



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 7, 2018

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on November 7, 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; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Michael O'Neill. Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Evelyn Reyes.

School Committee Member Absent: Vice Chairperson Dr. Hardin Coleman

CALL TO ORDER

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

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: October 17, 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

Grants for Approval Totaling \$309,687:

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\$15,000	2019	Big Yellow School Bus	New	Curriculum and Instruction	Districtwide
\$5,000	2019	Charlestown Community Impact	New	Curriculum and Instruction	Charlestown High School
\$19,687	2019	Country Music Association Grant	New	Curriculum and Instruction	Districtwide
\$30,000	2019	MassGrad Promising Practices – BATA	New	At Risk	BATA
\$40,000	2019	MassGrad Promising Practices – BiNCA	New	At Risk	BiNCA
\$40,000	2019	MassGrad Promising Practices –	New	At Risk	Charlestown High School
\$40,000	2019	MassGrad Promising Practices – English	New	At Risk	English High School
\$40,000	2019	MassGrad Promising Practices – Greater	New	At Risk	Greater Egleston High School
\$40,000	New	MassGrad Promising Practices – Madison	New	At Risk	Madison Park High School
\$30,000	New	MassGrad Promising Practices McKinley	New	At Risk	William McKinley High School
\$10,000	New	Safe and Supportive Schools Grant	New	Health and Wellness	Charlestown High School

Update on Sixth Grade Choice Baskets in Response to Home-Based Equity Analysis Report PowerPoint

Home-Based School Choice List Construction Update Equity Impact Statement

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

Memo from Superintendent Search Committee Co-Chairs to Boston School Committee Re: Superintendent Search Committee Process Update, November 7, 2018

Draft Request for Statement of Qualifications from Executive Search Firm or Consultant

Superintendent of Schools Desired Characteristics (2014)

Search Committee Timeline 2018-2019 (DRAFT)

Boston Public Schools Superintendent Search Committee Priorities Survey - DRAFT

Superintendent Search Community Listening Sessions flyer

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APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the October 17, 2018 Boston School Committee meeting.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

As you know, yesterday was Election Day in Massachusetts and around the country. Here in Boston, we saw long lines at polling places across the City which is a testament to people's commitment to our City and to the democratic process. We congratulate all those in our City and across the state who were elected and won re-election, including the first African American woman to represent Massachusetts in Congress, Ayanna Pressley. We look forward to our continued partnership with our elected officials working together on behalf of the students and families of BPS.

About 60 Boston Public Schools students got to experience the high voter turnout first-hand yesterday; they were at the polls as part of the Student Poll Worker program. This is a partnership between the BPS History and Social Studies Department and the Boston Elections Department. The students served as poll workers at voting locations across the city — they were checking in and checking out voters, assisting voters with mobility issues, and even using their multilingual assets to act as language interpreters. All of the students received formal training from the Elections Department prior to Election Day. We're happy that our students got to experience the democratic process; and we hope this inspires our young people to become civically active for years to come.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the students and staff at the Donald McKay K-8 School in East Boston for winning the \$100,000 Thomas Payzant School on the Move Prize from my former organization, EdVestors. As I said during the ceremony last week, this is the first year that I did not know who the winner was beforehand. We could not be more proud of Principal Jordan Weymer and the team at the McKay School, who have worked tremendously hard over the past several years to build a very strong culture of student-centered focus and family engagement that has led to rapid success. The McKay does an excellent job of empowering teachers to become the experts and decision-makers in their classrooms as the leaders of the school; and for giving students "voice and choice" in their learning. The McKay has also done fantastic work meeting the needs of English learners and the social-emotional needs of all students. Congratulations to the McKay School — along with the well-deserved nominees: the Snowden International High School at Copley, led by Headmaster Eugene Roundtree; and the Perry K-8 School in South Boston, led by Principal Geoffrey Rose. All three of these schools deserve recognition for their amazing work to benefit our students.

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I'd like to thank the many students and families who attended the annual College and Career Fair on Saturday, October 27th. We had more than 150 colleges and organizations present at the Reggie Lewis Center to meet with our students, and answer questions on their future moves. It's so important that we promote a college-going culture in all of our schools, particularly in the middle and high school grades. I'd like to thank all of our staff and partners who put together this tremendously successful effort every year.

Finally tonight, I would like to encourage all families to attend the annual BPS Citywide School Showcase at Boston City Hall on Saturday, November 17th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The showcase allows families to meet with school leaders and staff of every Boston public school to make informed decisions on where to enroll their children for the following school year. In addition, all of our schools are holding School Preview Days, which are open houses for the families of prospective students. To find out more information on dates and times, along with information about the school registration process that begins in January, please visit our website: www.bostonpublicschools.org/register.

Finally, I want to provide a quick update on some of our BuildBPS work. As you know, we began the engagement process and held 11 meetings in October with key stakeholders as well as scheduled 10 meetings in November that are ongoing. We will schedule additional meetings as needed and welcome any suggestions on helping us identify future meetings across the City. In addition, we anticipate the full BuildBPS narrative report will be made available within the coming weeks. Also, as requested, we have compiled information on the facility conditions of the West Roxbury Educational Complex (WREC) and it is available to the public on our website, www.bostonpublicschools.org/buildbps. The BPS team is working diligently on targeted planning that will provide necessary supports for students at the WREC should the proposed plan be passed by School Committee. This includes meeting with students and student leaders, teachers, BTU leaders as well as parents and stakeholders to hear their comments, suggestions and concerns. On a longer timeline, we are also meeting with teachers at the McCormack Middle School to explore our current proposal and hear their feedback and suggested alternatives. I can assure you we are listening and are taking the feedback and ideas we have heard seriously. We will return to the School Committee to provide an update prior to presenting final recommendations on December 5th.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila requested that the BuildBPS team incorporate the feedback gathered at BuildBPS Community Conversations in the forthcoming BuildBPS narrative report. Ms. Perille said that the team would share public feedback in its November 28th update to the School Committee.

Ms. Regina Robinson expressed interest in learning more about the conditions of the West Roxbury Education Complex, which are detailed in reports posted on the BPS webpage. Inspectional Services Department Commissioner William "Buddy" Christopher is scheduled to present to the School Committee on November 28. Ms. Robinson suggested that the School Committee consider naming new school buildings after rising female leaders.

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Dr. Uriarte asked the Interim Superintendent for clarification about the BuildPBS process. Ms. Perille explained that the district will make multiple recommendations related to BuildBPS to the School Committee over time. She will present the Committee with a final recommendation for the WREC on December 5th, with a vote to follow on December 19th. She plans to present the Committee with a final recommendation on the McCormack Middle School in late winter or early spring.

Ms. Jeri Robinson called on all BPS stakeholders to work together to support current and future students.

Mr. O'Neill stated plainly that there is no hidden BuildBPS master plan. He said that the district needs to be very clear on its goals, which include grade configuration. He congratulated student representative Evelyn Reyes for admirably representing BPS a student forum at the recent Council of Great City Schools Fall Conference in Baltimore.

Ms. Perille reviewed the goals of BuildBPS, which include phasing out middle schools over the next 10 years, citing declined enrollment.

Mr. O'Neill encouraged the district to continue to utilize the expertise of middle school teachers.

Mr. Loconto said reminded the Committee that BuildBPS is a long process. He congratulated 2018 EdVestors School on the Move Prize winner McKay K-8 School. He also congratulated BPS Ombudsperson Carolyn MacNeil and the Office of the Legal Advisor for successfully defending the district's residency policy in a recent case.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding BuildBPS Phase II:

- Luis Santana, McCormack alumnus
- Catari Giglio, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Jefferson Sorrano, student, McCormack Middle School
- Luisanna Arias, student, McCormack Middle School
- Jesus Baez, student, SLIFE program, McCormack Middle School
- Luis Guzman, student, McCormack Middle School
- Brielle Foster, student, Urban Science Academy
- Dejah Pierre, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Noah Pierre, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Miguel Rivera, student, McCormack Middle School

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- Aztrid Perez, student, McCormack Middle School
- Bianca Bautista, student, McCormack Middle School
- Alondra Guzman, student, McCormack Middle School
- Rosi Lainy Mejia, student, McCormack Middle School
- Dea Shehu, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Mynaisha Harris, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Jessica Pontes, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Shaquilla Esteime, alumni, Urban Science Academy
- Eleni Saridis, alumna, West Roxbury High School, and current BPS high school teacher
- Michelle Botus, parent, Another Course to College
- Robert Comeau, teacher, Another Course to College
- Marina Eve, teacher, Another Course to College
- Brady Marshall, student, Another Course to College
- Jason Gallagher, Harvard-Kent Elementary School
- Dolores Wood, teacher, West Roxbury Academy
- Ethna Fernandes, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Neema Avashia, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Sarah Cook, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Adina Schecter, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Justine Grace, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Regan McKinnon, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Donna Robbins, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Matthew Ruggiero, teacher, Dearborn STEM Academy
- Kate Fussner, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Unique Sanon, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Mela Bush-Miles, community organizer
- Michelle Pierre, teacher, West Roxbury Academy
- Giovanni Serrano, parent, McCormack Middle School

Jennifer Boyd Herlihy, BPS parent, testified in favor of adding a shuttle bus for Boston Latin Academy students.

ACTION ITEM

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$309,687.

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REPORTS

Memorandum of Understanding between the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers and the Boston Teachers Union – Dr. Karen Walker Gregory, headmaster of Edward M. Kennedy Academy (EMK) for Health Careers, presented for the Committee’s consideration a five-year Type B Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EMK and the Boston Teachers Union. EMK is a Horace Mann Charter School, which is required to obtain an MOU with the district. At the time the School Committee approved an MOU between BPS and the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers on September 26, 2018, the MOU had not yet been ratified by the Boston Teachers Union. That step has now been completed.

Committee members thanked Dr. Walker Gregory for her leadership. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the MOU on November 28.

English Language Learners Task Force Update and Membership Proposal – English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force Co-Chair Suzanne Lee presented the group’s annual update to the School Committee. The ELL Task Force was established in 2009 to provide guidance to the School Committee, the Superintendent, and BPS on the vision and development of a plan of action that responds to the changing demographics of BPS students whose home language is not English and to identify mechanisms to address the needs of our increasingly multicultural and multilingual district. In the years since, the Task Force has continued to operate as a monitoring body. The Task Force has five active subcommittees.

At least 49% of BPS students have a first language that is not English and 31% are identified as English learners. One-third of all students with disabilities are English learners.

The goals of the ELL Task Force are to:

1. Recognize and promote BPS as a multilingual, multicultural district
2. Promote and monitor progress in distributing responsibility for outcomes of ELL students to all parts of the BPS organization
3. Continue to monitor, assess, and advocate to improve:
 - School district data systems and the use of technology
 - Impacts of student assessment and assignment policies on ELLs
 - ELL program quality
 - Engagement of families of ELLs and linguistic minority communities
 - Services to and outcomes for ELL students with disabilities (ELLSWD)
 - Human capital alignment with ELL needs

Ms. Lee outlined a number of continuing challenges that the Task Force is working with the district to address, including data and information gaps; an analysis of the ELL overlay for student assignment; ELL parent engagement; program quality, gaps in appropriate staffing, and resources for ELL students with disabilities.

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Ms. Lee requested that the School Committee reauthorize the Task Force for the 2018-19 School Year, and approve the addition of the following new Task Force members: Lisette Le; Julia Mejia; Ana Solano-Campos; and Marie St. Fleur. Co-Chair Uriarte noted that she may propose an additional member for the Committee's consideration in the coming weeks.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked why there seems to be misalignment between bilingual teacher staffing and ELL students. Task Force member John Mudd said that there needs to be more interdepartmental collaboration and that more accountability should be built into principal evaluations. Ms. Oliver-Dávila encourage the district add a language code to Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Ms. Regina Robinson thanked the ELL Task Force for its work. She encouraged the Task Force to mobilize school leaders to collect information about the languages spoken by teachers and staff. She suggested that the Task Force work with the BPS Office of External Relations to deepen partnerships with community-based organizations. She also asked how many ELL Task Force members are parents of school-age children. Ms. Lee agreed to follow up with the information.

Ms. Jeri Robinson asked questions about ELLs dropouts and encouraged the Task Force to research best practices from other districts. She encouraged the district to work with the Boston Teachers Union to better match the language capacity of teachers with student needs.

Chairperson Loconto noted that the BPS Office of English Language Learners will present its annual update to the School Committee in early 2019. He highlighted the district's achievements to better support ELLs, including improvements to IEP design and implementation.

The School Committee is scheduled to take action on the reauthorization of the ELL Task Force and the new membership proposals on November 28.

Update on Sixth Grade Choice Baskets in Response to Home Based Equity Analysis Report –

Dr. Lisa Harvey, Deputy Director of Evaluation and Programs, and Barry Kaufman, Director of Assignment, presented an update on improvements the district is making to the Home-Based Assignment Plan, which will have a significant positive impact on students entering the sixth grade, and will also have positive effects for students entering grades K1, 7, and 8.

Earlier this year, the Boston Area Research Institute (BARI) conducted a thorough analysis on the BPS Home-Based Student Assignment Plan. The analysis identified an issue with the number of school choices based on quality were being presented to students looking to enroll into a new school in the sixth grade; BPS staff conducted its own internal analysis, reviewing all grades, and found solutions to rectify the issue which will provide more equity in school choice for students. The adjustments will be made prior to the BPS Showcase of Schools on November 17th.

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Ms. Jeri Robinson, Ms. Regina Robinson, Dr. Uriarte, and Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked questions about schools vs. available seats. Mr. Kaufman explained that the system is not currently designed around competitive seat access, however, demand reports are available on the BPS website. Ms. Regina Robinson asked the team to provide additional information outlining what steps the district would need to take to devise a choice system that provides families with available seat options.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged the district to communicate the adjustments to the home-based assignment plan with BPS families. She also asked the district to be sensitive to the needs of middle school students.

Superintendent Search 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.

The Search Committee held its first meeting on October 24th. The Search Committee divided into three groups to address the following items: (1) revision of the Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) for search firms; (2) community engagement, which includes ideas for most effective ways to let the community know about community listening sessions and beyond (i.e. survey) and (3) review and update of desired characteristics of superintendent /job description.

The Search Committee held its first Community Listening Session on October 30th in partnership with the Boston Teachers Union. Another session for school leaders and teachers that is open to all will likely be added. The Search Committee has added a new listening session with the Citywide Parents Council at the Bolling Building on November 27th from 6-8 p.m.

The Superintendent Search Process webpage

<https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/superintendentsearch> has been updated, and will continue to be updated as new documents become available. The webpage also features an online survey for people to voice their opinions on what they want to see in the next Superintendent. District staff will offer survey to attendees at BuildBPS Community Conversations. The Search Committee is actively working publicize the community listening sessions and online survey, also available in Spanish, through a number of mechanisms, including social media.

The Search Committee has reviewed and updated the search firm RFQ from 2013 for School Committee consideration. The School Committee will hold a special meeting on November 14th from 5-7 p.m. to provide the Committee with an opportunity to:

1. Vote on an RFQ to be released for search firm/consultant services
2. Receive an initial presentation on a draft job description from the Search Committee.

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At its next meeting on November 14th at 7 p.m., the Search Committee will continue to review and refine characteristics/job description, which will be informed by feedback from the listening sessions and survey. The Search Committee will receive a legal training in closed session immediately following the meeting.

It is expected that the School Committee would then receive additional feedback from the Search Committee and the public at the November 28th School Committee meeting, and vote on a final job description for immediate posting at the December 5th School Committee meeting.

Committee members suggested adding language to the RFQ about finding candidates who have demonstrated success in key areas, including closing opportunity and achievement gaps and supporting SPED and ELL students.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Loconto said he visited the Tynan Elementary School in South Boston last Thursday following the discovery of racist graffiti on school grounds. Ms. Perille detailed the district's comprehensive response to the incident, which included providing trauma teams at the school, holding a school assembly, and sending letters and robocalls to families.

ADJOURN

At approximately 10:53 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary