



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 28, 2018

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on November 28, 2018 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, 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 Dr. Hardin Coleman; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Michael O’Neill. Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Evelyn Reyes.

School Committee Member Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Loconto led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: November 7, 2018 and November 28, 2018

Kennedy Academy Approval Request for Memorandum of Understanding with the Boston Teachers Union and the Boston Public Schools Power Point

Kennedy Academy Charter Renewal Application Equity Impact Statement

Memorandum of Understanding – Type B between Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers Horace Mann Charter School Board of Trustees, BPS and Boston Teachers Union English Language Learners Task Force: Report to Boston School Committee PowerPoint

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

Grants for Approval Totaling \$547,808:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$1,000	2019	Arts Opportunity Fund	New	Curriculum and Instruction	Districtwide
\$291,481	2019	CBHM Implementation & Research/Evaluation	New	Health and Wellness	Districtwide
\$40,000	2019	MassGrad Promising Practices – Brighton	New	At Risk	Brighton
\$197,728	2018	Title I	Increase	At Risk	Districtwide
\$17,599	2018	Title II-A – Improving Educator Quality	Increase	Educator Effectiveness	Districtwide

English Language Learners Task Force: Report to Boston School Committee PowerPoint

BuildBPS Update PowerPoint

Memo from Superintendent Search Committee Co-Chairs to Boston School Committee Re: Superintendent Search Committee Process Update, November 28, 2018

Draft Boston Public Schools Superintendent of Schools Desired Characteristics

Draft Background and Context on Boston Public Schools for Candidates

United Steelworkers Local 8751 Agreement PowerPoint

Agreements between the Boston School Department, the Mayor of the City of Boston and the United Steelworkers, and Local 8751: Letters of Agreement A&B

United Steelworkers Local 8751 Letters of Agreement and Supplemental Appropriation Equity Impact Statement

UPK Connector System Update PowerPoint

CBO K1/BPS K2 Connector Update Equity Impact Statement

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the November 7, 2018 and November 14, 2018 Boston School Committee meetings.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening, everyone. It's been a few weeks since our last official meeting. I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving break, spent with family, friends, and loved ones. I'd like to begin my report tonight with some highlights from around the district.

On Friday, November 9, I had the pleasure of joining staff from the Re-Engagement Center and other Central Office volunteers to knock on the doors of dropout and chronically absent students. Mayor Walsh also joined us for the canvassing kickoff and training that morning, and we went out to knock on doors together. Some quick stats from the Dorchester canvassing:

- 40 volunteers visited 151 student homes
- 72 door hangers left at the homes of students who were not there
- 32 flyers give to students/families on our lists
- 30 students/families were reached
- 10 families requested follow up

This is our second door-knocking day so far this year, in an effort to reach our out-of-school students earlier in the school year. The focus was on students who were enrolled but did not return to school in September and those with chronically absent attendance rates of 40% or less. The goal is to create a positive presence in the community and utilize every effort to help our students to get back on track. I want to thank Re-Engagement Center Executive Director Manny Allen, Academic Superintendents Tommy Welch and Joel Boyd, and Opportunity Youth Director Brian Marques for all their hard work in coordinating this re-engagement effort.

On November 17 the district held the annual K-12 School Showcase at City Hall. The event welcomes prospective and current BPS families to explore their school options, featuring tables with information about all of our 125 schools. I want to thank Welcome Services and all the BPS staff members who came out to represent their school communities. Thank you also for the entertainment provided by The English High School Blue Line band, led by music teacher David Carkner, and the EHS Step Team led by Assistant Principal Carrie King Woodson. I would also like to remind families that, in addition to the showcase, there are many opportunities over the next couple months for parents and guardians to gather information about the school registration process. Please visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/register for dates and times of registration info sessions in locations throughout the city. On the same site you can also find School Preview Times, or open houses for prospective families.

There have been quite a few recent athletic highlights across the district, including the 100th meeting of the East Boston and South Boston high schools on Thanksgiving Day. Eastie High ended up winning this battle 22-6. I commend all those who braved the frigid temperatures to cheer on our BPS teams on Thanksgiving morning. I was out at the English/New Mission vs. BLS game, and it was cold. I also want to highlight one BPS scholar-athlete in particular, Levar

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

Williams of the Burke High School. Levar recently signed his letter of intent to attend New Jersey Institute of Technology, becoming the first male athlete in the history of the Burke to earn a Division 1 scholarship. Congratulations to Levar, his family, Coach Sean Ryan, Headmaster Lindsa McIntyre, and the entire Burke community for this tremendous accomplishment.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila praised the district's door knocking campaign to reengage off-track youth and thanked the Boston Private Industry Council for its support. She called upon the district to increase the number of Latino school leaders. She recognized Maria Cordon, principal of the Hennigan Elementary School, and Ana Tavares, principal of the Hernandez K-8 School, for their strong leadership.

Ms. Jeri Robinson announced that the BPS Kindergarten Registration Guide is now available. More information about kindergarten registration for school year 2019-2020 is available at www.countdowntokindergarten.org.

Mr. O'Neill asked the Interim Superintendent to respond to the new civics education legislation recently signed by Governor Baker. Ms. Perille said that the district would provide a response in the near future.

Dr. Uriarte thanked Ms. Perille for meeting with her recently to discuss the district's agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice regarding English Language Learners. She also requested a copy of the BuildBPS Phase II narrative report, which Ms. Perille said is now available at www.bostonpublicschools.org/buildbps.

Ms. Regina Robinson thanked Ms. Perille for posting documents related to the facility conditions at the West Roxbury Education Complex on the BPS website. She requested that the district provide the Committee with updates on the outcomes of its door-knocking reengagement campaign. She also requested a transition plan following the recent announcement of departures from former Chief of Education Rahn Dorsey and Managing Director & Sr. Advisor of External Affairs Makeeba McCreary. Committee members suggested recognizing them, along with former BPS Legal Advisor Alissa Ocasio, at an upcoming Committee meeting.

The Committee approved the Interim Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) recently conducted its annual Listening Project. This year we talked to over 350 students at Roxbury Crossing, Dudley Station, Ruggles, and Forest Hills. We are in the midst of compiling the responses into a report.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

The BSAC Working Group retreat took place two weeks ago. Twelve students on the Working Group come together off-site to get to know each other. We shared life stories which were very impactful and discussed priorities for the school year.

Each subcommittee selected its top three projects for the year:

<u>Student Rights</u>	<u>Youth Empowered Learning</u>	<u>Environmental Justice & Sustainability</u>
Top 3 Projects 1. M7 for summer (all year round) 2. Bathroom Equity 3. SR App Promotion	Top 3 Projects 1. SEL Space in BuildBPS Plan 2. Student Vote 3. Badging/ELO linked to Successlink and employers	Top 3 Projects 1. Power Down 2. CCE 3. Voter Registration
<u>Additional Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gun Reform & Gun Violence Prevention• Budget - Equitable Funding & Resources for Schools	<u>Additional Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Feedback in Teacher Evaluation• CSLP Curriculum	<u>Additional Projects</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Curriculum (Faith, promotional support)• Zero Waste
Legislation: Foundation Budget Review Commission	Legislation: Student Vote; Financial Literacy	Legislation: No Fossil Fuel Pledge

BSAC hosted a Superintendent Search Listening Session for students on November 20. Approximately 60 people came out to discuss the search and around 45 of those people were youth. Young people were calling for the next superintendent to be transparent with their student-centered agenda, familiar with Boston, and have a background in urban school settings of similar size. In terms of recruitment, we are working on communicating with the schools that do not have representatives.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked BSAC and Sociedad Latino for co-hosting the superintendent search listening session for students.

Ms. Regina Robinson asked about BSAC’s strategic plan for expanding M-7 passes. Ms. Reyes said that she will follow up.

Ms. Jeri Robinson asked how BSAC selects its topics. Ms. Reyes responded that the students discuss issues and form sub-committees and report back to their school’s student government.

Mr. O’Neill, who is also a member of the Superintendent Search Committee, said that he attended the student-centered superintendent listening session and learned a great deal from the

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

students. He said that student Elvis Rodriguez has been excellent addition to Search Committee. He said that he would like to see every BPS high school represented through BSAC.

Mr. Loconto noted that November 30th is the deadline for the City's youth participatory budgeting project.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George testified regarding the value of technical vocational education.

Carolyn Kain, chair, Boston Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SpedPAC), testified regarding the need for a comprehensive sexual education curriculum for special education students, transportation issues, and Madison Park Technical Vocational High School being largely absent from BuildBPS.

Nathan Eckstrom, Dr. Gina Cogan, and Amrita Dani, teachers, Boston Adult Technical Academy, testified regarding the impact of students being released from BPS at age 22. Fatima Smith, parent, Hale Elementary School, testified regarding alternative transportation.

The following people testified regarding BuildBPS:

- Catari Giglio, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Stanley Aneke and Ebunoluwa Oshinubi, members Boston Student Advisory Council
- Dolores Wood, teacher, West Roxbury Academy
- Michelle Pierre, teacher, West Roxbury Academy
- Yana Minchenko, teacher, Urban Science Academy
- Paula Grillo, teacher, West Roxbury Academy
- Peggy Wiesenber, Access to Justice Fellow

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$547,808.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the reauthorization of the English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force for school year 2018-19.

Dr. Uriarte, who is stepping down from the School Committee in December, thanked Ms. Oliver-Dávila for agreeing to lead the ELL Task Force. Mr. O'Neill thanked Dr. Uriarte for her years of service to BPS.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the addition of the following members of the ELL Task Force: Lisette Le; Katie Yue-Sum Li; Julia Mejia; Ana Solano-Campos; and Marie St. Fleur.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding Type B between the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers and the Boston Teachers Union.

REPORTS

BuildBPS Update – Chief of Staff Rob Consalvo, Chief of Engagement Monica Roberts, and Deputy Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder presented an update on the second phase of the BuildBPS educational and facilities plan. The presenters were supported by Associate Superintendent Mary Driscoll, Academic Superintendent Andrea Zayas, Academic Superintendent Dr. Joel Boyd, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ligia Noriega-Murphy, McCormack Middle School Principal Elvis Henriquez, and McCormack Middle School Literacy Coach Adina Schecter.

Since October 17th, when the Interim Superintendent presented her initial proposal to close the West Roxbury Education Complex and the McCormack Middle School, district staff have engaged with all three impacted school communities, as well as the BPS community at-large, to listen, gather feedback and make modifications as necessary to the initial proposal. Two internal cross departmental teams have been working on the McCormack and West Roxbury Education Complex recommendations.

As originally proposed, the district is recommending that the McCormack Middle School building close as a stand-alone 6-8 middle school following the 2019-20 school year. It would be renovated into a high school serving students in grades 7-12 opening in the fall of 2022. McCormack school educators, in collaboration with Central Office staff, would identify a high school partner to join the planning team to develop the 7-12 high school that will return to the renovated facility in 2022. This represents an evolution in planning since the initial recommendation to School Committee and is responsive to the feedback BPS has received from the McCormack community since that time. This iterative process reflects an intentional effort to solicit feedback and use it to refine and improve the BuildBPS plan. BPS is exploring transition space options for the 7th and 8th grades during renovation. Excel remains a possibility. K-5 feeder schools would be able to expand to K-6, based on school community input, including the Dever, Clap, Everett, Russell, Perkins, and Tynan.

As originally presented, the West Roxbury Education Complex is proposed to close at the end of SY2018-2019; and both USA and WRA are recommended for closure. Highly specialized program strands would be moved intact and become permanent components of new school communities beginning in SY2019-2020. Space has been identified to house rising seniors from both schools until graduation in SY 2019-2020. Options under review require changes to current

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

building utilization and dialogue with existing school communities. Rising sophomores and juniors would be prioritized in the school assignment process through registration in Round 1 instead of Round 2 beginning on January 3, 2019 for next school year. Off track youth would be provided with individualized and prioritized placement options within the BPS portfolio of alternative schools.

On December 5th, the Interim Superintendent we will present formal BuildBPS action proposals for School Committee consideration related to the West Roxbury Education Complex, as well as initial new building sites to begin property exploration and acquisition. Those proposals will be presented for vote at the December 19th meeting. The McCormack School action proposals will not be presented to School Committee for formal consideration until late winter/early spring 2019.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila and Dr. Uriarte thanked McCormack students for testifying before the Committee in their native language.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked about family engagement. Mr. Henriquez said that the McCormack continues to focus on teaching and learning and engaging with families. He hopes the design of the newly merged 7-12 school will be trauma-informed.

Ms. Reyes encouraged the district to make the renovated McCormack facility environmentally sustainable.

Ms. Regina Robinson encouraged district staff to examine school choice data for McCormack School graduates to see which high school might be a good match for a merger. She suggested inviting current and former McCormack students, as well as Sole Train parents, to serve on the working group.

Dr. Uriarte requested data on the schools that McCormack School graduates attend. She said it is important for the Office of English Language Learners (OELL) to be part of the conversation. Ms. Perille said that Assistant Superintendent of OELL Priya Tahiliani will serve on the McCormack working group.

Ms. Jeri Robinson suggested that the McCormack community speak with the Dearborn School community about lessons learned.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Interim Superintendent for the collaborative approach that the district has taken with the McCormack School community.

Dr. Coleman asked about the possibility of the McCormack expanding to 7-12 rather than merger with another school. Mr. Kuder explained that current enrollment patterns do not call for the creation of new high schools. BPS has many high quality high schools that are not at capacity and are looking to grow.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

Mr. Loconto asked about the district's conversations with K-5 schools that may want to expand. Ms. Driscoll explained that it's early in the process and said the district will engage in conversations with those schools in early 2019.

The Interim Superintendent then shifted the conversation to the West Roxbury Education Complex (WREC) proposal, which she said was driven by the urgency of deteriorating facilities conditions, declining enrollment, and low graduation rates.

The City's Inspectional Service Department (ISD) Commissioner William "Buddy" Christopher explained that years of deferred maintenance have led to the deterioration of the WREC facility. He stated that the building is currently safe for occupancy, but could not guarantee safety beyond the current 2018-19 school year, when all systems would have to be repaired and recertified at a cost of at least \$11 million.

Ms. Jeri Robinson discussed the magnitude of the loss of community and its potential impact on opportunity and achievement gaps and graduation rates. The presenters explained how the district is working to minimize the disruption to students. Ms. Robinson also expressed concern about the lack of curriculum alignment across the district. Ms. Perille agreed that the district must address this longstanding issue, adding that the district in conversations with both open enrollment and selective enrollment schools about accepting WREC students. Ms. Robinson asked the district to track the displaced students through to graduation, which Ms. Perille agreed to do.

Dr. Uriarte urged the district to mitigate the impact on WREC students. Ms. Roberts said that the Office of Engagement (OOE) will work individually with families about choices that would meet their needs.

Mr. O'Neill questioned Commissioner Christopher regarding the specifics of the safety concerns, then stated that his concerns over students and staff potentially being placed in an unsafe environment was the key consideration for him in any decision regarding the WREC and its two high schools. He requested data on WREC students (e.g. specialized programs, off track students, etc.) and cautioned the district not to overpromise. Ms. Perille said that the district will provide a clear assessment, adding that she is mindful of the Parthenon data detailing the impact of transitions on off-track youth. Mr. O'Neill apologized for the delay responding to an invitation from WREC students said he will follow up.

Ms. Regina Robinson asked about the district's strategic plan for parent engagement. OOE and the Office of Special Education are holding meetings with individual families. If the School Committee approves the recommendation, the district will assemble parents, students, teachers and staff to participate in transition planning. Incumbent upon us to find classroom space if the students want to stay together. Suggested high school fairs. Madison Park has expressed interest.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

Ms. Oliver-Dávila called on the district to prevent this type of facilities emergency from happening again. She requested that the School Committee receive an annual report in the conditions of BPS facilities. She questioned whether a new high school facility is needed in the West Roxbury area. Ms. Perille said that the district needs a diverse portfolio of citywide high schools which include full athletic programs. She said that the district is in active conversations with WREC staff about collective bargaining implications.

Dr. Coleman requested more info on the impact of school closures and reconfiguration on staff. He recommended that teachers be provided with expert support to help students deal with the trauma of school closures, adding that the district should be proactively supporting teachers who may need to transition to new positions. He also requested reports on teacher retention rates.

Mr. Loconto asked about the possibility of students occupying the WREC facility while repairs are made. Mr. Christopher said that would be unsafe.

Superintendent Search Process Update - Ms. Oliver-Dávila, who is co-chairing the Superintendent Search Committee along with Dr. Keith Motley, provided an update on the superintendent search process. At a special meeting held on November 14, the School Committee approved a final Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) for search firms and consultants to assist with the search process. The RQF, which is due by November 30, was immediately released and posted on the BPS webpage. The Committee also reviewed the superintendent's job description/desired characteristics from the 2014 search and suggested edits. The job description was further refined by the Superintendent Search Committee at a separate meeting that same evening. The job description has also been shaped based on input received a community listening sessions and responses from the online survey.

The Search Committee held a Community Listening Sessions in partnership with the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center on November 19, the Boston Student Advisory Council and Sociedad Latina (student forum) on November 20, and the Citywide Parents Council on November 27. Additional sessions are scheduled for December 6 with the Boston Branch NAACP, December 10 with the Greater Boston Latino Network and Amplify Latinx, and on a date to be determined with BPS headmasters.

The Superintendent Search Process page on the BPS website has been updated, and it will continue to be updated as new documents become available: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/superintendentsearch>. An online survey is available in both English and Spanish for people to voice their opinions on what they want to see in the next Superintendent. To date, 333 responses have been received.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila presented a revised job description to the School Committee for review and feedback, including options for language related to the district's strategic plan. Mr. O'Neill suggested adding language about experience with vocational technical education. Dr. Coleman and Mr. Loconto discussed finding a balance between requiring experience or expertise in the

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

criteria. Dr. Uriarte suggested adding explicit language stating that the superintendent serves as a member of the Mayor’s cabinet in a dependent school district. Ms. Regina Robinson thanked the Search Committee for incorporating public feedback into the document. Loconto suggested highlighting the importance of a candidate having experience implementing system-wide change and who can advocate for increased state and federal funding for public education. The School Committee is scheduled to vote on a final job description for immediate posting at its December 5th meeting.

UPK Connector System Update – BPS Early Childhood Director Jason Sachs and Universal Pre-K Director TeeAra Dias provided an update on the connector program piloted during the 2017-2018 school year. The program creates an educational pathway for students from a K1 program at a community-based organization into a K2 classroom at a predetermined school.

They presented the Interim Superintendent’s recommendation for the continuation and expansion of the pilot, as the district continues to plan and develop Universal Pre-Kindergarten. The district is requesting School Committee approval of the proposal to ensure that the expansion is aligned with BPS enrollment policies.

Ms. Regina Robinsons said urged the district to prioritize early interventions. Dr. Coleman encouraged the Early Childhood Education team to collect data to research and evaluate outcomes demonstrating the effectiveness of the program. Mr. Sachs agreed.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the UPK Connector System Recommendation on December 5th.

United Steelworkers Local 8751 Agreement - Chief Operating Officer John Hanlon and Assistant Director of Finance in the BPS Transportation Department Ed Pesce provided highlights of a new collective bargaining agreement between BPS transportation provider Transdev and the school bus drivers union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, which runs from July 1st, 2018 through June 30th, 2021. The contract includes two Letters of Agreement, A&B, which provide job security to school bus drivers if there is a change in vendors, and if transportation services are brought in-house. The Interim Superintendent is also requesting approval of an FY19 supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,388,154 to cover the cost of the agreement.

Mr. O’Neill questioned what, if any, benefit the letters provide to BPS. Mr. Loconto and Mr. Hanlon explained that the letters offer an extra layer of protection by offering the district continuity and stability.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the letters as well as the supplemental appropriation request on December 5th.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

November 28, 2018

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

John Mudd, advocate, testified regarding the Superintendent's job description.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Regina Robinson encouraged the district to add special education parents to district wellness councils to assist with the development of a comprehensive sexual education curriculum for special needs students.

Mr. O'Neill said that he has incredible respect for the overwhelming majority of bus drivers.

ADJOURN

At approximately 11:26 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary