



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION

January 11, 2017

The Boston School Committee held an executive session on January 11, 2017 at 8:25 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, Room 2-12, Roxbury, Massachusetts. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael D. O'Neill; Michael Loconto; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Jeri Robinson; and Regina Robinson.

School Committee Members Absent: Vice-Chair Dr. Hardin Coleman; and Dr. Miren Uriarte.

DOCUMENT PRESENTED

Level 4 Turnaround Options: Equity. Coherence. Innovation. – *Confidential Draft*

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Boston Public Schools (BPS) lead negotiator Dr. Ross Wilson provided a brief update on the district's ongoing collective bargaining negotiations with the Boston Teachers Union (BTU). BPS is offering moderate wage increases. The BTU has offered a counter proposal. The next negotiating session is scheduled for this Friday, January 13th. Dr. Wilson expects the parties to make progress. Issues that still need to be worked out include suitable professional capacity, layoffs, and inclusion. BPS Chief Financial Officer Eleanor Laurans explained that adding two steps to the current compensation structure would save the district \$20-30 million over six years.

Mr. Loconto said that the district remains committed to achieving a contract that meaningful changes and is fiscally sound. Mr. O'Neill encouraged the district's negotiating team to hold firm on the critical reforms it is seeking.

The Superintendent said that there are indications that staffing changes are needed at Brighton and Excel high schools, both of which were recently designated as Level 4 Turnaround Schools by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital Emily Qazilbash discussed the district's bargaining approaches with teachers at the schools. The Superintendent reviewed the district's options, which include closing the schools or phasing out schools' traditional programming and replacing it with alternative education options such as Linked Learning or Big Picture Learning. Brighton and Excel Local Stakeholder Groups will be presented with options and asked for feedback.

The Committee and Superintendent discussed the potential impacts of various options. Committee members emphasized the value of public engagement. Mr. O'Neill suggested that the Superintendent attend the local stakeholder group meetings at Brighton and Excel high schools and open them to the public to invite feedback from all stakeholders. The Superintendent agreed and said that at the January 25th School Committee meeting, he will publicly invite people to attend stakeholders meetings at each school. He added that the district must adhere to a tight 60-day timeline in accordance with the state's statutory requirements for turnaround plans.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The Committee did not return to public session.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary