



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REMOTE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 21, 2020

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on October 21, 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; 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: October 8, 2020

Recommendation of Exam Schools Admissions Criteria for School Year 2021-22 PowerPoint Updated October 21, 2020

Memo from Exam School Admissions Working Group to Superintendent Cassellius re: Admissions Recommendation, October 5, 2020

Exam Schools Admissions Criteria for School Year 2021-2022 PowerPoint, October 8, 2020

Statement of Support from Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

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Grants for Approval Totaling \$1,405,953:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Representative Relationship to Grant	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$20,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices - Boston Collaborative High School	New	Sherri Neasman	Headmaster	College and Career Readiness	Boston Collaborative HS
\$30,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices - East Boston High School	New	Phillip R. Brangiforte	Headmaster	College and Career Readiness	Greater Egleston High School
\$30,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices Grant – Excel High School	New	Tracey Kimsey	Director of Work-Based Learning and Partnerships	College and Career Readiness	Greater Egleston High School
\$46,350	2021	OpenSciEd Field Test	New	Marianne Dunne	Senior Project Coordinator	Curriculum and Instruction	12 Sites
\$379,603	2021	School Redesign Grant - Ellis	New	Danielle Costello	Program Manager	Turnaround	David A Ellis Elementary
\$900,000	2021	Targeted Assistance Grant	New	guerite Vichier-Guerre	Program Manager	Transformation	14 Sites

Exam Schools Admissions Criteria for School Year 2021-2022 PowerPoint, October 8, 2020

Executive Session Minutes:

- September 1, 2010
- March 2, 2011
- February 1, 2012
- March 21, 2012
- November 18, 2015
- December 17, 2015
- January 13, 2016
- September 21, 2016
- November 2, 2016
- November 16, 2016
- January 11, 2017
- March 15, 2017
- April 26, 2017
- May 10, 2017
- September 6, 2017
- September 12, 2018
- October 10, 2018
- March 27, 2019
- June 12, 2019
- September 16, 2020

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.

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, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 8, 2020

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the October 8, 2020 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

Thank you for joining us this evening. By now I hope all of you know that this morning we announced that we are pausing in-person learning for all BPS students effective tomorrow, Thursday, October 22. All BPS schools will be closed tomorrow and all students will learn remotely tomorrow and until public health officials determine it is appropriate for in-person learning to resume. Following my report, I will be joined by Chief of Health and Human Services for the City of Boston, Marty Martinez for a reopening update to discuss today's development. I know we have a lot to cover this evening, so I will keep my report brief.

I unfortunately have to begin my report again with some sad news. The BPS Health Services team is still coping with the recent passing of Senior Director Margaret VanCleve-Rocchio, and last week we were notified of the passing of Susan Arase, nurse at TechBoston Academy. Susan was a dedicated member of our BPS community as a school nurse for six years. She began her school nursing career in 2015 working at both the Rafael Hernandez Dual Language School and the Mendell Elementary. In 2018, Susan became the school nurse at TechBoston Academy. Susan was a strong advocate for the health and welfare of children, a member of the BPS Nurse Faculty Senate, and proud BPS parent. In an email last week, one nurse wrote: "She was an extremely intelligent, strong, confident woman who taught me so much in the world of school nursing. She loved advocating for all students especially those in high needs. She also loved to advocate for all School Nurses making sure our voices were heard by those in the school community." I send my deepest condolences to Susan's family and loved ones. We thank her for her service to BPS students and families. This has been a very difficult year for all of us, but the TechBoston community in particular has endured the loss of students, Co-Head of School Keith Love, and now their beloved nurse, all in the last six months. We're also sending so much love to Nora Vernazza and all the TechBoston Bears.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th, the day after the presidential election. We recently announced that November 3rd, Election Day, would be a remote learning day. With today's announcement, that is of course, still the case. I just want to reiterate that we will school - remotely - on Tuesday, November 3rd. Dozens of our school buildings will be polling sites, on Election Day. In addition to voting on November 3rd, the City of Boston has numerous early voting locations. Five BPS schools served as early voting sites last weekend, and this weekend an additional 5 schools will be open for early voting. Registered voters can vote early this Saturday and Sunday from 11am - 7pm at the Condon K-8 in South Boston, Mildred Ave. K-8 in Mattapan, Harvard/Kent Elementary in Charlestown, Margarita Muniz Academy in Jamaica Plain and the Lee K-8/Perkins BCYF in Dorchester. Additional early voting locations and more information about early voting are available at boston.gov/early-voting.

I also want to give a #BPSProud Shout Out to Fenway High junior Marcus McNeill who participated in Reebok's national "For Those Who Can't... VOTE" Campaign. I am so proud of Marcus, who I have spent a lot of time with during meetings with my Student Executive Cabinet. Even though he's currently too young to vote, he (and so many of his peers) realizes the importance of this election. Thank you, Marcus, for helping to share such an important message. Get out and VOTE! That is my Superintendent's Report for this evening.

Dr. Rivera requested an update on the status of her October 8, 2020 suggestion to change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. The Superintendent referred the request to the district's Equity Roundtable and/or the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force. Mr. Chair Loconto said that he and the Vice Chair will work with the district on next steps.

Mr. James expressed support for the Superintendent's decision to transition to fully remote learning due to rising COVID rates in the city of Boston. He encouraged the district to provide extra support for high needs students who are moving to fully remote learning. The Superintendent said that her team is working closely with the Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpEdPAC) and the Boston Teachers Union to provide services to special education students.

Dr. Coleman thanked the Superintendent and her team for their tireless efforts.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila requested clarification on the rules of engagement for remote learning and expressed concern that rules are being evenly implemented. The Superintendent agreed to follow up. Mr. Loconto asked the Superintendent to provide the Committee with more information at the November 4th meeting.

Mr. O'Neill praised the many BPS school music ensembles that performed at the virtual Council of Great City Schools Annual Fall Conference last week. He looks forward to Boston hosting the conference in 2024.

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

REPORTS

Returning Boston Strong: BPS Reopening Update - Chief of Health and Human Services for the City of Boston Marty Martinez joined Superintendent Cassellius in presenting an oral update on the COVID rate in Boston and its impact on school reopening.

Earlier today, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) released data showing the citywide seven-day COVID-19 positivity rate increased to 5.7%, an increase from 4.5% last week and from 4.1% two weeks before. Current data are showing a concerning upward trend of COVID-19 activity in the City of Boston and, out of an abundance of caution, Mayor Walsh and Superintendent Cassellius have decided to suspend in-person learning for all students. Effective tomorrow, Thursday, October 22, all BPS students will learn remotely until public health data shows a downward trend in positive COVID-19 cases. BPS remains committed to providing in-person learning opportunities to our students as soon as it is safe to do so, and will continue to prioritize students with the highest needs for in-person learning. BPS is working with its contracted and service providers to identify alternative locations for in-person services for students and will engage with the BTU on services within BPS. The district will communicate those updates directly with those families and the Superintendent will report back on that work at the next Committee meeting.

Once the citywide seven-day COVID-19 positivity rate is 5% or below for two consecutive weeks, BPS will begin to welcome our students with the highest needs back for in-person learning. When the citywide seven-day COVID-19 positivity rate is 4% or below for two consecutive weeks, BPS will restart the phase-in of in-person learning beginning with the youngest students.

The City of Boston has increased testing efforts and outreach to impacted neighborhoods. More information about COVID-19, including testing sites and community resources, is available boston.gov/coronavirus. For more information about remote learning, technology resources and free meal sites, visit bostonpublicschools.org/reopening.

The Superintendent encouraged everyone to follow the public health guidance: wear a mask, wash your hands, practice safe distancing, and do not gather in groups.

Ms. Robinson asked about safety of learning pods. Chief Martinez said that the City is working with providers to ensure that social distancing and other healthy and safety precautions are followed.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh briefly joined the meeting to discuss COVID and the exam schools admissions criteria proposal. He spoke about making the difficult decision to transition BPS to fully remote learning in response to the city's rising COVID rate of 5.7% - the highest rate since May. He expressed support for the Exam School Admissions Criteria Working Group's recommendation to suspend the test and implement a new admissions criteria for SY 2021-22, noting the impact of interrupted learning and the disproportionate impact that COVID has had on communities of color.

Mr. James expressed concern about the district using a five percent positivity rate as the threshold for returning high priority students back to in-person learning. He urged young people to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Update on Recommendation of Exam Schools Admissions Criteria for School Year 2021-22 - Superintendent thanked the Exam Schools Admissions Criteria Working Group, led by former BPS Superintendent and Boston Latin School Headmaster Michael Contompasis and Boston Branch of the NAACP President Tanisha Sullivan. She called the proposal an important equity move that is mindful of the pandemic time in which we are living.

Chief of Student, Family, and Community Advancement Monica Roberts presented an update on the Superintendent's October 8, 2020 presentation in which she endorsed the Working Group's recommendation for a one-year exception to the current exam schools admissions criteria in light of the current pandemic and the seven months of interrupted learning that students have experienced across the city.

All Boston residents who are currently in grades 6, 8 (except current exam school students), or 9, and meet the eligibility requirements, regardless of school type

- Minimum B average in ELA and Math for the fall and winter marking periods of last school year (between September 2019 and January 2020); OR received a meet expectation score or higher on the 2019 MCAS in ELA and Math. Students do not need to meet both.
- School district (or equivalent) verification that the student is performing at grade level based on the Massachusetts Curriculum standards.

Invitations will be distributed to students based on admissions criteria of prior report card grades and invitation mechanism of zip code.

- 20% of seats at each exam school are reserved for the top ranking students in the city based on GPA.
- The remainder of invitations are distributed by using a combination of GPA and student home zip code

Students experiencing homelessness or in DCF care outside of Boston, will be placed in a separate "zip code."

Clarifying misinformation:

- This is an one-year recommendation after which the district reverts to the current policy.
- All Boston residents can apply regardless of school attended (BPS, charter, home school, METCO, private, or parochial).
- This is not a lottery system. Merit is incorporated throughout while increasing geographic distribution.
- MCAS and GPA are eligibility criteria. One is not weighted more heavily than the other and both are not required.
- Remote administration of the NWEA Map Growth Assessment for selective

admissions is not allowed by the vendor.

- The recommendation will not reduce rigor at the exam schools.
- Exam schools currently admit students with A and B averages. This is not a change to current practice.
- Students with a “B” GPA during the application process persist and remain enrolled in an exam school at rates similar to those of students applying with an “A+” or “A” GPA.
- Zip codes are not limited to a specific number of seats at each exam school; seats within the zip code rounds are assigned to students based on the student’s preference.
- In simulations, the last seat at BLS was assigned during the 5th or 6th zip code round. Students in the top 50% of each zip code had access to BLS.
- The last seat at BLA was assigned during the 9th zip code round, meaning 90% of students in each zip code had access to BLA.
- In simulations, more students whose first choice school was BLS had a perfect GPA than seats available at BLS in the top 20%. However, all students with a perfect GPA received an invitation to their first choice school in all simulations run.

Tanisha Sullivan read a statement of support from author, professor, anti-racist activist Dr. Ibram X. Kendi in which he described the proposal as anti-racist. Ms. Sullivan spoke about Boston’s history of race and said that courageous leadership matters.

Mr. Contompassis spoke about the need for more diversity in the exam schools and unwillingness of leaders in the past to make decisions to improve school quality and close opportunity gaps throughout the district. He urged the Committee to adopt the recommendations.

Mr. Loconto spoke about the need to find common ground. He thanked the Working Group for their dedication to the process.

Mr. James asked about the impact of grade inflation. The Superintendent said that the district will sign off on grade verification and the certification of grade level alignment. She explained that said guidance counselors equate grades from students applying from out of the district. Mr. O’Neill asked Ms. Roberts to post on the BPS web page the list of median family income by neighborhoods. He asked about next steps for families. Ms. Roberts said that BPS will conduct outreach to BPS students who qualify for the applicant pool. Non-BPS students must notify the district of their wish to apply. BPS will identify students in January and February, send invitations to students in March, and begin offering support to incoming students in April. Mr. O’Neill spoke about the need to ensure fidelity in the implementation process. The Superintendent said that the district will explore partnering with an external partner to ensure accountability.

Ms. Robinson requested more information about the residency verification process. Ms. Roberts said the verification process will likely begin in December. She agreed to follow up with more information. At Ms. Robinson’s request, Monica Hogan, Interim Executive Director of the Office of Data and Accountability, shared the number of available seats at each of the exam schools last year:

	7th Grade	9th Grade
Total Invitations for SY20-21 Admissions	1025	408
BLS Invitations	484	58
BLA Invitations	336	89
OB Invitations	205	261
20% of BLS Invitations	97	12
20% of BLA Invitations	67	18
20% of OB Invitations	41	52
Invitations for 80% Distribution	820	326

Mr. Loconto said that the district anticipates that Grade Point Average (GPA) ties will be minimal. Ms. Hogan said that simulations showed that instances of GPA ties should not restrict students from obtaining a seat.

Mr. Loconto publicly shared his computer screen and read the draft motion aloud for the record:

VOTED, in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic affecting learning outcomes for all Boston Public School students, to suspend certain entrance criteria in the admissions policy for exam schools in the Boston Public Schools for entry during School Year 2021-2022 only, and replace those criteria with the following measures as recommended by the Exam Schools Admissions Criteria Working Group and adopted by the Superintendent.

FURTHER VOTED, that entrance criteria in the admissions policy for exam schools in the Boston Public Schools for entry in SY 2021-2022 only shall be as follows:

1. *Any 6th grade student residing in Boston (or otherwise served by Boston Public Schools) is eligible for admission into the 7th grade in Boston’s exam schools in the 2021-22 school year, and any 8th grade student residing in Boston (or otherwise served by Boston Public Schools) who is not already attending a Boston exam school is eligible for admission into the 9th grade in Boston’s exam schools in the 2021-22 school year, and any 9th grade student residing in Boston (or otherwise served by Boston Public Schools) is eligible for admission into the 10th grade in the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science in the 2021-22 school year if they meet one of the following:*
 - a. *An average GPA of B or higher in ELA and Math for the fall and winter terms of SY 2019-2020; **OR***
 - b. *a score of Meets/Exceeds Expectations on the 2019 ELA and Math MCAS.*

The district shall verify that the student is performing at grade level based on the Massachusetts Curriculum standards.

2. *The district shall assign 20% of seats at each exam school based on a straight GPA rank citywide.*

- 3. The district shall assign 80% of seats proportionately by the percentage of school-age children in Boston living in each zip code. The district shall use a GPA straight rank within each zip code, prioritizing zip codes with the lowest median family income (with children under 18) first. Homeless students and those in DCF care outside of Boston will be placed in their own zip code, which will be treated as the lowest median family income (with children under 18).*

FURTHER VOTED, to amend the admissions policy for exam schools in the Boston Public Schools by deleting the provision allowing entry in grades 8 and 10 at Boston Latin School and Boston Latin Academy and grade 8 at the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science (approved December 16, 1992) and by deleting the provision allowing a student to request an assignment to their invited exam school anytime prior to the close of the academic year in which the invitation was issued (approved September 16, 1992).

Further provisions in the current Admissions Policy shall remain in force during School Year 2020-2021, unless otherwise modified by this Order.

RESOLVED, that the Chairperson and members of the School Committee of the City of Boston hereby support adoption by the district of the following initiatives to expand access to the exam schools:

- 1. Provide appropriate support, both before and during the year of entry, to exam school admittees who, while academically prepared for exam school content, may require more time to get acclimated to the pace of exam school study, and secure appropriate funding to support this work.*
- 2. Expand the Exam School Initiative (ESI), beginning as early as 4th grade and running through October of the 6th grade year, focused on academic acceleration in both ELA and math, and secure appropriate funding to support this work.*

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson and members of the School Committee of the City of Boston will establish a task force of the School Committee that will continue the work initiated by the superintendent’s Exam School Admissions Working Group and that will be charged with advising on permanent efforts to expand the exam school applicant pool and exam school admission criteria for future years.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Melanie Allen, parent, Roosevelt K-8 School, and teacher, Hernandez K-8 School, testified regarding concerns about excessive screen time for students engaged in remote learning.

The following people testified regarding the Recommendation of Exam Schools Admissions Criteria for School Year 2021-22:

- State Representative Russell Holmes
- Boston City Council President Kim Janey
- Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo
- Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn

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- Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell
- Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia
- Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George
- State Representative Liz Miranda
- Jessica Tang, president, Boston Teachers Union
- Emmanuelle Bogomolni, student, Boston Latin School
- Paula Ortiz, parent
- Juan Li, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School
- Daqin Mei, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School
- Shunshui Hu, BPS parent
- Emma Yang, BPS parent
- Ting Yi, BPS parent
- Leah Wu, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School
- Jiexia Chen, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School and Boston Latin Academy
- Tracy Situ, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School
- Caijiao Chen, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School
- Hieu Nguyen, student, Boston Latin School
- Quyen Vo, BPS student
- Anh Khoa Nguyentrang, student, Boston Latin Academy, and member, VietAID
- Charlene Adames-Pimentel, BPS student
- Jude Sathan, student, Boston Teachers Union K-8 School
- Dr. Keith Motley, Consultant President/CEO, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts
- Lisa Green, member, Boston Coalition for Education Equity
- Katy Roberts, parent, Boston Latin School (Families for Equity and Diversity)
- Erin Fowler, Lawyers for Civil Rights
- Sung-Joon Pai, parent, Curley K-8 School
- Jess Madden Fuoco, parent, Hernandez K-8 School, and teacher, The English High School
- Rebecca Kiley, parent, Hernandez K-8 School, and alumna, Boston Latin School
- Maithily Erande, parent
- Bruce McKinnon, BPS alumnus
- Sean Berte, BPS parent and alumnus
- Sumit Ma, parent
- Latoya Gayle, parent
- Mike Szkolka
- Amy Kiley, BPS parent and teacher
- Tamar Shay-Tannas, parent, Boston Latin School
- Norma Rey-Alicea, Boston Latin School alumna
- Neema Avashia, teacher, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Travis Marshall, member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST) and parent,

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Bates Elementary School

- Lynn Burke, parent and teacher, Boston Latin School
- Kyle Hartung, parent, Boston Teachers Union K-8 School
- Liliana Ibara, parent, Hernandez K-8 School
- Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance (also testified about school reopening)
- Joy McDonald, parent, BPS
- Kevin Murray, executive director, Massachusetts Advocates for Children
- Jeremy Thompson, parent, Curley K-8 and Hernandez K-8 schools
- Anna Ross, parent, Boston Latin School (Families for Equity and Diversity)
- Jen Douglas, parent, J.F. Kennedy Elementary School
- Jose Lopez, Boston Branch of the N.A.A.C.P.
- Edith Bazile, advocate
- James Noonan, parent, Nathan Hale Elementary School
- Ben Cui, parent, Boston Latin School
- Anastasia Karasoulos-Vekiarides, BPS parent and teacher, and MCAS Panel Committee Member
- Sharon Hinton, BPS teacher, and member, Black Lives Matter
- Jessica Tahiraj, parent, Kilmer K-8 School
- Amy Widding, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School
- Sarah Zaphiris, BPS parent and alumna
- Lisa Jeanne Graf, parent, Mission Hill K-8 School
- Weimin Zhao, parent
- Peter Piazza, researcher, Center for Collaborative Education
- Teresa Pregizer, parent, Hale Elementary School
- Stephen Mook, BPS parent and teacher
- Jorge Chavarro, parent, Eliot K-8 School and Boston Latin School
- Christopher Martell, parent, Kenny Elementary School
- Go Sasaki, BPS teacher
- Angela Lou, BPS teacher
- Cheyenne Deveney, alumna, Boston Latin School
- Yooree Losordo, parent, Kenny Elementary School
- Jenn Herlihy, BPS parent
- Kathleen Adams, parent, Lyndon K-8 and Boston Latin School
- Helen Lee, alumna, Boston Latin School
- Rebecca Witte, BPS parent and social worker
- Jingson Cao, parent
- Rev. Willie Bodrick, Boston Network for Black Student Achievement
- Rahsaan Hall, ACLU of Massachusetts
- Mary Finn, alumna, Boston Latin School

- Anna Dore, parent, Kilmer K-8 School
- Lauren Kelly Trimble, BPS parent
- Rashaad Bryant, alumnus, Boston Latin School
- Sum Tan, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School
- Shenghong Yang, parent
- Derun Li, parent, Boston Latin Academy
- Danqing Xiao, parent
- Geri Medina, alumna, Boston Latin School
- Julianna Kiley, community advocate, Boston Latin School
- Li Wang, parent
- Katharine Kilbourn, parent, Boston Latin School (Families for Equity and Diversity)
- Hui Feng, parent and advocate, Boston University
- Lingsheng Dong, parent, Harvard Medical School
- Michelle Donovan, parent
- Yrmaris Matias, parent, Orchard Gardens K-8 School
- Joshua Acevedo, parent, Eliot K-8 School
- Michelle Sathan, parent, Boston Teachers Union K-8, and teacher, Frederick Pilot Middle School
- Yukong Zhao, president, Asian American Coalition for Education
- Jose Valenzuela, parent and teacher, Boston Latin Academy
- Jodie Cen, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School
- Grace Su, advocate, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Angelina Comacho, parent, John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science
- Ruth Gonzalez Vega, parent
- Marina Melidonis, BPS parent
- Yvette Philip, Mattapan resident
- Roxi Harvey, chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpEdPAC)

Mr. Loconto apologized for comments he made off-camera about people's names during the public comment period, saying they were unrelated to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved - The School Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, grants for approval totaling \$1,405,953.

Mr. Loconto explained that the Committee periodically reviews the minutes of its executive sessions and works with the Office of the Legal Advisor to recommend minutes for public release when the reason for having entered into the executive session is no longer applicable.

Approved - The Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, the release of executive session minutes for the following dates: September 1, 2010; March 2, 2011; February 1, 2012; March 21,

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2012; November 18, 2015; December 17, 2015; January 13, 2016; September 21, 2016; November 2, 2016; November 16, 2016; January 11, 2017; March 15, 2017; April 26, 2017; May 10, 2017; September 6, 2017; September 12, 2018; October 10, 2018; March 27, 2019; June 12, 2019; and September 16, 2020.

Mr. Loconto invited members to offer final comments on the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend the exam schools admissions exam for this year's admissions cycle and approve new admissions criteria for SY 2021-22 criteria due to COVID.

Mr. James requested that Exam School Admissions Criteria Task Force include three student members, one from each exam school. He expressed support for eliminating the test component of the admissions process altogether.

Dr. Rivera read a statement sharing her reasons for supporting the proposal. She suggested that BPS students receive priority weight for entrance to the exam schools. She requested that the Task Force include exam school alumni, current students, and external experts.

Dr. Coleman praised the Working Group for crafting a thoughtful solution but said that he cannot support a motion that calls for the establishment of a Task Force to explore exam schools admissions when he does not support the concept of exam schools. He said that the district must reinvent its system of high schools. He suggested separating the motion into two votes: one on the suspension of the test and a second motion on the working group's additional recommendations.

Ms. Robinson commented that the majority of communication received by the Committee was about Boston Latin School in particular, not all three exam schools. She said that BPS needs to make all BPS high schools high quality. She expressed support for the recommendation.

Mr. Loconto said that the Superintendent has expressed her commitment to funding the redesign of high schools in the next budget process.

Mr. Tran said he has heard the concerns raised by many Asian families and is responsive. He affirmed his commitment to equity and expressed support for the proposal.

Mr. O'Neill thanked everyone who testified; he applauded Mr. Valenzuela's testimony. He expressed concern about three areas: the district using zip codes instead of geocodes, grading fairness, and implementation with fidelity. He said that he respects the in-depth work conducted by the Working Group and appreciates the compromises that have been made. He expressed support for the recommendation.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila praised the students who testified and expressed support for the recommendation. She said that the population at the district's exam schools should be reflective of the district's overall student population. She suggested that BPS students should receive priority weight over non-BPS students applying to exam schools.

Mr. Loconto spoke about this vote being his proudest moment in public service. He said that given the interruption in learning experienced by students due to COVID, administering a test

this year would measure a student's means, not ability. He spoke about healing from the city's history of racial strife. He suggested that the Committee split the motion into two votes: first on the exam schools admissions policy, and a second motion on the Working Group's additional recommendations of increasing support for incoming students, expanding the Exam School Initiative, and creating a School Committee Task Force to further examine exam schools admissions criteria.

Approved - The School Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, the suspension of an entrance exam as part of the admissions policy for exam schools in the Boston Public Schools for entry during School Year 2021-2022 only, and replacement of those criteria with the measures recommended by the Exam Schools Admissions Criteria Working Group and adopted by the Superintendent.

Approved - The School Committee approved, by roll call, a resolution in support of the Exam Schools Admissions Criteria Working Group's additional recommendations to increase support for incoming students, expand the Exam School Initiative, and establish a School Committee Task Force to further examine exam schools admissions criteria. Dr. Coleman voted no. All other members voted yes.

Committee members expressed support for having student representation on the exam schools admissions criteria task force.

Dr. Coleman spoke about the district's obligation to improve non-exam BPS high schools. Ms. Robinson suggested creating opportunities for students to remotely access the kind of rigorous curriculum offered at the exam schools. Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the Mayor and Superintendent for their support on the issue, adding that she looks forward to high school redesign conversation.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. James reiterated Dr. Coleman's previous request for an update on the district's efforts to accurately capture home addresses. Mr. Loconto asked the Superintendent to include an update in her Superintendent's Report at the next meeting.

ADJOURN

At approximately 2:02 a.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary