



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

December 16, 2020

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on December 16, 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; Vice Chairperson Michael O’Neill (joined a moment after roll call); Dr. Hardin Coleman; Jeri Robinson; Quoc Tran; and student representative Khymani James.

School Committee Member Absent: Dr. Lorna Rivera.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: December 2, 2020

Reopening and Remote Learning Update PowerPoint

Reopening and Remote Learning Update Equity Impact Statement

Grants for Approval Totaling \$988,790

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Representative Relationship to Grant	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$400,000	2021	Comprehensive School Health Services	Continuing	Margaret Cleve-Rocchio	Senior Director, Health Services	Health Services	District-wide

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\$32,000	2021	Family Literacy	Increase	Kristen D'Avolio	Director of Instruction	Adult Education	Madison Park Adult Ed Center
\$30,000	2021	MASSGrad Promising Practices - Brighton	New	Andrew Bott	Head of School	At Risk	Brighton High School
\$19,000	2021	Boston Alumnae Chapter	Donation	Sarita Thomas	Principal	At Risk	William Monroe Trotter School
\$507,790	2021	Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation	Donation	Anthony Beatrice	Executive Director for the Arts	Visual and Performing Arts	7 Sites

BuildBPS Update PowerPoint

BuildBPS Update Equity Impact Statement

Financial Update PowerPoint

FY21 Finance Update Equity Impact Statement

FY21 Budget Update Cover Letter

October 2020 Monthly Budget Update

Superintendent's School Year (SY) 2020-21 Performance Goals

Graphic Notes from Dec. 12, 2020 BSC Retreat: Governance Training and Budget and Enrollment Update

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Oliver-Dávila called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Dr. Rivera was absent. All other members were present with the exception of Mr. O'Neill who 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 simultaneous interpretation services were available Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and American Sign Language (ASL); the interpreters introduced themselves and gave instructions in their native language on how to access simultaneous interpretation by changing the Zoom channel. Meeting documents were translated into all nine of the official BPS languages

and publicly posted at www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee prior to the start of the meeting.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila briefly spoke about the anti-racist and student outcome-oriented work that is the current focus of the Committee. On December 12th, the Committee participated in a professional development training led by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, the author of *How to be an Anti-Racist*, and founding director of Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research. The Committee is also working with A.J. Crabill, director of Governance for the Council of Great City Schools, to refocus on the core mission of improving student outcomes. Mr. Crabill facilitated a major portion of the Committee's retreat on December 12th, in which he emphasized that school systems exist to improve student outcomes. He will continue to support the Committee in the development of tools and metrics that will help maintain a singular focus on student achievement. Ms. Oliver-Dávila noted that both Dr. Kendi and Mr. Crabill provided their time and resources free of charge to the Committee.

The notes from the Committee's reflection activity include:

- Kindergarten readiness
- Graduation rate
- 3rd grade reading
- Math proficiency
- College and career ready

Values/Guardrail ideas:

- All students feel welcomed and supported
- Community voice
- Honor culture, heritage, and language
- Highly qualified, diverse teachers that have culturally and linguistically
- All students receive high quality, equitable education
- Quality, inclusion, transparency, diversity
- Model integrity (walk the talk; make good on your promises)
- Grading equity (students across programs receive fair grades)
- Affirming multiculturalism and advances racial equity
- School choice
- Matching highly effective teachers with struggling students
- Equitable resources across schools / budgets / partnerships
- Data-informed decisions
- Intersectionality

The Committee identified a few clear next steps, including:

- Writing and adopting 3-5 specific priorities for the Committee
- Creating a School Committee bi-annual self-evaluation

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- Creating the Superintendent's SY21-22 evaluation
- Redesigning School Committee meetings to align with adopted priorities
- Redesigning use of Task Forces and Committees to match adopted priorities
- Investing ~50% of School Committee meeting time into monitoring progress toward the community's vision

The Committee is planning to hold a 1-2 day retreat in January to begin the work and engage with the community. Dates for engagement opportunities will be announced soon.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: DECEMBER 2, 2020

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the December 2, 2020 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

Thank you for joining us this evening. I hope everyone in our community is staying safe and healthy and is prepared for the winter weather we are expecting. Before I speak about our plans for tomorrow, I'd like to offer some congratulations.

Last Saturday, I was so happy to spend the morning and afternoon with my colleagues on the Committee at our retreat. Though we are very much in the midst of this pandemic, it is time for us to begin shifting to a recovery mindset. It was great to hear from and learn from my colleagues on the Committee. We reoriented ourselves to the five-year Strategic Plan and were able to review and more deeply understand our shared goals and values. Our charge as a school district is to advance student outcomes and ensure every one of our kids receives an excellent and equitable education. A critical priority for the strategic plan is to cultivate trust. I know that this is an issue within our district and we must work together to listen to the students and families whom we serve. I want to reaffirm that our focus is on our students and families and getting them all that they need. That is more important now than ever before. We must be deliberate and intentional in our approach. It will require unpacking and dismantling decades of accepted structural barriers. We know there are policies and practices in place that have privileged some and disenfranchised too many. This is important work and this is my life's work. That is why I came to Boston, and I know that this is why the members of this Committee serve on this board. We have a chance in this moment to return safely, recover stronger, and reimagine a fairer and better BPS for all.

Our Student Representative, Khymani James, will be attending Columbia University next year! So many of you have gotten to know Khymani this year as our student representative. I recommended him to the post because he is so multi-talented, and his character and integrity are beyond his years. He has a passion that is contagious and demonstrated through his speech, vibrant personality, and tireless quest for fairness and justice. His fearless leadership and thoughtfulness sets him apart from his peers and will undoubtedly benefit him in the years to

come. I wish we could have you on the Committee for more than one year, but I am sure you will be off to bigger and better things in your bright future. And, you'll be joining our previous Student Representative, Evelyn Reyes, who also now attends Columbia! I'm so proud of you, Khymani!

Now, on to the talk of the town, the weather. Earlier today, we notified families via robocall and an accompanying email message that all BPS school buildings will be closed tomorrow, Thursday, December 17. All students, including students who were expected to report for in-person learning, will learn remotely for a partial day. There will be an early dismissal from remote learning for all students, 2.5 hours earlier than the regularly scheduled dismissal time. In planning for the winter weather, BPS shifted operation of our meal sites to today, from 10 am to 6 pm. BPS and City of Boston meal sites will not be open tomorrow, December 17. In addition, parking in BPS parking lots is not permitted during snowstorms, as indicated by signage in our parking lots. Vehicles parked in BPS parking lots will be towed so that parking lots can be fully plowed and treated. For more information on the snow emergency declared by Mayor Walsh this afternoon, please call 311 or visit [boston.gov/snow](https://www.boston.gov/snow).

Today we learned that Massachusetts is the first state in the nation to gain federal approval for Pandemic EBT (or P-EBT) through the rest of the school year (2020-21). This means our BPS students will have access to additional funds to purchase food and groceries for our students to be able to cook at home and supplement the school meals missed. It brings critical resources into our local communities, supporting retailers and their employees. The card can be used at any local grocery stores that accept PEBT including online delivery services such as Amazon Fresh and Walmart. Families in remote learning are receiving \$117 per child per month. Families in hybrid learning are receiving \$58 per month per child. Dates of when benefits will be provided have not been determined, but BPS will notify families once benefits have been released.

BPS families:

- If you do not have a card - please request one at DTAConnect.com/pebt or call 800-997-2555.
- If you already have your card, please keep it. Your child's benefits will be updated/loaded automatically.

Having additional benefits does not replace the meal pick-ups at our Super Sites! Families can continue to pick up meals. Locations and more information on our Super Sites is available at bostonpublicschools.org/freemeals.

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.

Earlier this week, we reopened 28 additional schools to provide in-person learning opportunities for approximately 1,700 students. The students who returned this week have complex disabilities and language needs and were in the group of students designated as high priority for in-person learning. The 28 schools are in addition to 4 schools that opened for in-person learning on November 16. In response to the City's current COVID-19 positivity rate, BPS is implementing the additional health and safety measures in these 28 schools as was implemented in the four schools which opened in November, which include:

- Installing freestanding air purifiers for every space that will be occupied
- Installing the highest available filter in all HVAC systems
- Providing medical grade personal protective equipment for staff
- Delivering an additional 1,000 disposable masks for students and 1,000 disposable masks for staff
- Testing and reporting on air quality and ventilation in school buildings
- Limiting the number of persons in a classroom and their interaction
- Inviting staff to participate in free COVID-19 testing at or near their school

In addition, BPS in partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is providing access to on-site COVID-19 testing for students in grades 9-12 who are learning in-person. The plan to open 28 additional schools was reviewed and approved by the Boston Public Health Commission. We know that the best place for our students to learn is inside a classroom, with their teachers, among their peers. This is especially true for the students we are currently serving in-person, who have complex needs that require in-person services. We are closely monitoring public health metrics with Chief Martinez and our City colleagues. Our hope is that after the winter break we can welcome additional high needs students back to school for in-person learning. We then plan to revisit our safe, responsible phase-in of groups of students beginning with our youngest learners. My team and I will provide a full reopening update shortly.

I want to end my report by wishing a Happy Hanukkah to all those who have been celebrating during the past week! And as this is our last meeting before the winter recess, I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. I know that this has been an incredibly challenging year for all us, myself included. I hope that everyone takes some time to rest and relax. But most of all, please be safe. We have made incredible scientific progress in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are certainly not out of the woods. Please be safe and

celebrate responsibly. That concludes my report.

Mr. James spoke about the importance of proper mask wearing. He said that he is glad that BPS is receiving additional pandemic EBT funds.

The Superintendent confirmed that BPS is still providing free meals for families. Chief Operations Officer Sam DePina said that BPS will continue providing meals during winter break. Ms. Robinson asked how many students returned to in-person learning this week. The Superintendent said that about 600-700 returned students returned. Ms. Robinson requested student demographic information for in-person learning as well as the maximum attendance for each classroom. The Superintendent agreed to follow up.

Dr. Coleman praised the Superintendent for her tone of hope during these difficult times.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Chair for her leadership, organizing the Committee's recent professional development training and retreat, as well as providing more simultaneous interpretation at meetings. He congratulated Mr. James on his acceptance to Columbia University.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the Superintendent, BPS staff, students, families and stakeholders for their commitment to BPS during these unprecedented times.

REPORT

School Reopening and Remote Learning Update - The Superintendent presented an update on the district's school reopening plans and an update on remote learning. She was joined by co-presenters: Chief of Staff Mary Dillman; Elementary Superintendent Grace Wai; Chief of Operations Sam DePina; Nursing Program Director Suzanne Salter-Bennett; Interim Executive Director of Data & Accountability Monica Hogan; Chief Academic Officer Andrea Zayas; and Chief Equity & Strategy Officer Charles Grandson.

The Boston Public Health Commission has revised COVID metrics:

- New Positive Tests for COVID-19 in Boston Residents
- Number of COVID-19 Molecular Tests Performed
- COVID-19 Emergency Department Visits to Boston Hospitals
- Availability of Adult ICU and Adult Medical/ Surgical Beds at Boston Hospitals
- Percentage of Non-Surge Adult ICU Beds Occupied at Boston Hospitals

On December 14th, BPS opened 28 schools to serve 1700 High In-Person Priority (HIPP) students, in addition to the four schools that opened on November 16th. HIPP students include students with complex disabilities and students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE). The Superintendent recapped the district's collaboration with the Boston Teachers Union and the HIPP Task Force to safely reopen schools. The Boston Public Health Commission has signed off on all school plans. HVAC or portable air purifiers have been installed in all instructional spaces, medical waiting areas, and nurses offices. Weekly COVID testing is available for all staff and students at each school serving 9-12 students as part of a pilot program. Staff reviewed contract tracing and communication protocols. Windows have been inspected and

repaired, and three rounds of bathroom renovations are planned through the summer. Bus routes in place and running for 1,414 bus-eligible BPS students learning in-person. BPS has served more than three million free meals since March.

Key changes were made to improve the remote learning experience in the fall:

- Provide clear direction and training on a learning management system (LMS) for younger students → procured Seesaw for grades K0 - 6
- Provide clear guidance to teachers on attendance → clearly communicated attendance protocols and adjusted systems to differentiate in-person and remote attendance
- Provide data system and necessary training to monitor and log academic, attendance and SEL intervention plans → procured Panorama Student Success for all schools
- Provide professional development for teachers and school staff on successful remote learning practices → 9,480 trainings with over 15,593 attendees were held prior to 10/1

BPS has made remote instruction improvements in the areas of infrastructure, support, and accountability. The first quarter ended for grades 6-12 in November 2020; consistent with nationwide trends, there is an increase in course failures across all four core subjects and all racial groups. The average attendance rate is currently 90%, which is slightly lower than a typical year. Student attendance is recorded on a daily basis by teachers. The average daily online activity rate is 86%, meaning on an average day, 86% of students used their BPS email to log into online learning tools. It does not include offline activities or other online activities not connected to a BPS email. Families were asked in August to indicate their preference for a fully remote or hybrid learning model; approximately 44% of students are enrolled in a fully remote learning model currently. A current survey on remote learning for students, families, and teachers will close on December 23. Approximately 76% of students have a BPS Chromebook, and an additional 10% of students have opted out of receiving a BPS Chromebook. Any students who need a Chromebook can contact their school. ODA launched new data tools for BPS staff in Fall 2020, including Panorama Student Success for school staff to access real-time, actionable and holistic student data and work together to log support notes and design and monitor Student Success Plans. Additionally, the Data Digest Dashboards were launched as a tool designed to support equity roundtables at the school and central office. On average, 90% of staff are signing in each day.

Over 17,000 students were served in summer programs 160 programs served. BPS is currently operating 9 Out-of-School Time (OST) Hubs with partner organizations. Ten additional OST Hubs are scheduled to open in January. Among BPS graduates in the class of 2020, 53% enrolled in college in the fall immediately after high school, -an 8 percentage point decrease from the class of 2019 (61%). Twenty percent of current seniors have a completed FAFSA application so far this year.

Mr. James asked if the 28 schools that opened for HIPP students this week will follow the same safety protocols as the four schools that are already opened. Mr. Sam Depina confirmed that all of the schools will have consistent safety measures across the board. The Superintendent said that all school leaders did an operational walk through of their schools. Mr. James requested the results of the walk-throughs. The Superintendent agreed to follow up. He also requested a

demonstration on how air purifiers operate. He suggested expanding the district's COVID testing pilot program currently from the high school level to include elementary and middle schools. The Superintendent said that she will explore the suggestion. Mr. James asked how teachers are feeling about personal protective equipment. (PPE). Nursing Director Suzanne Salter-Bennett said that the district has a solid PPE replenishment plan and said that the contact tracing process for asymptomatic patients is the same as symptomatic patients. Mr. James asked how many students are using yellow buses vs. taking the MBTA. The Superintendent asked Mr. DePina to follow up. Approximately 1400 students are receiving door-to-door transportation. Mr. James asked how the district will combat recent increases in course failures. He also suggested the establishment of a mental health task force. The Superintendent said that the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) has recommended to her that the district conduct a student mental health survey, host a mental health summit, and open a mental health hotline. The Superintendent has asked Behavioral Health Services Director Andria Amador to follow up. The Superintendent spoke about credit recovery. Mr. James offered BSAC's support to help the district increase the student response rate for the current open survey and the FAFSA application. He requested to receive the Memorandum of Agreement between BPS and the Boston Teachers Union regarding the health and safety protocols for the reopening of four schools serving HIPP students, as well as any written documentation on protocols for the additional 28 schools that reopened in December.

Ms. Robinson asked what would trigger school closings. The Superintendent said that BPS is closely watching COVID metrics with city partners. She said that there are currently no definitive metrics that would trigger school closings as leaders balance healthy risks with learning loss. She asked if there will be a need for additional MOUs with the BTU regarding reopening. The Superintendent explained that the first MOU outlines many of the provisions for safe reopening. The side agreement outlines creative scheduling and cohorting. The Boston Public Health Commission determines if it is safe for schools to BPS open. The most recent MOA applies only to the four schools that reopened in November because of the unique nature of those specialized schools. She said she has committed to the same safety provisions for all the schools, including air purifiers in all the spaces that need them. BPS will conduct air quality testing during the winter break. She confirmed that the BPS Transportation Hotline is multilingual, student T passes are still being distributed, and Chromebooks are still being provided. Ms. Robinson asked about teacher happiness. The Superintendent spoke about teacher fatigue as well as the many professional development opportunities for teachers. She said that teachers and school leaders are working together to intervene with students who are failing courses.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Superintendent and her team for their hard work to ensure the safe reopening of schools and expressed his support for her decision to offer in-person instruction to HIPP students. He asked about next steps for returning other students to in-person learning. The Superintendent said she plans to follow a phased-in approach starting with K0, K1, and K2 students and eventually moving up to high school students last. Mr. O'Neill expressed concern about the data on high school students logging into remote learning. The Superintendent said that many high school students are engaging in project-based work that is not reflected in those numbers, but acknowledged that the data is concerning. Mr. O'Neill asked about whether the district publishes positive cases in buildings. The Superintendent explained that the data

dashboard posts positive cases by school when there are five or more cases in a school building. Letters are sent to the school community. Mr. O'Neill asked questions about schools with HVAC, air filters and air purifiers, all of which were answered by Mr. DePina. He suggested that the district produce a video in multiple languages demonstrating how the air purifiers operate.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila praised the district's balanced approach. She said that it will be important for the district to assess students when they return to the classroom so that they can receive targeted support. She suggested that students be allowed to take the remote learning survey during class.

Mr. Tran expressed support for the Superintendent and her staff and praised their focus on equity. He expressed concern with the decline in the rate of BPS graduates enrolling in college. He asked district leaders to follow up with those students and provide support. The Superintendent said that many students are taking a gap year due to the COVID pandemic and said she will follow up.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Boston City Councilor At-Large Annissa Essaibi-George testified regarding school reopening.
- Joshua Pierce, parent, Hurley K-8 School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Roxi Harvey, chair, Boston Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SpedPac), testified regarding in-person learning and services for students with high needs.
- Charlie Kim, member, SpedPac and HIPP Task Force, testified regarding in-person learning and services for students with high needs.
- Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding the budget.
- Edith Bazile, community advocate, Manning Elementary School, testified regarding in-person learning and services for students with high needs.
- Mike Heichman, member, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding school reopening.
- Robert Jenkins, BPS alumnus and volunteer, testified regarding the strategic plan.
- Erika Haydock, member, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding school reopening.
- Corey Zehngebot, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding school reopening.
- Jody Fink, parent, Eliot K-8 Innovation School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Amy LePage, parent, Harvard/Kent Elementary School, testified regarding school reopening.
- Peggy Wiesenber, Access to Justice Fellow, testified regarding the McCormack athletic field.
- Eugenia Corbo, parent, Umana and East Boston Early Education Center, testified regarding school reopening.
- Marcie Carmody, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding school reopening.
- John Mudd, advocate, testified regarding teacher diversity and the Superintendent's

performance evaluation goals.

- Bruce McKinnon, Boston Parents Coalition for Academic Excellence, testified regarding the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force.
- Nikki Rivera, BPS parent, testified regarding safety and support for high needs students.
- Megan Castro, Voices for BPS Families, testified regarding school reopening.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Robinson requested that going forward, the district present grants for approval in a way that demonstrates alignment with the goals of the strategic plan. She asked why all schools do not have wellness or physical education plans. The Superintendent said that she will ask her health and wellness team to follow up.

Approved - On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$988,790.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and its Executive Director Glenn Koocher for providing the Committee with valuable support through training and advocacy.

Approved - On roll call, the School Committee approved the payment of annual membership dues to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) in the amount of \$7,830 for School Year 2020-2021.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila read the following motion aloud for the record:

Ordered, that the Boston School Committee hereby approves the following actions as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

- *Close the Clarence R. Edwards Middle School and John W. McCormack Middle School on June 30, 2021.*
- *Current 8th graders at the Edwards Middle School will go through the school choice process with support for high school selection.*
- *Current 7th graders at the Edwards Middle School will receive additional transition support to select a school for SY21-22 and receive priority in the school choice process for the following schools:*
 - *Charlestown 7-12*
 - *Area K-8 schools (Eliot, McKay, Umana, Warren-Prescott)*
 - *Citywide 6-12 or 7-12 schools*
- *Current McCormack Middle School students will be assigned to Boston Community Leadership Academy, in accordance with the merger of the two schools approved by the Committee on June 12, 2019.*

Approved - On roll call, the School Committee approved the motion as presented.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Superintendent for how she led the process leading up to the merger of the McCormack Middle School and BCLA. He also thanked the thanked school communities for their advocacy and partnership.

REPORTS

Financial Update - Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder, Deputy Chief Financial Officer David Bloom, and Budget Director Miriam Rubin presented a financial update on past, current, and next fiscal years.

FY20 ended on June 30, 2020. BPS ended the year within budget for the 30th consecutive year.. During FY20, there were additional expenditures to rapidly respond to COVID-19, establish remote learning, and support students and families:

- Student Devices
- Health and Safety
- Food Services
- Online Learning and Professional Development

BPS identified operational savings and re-prioritized available funds:

- Utilities
- Transportation (Fuel & Parts)
- Physical Supplies and materials

Mr. Kuder expressed confidence that BPS will end the current fiscal year, FY21, on budget. BPS received additional supplemental funding from the Federal CARES Act and the City of Boston to support additional expenses related to the COVID pandemic. The district made critical investments in the hiring of family liaisons, social workers, nurses, instructional facilitators, and other key staff to support student achievement.

FY22 begins July 1, 2021 and runs through SY21-22. BPS is experiencing its third consecutive year of enrollment declines, which will impact FY22 planning. FY22 will make year 2 of 3 of the City's \$100 million commitment to BPS.

Total actual enrollment declined by 2,286 students (4.3%) between October 2019 and October 2020. This is the third consecutive year of significant declines; enrollment has dropped by 4,788 students (8.5%) over the last three years. The decline was most pronounced in elementary grades, which declined by about 1,800 students (6.8%). Enrollment in grades K0-5 has now dropped by about 3,500 students, or 12.4%, over the last three years. Declines in elementary enrollment may signal additional enrollment declines in future years. Enrollment is down across all races/ethnicities, but Black and Latinx enrollment decreased more. Decreases in newly enrolled students had the largest impact on English learner programs. Supporting schools with enrollment declines is an explicit equity strategy.

There has been a decline in both the population and the BPS capture rate. Enrollment declined around 1,500 students more than projected in SY20-21. Future year projections are primarily driven by the number of students currently enrolled. BPS is forecasting a projections-to-projections decline of 2,200 students: enrollment declined 1,500 more than expected; Projecting 700 additional decline for next year.

Mayor Walsh has committed \$100 million over the next three years to invest in student supports over and above maintenance cost increases. The Superintendent's plan, *Return, Recover, Reimagine*, recognizes that COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on students of color, English learners, students with disabilities, and students and families experiencing poverty. Therefore, BPS is seeking to provide financial support to students beyond traditional mechanisms in a way that:

1. Protects school communities from the impact of enrollment decline
2. Provides added supports in the following areas to students most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - a. Academics
 - b. Health & Wellness
 - c. Family & Community
 - d. Added funding for schools for recovery
3. Make operational improvements to the way the district serves children

The goal is for every student, in every classroom to end SY21-22 with a greater opportunity to achieve the greatness within them than they had before the pandemic.

Dr. Coleman asked about the district's process for informing school communities how budget decisions are made. Mr. Bloom said that school site councils and family liaisons will communicate with school communities about the budget process. Dr. Coleman asked about the role of the equity roundtables. Mr. Kuder said that the district is conducting an equity analysis.

Ms. Robinson asked which schools are seeing the largest enrollment declines and why. Mr. Kuder said that gathering that information will require more research. Ms. Robinson said that a broader discussion is needed about determining the right size school that is affordable and supports students well. The Superintendent spoke about the need for both quality and efficiency. Mr. Kuder spoke about making difficult tradeoffs. He said that the district has raised its definition of foundation of quality and will continue to raise it.

Mr. O'Neill praised former CFO John McDonough for his leadership. He said that the Council of Great City Schools, for which he serves as board chair, predicts additional that BPS will be receiving additional COVID relief funds Mr Kuder said that those funds would likely be used for academic recovery for students, Personal Protective Equipment, technology, language access, compensatory services for students with disabilities, and mental health. Mr. O'Neill encouraged the district to think differently about large structural issues.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila spoke about the importance of family, student and community engagement in the budget process.

Mr. James suggested that district leaders hold regular meetings with students.

Dr. Coleman encouraged Mr. James to explore the Illinois Democracy Schools Initiative and how it could potentially be applied in BPS.

Superintendent's SY 2020-2021 Performance Goals - Dr. Coleman, who has been leading the Superintendent's performance evaluation process on behalf of the Committee, presented for the Committee's consideration a set of draft performance goals for School Year (SY) 2020-21. Dr. Coleman drafted the goals in collaboration with Superintendent Cassellius, who reviewed them with the Committee. Each of the four goals is accompanied by interim goals and strategies, as well as specific targets for measurement.

Goal #1: Develop and implement a plan to significantly improve outcomes for students who are English Learners by increasing the district's capacity to meet the needs of English Learners.

Goal #2: Develop and implement a plan to significantly improve outcomes for students with disabilities by increasing the district's capacity to meet the needs of Special Education Students.

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 the district.

Goal #4 Attend to student health, social-emotional well-being, and academic progress during the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring operational preparedness, academic quality, and safety of in-person and remote learning.

The Superintendent explained that reaching these performance goals in the area of ELL, special education will lead to gap-closing behavior.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the Superintendent's final SY2020-21 performance evaluation goals on January 13th.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. James requested clarity around BPS' decision-making process related to school closure and remote learning on snow days. The Superintendent said that she and city officials make those decisions jointly.

ADJOURN

At approximately 9:55 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary