



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

December 2, 2020

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on December 2, 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 Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Dr. Hardin Coleman (joined moments after roll call); Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; Quoc Tran; and student representative Khymani James (joined moments after roll call).

School Committee Member Absent: Vice Chairperson Michael O’Neill.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2020

Grants for Approval Totaling \$794,115:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Representative Relationship to Grant	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$180,000	2021	Capital Skills Grant	New	Kevin McCaskill	Executive Director	College and Career Readiness	Madison Park
\$173,787	2021	Children’s Pilot Funds	New	Ali Ettis	Assistant Director of Operations	Health & Wellness	Districtwide

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\$31,940	2021	Early Childhood Targeted Special Education Program Improvement and Safety Grant	New	Porsche Paulding	Director of Operations	Special Education	TBD
\$75,000	2021	Ed-Fi CTA	Increase	Monica Hogan	Interim Executive Director	College and Career Readiness	Districtwide
\$333,388	2021	(IDEA) Federal Targeted Special Education Program Improvement Grant	New	Porsche Paulding	Director of Operations	Special Education	TBD

Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Boston Association of School Administrators and Supervisors (BASAS) PowerPoint

BASAS Agreement Equity Impact Statement

BASAS Memorandum of Agreement, 2016-2020

BuildBPS Update PowerPoint

BuildBPS Update Equity Impact Statement

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Oliver-Dávila called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll; all members were present with the exception of Mr. O’Neill and Mr. James who both joined the meeting within moments. She 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. She announced that interpretation services were available Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, 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. Meeting documents were translated into all nine of the official BPS languages.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the November 18, 2020 School Committee meeting.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila briefly spoke about a rally held on City Hall Plaza earlier today urging the district to reopen for in-person learning. She acknowledged their concerns and said that the Committee is committed to partnering with the Superintendent to reopen schools safely.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

Thank you for joining us this evening. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and I know we are all looking forward to winter break for some needed rest. It's hard to believe that we are already in December. But I know we are all glad to see 2020 come to a close. As we look to 2021, in addition to working towards bringing more of our students back to our school buildings, we are gearing up for our budget season and prioritizing investments to provide an equitable recovery for our students and for our larger community. As we shift to a more proactive strategic approach to our work ahead, I am very much looking forward to working with the Committee next Wednesday during our professional development meeting and during our retreat on Saturday, December 12th, a public meeting. I invite members of the community to join us as we dive deep into our work of becoming an antiracist district and refocusing our efforts on providing an excellent and equitable education to each and every BPS student. I want to thank Chair Oliver-Dávila for her collaboration on this training and her leadership in making these upcoming meetings a priority for this body. Now I'd like to share a few updates from around the district and the City.

When I have an audience, I feel compelled to encourage our community to stay safe, heed public health guidance, and get tested, particularly if you traveled for Thanksgiving last week. The City of Boston's free mobile testing sites are located this week in East Boston at Central Square Park and in Roxbury at Washington Park Mall. Hours for both sites for the rest of the week are tomorrow and Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. And on Saturday, December 5th, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Anyone can get tested for free and regardless of symptoms and immigration status. Testing is available by appointment, which can be scheduled by calling 617-568-4500. Also, this week the City is offering free walk-up testing at Anna Mae Cole Community Center in Jamaica Plain. Testing is open tonight until 7 and tomorrow from 3-7:00 p.m. In addition to the City's two mobile testing sites and this week's testing in Jamaica Plain, COVID-19 testing is available at over 30 locations across the city. Call the Mayor's Health Line with any questions at 617-534-5050. You can also visit boston.gov/coronavirus for resources and more information.

Next week, December 7th - 13th is Computer Science Education Week, a global initiative to promote computer science in schools. Since 2015, the BPS Technology Department has engaged over 100 schools in this program through student contests, field trips, workshops, networking events, webinars, and more. This year BPS Technology will be celebrating with student contests,

asynchronous activities, and a social media campaign. Student contests are open to all BPS students, and include scratch animation (for grades K-6), scratch app for grades 3-8, app design concept for grades 6-12, app programming for grades 9-12, and the “express yourself” challenge, open to all grades, K-12. In addition, the BPS Technology team will be updating their website with additional asynchronous activities. Visit bit.ly/BPScoders for more information.

School registration season is upon us! Beginning Tuesday, January 5th, families can begin registering students entering grades K0, K1, 6, 7, and 9 for the 2021-22 school year. Beginning Monday, February 8th, families of students entering K2 and all other grades may begin registering for the 2021-22 school year. In the meantime, prospective BPS families are encouraged to check out BPS School Preview Times. While we aren’t able to open up our schools for visits, each BPS school is hosting virtual School Preview Times between now and the end of January. These virtual sessions are a great opportunity for families to learn more about each school community, meet the school leader, and ask questions about the school and the various programs they offer. A list of School Preview Times is available at bostonpublicschools.org/schoolpreview. Additional details on the school registration process are available at bostonpublicschools.org/register.

In October, the School Committee accepted the Exam School Admissions Criteria Working Group’s recommendation for changing the admissions process to the exam schools for the 2021-22 school year, in light of the complications presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on student learning. BPS is hosting virtual information sessions to inform community members of the admissions process for next year and to help answer any questions the community may have. We have already hosted a couple sessions and we have 5 more webinars scheduled. We have two different sessions this afternoon and another virtual meeting on Friday. We are also hosting four more sessions next week, with interpretation services available in additional languages. Full details on the admissions process, including meeting information, an FAQ, and more, is available at bostonpublicschools.org/exam. We are actively working to establish the next exam school working group. Based on feedback and testimony, we will add additional members to that working group to include students and a current 5th grade parent. We will convene this working group after the winter holiday.

As part of the data privacy policy passed on September 16, 2020 I will be establishing a School Safety Working Group. This oversight body will be charged with continuing to examine the policy, reviewing BPS data, meeting on a quarterly basis with me and my team, and making recommendations to the School Committee. The Working Group will consist of 12 members, representing students, parents, educators, BPS community members, and community advocacy groups, and I will announce those members at the next school committee meeting.

I would like to thank the Committee members for voting on my evaluation back on August 19, 2020. Today, I want to share three goals I have set for this year based on your feedback. These goals are also aligned with key goals outlined in the DESE MOU for district improvement. Although the outcomes for these goals will be a multi-year effort, I believe there is urgency to focus on this core work as critical to the overall success of the district.

Goal #1: Develop and implement a plan to significantly improve the district's capacity to meet the needs of English Language Learners.

A. Leading Indicators of Success

1. A published plan of action that has feedback from key stakeholders and equity analysis
2. Presentation to School Committee for review and comment

B. Lagging Indicators of Success

1. Increase access to high-quality language instruction by increasing seats in dual language programming
2. (If administered) Ensure ELs are making adequate progress in English language proficiency as measured by the Mean Student Growth Percentile (SGP) on the Access for ELLs assessment
3. Increase linguistic diversity of staff, as measured by the average representation gap by language between BPS staff members hired each year and the proportion of BPS students enrolled by language category
4. Increase access to school district policy making and decision making for all community members by providing interpretation services at Board meetings and public meetings

Goal #2: Develop and implement a plan to significantly improve the district's capacity to meet the needs of Special Education Students.

A. Leading Indicators of Success

1. A published plan of action with stakeholder feedback and equity analysis
2. Presentation to School Committee for review and comment

B. Lagging Indicators of Success

1. Increase training to COSE and educators on MTSS problem solving to reduce numbers of students referred to special education
2. Decrease disproportionality in the referrals to special education
3. Decrease the number of students with disabilities in substantially separate seats by transitioning students to inclusion classrooms and decreasing the rate at which students are identified for substantially separate programming

4. Increase the number of students with disabilities in inclusion settings

Goal #3: Reorganize the structure and function of the BPS Central Office to significantly improve its capacity to close opportunity and achievement gaps in all schools within district

A. Leading Indicators of Success

1. An Organizational Chart
2. Ensure a diverse Executive Leadership Team and Central Office Staff
3. Increase opportunities for school leader voice and participation in system-level policy decision-making

B. Lagging Indicators

1. Perceptions of central office effectiveness
2. Improve educator perception of central office service, effectiveness, and accountability for results as measured by average scores on select scales (group of related items) from the teacher climate survey
3. Improve school leader perception of central office service, effectiveness, and accountability for results as measured by average scores on select scales (group of related items) from a school leader climate survey
4. Improve organizational culture throughout central office as measured by average scores on items from a central office climate survey

I will formally bring my goals to the Committee on December 16th.

On Tuesday, and again this morning, I spoke with school leaders and asked them to begin preparations for in-person learning. We have been meeting over the past month with our High Priority Task Force which consists of BTU, School leaders, students, and SPEDPAC members to identify a responsible phased-in approach to getting our high needs students back in school. As you know we opened two weeks ago for 4 of our K12 specialized schools that serve some students with very complex needs who could not access or were having difficulty accessing remote learning at the Carter, McKinley, Henderson and Horace Mann schools. The past two weeks we have also seen three of the four measures we put in place, including our positivity rate and new additional metrics that have trended in the right direction and indicate with additional safety measures we have put in place that we can open to more schools and students.

The safety measures we have added include:

- Offering additional and more convenient testing for staff
- Providing additional medical-grade PPE for staff members beyond CDC recommendations

- Installing free-standing air purifiers in each space that will be occupied by students in buildings with steam or mixed ventilation
- Upgrading filters in our HVAC system to match the maximum amount of filtration possible, according to industry standards.
- Conducting further air quality and ventilation testing
- Greatly limiting the number of students in classrooms and buildings

As we continue to watch the trends, we will continue to communicate to the parents and public about a date certain we are aiming for this return. At this time, I am asking our school leaders to prepare for the welcoming back of students when BPHC gives the green light.

I wanted to take a moment to provide an update on our engagement with the Mather School following the passionate testimony of families during our last School Committee meeting. My team met with parents following the school committee meeting on Nov. 19th and we met again with the staff from the Mather this week to listen, answer their questions, and share additional information about our planning. We are committed to continuing to listen and plan with the community. It is clear that we must continue to engage with the community to ensure consistent communications about the program and next steps. Dr. Silvia Romero-Johnson, our new Assistant Superintendent for the Office of English Learners, and Mary Driscoll, the School Superintendent who supports the Mather, have been engaged in ongoing conversations with the School Leader and her team and will keep me updated on their progress. And I will in turn keep this Committee updated. We are grateful for the continued partnership with the entire Mather School community for their understanding and willingness to continue this important dialogue.

Ms. Robinson asked about if there are changes to the school registration process for this year due to the COVID pandemic. Chief of Student, Family and Community Advancement Monica Roberts explained that schools are hosting virtual open houses, while the district is holding virtual registration sessions and conducting targeted marketing campaigns with ethnic media. Ms. Robinson asked if the district is seeking to reduce out-of-district placements for special education students. The Superintendent said that her team is looking at the audit from the Council of Great City Schools on BPS special education services, adding that a comprehensive plan is forthcoming.

Dr. Coleman praised the Superintendent's draft performance goals and suggested adding "as measured by" to all of the indicators.

Mr. Tran thanked the Superintendent's team for meeting with the Mather School community regarding the plan to open a Vietnamese dual-language program at the school. He said that some parents still have concerns. The Superintendent said that her team will continue engaging with the Mather community and spoke about the many benefits of a dual language education that maintains culture and heritage.

Dr. Rivera requested clarity on the charge of the student data sharing work group. The Superintendent said that it is an oversight group to monitor the district's implementation of the data sharing policy approved by the Committee earlier this year. The Superintendent said that she will address the issue of school police after the district has successfully reopened schools. Dr. Rivera asked if BPS has surveyed students about their remote learning experiences. The Superintendent responded that the district is currently in the process of surveying students and agreed to follow up with the data when available. Dr. Rivera requested current BPS enrollment data disaggregated by race and ethnicity. The Superintendent agreed to follow up.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila suggested that the district ask its partner organizations to assist with distribution of the student survey. She praised the Superintendent's goals related to English Language Learners and the Central Office. She suggested that the district utilize the racial equity tool as part of its engagement with the Mather School.

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) Membership Update:

- 100% of BPS high schools have BSAC representation, including alternative education programs.
- There are currently 50 members of BSAC.
- Results of recent BSAC elections will be announced on Thursday

A program of Write Boston, *Teens in Print* (TiP) is a youth journalism program for eighth to twelfth grade Boston students. BSAC has a column in the paper called the *BSAC Buzz*.

BSAC has three subcommittees this year. Each subcommittee has between 4-6 projects they are working on this year. Highlights include:

Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Overview: Improving our environment, taking on climate change

- Voter registration Work:
BSAC members spent over 150 hours this year reaching out to POC voters across the country to get out the vote for the general election and the GA senate runoff. They made over 2,000 phone calls and sent +150 thousand texts to voters this fall.
- Our wins this year also include Community Choice Electricity (CCE) passing in the City of Boston, BSAC members facilitated trainings on CCE and the practices of Competitive Electric Suppliers.

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- Our team members presented at DEP and Boston City Councilor O'Malley's hearings this year on issues such as environmental justice, waste management, and net zero standards.

School Climate, Culture and Improvement

Overview: Improving school climate/culture, positively impacting instruction, improving school relationships and overall school improvement

- Working with the BPS Office of Accountability to ensure that Boston's community school initiative, Hub Schools, is implemented with an emphasis on educational equity and student empowerment.
- Collaborating with the Student Immigrant Movement to push for the City Council to adopt an ordinance establishing community oversight of surveillance technologies, working to secure the privacy of all BPS students.
- Setting up "listening circles" with Boston School Police Officers to build mutual understanding and trust between BSP and the students whom they serve, with the ultimate goal of enacting a vision of police free schools.
- Working with a variety of education justice advocacy groups in the city to ensure that the Student Opportunity Act will be fully funded, and to fight against possible austerity measures taken by Beacon Hill in response to budget shortfalls precipitated by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Student Rights and Student Voice

Overview: Building opportunities and increasing student voice in decision making

- Working on securing voting rights for the student member on the School Committee
- Thank you to City Councilor At-Large Anissa Essaibi-George for filing a home rule petition
- We are working closely with her office this year.
- BSAC members have served on High in School Priority (HIPP) planning teams to share their concerns and feedback on students returning to school
- Met with Jacob Stern, in the Office of Data and Accountability. BSAC Provided feedback on the BPS School Climate Survey
- Two students currently sit on the HIPP Task Force and the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force.

BSAC is meeting with Dr. Cassellius on a monthly basis. BSAC is seriously considering expanding to the middle school grades.

Dr. Rivera requested that BSAC identify a student member to serve on English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force. Mr. James agreed to follow up.

Ms. Robinson praised the increase in BSAC's participation and representation. Mr. James said that remote meeting platforms have made meetings more accessible to students who would otherwise have had to travel. Ms. Robinson expressed support for student government opportunities at all grade levels in BPS.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila expressed support for hybrid meetings (a blend of in-person and remote) post COVID.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Boston City Councilor At-Large Annissa Essaibi-George testified regarding voting rights for the student representative to the School Committee.
- Ashley Clerge, teacher, O'Donnell Elementary School, testified regarding students' concerns about remote learning.
- Angela Beltran-Reyes, student, O'Donnell Elementary School, testified regarding concerns about remote learning.
- Jayssel Correia-Nunez, student, O'Donnell Elementary School, testified regarding concerns about remote learning.
- Christian Arevalo Gonzalez, student, O'Donnell Elementary School, testified regarding concerns about remote learning.
- Isabella Amador, student, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, testified regarding the need for a new facility.
- Charlie Kim, parent, Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, testified regarding high priority in-person learning and the need for a new facility.
- Joshua Pierce, parent, Hurley K-8 School, testified regarding remote learning.
- Edith Bazile, community advocate and grandparent, Manning Elementary School, testified regarding racial equity and in-person instruction for high needs students.
- Sam Bartle, parent, Eliot K-8 Innovation School, testified regarding a return to in-person learning.
- Bernadette Tucker, parent, Ohrenberger School, testified regarding reopening.
- Corey Zehngebot, parent, Harvard Kent Elementary School, testified regarding returning to in-person learning.
- Mary Kate Geraghty, parent, Eliot K-8 Innovation School, testified regarding providing in-person learning for younger students.
- Emma Winger, parent, and member, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding remote learning and a return to in-person learning.
- Megan Castro, parent, and member, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding in-person learning for young students and special needs students.
- Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA), testified regarding the budget.
- Sharon Hinton, member, Black Teachers Matter, testified regarding school reopening, voting rights for the representative, and the budget.

- Marcie Carmody, parent, and member, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding a return to in-person learning for students with special needs.
- John Mudd, community advocate, testified regarding teacher diversity.
- Barbara Fields, community advocate, and member, Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM), testified regarding teacher diversity.
- Rev. Willie Bodrick, II, Boston Network for Black Student Achievement, testified regarding teacher diversity.
- Mike Heichman, member, BEJA, testified regarding a variety of education-related issues.
- Iris Diaz, parent, Blackstone Elementary School, testified regarding the budget.
- Denise Mercedes, parent, Blackstone Elementary School, testified regarding the budget.
- Glenda Torres, parent, Blackstone Elementary School, testified regarding the budget.
- Erin Welch, parent, and member, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding a return to in-person learning for all students.
- Mano Katsompenakis, parent, and member, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding a return to in-person learning for high priority students.
- Jessica McGovern, parent, Eliot K-8 Innovation School, testified regarding a return to in-person learning.
- Brittany Hampton, parent, Eliot K-8 Innovation School, testified regarding a return to in-person learning.
- Melanie Allen, BPS parent and teacher, testified regarding returning to in-person learning.
- Steven Van Dyke, parent, and member, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding a return to in-person learning.
- Sarah Parker, parent, Lyndon K-8 School, testified regarding a return to in-person learning.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Robinson requested more information about the Ed-Fi CTA grant in the amount of \$75,000. The Superintendent said that the funds will be used to integrate data into a storage bank.

Approved - On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$794,115.

Approved - On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a collective bargaining agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Boston Association of School Administrators and Supervisors (BASAS) covering the period from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2018.

Approved - On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a collective bargaining agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Boston Association of School Administrators and Supervisors (BASAS) covering the period from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2020.

Approved - On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a FY21 supplemental appropriation request to the Mayor and the Boston City Council to support the collective bargaining agreements between the Boston School Committee and the Boston Association of School Administrators and Supervisors (BASAS) (2016-2020) in the amount of \$1,857,220.

REPORT

BuildBPS Update - Nate Kuder, Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder, Chief of Student, Family and Community Advancement Monica Roberts, and Director of Capital Planning Brian McLaughlin presented an update on BuildBPS, the district's 10-year education and facilities master planning process.

Major Capital Investments:

- Boston Arts Academy
 - New facility is designed to accommodate 500 students in academics and 5 arts majors: Theatre, Dance, Music, Design and Visual Communications (Visual Arts) and Fashion Technology
 - \$137.3M project with \$48M in Reimbursement from MSBA
- Josiah Quincy Upper School
 - The new JQUS middle/ high school will accommodate 650 students in grades 6-12. The new state of the art school will have 21st Century learning spaces to support the school's International Baccalaureate Program
 - \$193.5M project with upwards of \$54M in reimbursement from MBSA
- Carter School
 - In design. The new school will double the capacity of the existing Carter School and expand programming to serve special needs students age 3 - 22.

Upgrades to Drinking Water

- Boston Public Schools is a recipient of the U.S. EPA's "Reduction in Lead Exposure Via Drinking Water" grant, one of ten recipients nationally.
- Over the next 3 years, BPS will install 1,400 new filtered bottle refill stations in schools that currently rely on 5-gallon water coolers and paper cups for drinking water.
- 17 schools have already been switched to fountains and bottle refill stations, since the passage of the 2016 BPS Drinking Water Access Policy.
- The \$6.2M grant bolsters the previous efforts by the City, which has committed an additional \$10.3M from the capital budget for this program.

My Way Cafe

- BPS is currently in its third year of construction and implementation of the My Way Cafes (MWC) across the district.
- To date over 90 schools have transformed their kitchens to support the MWC food program. Costs associated with these renovations are over \$18M.
- MWC presents a dramatic shift from schools serving pre-packaged meals.

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- Kitchens are transformed into miniature full-service cafeterias that include high-quality food and a new element of choice for students.
- Final Phase of MWC will be starting design on roughly 30 schools in the coming weeks for construction during summer 2021

Bathroom Upgrades

- Mayor Walsh has included \$10 million over the next three years for bathroom upgrades throughout BPS Schools.
- Currently in construction are 28 toilet room renovations in the BTU Pilot K-8, Ellis, Higginson/Lewis, Hurley, Philbrick & Winthrop schools.
- Upcoming projects include 86 toilet room renovations spread across the Quincy Elementary, Harvard-Kent, Excel, Umana & English.

In 2019, the School Committee adopted grade reconfiguration strategy policy, which states that BPS will become a primarily K-6/7-12 and K-8/9-12 system in an effort to reduce transitions for students and increase predictability for families. Research indicates that multiple student transitions, even at "normal transition" grades (6 and 9), can have a negative impact on student success and outcomes. BPS has continued K-6 expansions over the last two years, with 17 schools adding 6th grades in 2020.

Transitioning from Hyde Park to the McCormack:

In June 2019, the Committee approved the merger of the McCormack Middle School and the Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) to form a new 7-12 open-enrollment school to open on Columbia Point in the renovated McCormack Middle School building.

SY21-22 & SY22-23

- SY21-22 Current McCormack 6-8th graders stay at McCormack building as 6/7-9th graders at merged school (McCormack does not add new 6th grade students)
- SY21-22: Current BCLA 9-11th graders stay at BCLA building as 10-12th graders at merged school
- SY22-23: All grades at the McCormack campus (current 9th-10th graders move locations)

The Superintendent is requesting that the Committee take a vote at its next meeting to officially close the McCormack Middle School at the end of SY2020-21. From the student and teacher experience, this will be a merger. McCormack students would automatically be assigned to BCLA.

Next steps for BCLA-McCormack 7-12:

- School Choice Begins in December
- Governance model to be determined
- Future facilities improvements to be determined
- School community will begin the renaming process

Merger Working Group

- The Design Team consists of teachers from BCLA & McCormack with support from central office and have met regularly since July
- Design and curricular focus of new school
- Grade levels served
- Timelines for phased in merger
- Renovations required and requested
- Outdoor Learning and Play space study
- Partnership with UMASS-Boston
- Governance Structure
- K12 pathway considerations in the broader community

SY20-21: Edwards Middle School Update

- The Superintendent is requesting School Committee approval at its next meeting to formally close the Edwards Middle School at the end of this school year.
- As announced in May 2019, Edwards did not enroll new 6th graders in SY20-21
- Edwards 8th graders will go through typical school choice process with support for high school selection
- Edwards 7th graders will have additional transition support to select a school for SY21-22 & priority in the school choice process:
 - Charlestown 7-12
 - Area K-8 Schools (Eliot, McKay, Umana, Warren-Prescott)
 - Citywide 6-12 or 7-12
- Schools Staff Support Staff will continue to be provided resume workshops, sample teaching opportunities, and additional supports to promote placement.

Next steps for the Edwards

- BPS will continue to use the racial equity planning tool to ensure Edwards students experience is as good or better than if the Edwards continued.
- BPS will begin a community conversation about the future of the Edwards Building; the district is committed to using the building as a school.

Next steps for Charlestown and East Boston Reconfigurations

- Charlestown High will become a 7-12 next fall, starting with both 7th and 8th grades.
- East Boston High will become a 7-12 next fall, starting with 7th grade in SY21-22 and adding 8th grade the following year.

COVID-19 disrupted BPS project timelines and caused delays across the board:

- Active construction projects like My Way Cafe, BAA
- Horace Mann swing space identification
- Jackson Mann planning
- McCormack & BCLA Merger
- Announced closure of all middle schools
- Planned expansion of K-6 Elementary and 7-12 Secondary Schools

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The district has narrowed its focus and prioritized five key projects:

- Horace Mann & Jackson Mann (SY22-23)
- Edwards School Closure (End of SY20-21)
- McCormack-BCLA Merger (SY21-22)
- 7-12 Expansion at East Boston High School and Charlestown High School (SY21-22)
- Dual Language Expansion Vietnamese (SY21-22) and Cabo Verdean (TBD)

The Horace Mann community will stay in their current building through the end of SY21-22. The district is evaluating next steps for both swing space and a permanent location. The Jackson-Mann community will stay in their current building through the end of SY21-22. BPS is working with the school leader and community to determine next steps.

Several linguistic communities have accessed the LOOK Act to request programs:

- Vietnamese Program - Planned for SY 21-22
 - UPK Dual Language Vietnamese program launched SY 19-20 K2
 - Vietnamese DL Committee formed Summer 2016
 - Request made to the District.
 - Multiple schools considered
 - Mather K-5 School identified
 - Continue staff, family and community engagement
- Cabo Verdean Program - Planning in Progress
 - Cabo Verdean Working Group formed in April, 2020
 - Working Group composed of stakeholders, including:
 - Request made to the district during the SY 2015-16
 - Heritage program launched at Burke
 - Curriculum development underway
 - Timeline for program placement is under discussion
 - Schools are being considered for placement

Community engagement with all of the impacted school communities is ongoing and will include the racial equity tool process.

Dr. Rivera raised the question as to whether the district should take a pause on capital planning projects due to COVID. She also asked how enrollment declines are being factored into the planning process. Mr. Kuder spoke about the need for BPS to move forward with its planned grade reconfiguration work, saying he will return to the Committee with updates on enrollment. He said that the Superintendent is recommending the closure of the Edwards and McCormack middle schools to align with the Committee's 2019 grade reconfiguration strategy policy.

Ms. Robinson asked when the new Boston Arts Academy facility will open. Mr. McLaughlin explained that due to construction delays caused by the COVID pandemic, the new facility is no longer slated to open in September 2021. He said that the district is hoping to open portions of the building in spring 2022. Ms. Robinson asked about the future of the Edwards building. Mr. Kuder apologized for any confusion with the Horace Mann School community related to the Edwards building. He said that there is a strong demand for early childhood seats in the

Charlestown community. Ms. Robinson asked about the state of school facilities. The Superintendent said that the state of school facilities will be a topic of discussion at the Committee's retreat on December 12th. Ms. Robinson inquired whether the district is working to identify swing space to move projects forward. The Superintendent said that it is an issue that must be discussed.

Mr. James asked about the safety of shared water access stations in schools during COVID. The Superintendent said she will bring the concern back to her environmental team for review and follow up. Mr. James asked if the district has conducted any student surveys on My Way Cafes. Mr. Kuder said that the district tracks participation rates and said that he will inquire about surveys with the office of Food and Nutrition Services. He asked about student access to menstrual products, which the Superintendent said the district provides for free. Mr. James suggested that students help paint colorful and welcoming bathrooms as they are renovated. He expressed concern about the lack of student input in the equity impact statement for the BuildBPS Update, emphasizing the importance of student voice. The Superintendent said that she will connect Mr. James with Chief Equity and Strategy Officer Dr. Charles Grandson to discuss the possibly adjusting the equity tool.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila applauded the planned bathroom renovations. She requested information on the district's decision-making process to repurpose Edwards Middle School building for early childhood use. She thanked the Shah Family Foundation for funding the My Way Cafe initiative and encouraged student participation in nutrition advisory councils.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Coleman requested that the Committee spend time discussing how it can better balance its time listening to the community and conducting business in order to be most effective and serve students well. Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that the Committee will discuss the issue at its upcoming retreat on December 12th. She suggested that the Committee explore the idea of holding additional meetings with some meetings solely dedicated to public comment and others solely focused on conducting business.

ADJOURN

At approximately 8:40 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary