



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

September 30, 2020

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on September 30, 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 (arrived moments after roll call); Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael O’Neill; Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; Quoc Tran; and student representative Khymani James.

School Committee Members Absent: None.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2020

Grants for Approval Totaling \$2,491,772:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$620,000	2021	Boston Resiliency Fund	New	Nathan Kuder	COVID-19 Relief	Districtwide
\$250,000	2021	Comprehensive Preschool Partnership Initiative	New	David McAuley	Early Childhood	Districtwide
\$24,000	2021	English for New Bostonian	New	Maria Harris	Adult Education	Madison Park Technical Vocational HS

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\$1,577,772	2021	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant	New	Eric Stevens	Food and Nutrition Services	Districtwide
\$20,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices – Greater Egleston	New	Kevin Brill	At Risk	Greater Egleston High School
\$410,000	2021	Promoting Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV Prevention	New	Jill Carter	Health and Wellness	Districtwide

School Reopening Update, September 30, 2020

Rules for Public Comment and Conduct at School Committee Meetings Policy (2012)

School Reopening PowerPoint, Sept. 16, 2020

Joint Guidance on Fall Athletics by the EEA, MIAA, and DESE

Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity Gaps Update PowerPoint

Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity Gaps Update Equity Impact Statement

CALL TO ORDER

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 Ms. Oliver-Dávila, who arrived just after roll call. Mr. Loconto said that tonight’s meeting was being streamed live on Zoom. It will be rebroadcast on Boston City TV. It will also be posted at bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee and on YouTube. He announced that interpretation services were available Spanish, Cantonese and American Sign Language; the interpreters introduced themselves. Meeting documents were publicly posted at www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee prior to the start of the meeting.

Mr. Loconto announced that the next School Committee meeting, previously scheduled for Wednesday, October 7th, is being moved to Thursday, October 8th to avoid a conflict with the Vice Presidential Debate.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the September 16, 2020 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

I'm very sad today to share the news of the passing of our Senior Director of Health Services, Margaret VanCleve-Rocchio. Margaret had over 30 years experience in urban health care. She was a Family Nurse Practitioner, a Nationally Certified School Nurse, and a nationally Certified Asthma Educator. She began her career in New York City working as a visiting nurse specializing in maternal child health. Margaret started working for BPS in 2008, and spent 10 years as the beloved school nurse at the Trotter School in Dorchester. During this time, she received the American Lung Association Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative Silver Award and the Community Champion Award from Health Resources in Action for her efforts in helping young students suffering from asthma. Margaret lived in Dorchester with her husband and three children, who were all BPS students. I extend my deepest condolences to Margaret's family and loved ones, including BPS Health Services staff, our school nurses, and health paraprofessionals. We have already received an outpouring of support and kind words respecting Margaret's dedicated work and her profound impact on the health and well-being of our students and families. I am so happy to have known Margaret and I am so grateful for her guidance and leadership. Please keep Margaret and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Now I'd like to provide a few brief updates and highlights from across the district.

As you may have heard by now, there was an increase in the positive infection rate from 2.7% last week to 3.4% in the City of Boston. What that means is that we will continue to watch and see if this trend continues or improves. Tonight, the state is also expected to announce that based on the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report released today, the City of Boston has moved into the "red zone" on the state community-level data map. Guidance from the state suggests school districts shift to remote learning after three weeks of being in the "red zone." The city uses different, more comprehensive measures than the state, taking into account data that reviews the city's overall infection rate and considers testing rates as well.

BPS and the City of Boston agreed that the threshold for moving BPS to all remote learning is an infection rate of 4% citywide. Anything above 4% would require closing. We are not there. The changing nature of the positivity rate depends directly on the actions of the public and their adherence to the health guidance of wearing a mask, washing hands frequently, social distancing,

staying home if you are not well, and avoiding large gatherings. As I mentioned in my check-in with staff today, children simply will not be able to stay in school if the public does not follow these guidelines. We all must do our part.

As a reminder, The City of Boston's COVID-19 Mobile Testing Site is now located in Grove Hall, at 40 Geneva Avenue in Dorchester. The site will be open through this Saturday, October 3rd. 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. Families can visit [Boston.gov/coronavirus](https://www.boston.gov/coronavirus) or call 3-1-1 for more information about this testing site and other sites throughout the city.

Last week we announced that the Boston Red Sox and JetBlue, in collaboration with the Boston Pride, have donated more than 60,000 reusable masks to BPS students and teachers. We had our annual Red Sox Hat Day, a time-honored BPS tradition, scheduled for this past March 30, but unfortunately, the celebration had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This generous donation from two Boston sports teams, is a timely alternative to the Red Sox hats, and ensures that students will be ready to protect themselves, their families, and their school community this school year. If that wasn't enough, the Boston Red Sox and Major League Baseball have partnered with the City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission to facilitate COVID-19 testing for members of the Boston Teachers Union. Starting last week, 5% of Teachers Union members will be invited to be randomly tested weekly for COVID-19 through the end of 2020. A randomized sample of teachers will be tested from across the city with an oversampling of teachers working in neighborhoods with COVID-19 rates higher than 8 percent, which is double the citywide threshold of concern. We are all so grateful for this profound commitment to the health of our educators, our students and of the entire community. This is exactly what I mean when I say, "All Hands On Deck!"

Speaking of all hands on deck, earlier today we announced a partnership between BPS and Staples, in which every BPS student will receive \$50 to use in any Staples store for back to school shopping. The \$50 store cards can be used at select Staples retail stores until November 30. The cards must be redeemed in one transaction and some restrictions apply. The cards cannot be used for online purchases. Eight Staples stores in the Greater Boston area will host special shopping times set aside for the Boston Public Schools community. Students and their families can safely shop in-store, while maintaining physical distancing, or call ahead to place an order for curbside pickup. Families may be interested in transferring or giving the Staples store card to other families who may need it more. If your family does not need school supplies, please consider using the card to purchase supplies and provide them to your child's school for other students or families in need. The cards have been delivered to schools, and schools are

coordinating pick-ups for families. Full details of the partnership, including the special BPS shopping hours, and 8 Staples locations, are available at bostonpublicschools.org/staples.

My team and I will provide a reopening update shortly, but I do want to thank the BPS team, School Committee members, our school leaders, teachers, nurses, custodians, food service workers, all of our staff, and our families for their partnership, collaboration and hard work these past several months. I just want to acknowledge that outside of school reopening, this has been an extremely challenging year for so many of us- for some- much more so than others. I truly appreciate all the support from my colleagues and the entire Boston community. Mayor Walsh, Chief Martinez, Pat Brophy in particular and the entire Cabinet who have all pitched in in some way or fashion, and to our many community partners. So many have been involved in this reopening and this work is all in service of our wonderful students and families. From many accounts, remote learning has improved this year and that is a testament to our teachers and their incredible hard work they have put in sharing and looking for new ways to engage students. I am so proud of the cross-departmental efforts of my team to get this right and to improve this experience for our families. Tomorrow morning we are so excited to welcome back our students prioritized for in-person learning, our students with the highest needs. It has been more than 6 months since we've had students learning in our schools, alongside their peers, under the care of their teachers and adults who love them. We have all been working towards this goal, and I want to say thank you. That is my Superintendent's Report for this evening.

Dr. Rivera thanked the Superintendent and her team for their extensive preparation for school reopening. She requested an update on the Superintendent's Exam School Admissions Work Group. The Superintendent said that the Work Group has met many times over the past several weeks and she expects to present an update to the Committee on October 8th. Dr. Rivera asked for an update on the district's Memorandum of Understanding with the Boston Police Department. The Superintendent said that her immediate focus is on the safe and successful opening of school. She expects to focus more closely on the district's MOU with the BPD in November.

Mr. James asked about the possibility of the district mailing M-7 MBTA passes to students' homes. Chief of Operations Sam DePina explained that the district experiences a high return-mail rate which makes mailing passes home prohibitive.

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 Accountability Corey Harris, Executive Director of the Office of Community Health at Boston Children's Hospital Dr. Shari Nethersole, Chief of Operations Sam DePina,

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Chief of Student, Family and Community Advancement Monica Roberts, Chief Academic Officer Andrea Zayas, Chief Information Officer Mark Racine, Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital Al Taylor, Boston After School and Beyond Executive Director Chris Smith, and Chief Programming Officer for the YMCA of Greater Boston Amy Turner.

Dr. Nethersole said that Boston Children's Hospital is providing eight weeks of COVID support for BPS nurses.

The Superintendent's team provided a reopening update in the following areas:

Health & Safety: Procedures are in place to keep students and staff safe while in buildings: home health checklist, mask wearing & breaks, signage for hallway movement, classrooms prepared for distancing, hand washing and sanitizing stations in place.

Building Readiness: Buildings are clean and plans are in place for regular cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting, stocked with supplies, outfitted with signs, windows fixed, fans/extension cords delivered, PPE for students & staff provided by the district.

Transportation: Buses are ready to get students to school: routing, new cleaning and distancing procedures, new safe riding protocols for students. Mailers with bus information were shared with students and families this week.

Family Supports: Super Meal Sites across the City provide free breakfast & lunch, P-EBT cards, Parent University, Family Liaisons & Social Workers support.

Academics: Remote learning is improved: agreed-upon district-wide technology platforms, school master schedules, At Home Learning Kits: K0-12 supported by Staples, United Way, CoB, Boston Opportunity Agenda, Training and support for families.

Technology: Students have technology: more than 40,000 Chromebooks deployed, deal for Comcast Internet Essentials service, classroom cameras delivered, headphone deliveries begin next week.

Human Capital:

Hiring & Diversity:

927 Teachers hired - 54% people of color

259 Paras hired - 73% people of color

63 Social Workers hired - 78% people of color

49 Family Liaisons hired - 98% people of color

Leaves: 331 employees on leave

Partnerships:

Learning Kits & School Supplies

Early Childhood grades funded by Boston Opportunity Agenda, BRF

Elem. & High School grades funded by Cradles to Crayons, Staples

2000 Highest Needs Students funded by Joe Thuney with support of the Kraft Foundation

PPE: Masks donated by the Boston Red Sox

Out-of-School Time Programming:

- Collaboration with Boston After School and Beyond to offer 4000 of our highest need students in-person
- after school and remote day support
- Limited number of partners will be able to provide school-based health and wellness services

Enrollment:

- Outreach and registration efforts
- Remote service covering all family languages
- Continued outreach using ethnic radio, television and newspapers, CBOs, traditional media and newer mechanisms like iheart radio
- Trained family liaisons will support with continued outreach and support for their school and district-wide

53,890 students enrolled for SY20-21 (as of September 1)

As of 9/29, the number of students for SY20-21 is 52,327.

Break down by grade: (Includes students that have been assigned, but have not yet attended school.)

- 6,439 in grades K0-K2
- 18,730 in grades 1-5
- 10,943 in grades 6-8
- 16,215 in grades 9-12

Technology:

- Devices
 - 40,529 Chromebooks distributed since March
 - Delivery of 20,000 additional devices arrived 9/28 and 9/30
- Internet
 - 1,400 new hotspots distributed starting 9/28 to homeless/mobile students
 - Comcast Internet Essentials funding vouchers will be provided to families in need of financial assistance
- Classroom Technology
 - Multiple new apps provided to teachers, including SeeSaw & TalkingPoints for improved parent engagement
 - 3,500 cameras provided for improved remote instruction

Attendance:

- First week of school attendance was consistent with previous years
 - Day 1: 76% (78% avg)
 - Day 2: 85% (82% avg)

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Day 3: 88% (86% avg)
Day 4: 89% (88% avg)
Day 5: 89% (89% avg)
Day 6: 91% (92% avg)
Day 7: Pending
Day 8: 93%

- Approximately 3,400 students (as of 9/25) have not reported to school, which is consistent with previous years

Meal Service for Remote Learning

- Meals available at 26 school sites citywide
- Added locations in Allston/Brighton, Charlestown and Downtown
- Students can pick up meal packs (5 breakfasts/5 lunches) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 6 pm
- In the 4 days, BPS has served over 150,000 meals
- With the City, began providing groceries at four locations

Meal Service for Hybrid Learning

- 97.7% of meal service plans finalized
- Students can take home packs of 3 breakfasts/3 lunches for remote learning days or access the 26 pick-up sites

Other Updates

- 88.9% of Health inspections completed (as of 9/30)
- Continuation of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) in 65 schools
- Updated P-EBT data was submitted on September 18th
- Notifications will be sent in October to families

The Superintendent played a brief video about bus safety and cleaning protocols

Dr. Rivera asked how the learning pods are supporting academic achievement and if they come with any additional costs. Ms. Roberts said that some partners need bridge funding which BPS is working with the philanthropic community to try to provide. Mr. Smith described the pods as learning and enrichment pods. Dr. Rivera asked for clarification as to whether students need to turn on their camera during remote learning. Mr. Racine explained that due to privacy concerns, BPS is not requiring students to turn on their cameras.

Ms. Robinson asked if the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Department conducts family surveys. FNS Executive Director Laura Benadidez said that FNS does conduct surveys and noted that there has been an increase in participation. The menu is posted on the BPS website. Ms. Robinson expressed support for learning pods and asked how they work. Ms. Turner said that at the YMCA, students are grouped by age. Ms. Robinson asked if families can pool their \$50 Staples gift cards to purchase more expensive items. Ms. Roberts responded yes.

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Mr. James said that in his experience with remote learning, he has found that when students have their cameras turned on, the class is better able to build connections and engage in a productive discussion.

Mr. O'Neill praised the daily Zoom call that the Superintendent is holding with school leaders and city officials to discuss COVID rates and reopening. He asked the Superintendent about the results of her recent walk throughs of school buildings. The Superintendent said that the district recently received PPE for nurses and completed kitchen renovations. Air quality testing has yielded good results. She thanked Madison Park Technical Vocational High School students for producing 10,000 door stops for school buildings. Mr. DePina clarified that 7,300 windows have been identified for repair and each classroom now has at least one working window. Mr. O'Neill expressed concerns about declining enrollment, which he said is consistent with other large school districts but still troublesome. He encouraged the district to conduct outreach to families who have left the district. Mr. O'Neill expressed concerns about the quality and portions of the meals provided by FNS. The Superintendent said that the district is currently in a COVID-response food preparation and delivery model. BPS is now working with food vendor Rev Foods. Ms. Benavidez said that the district is working to provide high quality meals that meet nutrition standards. Mr. O'Neill said that he hopes to see rapid improvement in food quality.

Dr. Coleman encouraged the district to consider what leading and lagging indicators it will use to evaluate food service. Ms. Benavidez said that the district closely tracks meal participation.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila praised the bus safety video produced by BPS and said that she is pleased with the improvement she has seen in the remote learning experience. She praised the Superintendent's daily calls with school leaders and city health officials. She suggested providing more training and structure for out-of-school-time providers, whom she encouraged to hire ELL certified teachers. She recommended that BPS partner with local businesses to provide BPS families with fresh food. She requested an update on the district's diversity hiring efforts, including linguistic diversity. Mr. Taylor said that he would follow up with the data.

Mr. James asked about open windows being used for air ventilation. Mr. DePina said that teachers will gage the comfortability of their classroom.

Mr. Loconto said that he recently attended a walk-through at the Ohrenberger School, where teachers and staff have prepared extensively to welcome students back for in-person learning. He thanked all of the staff who have been working to get school buildings ready and safe. He praised the ingenuity that district leaders have demonstrated distributing tens of thousands of Chromebooks and working to increase attendance.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila spoke highly of her recent visit to the Frederick Pilot Middle School led by Principal Pauline Lugira.

Mr. Loconto announced that the Committee would delay its discussion on remote School Committee meeting norms and protocols until after public comment.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Boston City Councilor At-Large Annissa Essaibi-George testified regarding school reopening.
- Jessica Tang, president, Boston Teachers Union, testified regarding school reopening.
- Vivian Chen, parent, Quincy Elementary School testified regarding the school's Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) program.
- Mei Yu, parent, Quincy Elementary School testified regarding the school's SEI program.
- Robert Jenkins, BPS graduate and volunteer, testified regarding school reopening.
- Trevour Smith, BPS teacher, testified regarding school reopening.
- Michelle Caine, teacher, Excel High School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Wendy Lam, teacher, Excel High School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Nikki Rivera, parent, Mendell Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding school reopening.
- Mike Heichman, member, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding school reopening.
- Megan Wolf, member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), testified regarding public comment.
- Kyle Gichuru, parent and teacher, Tobin K-8 and Boston Latin School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Trina Heinisch, teacher, Sumner Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Callie Liebmann, teacher, Conley Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Lily Holland, teacher, Guild Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Kerith Conron, parent, Manning Elementary School, testified regarding special education.
- Marta Bausemer, nurse, Boston Green Academy, testified regarding school reopening.
- Marie Nowicki, nurse, Boston Green Academy, testified regarding school reopening.
- Katie Mallon, BPS teacher, testified regarding school reopening.
- Jonell Johnson, BPS nurse, testified regarding school reopening.
- Kris Grymonpre, teacher, McCormack Middle School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Kelsey Brendel, BPS parent, testified regarding school reopening.
- Lauren O'Malley-Sing, teacher, Another Course to College, testified regarding school reopening.
- Rina Ambrose, BPS parent, testified regarding school reopening.
- Heidi Winston, BPS nurse, testified regarding school reopening.
- Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, testified regarding school reopening.

- Mary Stenson, nurse, McKinley Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Madeline Doherty, teacher, Jackson Mann K-8 School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Peggy Wiesenber, Access to Justice Fellow, testified regarding public comment.
- Amie Luna, parent, Roosevelt K-8 School, and nurse, Philbrick Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Hilary Crane-Stern, parent, Another Course to College, testified regarding school reopening.
- Tucker Welch, BPS clinician, Greenwood K-8 School, testified regarding anti-racism.
- Ryan Thombs, community advocate, Boston College, testified regarding school reopening.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$2,491,772. Mr. Tran was absent during the vote.

Mr. Loconto proposed adding language to the Fall 2020 Athletics Authorization for golf and cross-country running in response to the city of Boston moving into the red zone for COVID positivity rates. He read the amended motion aloud for the record:

“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 Boston School Committee hereby authorizes student participation in golf and cross country running for the regularly scheduled Fall 2020 athletics season, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools as long as Boston is designated as yellow or green by the Department of Public Health (DPH). If Boston is designated as red by the DPH, student participation in golf and cross country running for the regularly scheduled Fall 2020 athletics season will be delayed until such time as Boston is designated as yellow or green or until the floating season as determined by the MIAA.”

Ms. Robinson asked how many students participate in golf and cross country running. BPS Athletics Director agreed to follow up with the information. He noted that outdoor gatherings are currently limited to 50 people.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the authorization of student participation in golf and cross country running for the regularly scheduled Fall 2020 athletics season, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, as long as Boston is designated as yellow or green by the Department of Public Health (DPH). If Boston is designated as red by the DPH, student participation in golf and cross country running for the regularly scheduled Fall 2020 athletics season will be delayed until such time as Boston is designated as yellow or green or until the floating season as determined by the MIAA. Mr. Tran was absent during the vote.

REPORTS

Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity Gaps Update - Chief Equity & Strategy Officer Dr. Charles Grandson presented an update from the division which is comprised of the Office of Strategy, Office of Opportunity Gaps, Office of Equity, and Office of Human Capital. Dr. Grandson was joined by co-presenters Eva Mitchell, Deputy Chief Equity, Strategy and Opportunity; Harold Miller, Interim Assistant Superintendent, BPS Office of Opportunity Gaps; Becky Shuster, BPS Assistant Superintendent of Equity; Velecia Saunders, Disproportionality Specialist, BPS Office of Opportunity Gaps; and Ceronne Daly, Director of Diversity Programs, BPS Office of Recruitment, Cultivation and Diversity.

The Division's chief objectives are to:

1. Ensure the District's Strategic Plan goals are met through effective execution of the Operational Plan and work plans, and aligned to the BPS Opportunity and Achievement Gap (OAG) Policy.
2. Ensure equity is placed at the center of professional development and implementation so that BPS' educational and working environment is unimpeded by bias, and all students, families, and staff are welcomed, included, encouraged, and can succeed and flourish.
3. Ensure that excellent & equitable opportunity is promoted and supported, including the implementation of OAG policy goals.
4. Recruit, hire, retain, and develop school-based and central office staff to reflect BPS students' diverse cultures and languages. In doing so, ensure that BPS policies, strategies, and initiatives are designed and implemented in accordance with the OAG policy, and in service of organizational effectiveness and student achievement.
5. Innovate, incubate, support, and disseminate best practices and exemplars to accelerate the goals of the Strategic Plan in an equitable manner towards greater individualized support.

The work of the Division is based on continuous reviews of the district's work disaggregated by race and other key demographics, and focuses on applying the concept of "targeted universalism" to increase resources to close disparities that impact historically marginalized populations. One of the key roles the Division plays is ensuring that all school and district decisions rise out of this data and deliberately aim to achieve equity. The division's work relies on broad internal and external stakeholder engagement, and calls all schools and Central Office departments to hold themselves to the highest standard of authentic input and feedback, particularly by those who are likely to be most impacted by BPS policies and programs. The Division is responsible to train employees in racial equity strategies, coach school and district leaders in implementing those strategies, and monitoring the resulting equity analyses and outcomes.

Dr. Coleman spoke about the need to create more operational coherence in the district. He praised the Superintendent for bringing coherence to this work by creating the Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity Gaps.

Dr. Rivera suggested that ethnic studies be part of school improvement plans. She differentiated between ethnic studies and anti-racist curriculum. Dr. Grandson spoke about the division's partnership with the Office of Academics to make sure that the work is aligned. Dr. Rivera requested an updated organizational chart. She asked how the division's work is connected to the school police. Dr. Grandson said that his team will use the district's racial equity tool, conduct an equity analysis, and continue its focus on restorative justice practices.

Ms. Robinson asked how district leaders will know if professional development is becoming embedded. Ms. Mitchell spoke about the work being done by the professional development steering committee.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila suggested that the Committee set goals related to student achievement. She praised the BPS teacher cadet program. She encouraged a citywide strategy to make home ownership more affordable. She suggested recruiting more multilingual staff. She urged the expansion of the district's ethnic studies pilot courses. Mr. Taylor said that the district needs to do a better job of capturing data on the linguistic diversity of teachers and staff.

Mr. O'Neill praised the coherence of the division's work. Dr. Grandson confirmed that BPS is still partnering Becoming A Man (BAM). Mr. O'Neill suggested that the division collaborate with the Boston Private Industry Council to connect more students with mentors.

Mr. Tran praised the comprehensive equity work and encouraged BPS to hold a district-wide equity roundtable. He suggested hanging equity posters at schools. He spoke about the role of equity in restorative justice practices.

Mr. Loconto said that the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force will review all BPS policies with an anti-racist lens and make recommendations for revisions where appropriate.

Discussion on Remote School Committee Meeting Norms and Protocols - It has been six months since the School Committee held its first remote meeting following Governor Baker's emergency order permitting public bodies in Massachusetts to meet remotely. Since that time, the Committee has increased access to its meetings through the use of Zoom and YouTube, and by providing the ability for community members to participate in public comment virtually. Mr. Loconto thanked the Superintendent and her staff for increasing interpretation services to further support this access.

At the same time, members have expressed concern with several meetings that have exceeded six and seven hours in length. Many of these meetings have extended late into the evening and, in some cases, have caused the Committee to delay or curtail critical reports from the district. The Committee has also taken up several debates and votes at late hours, which has the effect of curtailing access to those discussions, and the effectiveness of those exchanges. Mr. Loconto expressed concern about the effect this has had on district staff that prepare reports for delivery

to the Committee and must wait late into the night, beyond their normal work days, to present information for the Committee's review.

Mr. Loconto encouraged the Committee to use this opportunity to evaluate the bright spots of the last six months and some areas for improvement, and talk about ways to make Committee meetings more effective. He suggested that members consider the following options:

- Placing limits on the duration of district reports
- Placing limits on member's time for questions and comments
- Rearranging the order of the agenda to promote the sharing of information critical to district operations

Mr. Loconto clarified that the Committee's intention is not to curtail public comment but to find a balance between being inclusive and finding efficiency. He noted that the Committee's 2012 policy governing Rules for Public Comment and Conduct at School Committee Meetings places a 60-minute limit on the general public comment period, although the Committee has not enforced that time limit.

Dr. Coleman spoke about the tension between the Committee carrying out its responsibilities and listening to public feedback. He spoke about the many vehicles available for people to provide the Committee with valuable feedback.

Ms. Robinson said that she appreciates hearing the diverse voices of a wide variety of constituents. She suggested scheduling some meetings that are completely dedicated to public comment, followed by a School Committee business meeting.

Mr. O'Neill praised Mr. Loconto and Mr. Racine for the Committee's smooth transition to remote meetings on Zoom. He said that he prefers no changes be made to public comment. He suggested adding a limit time for members' questions and comments.

Dr. Rivera said that she prefers no changes be made to public comment. She suggested that the district shorten its presentations to the Committee. She would also consider starting meetings earlier.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that she hopes that virtual participation will continue when in-person meetings resume. She expressed support for holding additional meetings solely to entertain public comment.

Mr. O'Neill asked the Superintendent for her perspective. She said that in her experience, public bodies have formed working groups, brought heightened attention to task force meetings, and reserved one hour for public comment at the beginning of the meeting and held additional time for public comment at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Loconto expressed support for the idea of promoting task forces meetings and exploring the Superintendent's suggestions. He said that the Committee will continue the discussion at future meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Oliver-Dávila acknowledged receiving an open letter from the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) Youth Center to educators and superintendents in Boston, Malden, and Quincy about anti-Asian racism. She said that the Committee stands in solidarity with Asian students. She encouraged leaders to include Asians in conversations about black and brown students. Mr Tran echoed Ms. Oliver-Dávila's comments.

ADJOURN

At approximately 11:13 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary