



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

December 19, 2018

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on December 19, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, School Committee Chamber, Roxbury, Massachusetts. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael Loconto; Vice Chairperson Dr. Hardin Coleman; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Michael O’Neill. Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; and student representative Evelyn Reyes.

School Committee Members Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

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

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2018

International Travel Request: Boston Latin Academy – Italy – February 12-21, 2019

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School – Germany, Poland, and Czech Republic – February 13-25, 2019

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School – Italy and Greece – February 14-23, 2019

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School – Kenya – February 16-24, 2019

Boston School Committee Meeting

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

December 19, 2018

Grants for Approval Totaling \$560,037:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Sites
\$6,000	2019	Arts Opportunity Fund	Increase	Districtwide
\$2,950	2019	High School Graduation Rates and Postsecondary Readiness FLNE Students	New	Taylor
\$30,000	2019	MassGrad Promising Practices – Boston Collaborative	New	Boston Collaborative
\$74,016	2019	McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant Round 2	New	Districtwide
\$43,500	2019-2020	Multi-State Mentoring Initiative	New	Districtwide
\$150,000	2019	PlayBall!	New	Districtwide
\$53,571	2019	Reading Recovery: Massachusetts Early Literacy Intervention Program	New	~25 sites districtwide
\$200,000	2019	STARS Grant	New	Districtwide

BuildBPS Update & Action Items PowerPoint

BuildBPS Update & Action Items Equity Impact Statement

Memo from Superintendent Search Committee Co-Chairs to Boston School Committee Re: Request for Approval of Superintendent Search Firm, December 19, 2018

Isaacson Miller Executive Search Proposal: Boston Public Schools Superintendent

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the December 5, 2018 Boston School Committee meeting.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening, everyone. Thank you for joining us for the final School Committee meeting of 2018. I sincerely wish that everyone in the BPS community - our students, teachers, faculty,

Boston School Committee Meeting

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

December 19, 2018

school leaders, other staff, and families - has a restful and relaxing holiday break with their loved ones as we welcome in the New Year.

I'd like to take a second to thank Ms. Jeri Robinson, who is working with the Boston Children's Museum to distribute an American Girl Doll to each of our 125 schools. Jeri received over 1,000 dolls as a gift from the Madison Children's Museum in Wisconsin, and Jeri has decided to give the dolls to organizations serving youth in Boston and throughout the state. The doll is Melody Ellison, the newest member of the American Girl historical doll group, representing the Civil Rights era. She is the third African American doll in the series and the first representing a more contemporary time. Each of our schools will receive a doll for their library or for other use. Organizations in the city also receiving dolls include all 26 branches of the Boston Public Library, Dudley Square Main Streets, and Countdown to Kindergarten. Thank you, Jeri, for sharing this gift with the youth of our city.

During last Thursday's day-long professional development in which we welcomed school leaders from across the district, I had the pleasure of announcing that a number of individuals who have been serving in positions on an "interim" basis were having that word removed from their titles. This is a reflection of the strong endorsements each received from their immediate supervisors in the organization as well as my own estimation that the urgent needs of this district require a commitment to what I have previously described as the enormous reservoir of talent within the Boston Public Schools. Each of these individuals - along with their teams - has proven to be an invaluable contributor and partner as we work to improve opportunities, narrow achievement gaps, and bring about a more equitable Boston Public Schools.

I want to thank and congratulate:

- Director of Transportation Delavern Stanislaus
- Executive Director of Data and Accountability Mary Dillman
- Academic Superintendent of Network 9 (Alternative Redesign) Tommy Welch
- Chief Academic Officer Dr. Charles Grandson.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that Andrea Zayas, currently the academic superintendent for Network 4, has accepted the position of Deputy Chief Academic Officer within the ASSET department, where she will work closely with CAO Dr. Grandson and oversee the Office of Academics and Professional Learning. Andrea joined the district in July, bringing a depth of knowledge and extensive experience to her role, developed during her time as an educational leader in New Orleans and New York City. In addition to founding and leading a high-performing school, Ms. Zayas also served as a teacher in the Bronx and administrator for the New York Department of Education. In recent months Ms. Zayas has played a critical role in working with the teachers of the McCormack Middle School to help ensure that their feedback and that of the McCormack community is helping inform the transition process that that school community will undergo in the coming months, and I would note that Ms. Zayas will continue to support the McCormack school for purposes of this particular issue throughout this transition and beyond.

Boston School Committee Meeting

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

December 19, 2018

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Ms. Reyes asked to postpone her report until January citing scheduling issues. Chairperson Loconto agreed.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding BuildBPS:

- Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley
- Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George
- Jessica Tang, president, Boston Teachers Union
- Catari Giglio, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Joseph Acquah, student, West Roxbury Academy
- Mike Kincade, parent, Urban Science Academy
- Zoe Morosini, teacher, Boston Collaborative High School
- Mike Heichman, former BPS parent
- Robert Jenkins, community member
- Edith Bazile, president, Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM)
- Shannon MacCormack, teacher, Urban Science Academy
- Gina Colgan, teacher, Urban Science Academy
- Christine Langhoff, Dorchester resident and retired educator
- Tana Becker, teacher, Urban Science Academy
- Jane Leone, teacher, Urban Science Academy
- Eleni Saridis, teacher, West Roxbury Education Complex
- Neema Avashia, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Sarah Cook, teacher, McCormack Middle School
- Dolores Wood, teacher, West Roxbury Academy
- Yana Minchenko, teacher, Urban Science Academy
- Peggy Wiesenber, community activist
- Kirk Womack, teacher, West Roxbury Education Complex
- Allison Doherty, teacher, West Roxbury Education Complex
- Salea Perry, parent, West Roxbury Education Complex

Boston School Committee Meeting

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

December 19, 2018

The following people testified regarding discarded needles on school grounds at the Orchard Gardens K-8 School:

- Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George
- Jay'dha Rackard, student, Orchard Gardens K-8 School
- Janina Rackard, parent, Orchard Gardens K-8 School
- Iliana Marra Pimentel, student, Orchard Gardens K-8 School
- Domingos DaRosa, community organizer

The following people testified regarding the district's policy for overage students:

- Phung Nguyen, graduate, Boston Adult Technical Academy (BATA)
- Peterson Desmoulin, graduate, BATA
- Gage Norris, teacher, BATA
- Gina Cogan, teacher, BATA
- Miriam Dute, student, BATA

Dave Nave, former BPS parent, testified regarding his son's experience in BPS.

ACTION ITEM

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$560,037.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin Academy to travel to Italy from February 12-21, 2019.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic from February 13-25, 2019.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to Italy and Greece from February 14-23, 2019.

Boston School Committee Meeting

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

December 19, 2018

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to Kenya from February 16-24, 2019.

REPORT

BuildBPS Phase II Update – Chief of Operations John Hanlon, Chief of Engagement Monica Roberts, and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Charles Grandson presented the Interim Superintendent’s recommendation to close West Roxbury Academy and Urban Science Academy effective June 30, 2019 for all students except for those rising seniors projected to graduate in the spring of 2020, and to close West Roxbury Academy and Urban Science Academy in their entirety effective June 30, 2020. Rising WRA and USA seniors will move to the Irving Middle School building in Roslindale. Displaced students will be given priority registration and/or reassigned to schools along with specialized strand programs in which they are enrolled pursuant to student/family choice. The recommendation follows dozens of meetings with students, teachers, staff and families and was accelerated by rapidly deteriorating conditions at the West Roxbury Education Complex facility following years of deferred maintenance.

Assistant Superintendent of Equity Becky Shuster presented the results of an equity analysis, highlighting equity concerns as well as key mitigating factors and strategies undertaken by the district.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked about encouraged the district to ensure that displaced WREC students have athletic opportunities and support for college planning. She suggested that district staff conduct home visits with displaced students. She also asked the district to be sensitive when placing students at the Burke.

Ms. Regina Robinson asked for more information about the planned relocation of Boston Collaborative High School (BCHS), which would be moved from the Irving Middle School building to accommodate rising seniors from WRA and USA. The district is exploring options for a new location for BCHS. Ms. Robinson asked if the district had explored non-BPS facilities as possible locations for WREC students. Mr. Hanlon explained that the district had done that work but did not find any feasible options.

Ms. Jeri Robinson asked about student safety if WREC students were to be moved to the Irving building. Mr. Hanlon said that the district has conducted a safety review and his team is comfortable with the recommendation. Ms. Robinson asked about the possibility of delaying the vote to provide WREC families with more time to understand the recommendation and weigh their options. Ms. Perille said that delaying the vote could adversely impact families by limiting their school assignment choices for SY 2019-20.

Mr. O’Neill asked Ms. Perille to clarify that WREC students will receive priority Round One registration, saying it is critical that teachers and guidance counselors understand the process. He

Boston School Committee Meeting

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

December 19, 2018

also asked about options for WREC teachers. Ms. Perille explained that due to collective bargaining restraints, the district cannot enter into conversations with the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) until after the School Committee vote.

Mr. Loconto said that the district must reach out to all impacted students to make sure they understand their options moving forward. He asked the district to provide the Committee with regular updates about the district's outreach efforts to displaced students, as well as the outcomes of bargaining negotiations with the BTU.

Mr. O'Neill called for immediate action to address the issue of discarded needles on Orchard Gardens K-8 School grounds, as well as impact of the district's overage policy on students at Boston Adult Technical Academy. He thanked the many students, parents, teachers, and staff from the WREC who have testified before the Committee in recent months. He explained his rationale for supports the recommendation, citing safety issues at the WREC facility. He praised Ms. Perille and her senior team for their work on the proposal, calling it the most detailed plan of any school closure recommendation that he has received in his 10 years on the Committee.

Ms. Jeri Robinson expressed frustration at the difficult situation.

Ms. Regina Robinson expressed concerns about the potential negative impact on students, particularly students who are off-track or near off-track.

Ms. Reyes expressed concerned about diminished trust between the district and the WREC school communities, saying she hopes this experience will serve as a lesson during the next stages of BuildBPS.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked WREC students for welcoming Committee members to their restorative justice circle earlier this week. She thanked the district to adjusting the recommendation in response to strong feedback from the Committee, offering students M-7 passes and priority registration. She encouraged the district to partner with school communities to problem-solve together.

Mr. Loconto summarized the Interim Superintendent's recommendation, calling it a difficult decision. He thanked everyone who participated in the process.

ACTION ITEM

Approved – On roll call, the Committee approved the closure of West Roxbury Academy and Urban Science Academy effective June 30, 2019 for all students except for those projected to graduate in the spring of 2020, and to close West Roxbury Academy and Urban Science Academy in their entirety effective June 30, 2020. Displaced students will be given priority registration and/or reassigned to schools along with specialized strand programs in which they

Boston School Committee Meeting

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

December 19, 2018

are enrolled pursuant to student/family choice. Ms. Regina Robinson abstained. All other members voted yes.

REPORT

Selection of Superintendent Search Firm - Ms. Oliver-Dávila, co-chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, presented the Search Committee's recommendation to select executive search firm Isaacson Miller (IM) to assist with the Superintendent search process. She asked that the Committee take action on the recommending this evening in order move the search process forward prior to the holidays.

IM is a Boston-based executive search firm whose mission aligns with BPS. The Search Committee was impressed with IM's strong record of placing diverse candidates in 2018: 49 percent were women and 32 percent were people of color. The lead named partner on the search is Erika Miller, a woman of color who previously worked for former US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and has deep networks in education. IM also presented the strongest community engagement plan and didn't approach the Search Committee with a pre-planned list of candidates. IM also has a strong track record of finding outside-the-box candidates that have had success leading non-profit organizations and private school institutions in the Boston area.

Mr. O'Neill said that the Search Committee was impressed with IM's depth of knowledge of the district's current operating environment, adding that the Committee is working with IM to negotiate a reasonable, flat fee.

ACTION ITEM

Approved – On roll call, the Committee approved the Superintendent Search Committee's recommendation to select Isaacson Miller for the purpose of assisting in the Superintendent search process. Dr. Coleman abstained, citing a previous relationship with the firm through his work at Boston University. All other members voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Regina Robinson requested that the district provide a response to concerns that were raised during public comment about discarded needles on BPS school grounds. Mr. Loconto agreed, saying that BPS needs to increase its efforts to secure school properties.

Mr. O'Neill thanked Ms. Perille and her leadership team for their deep work on the West Roxbury Education Complex proposal.

Boston School Committee Meeting

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

December 19, 2018

Dr. Coleman encouraged the Committee to have a conversation with state officials about the impact that the state's accountability system has on school districts that serve vulnerable populations. Ms. Perille said that her team will be drafting a white paper in early 2019 and hopes that other districts will join BPS in its effort to bring about change.

ADJOURN

At approximately 10:27 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary