

Mr. Loconto congratulated Senior Advisor Rob Consalvo who was recently elected State Representative for the 14th Suffolk District.

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

REPORTS

Returning Boston Strong: BPS Reopening Update - The Superintendent and her senior team presented an update on the district's school reopening plan, *Returning Boston Strong*. Presenters included Chief of Student, Family & Community Advancement Monica Roberts, Chief of Accountability Cory Harris, Chief Academic Officer Andrea Zayas, Chief of Operations Sam DePina, Director of Technology Mark Racine, and Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital Al Taylor.

Reopening Timeline:

September 21: All students begin learning remotely

October 1: Prioritized students start in hybrid

October 13* - Students prioritized for in-person learning increase to 4 days of in-person learning (based on choice and availability)

October 15 & 19: Grades K0, K1, K2

October 15 & 19 Grades 1 - 3

October 22 & 26 Grades 4 - 8 (Secondary schools begin 6-8)

November 5 & 9 Grades 9 - 12 High Schools

Students prioritized for in-person learning include:

- English learners who have an ELD Level of 1 or 2 in high-intensity literacy training, or for whom graduation requirements and time to complete both English as a Second Language and content level classes are shorter than other grade levels.
- Students with limited or interrupted formal education
- Students with disabilities in inclusion classrooms with high needs, as defined by the PL3 in the student's IEP
- Students with disabilities who learn in substantially separate classrooms
- Students who are experiencing homelessness
- Students in the care of the Department of Children and Families
- Students who attend special education public day schools (McKinley, Carter, Horace Mann)

BPS enrollment as of September 1st was 53,890 students, a decrease over the previous year. The district continues its multilingual outreach and registration efforts. Frequently Asked Questions are posted bostonpublicschools.org/reopening. Students and staff will complete home health check daily and stay home if exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 and/or had a known exposure to an infected person. Information on COVID testing and other resources is available at bphc.org/coronavirus. The state has issued a new requirement that all students receive the flu vaccine by December 31st. To obtain a flu vaccine, families should contact their primary care provider, visit a community health center, or call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050.

BPS has distributed at-home learning materials to students in K0-12 and/or gift cards supported by Staples, the City of Boston, Boston Opportunity Agenda, and BPS. The Office of Academics is working closely with the Office of Technology to connect and engage students in high quality remote learning and provide teachers and staff with professional learning opportunities. BPS is partnering with the BTU and UMass Boston to develop an Ethnic Studies course. The course will be piloted in five schools by five educators in Fall 2020; website up; four additional identity specific courses (e.g.. Black Studies, Latinx Studies) are being developed.

In an effort to maximize non-contact/physically distant skill development and physical activity allowed under joint guidance from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EEA), Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Superintendent recommends that the Committee authorize student participation in golf and cross country running for the regularly scheduled Fall 2020 athletics season. She recommends the postponement of Soccer, Volleyball, and Swimming competitions until spring 2021 (February 2021) and the postponement of Football and Cheerleading until Spring 2021 (February 2021).

Other updates include:

- Facilities
 - BTU walkthrough at Snowden, BLA, Mather, BTU, Higginson-Lewis & Jackson Mann
 - Facilities Preparation: Sanitation & Signage; Fans & Windows

- PPE Procurement and Distribution
- Disposable Masks: 600,000 on hand/1.5 million ordered
- Reusable Masks: Two per student and staff member ordered and set for delivered September 24th
- Air Quality Testing: Base air quality test for each school, independent contractor hired and testing has begun. All testing will be complete by October 1, 2020.

- Technology
 - New BPS families received an email with instructions to login to their BPS account as well as an invitation to pick up a Chromebook from 9/7 to 9/18
 - Each school is receiving a delivery this week of Chromebooks to assist new BPS families and students without a device. Additional Chromebooks are being delivered to BPS over the next few weeks and schools will receive additional devices.
 - Families in need of Internet support should sign up for Comcast Internet Essentials to receive 60 days free. BPS will follow up with families who need financial support after the 60 day promotion
 - 650 cameras delivered this week. 2,850 additional scheduled for September 14/15

- Transportation
 - Routing for October 1 is on track
 - Drivers and Monitor bids September 23-26
 - Scheduling 1-2 weeks for dry runs for October/November phase-in
 - Minimum 3 days for dry runs for routes with October 1 start
 - Routing underway for in-person priority student groups scheduled to start 4-days a week on October 12
 - Impact bargaining ongoing with Drivers and Monitor units
 - Transdev: 2/3 yards are on track; Readville is behind: BPS is working with Transdev and the City to get it completed ASAP
 - Bus inspections and driver hiring completed
 - PPE purchasing and delivery on track
 - MBTA M7 Pass Distribution to BPS schools on October 1
 - All families will receive transportation assignments by mail and email (if on file) before in-person start

- Food and Nutrition
 - Meal Service for Remote Learning
 - Meals available at 21 school sites citywide
 - Students can pick up meal pack (5 breakfasts/5 lunches) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 6 pm
 - Collaborating with City for additional sites and provide groceries for families

 - Meal Service for Hybrid Learning
 - All 492 staff onsite by September 28th to prepare for students returning
 - Breakfast and lunch available in schools

- Students can take home packs of 3 breakfasts/3 lunches for remote learning days or access the 21 pick-up sites
- P-EBT
 - Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) will administer additional P-EBT funds to cover the days that schools have delayed the opening of the first day of school
 - For BPS - this is additional funds for 17 days totalling \$96.90 for each student (tentative)
 - Enrollment information is due by Friday, September 18th
 - If families need to access their P-EBT cards, contact Project Bread (a partner of DTA) at 1-800-645-8333
- Staffing
 - 963 teaching and guidance vacancies:
 - 91% have been filled
 - 3% are in queue
 - 6% remain active
 - 54% of hires identify as people of color (57% in queue identify as people of color)
 - Nurses (District Nurses):
 - 6 Positions added, 2 hired
 - Substitute Pool: 714 substitute teachers listed on the current roster
 - Leaves: 264 employees on leave: 118 parental, Mix of personal/other

Dr. Coleman requested data showing hiring diversity trends over the past five years for teachers and paraprofessionals of color. The Superintendent said that the district has hired a high percentage of people of color to serve in family liaison positions and as social workers. She agreed to follow up with the requested data.

Ms. Robinson asked about trainings for families who are learning remotely. The Superintendent said that Ms. Roberts and Mr. Racine are working on that issue. Ms. Roberts spoke about Parent University, which directly engages families.

Mr. James thanked BPS and Staples for coordinating donations of school supplies to students. He asked about the districts

Mr. O'Neill expressed concern about the decrease in enrollment and urged the district to be proactive. Ms. Roberts said that she will follow up with more information. He requested menus for both remote and hybrid meals. Mr. DePina said that BPS will provide fresh meals wherever it is safely possible to do so. Mr. O'Neill asked about teacher retirements, leaves of absence, and accommodation requests. Ms. Pust said that the district has received about 300 accommodation

requests and has seen an uptick in leave requests. The Superintendent said that in October she will provide the Committee with updated data on the linguistic diversity of staff.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked Comcast for partnering with BPS to provide families with affordable Wi-Fi access. She praised OHC staff for its diversity hiring efforts. She called for an increased focus on out-of-school opportunities, and expressed concern about schools not using their partnership funding. She requested more information about the district's approach to working with pandemic learning pods that are being organized by some families and providers. The Superintendent agreed to follow up with more information.

Mr. Tran asked about employees taking a leave of absence. The Superintendent said that she will ask the Office of Human Capital to follow up with more information in the late fall/early winter when more data is available.

Dr. Rivera asked about summer learning results and planned assessments. The Superintendent said that she will follow up with data on summer learning. Mr. Harris said that the district plans conduct MAP Growth Testing and reduced BPS interim assessments. MCAS and NAPE are still planned. Mr. O'Neill said that the Council of Great City Schools is looking at the matter closely in an effort to maintain state control.

Mr. James asked if BPS partners with the Boston Public Library to provide students with a place to study. The Superintendent said yes, adding that BPS is providing students with headphones.

Mr. Loconto said that he is pleased to hear that teachers and families are meeting remotely prior to the start of the new school year and that teams are conducting safety walks through school buildings. He thanked Mr. DePina and the facilities team for their hard work related to reopening. The Superintendent said that families who have not received information about their cohort should call the BPS Family Hotline at (617) 635-9520. Mr. Loconto suggested that the district make the daily health screen questions for families accessible on an app. Mr. Racine said that the district has encouraged linguistic challenges with apps but will continue to research the matter. Mr. Loconto suggested that families put a daily health-screening checklist on their fridge at home; he urged families not to send students to school sick.

Memorandum of Agreement between the Boston Public Schools and Boston Teachers Union, Local 66 AFT-Massachusetts, and the School Committee of the City of Boston Related to the Reopening of Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year during the on-going COVID-19

Pandemic - Director of Labor Relations Jeremiah Hasson presented an overview of a tentative Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Boston Public Schools and Boston Teachers Union, Local 66 AFT-Massachusetts, and the School Committee of the City of Boston related to the Reopening of Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year during the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic.

Highlights of the tentative agreement include:

- Existing Collective Bargaining Agreement controls except as changed

Boston School Committee Remote Meeting

Zoom

September 16, 2020

- Personal Protective Equipment (masks) provided, physical distancing, and sanitation protocols
- September 18, 2020: all teachers in buildings
- Building walkthroughs by Health & Safety teams (September 17, 2020, and tours for all teachers (September 18, 2020)
- All teachers work remotely until students report (beginning October 1, 2020)
- Teachers teach from buildings when students report on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays (Wednesdays teachers can choose to work remotely)
- Recommendations from Task Force regarding remote schedules
- BPS performs COVID testing on 5% of teachers, randomly selected
- Regular leaves and reasonable accommodations will be provided by the district
- Child care for K-12 age kids if stay in room/supervised

The MOA provides for a safe and responsible phased-in return to learning for SY 2020-21:

- September 21: All students begin remote learning
- Thursday, October 1: Students prioritized for in-person learning begin hybrid
- Thursday, October 15 (B) & Monday, October 19 (A): Grades K0, K1, K2 return
- Thursday, October 22 (B) & Monday, October 26 (A): Grades 1 - 3 return
- Thursday, November 5 (B) & Monday, November 9 (A): Grades 4 - 8 (secondary schools start grades 6 - 8) return
- Monday, November 16 (A) & Thursday, November 19 (B): Grades 9 - 12 return

The Superintendent is requesting School Committee approval of the MOA this evening.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Boston City Councilor At-Large Annissa Essaibi-George testified regarding the BPS-BTU MOA, the proposed Student Information Sharing Policy, and the UPK Connector System.
- Jessica Tang, president, Boston Teachers Union, testified regarding the BPS-BTU MOA and reopening.
- Karina Ham, member, Student Immigrant Movement, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Dania Vazquez, head of school, Muniz Academy, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Lisa Thureau, Strategies for Youth, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Roberts Jenkins, BPS alumnus and volunteer, testified regarding athletics
- Travis Marshall, parent, Bates Elementary School, testified regarding school fundraising
- Jenn Herlihy, BPS parent, testified regarding communication with families

- Iris Diaz, parent, Blackstone K-8 School, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Mike Heichman, member, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding equity.
- Antonietta Brownell, teacher, Guild Elementary School, testified regarding reopening
- Jared Kaiser, BPS parent and East Boston resident, testified regarding reopening
- Jukurious Davis, teacher, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Michelle Carroll, BPS teacher, testified regarding reopening
- Paola Bustamante-Garcia, BPS parent, testified regarding a lack of Spanish speaking BPS leadership
- MaryClare Flores, BPS teacher, testified regarding reopening
- Natalie Bruno, BPS teacher, testified regarding reopening
- Lucy Perez, parent, Blackstone K-8 School, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Elizabeth McIntyre, Greater Boston Legal Services, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Katy Peake, teacher, McKay K-8 School, testified regarding reopening
- Elizabeth Tonogbanua, BPS teacher, testified regarding reopening
- Becca MacLean, teacher, Condon K-8 School, testified regarding reopening
- Nicolette Pocius, teacher, O’Bryant School of Math and Science, testified regarding reopening
- Sarah Grimmitt, teacher, Charlestown High School, testified regarding reopening
- Amrita Dani, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Caitlin Gaffny, teacher, Tobin K-8 School, testified regarding the BPS-BTU MOA
- Jim Munsey, teacher, O’Bryant School of Math and Science, testified regarding reopening
- Erica Kouka, teacher, Holmes Innovation School, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Angela Serig, parent, Boston Latin School testified regarding student participation in fall athletics
- Nicole Ruttan, teacher, Umana Academy, testified regarding reopening
- Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding reopening
- Rebekah Judson, teacher, McKay K-8 School, testified regarding the Policy Regarding

Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department

- Eli Harmon, member, Student Immigrant Movement, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Trina Heinisch, BPS teacher, testified regarding reopening
- Tim Maher, teacher, Lyndon K-8 School, testified regarding reopening
- Go Sasaki, BPS teacher, testified regarding reopening and the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Max Kennedy, teacher, Muniz Academy, testified regarding reopening
- Stephanie Munoz, teacher, Muniz Academy, testified regarding reopening
- Sabrina Barroso, member, Student Immigrant Movement, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Rodolfo Aguilar, member, Massachusetts Parents United, testified regarding reopening
- Stephanie Musto, teacher, O'Donnell Elementary School, testified regarding reopening
- Meghan Collopy, teacher, Umana Academy, testified regarding reopening
- Katherine Fussner, teacher, Fenway High School, testified regarding reopening
- Amelia Mitter-Burke, BPS teacher, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department
- Stephanie Aguayo, BPS student and member, Sociedad Latina, testified regarding ethnic studies
- Carolyn Chou, advocate, Asian American Resource Workshop, testified regarding the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department

The Superintendent made comments clarifying that in accordance with the BPS-BTU MOA, task forces are meeting to come up with creative solutions to scheduling prior to Nov. 1. She said that there are no changes to the walk zone. She said that the district is working around the clock to translate materials into the district's 10 major languages.

Mr. Loconto announced that due to the late hour, the Committee would table the Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity Gaps Update until the September 30, 2020 meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$5,506,693.

Mr. Loconto opened the floor to final comments and questions about the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department, which represents the culmination of months of collaboration by the Superintendent's Working Group on Student Information Sharing. He thanked the Working Group for their work on the issue. He said that the Working Group met earlier this week and made final adjustments to the draft policy recommendation.

The Superintendent provided a recap of the policy update process to date, which began in January 2020 with new training for school safety officers. In April, the Superintendent presented a draft policy on student information sharing. In response to School Committee feedback, the Superintendent created a Working Group, which met 11 times over the summer to refine the policy. The Working Group last met earlier this week, at which time they made the following final changes to the policy recommendation: restricts the type of incidents that can be documented in police reports; clarifies the information that may be included in police reports; it eliminates intelligence gathering and recording; it clarifies the role of school safety officers as not disciplinarians; requires all external information sharing from the Office of Safety Services to go through the Chief or Deputy Chief; requires training for Safety Services employees and all school administrators; creates a School Safety Working Group to oversee the policy's implementation; provides for disaggregated data and reporting; and an annual report to the School Committee.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila, who served on the Working Group, praised the establishment of a monitoring review board and training for safety staff.

Mr. James described the final policy as a significant improvement over the policy previously proposed to the Committee last spring. He said that there is still room for improvement. He expressed concerns about protections for students with special needs. The Superintendent said that students with IEPs have some special protections.

Mr. Tran said that the proposed policy goes further than the previous policy in terms of public safety.

Dr. Rivera expressed support for the Learn without Fear policy but said she also supports the proposed BPS policy in large part because of the input from the Working Group and the added conditions of annual review, training, audit, and oversight.

Ms. Robinson spoke about the importance of prevention and deescalation; she expressed support for the policy.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Superintendent for taking a fresh, collaborative approach to the issue.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department.

Mr. Loconto opened the floor to final comments and questions about the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Connector System. The Superintendent is recommending that BPS creates a connector system for UPK K1 students in Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to BPS K2 classrooms, by establishing priorities for UPK K1 students in CBOs in the BPS K2 student assignment lottery system. The first priority will be for low-income UPK K1 students in CBOs, as determined by MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Income Requirements. The second priority will be for non-low-income UPK K1 students in CBOs. Students already enrolled in a particular school and siblings will have priority over UPK CBO students for a particular seat.

Ms. Robinson described the UPK Connector System as a win-win.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the creation of a connector system for UPK K1 students in Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to BPS K2 classrooms.

Mr. Loconto thanked Mayor Walsh for his support of UPK expansion.

The Superintendent confirmed that the BPS-BTU MOA has been ratified by the BTU and includes provisions for consideration for teachers that need accommodations or leave due to COVID concerns.

Ms. Pust said that the MOA provides for BPS to pivot to fully remote learning if the citywide COVID positivity rate rises above 4 percent; if the rate in a particular neighborhood rises above 8 percent, the City will conduct specific increased testing in that neighborhood. She noted that more than 50 percent of East Boston families chose hybrid learning.

Dr. Rivera expressed concern about racial inequities emerging or growing in the different learning models and asked the district to closely track data.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged district leaders to closely monitor COVID rates in East Boston. She spoke about the selection of a learning model being a very personal choice for families. She asked for confirmation that school buildings are clean and safe. Mr. DePina said that he is confident that school buildings are ready. The Superintendent said that BPS has ordered 6,000 fans to circulate the air in classrooms.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Boston Teachers Union, Local 66 AFT-Massachusetts, and the School Committee of the City of Boston Related to the Reopening of Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year during the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Coleman suggested that the Committee reexamine its structuring of public comment, which often stretches over several hours, in order for the Committee to increase its focus on Committee business. Mr. Loconto said that he would discuss the suggestion with the Vice Chair.

Boston School Committee Remote Meeting
Zoom
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Mr. Loconto said that the Committee will hold a retreat in October. He asked Ms. Sullivan to work with Legal Advisor Cathy Lizotte to present executive session minutes to the Committee for approval and release, if appropriate.

Mr. Loconto said that there is inconsistency in the language in the superintendent's contract regarding the number of allowed vacation days. The relevant contract language states that the superintendent is entitled to "*25 days of vacation accrued at 2.5 days per month.*" (2.5 days per month totals 30 days.) The intent of the provision is to provide the superintendent with the same number of vacation days that BPS senior administrative staff receive. The superintendent's executive cabinet members receive 30 days of vacation per year. As such, the inconsistency will be read as entitling the superintendent to "*30 days of vacation accrued at 2.5 days per month.*" BPS will prepare an addendum to the contract, signed by the Chair, to correct this inconsistency.

ADJOURN

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

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary