



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

**November 20, 2019**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on November 20, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, School Committee Chamber, Roxbury, Massachusetts. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org), email [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto: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 Evelyn Reyes.

School Committee Members Absent: None.

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: November 6, 2019 and November 13, 2019 Retreat

In-Kind Donations with a Total Estimated Value of \$488,887.38

<b>Donor Name</b>	<b>Donated Item(s)</b>	<b>BPS Recipient (Site)</b>	<b>BPS Vendor (Y/N)</b>	<b>Estimated Value (provided by donor)</b>
Donors Choose Foundation	Various school project supplies	Various	N	\$446,555.38
Boston Arts Academy Foundation	Computers and related software	Boston Arts Academy	N	\$41,258.00
Winship Parent Council	iPads	Winship School	N	\$1,074.00

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Grants for Approval Totaling \$308,787

<b>Amount</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Sites</b>
\$50,000	2020	Career and Technical Education Partnership Implementation	New	Madison Park
\$173,787	2020	Children's Pilot Funds	New	Districtwide
\$10,000	2020	Early Childhood Special Education Discretionary Program Improvement	New	~15 sites districtwide
\$25,000	2020	MassGrad Promising Practices Grant – BATA	New	BATA
\$50,000	2020	MassGrad Promising Practices Grant – Brighton	New	Brighton

Field Trip Policy Proposal PowerPoint

Field Trip Policy Proposal Equity Impact Statement

Field Trip Policy for the Boston Public Schools: Proposed Modification – November 6, 2019

Memo from Andrea Zayas, Chief Academic Officer, and Kayla Dorsey-Twumasi, Director of Global Programs, to Boston School Committee, Re: Field Trip Policy Revisions, November 20, 2019

Draft General Field Trip Guidelines Circular

Draft Day Field Trip Guidelines Circular

Draft Overnight Field Trip Guidelines Circular

Draft Guidelines for International Field Trips Circular

Draft Guidelines and Procedures for Homestays Circular

Draft Guidelines and Procedures for Water Activities Circular

Memo from Sam DePina, School Superintendent for Operations and Safety, to Boston School Committee, Re: Additional Language for Code of Conduct Policy Change regarding Physical Activity During the School Day (Including Recess), November 15, 2019

BPS Code of Conduct Update Equity Impact Statement

BuildBPS Update PowerPoint

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East Boston K-6 Acceleration Equity Impact Statement

Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School PowerPoint

Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School MOUs, Accountability Plan, and Enrollment Policy Change Equity Impact Statement

Memorandum of Understanding: Type A Agreement between the Boston Public Schools and Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School's Board of Trustees

Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School Enrollment Policy

Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School 2017-2022 Accountability Plan

Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE) and the Board of Trustees of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School of Boston

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Loconto called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. He announced that interpretation services would be made available in Spanish, adding that the interpreter was enroute.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 6, 2019 AND NOVEMBER 13, 2019 RETREAT**

*Approved* – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the November 6, 2019 School Committee meeting and November 13, 2019 School Committee retreat.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The Superintendent addressed the following topics in her oral report:

- Thirty students from the Josiah Quincy Upper School traveled to Medellin, Colombia from October 20-26, 2019 as part of the school's International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The purpose of the trip was to engage IB learners in hands-on practical challenges to tackle the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals in an international setting. The Superintendent thanked teachers and school leaders, as well as to Director of Global Education Kayla Dorsey-Twumasi for their work putting these opportunities together.
- Tomorrow, the BPS Office of Special Education and the Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SPEDPAC) will host the Special Needs Resource Fair at the Leahy

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Holloran Community Center, next to the Murphy K-8 School in Dorchester, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. More than 30 partners will participate, including: multiple BPS departments, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Goodwill, Easterseals and many more.

- Registration season for the 2020-21 School Year begins in January. The district is hosting several Registration Info Sessions at various locations across the City. In addition, all BPS schools are hosting “School Preview Times,” or opportunities for families to visit schools, meet with staff, and get a feel for the community and the programs available. The annual BPS Showcase of Schools is Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at Boston Latin Academy. All of schools will have booths open, with school staff representatives on hand to answer any questions families may have. Many Central departments will also be present, and transportation to the Showcase will be available for families. Families can always visit any of the four Welcome Centers in Dorchester, East Boston, Roslindale, and Roxbury. In addition, there are four temporary Welcome Center locations open on select Thursdays throughout the school year in Allston, Brighton, Dorchester and Mattapan. More detailed information is available on our website at [bostonpublicschools.org/register](http://bostonpublicschools.org/register).
- There are only a couple weeks left in the Superintendent’s Community Engagement Tour. Earlier today, the Superintendent visited the Tynan Elementary in South Boston and had the pleasure of seeing Ms. A’s K2 classroom. The Superintendent will share the first draft of the strategic plan on December 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by a month-long public comment period. The final version of the strategic plan will be published on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Upcoming community meetings will continue to inform the Superintendent’s strategic vision for the district:
  - November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Dearborn STEM Academy
  - November 25<sup>th</sup> at The English High School
  - December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Henderson Upper School
- All community members are welcome at all of our meetings, regardless of location.
- You can view a calendar of meetings and school visits, and share your feedback at [bostonpublicschools.org/communitytour](http://bostonpublicschools.org/communitytour).
- Happy Thanksgiving! Many student-athletes will be on the football field Thanksgiving morning, so please come out and show your support!
  - East Boston takes on Excel/Burke at White Stadium at 9:30 a.m.
  - BLA vs. O’Bryant at Madison Park Stadium at 10 a.m.
  - Brighton High vs. Chelsea High at Chelsea High Stadium at 10 a.m.
  - The nation’s oldest continuous high school football rivalry, dating to 1887, continues: BLS vs. English at Harvard Stadium at 10 a.m.

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- With the holiday season approaching, many schools will be hosting events showcasing the incredible talents of students. Please consider joining in those celebrations as well!

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Mr. Loconto said that he is looking forward to joining the Superintendent on her visit to the Beethoven and Ohrenberger schools on Monday.

Ms. Robinson said that she has attended a number of the Superintendent’s community engagement meetings and found them sobering, saying that the district has more work to do to better support families. Mr. Loconto thanked Ms. Robinson for representing the Committee at the meetings.

Mr. Tran expressed support for the Vietnamese parents and grandparents signed up to testify in support of the creation of a Vietnamese dual language program.

The Superintendent announced that she has appointed Nate Kuder as Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Kuder had been working as Interim CFO and previously served as Deputy CFO.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that she attended a meeting yesterday that highlighted the need for BPS to create better alignment with the City and partners to provide out of school opportunities.

Mr. O’Neill suggested that the Superintendent set improved customer service as a goal in her strategic plan, adding that many of the conditions that need to be addressed occur outside of the classroom.

Mr. Loconto said that the Student Opportunity Act was approved by both the MA House and Senate, and will now move on to the Governor for his signature. The legislation, which was years in the making, marks the first meaningful change in MA education funding since 1993. He thanked Rep. Alice Peisch and Sen. Jason Lewis, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Education, for their leadership. Mr. Loconto encouraged all BPS stakeholders to continue advocating at the State House to ensure that items in legislation are fully funded.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz for her work on the Student Opportunity Act.

**Approved** - The Committee approved the Superintendent’s Report by unanimous consent.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

*\*As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening. We started off this school year with our numbers in good shape and we are happy to report that we are almost at 100% representation on the Boston Student Advisory Council

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(BSAC). We are waiting to identify representatives from Excel High School and Boston Green Academy.

As I mentioned in my last report, we have a very diverse and keen Working Group. We recently spent an overnight together at our annual Working Group retreat at the Walker Center in Newton. There we shared life stories, got to know each other; and prioritized projects. That included looking at what priorities are linked to current Mass. legislation. They include:

- Securing voting rights for the student representative on the School Committee
- Access to menstrual products, specifically in public schools, prisons, and shelters
- Reducing carbon emissions (make MA 100% renewable energy for 2045)
- Green infrastructure (price on carbon pollution- charges fossil fuel suppliers and the fee goes up over time, would invest 30% of all revenue in local clean transportation (400-600mil), protects low and middle income households and rural communities)
- Securing funding for access to drinkable water in public schools, and
- The Student Opportunity Act

This past Monday, we held elections for our officer positions. The membership this year includes many students that are excited to share their passions with the Council and that made for some fantastic speeches. Every candidate is giving the others a run for their money. We don't know the results yet, but I will share them next time.

There are a few upcoming opportunities I would like to share. The first is a series of town halls happening in these chambers:

- December 2nd from 5-7 p.m. on Climate Change - there will be discussions about the history of labor unions, organizing and the Green New Deal
- December 5th 4:30-6:00 p.m. Youth Community Meeting with Superintendent Cassellius at Madison Park High School

The last thing I would like to remind folks of is the Climate Strike happening on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Students are walking out and meeting at Copley at 10:30 a.m. that day and while we deeply value our learning we must also fight for the future of our planet.

That concludes my report. Thank you.



Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Oliver-Dávila congratulated BSAC on expanding its representation to include nearly all high schools. Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that adults can learn a great deal from youth about climate change and wished Ms. Reyes a happy birthday.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Loconto noted that the Committee is utilizing a new timing device for public comment and welcomed feedback.

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Laura Carroll, attorney representing the Harbor Point Community Task Force testified regarding concerns about the potential development of a parcel of land on Columbia Point near the Dever and McCormack schools.

Mike Heichman, former BPS parent and education advocate, testified regarding student advocacy, welcomed Superintendent Cassellius, and expressed support for a fully funded budget.

Thuong Nyuyen, BPS grandparent, testified in favor of the creation of a Vietnamese Dual Language Program.

Van Pervaiz, BPS parent, testified in favor of the creation of a Vietnamese Dual Language Program.

Ruby Reyes, director, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding the BPS budgeting process.

Rondik Ahmed, parent, McCormack Middle School, testified regarding concerns about the potential development of a parcel of land on Columbia Point near the Dever and McCormack schools.

Ann Malone, BPS parent, testified regarding the need for a comprehensive K-12 health education.

David Noiles, Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project, testified regarding concerns about the potential development of a parcel of land on Columbia Point near the Dever and McCormack schools.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Ms. Robinson asked for more information on the types of items requested by teachers and staff using Donors Choose. Dr. Coleman requested data on donations made to schools disaggregated by school tier. Russell Hansen, senior manager of Foundation and Corporate Relations agreed to follow up on both items. Dr. Coleman suggested that the district consider differentiating support for schools.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent in-kind donations with a total estimated value of \$488,887.38.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$308,787.

Mr. Loconto noted that the proposed field trip policy would remove the requirement for School Committee approval of international travel by students.

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Kayla Dorsey-Twumasi, director of Global Education, highlighted two modifications that the Superintendent made to the field trip policy proposal in response to School Committee feedback following its original presentation on November 6, 2019:

**Equity:** If students are charged individual fees for participation in a domestic instructional field trip that is directly linked to the curriculum and standards, the district should make every effort to provide scholarships where need is expressed. For international field trips, in addition to learning outcomes and safety, schools shall also prioritize affordability and are recommended to plan at least a year in advance in an effort to fundraise and accommodate various family budgets.

**Access:** To thoroughly support a student's participation in a field trip, at least six weeks before departure consult with, and when necessary, receive training from the School Nurse regarding any students who have medical needs and the School Counselor regarding mental and behavioral health needs.

Ms. Robinson requested that the district collect data on day field trips offered by school. The Superintendent said that the district will start to collect that information going forward.

Dr. Rivera noted that the cost of bus transportation may be a barrier for some school communities.

Dr. Coleman suggested that BPS collaborate with other districts to expand opportunities for students.

Mr. Tran suggested that the Committee consider adding language to the proposed policy prioritizing diversity. Following some discussion, the Committee agreed that the language presented was sufficient and noted that subsequent equity reports will demonstrate diversity.

Superintendent said that she is exploring how to reduce costs for field trips that are related to students' instructional experience.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila suggested adding Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) checks for overnight field trips. Mr. Loconto asked district leaders to follow up with more information.

Mr. O'Neill thanked Ms. Dorsey-Twumasi for her work drafting the comprehensive field trip policy.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the updated field trip policy.

Secondary Superintendent of School Operations & Safety Sam DePina highlighted a modification that the Superintendent made to the proposed Code of Conduct update presented on November 6, 2019 that would disallow the revocation of physical activity (including recess) as a



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consequence for student misbehavior. At the suggestion of School Superintendents, the Superintendent proposed adding "as approved by the principal" to better regulate exceptions to the policy for reasons of illness or safety.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila suggested that the district build a mechanism to track data demonstrating whether school leaders are adhering to the policy. Mr. DePina agreed to follow up.

Following some discussion, the Committee agreed to amend the policy language as follows, "The Boston Public Schools strongly believes in supporting and improving the health, as well as the social and emotional development of our students. As such, it is prohibited for any BPS staff member to stop students from participating in physical activity (including recess) as a disciplinary consequence, to provide academic support, or for any other reason other than illness or safety. *An illness or safety exception must be approved by the principal.*"

Ms. Reyes expressed support for the update to the Code of Conduct.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved an update to Section Four of the Boston Public Schools Code of Conduct Section prohibiting the revocation of physical activity as a disciplinary consequence for any other reason other than illness or safety unless approved by the principal.

## **REPORTS**

**Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School Update** – Jesse Solomon, executive director of Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE), and Hakim Harris, co-chair of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School (DSNCS) Governing Board, presented a request for School Committee approval of the following items:

- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Boston Public Schools and the DSNCS Board of Trustees
- DSNCS Enrollment Policy
- Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School 2017-2022 Accountability Plan
- Memorandum of Agreement by and between BPE and the Board of Trustees of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School of Boston

Dr. Coleman asked what elements of DSNCS are replicable. Mr. Solomon responded that BPE worked closely with the community to plan the school, utilized the teacher residency model, provided families with a predictable pathway, and convened partners around strategic goals. Dr. Coleman praised BPE's management of DSNCS as a model of thorough, thoughtful planning and for staying on task over a period of many years.

Ms. Robinson asked about DSNCS' relationship with feeder schools. Mr. Solomon said that the schools collaborate around early STEM activities. She also asked Mr. Solomon if he had any

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concerns about DSNCS' increased enrollment putting pressure on the other feeder school, which he said was not a concern.

Ms. Reyes suggested that DSNCS' enrollment application be translated into the district's nine major languages. Mr. Solomon agreed to update that language in the enrollment policy.

Mr. O'Neill expressed his deep appreciation to BPE for its long-term partnership with BPS.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the Barr Foundation Fellows for their collaboration and praised BPE's strategic partnerships. She thanked DSNCS for adopting the BPS Code of Conduct and asked for more information about the school's successful family engagement strategy. Mr. Solomon cited close communication between teachers and families and offering fun, interactive events as effective strategies.

The Committee is expected to vote on the DSNCS proposals on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

***BuildBPS Update*** – Chief of Student, Family, and Community Advancement Monica Roberts, Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder, and Chief Operating Officer John Hanlon presented an update the grade reconfigurations as part of the district's ongoing BuildBPS education and facilities master planning process.

In June 2019, the School Committee approved a broad plan to realign the district's schools to a K-6/7-12 and K-8/9-12 model, and gradually phase out stand-alone middle schools. The transition toward a primarily K-6/7-12 and K-8/9-12 grade configuration model is a core pillar of the BuildBPS framework, designed to reduce transitions for students and families, improve equity and increase opportunity for our students, and ensure more school communities with sustainable enrollment and budgets. The district will not adopt a "one size fits all model," however, and families will still have a diverse portfolio of schools from which to choose.

The Superintendent plans to accelerate the timeline for the conversion of six East Boston schools (Adams, Bradley, Guild, Kennedy, O'Donnell, and Otis) to take place in School Year 2019-20 (rather than SY2020-21, as originally proposed last May). As part of the proposal, the Edwards Middle School (currently 6-8) will not enroll a 6th grade next year. In SY2021-22, the Edwards is proposed to close and the Superintendent will work with the community to determine future programmatic and grade pathways for the Charlestown and East Boston communities.

As previously proposed, the district will continue with a number of K-6 expansions in SY2020-21: Harvard/Kent, Hale, Manning, Channing, Conley, and Kenny. The Mattahunt Elementary School will continue to phase in grades 4, 5, and 6. Also as planned, the following McCormack feeder schools will expand from K-5s to K-6s for SY 2020-21: Clap, Dever, Everett, Perkins, and Tynan. The Superintendent proposes spending an additional year of planning for the McCormack Facility, which will house the merged McCormack Middle School and Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA).

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The plan remains for the Jackson/Mann and Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to stay at the current facility for SY2020-21 and move for SY2021-22 into a new space. The district plans to hold community meetings throughout the school year to engage the school communities in planning for the future of the Jackson/Mann facility and Community Center.

Ms. Reyes said that it is crucial that the Jackson/Mann school stays in the Allston-Brighton area.

Dr. Rivera said that at a recent meeting of the English Language Learners Task Force, which she co-chairs, concerns were raised about licensure for teachers at K-6 schools that are expanding to K-6. The Superintendent said that the Office of Human Capital will work with the Boston Teachers Union to address that issue. She also asked about transportation implications of the grade reconfigurations in East Boston. Mr. Hanlon said that there is a potential for small cost advantages. Dr. Rivera also asked about morale at the Edwards Middle School. Ms. Roberts said that the Edwards staff is committed to supporting students through this period of transition.

Ms. Robinson encouraged the district to keep up with its planning for schools serving students in grades 7-12 and to provide a clearer path for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The Superintendent said that more announcements will be coming shortly, adding that she is in conversations with the Dever, McCormack, and BCLA communities about a K-16 vision.

Dr. Coleman said that BPS needs to create clearer pathways for families. Mr. Kuder agreed, saying that the goal of the K-6/7-12 and K-8/9-12 grade configuration model is to provide families with fewer transitions. Dr. Coleman suggested that BPS explore acquiring a piece of land on Storrow Drive upon which it could build a K-8 school.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Superintendent for listening to the community and said that he respects the separation of powers between the Committee, which manages policy, and the Superintendent, who manages operations. Mr. Hanlon clarified that the district plans to repurpose the Edwards building, which will continue to house a school. Mr. O'Neill urged the district to be sensitive to the unique circumstances of the Edwards and McCormack schools when planning the FY21 budget to preserve programming and maintain the full student experience. The Superintendent said that the district needs to be more intentional when planning pathways for specialized programs. Mr. O'Neill asked about enrollment at the Jackson/Mann K-8 School. Mr. Kuder said that demand is down in K1, which may be impacted by the facility's uncertainty. Mr. O'Neill emphasized the importance of maintaining specialized programming for middle school-aged students.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila expressed concern about the urgency to design more 7-12 schools. She urged the district to engage partners strategically to improve the high school experience, complete with out-of-school experiences that are attractive to families.

Mr. Loconto briefly summarized the discussion, emphasizing the importance of the grade configuration work. He discussed the need for the district to balance its sense of urgency with

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thoughtful planning to avoid unintended consequences. He noted that some K-5 schools would like to convert to K-6 but are not in a position to do so. The Superintendent said that she is having honest conversations with those communities and is committed to managing expectations.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that BPS needs to examine how open enrollment schools serve the largest population of high need students.

Mr. Loconto said that the Committee looks forward to receiving another BuildBPS update in the spring of 2020 following the budget process.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

No speakers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Oliver-Dávila requested that the Committee receive a report on school safety that includes information on planning for active shooter situations and the district's protocols for dealing with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Senior Advisor Rob Consalvo described how BPS works cross-departmentally with other city agencies to promote health and safety. Mr. Loconto suggested that the district's budget update planned for December 4th include information about additional safety investments. He said that he will work with the Superintendent to schedule a report on ICE.

**ADJOURN**

At approximately 9:27 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan  
Executive Secretary