



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

**February 3, 2021**

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on February 3, 2021 at 5 p.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee), email [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto: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; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; Quoc Tran; and student representative Khymani James.

School Committee Member Absent: None.

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: January 27, 2021

Request for Policy Flexibility during COVID-19 Pandemic PowerPoint

Memo from Superintendent to Boston School Committee re: Proposal for Flexibility of Policies for School Year 2020-2021, January 27, 2021

Request for Policy Flexibilities Equity Impact Statement

Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Preliminary Budget Recommendation PowerPoint

FY22 Budget Recommendation Equity Impact Statement

Superintendent's Letter to Boston School Committee re: FY22 Budget Recommendation, February 3, 2021

FY22 Budget Basics

FY22 Budget Recommendation (Excel Version)

1. By Account and Fund
2. By Program and Fund
3. By Department and Fund

Weighted Student Funding

1. WSF: District Table
2. WSF: Reserve Table
3. WSF: Historical Comparison of Weights FY12-FY22
4. WSF: School by School Comparison
5. Individual School Allocation WSF One-Pagers

School Allocations

1. Total Allocations to Schools
2. Supplemental Funding to Schools
3. Individual School Allocation One-Pagers

Background Documents

1. Budget Basics
2. Overview of Proposed Reserve Accounts
3. Grant Projections
4. Overview of Title I
5. Turnaround Schools and School Improvement Grant Funding

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Oliver-Dávila called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Coleman said that he does not pledge allegiance to the flag because of his religious affiliation.

Ms. Sullivan called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Dr. Rivera, who joined the meeting at 5:14 p.m. Ms. Oliver-Dávila 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](http://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 of the official BPS languages and publicly posted at [www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee) prior to the start of the meeting.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked speakers who had signed up for public comment to begin their testimony by stating the neighborhood where they live. She explained that this is a common

practice among other city departments during their public meetings, and will allow the Committee to ensure that all voices are heard and all parts of the city are included.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila announced that Mayor Martin J. Walsh has appointed Ernani DeAraujo to the Boston School Committee. Mr. DeAraujo is a lifelong resident of East Boston and serves as the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. He is a graduate of Boston Public Schools including Bradley Elementary, Umama Academy, and Boston Latin School. Mr. DeAraujo's term will expire on January 3, 2022. He will join the Committee after he is sworn in.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila provided an update on the work the Committee is doing to strengthen its focus on student outcomes. Based on the conversations during the retreats, the Committee has identified a set of priorities from the Superintendent's Strategic Plan that represent the community's vision for what students should know and be able to do - our goals. Also from the Strategic Plan, the Committee selected a set of non-negotiable community values that must be honored - our guardrails.

The Committee is engaging in this process not to replace the strategic plan, but to heighten its focus on it, increase transparency, and share accountability for student outcomes. The Committee will spend time during upcoming meetings to review progress with the Superintendent on the goals and to ensure adherence to the guardrails. Through a series of data and other information, this Committee and the Superintendent will devote time during meetings to discuss these important matters. This new approach does not change the strategic plan or add new goals or guardrails to the district's work, rather, it helps the Committee reorganize and focus its work.

Goals represent what students should know and be able to do. The Committee selected goals that focus on:

1. Early Literacy
2. Achievement for English Learners
3. Achievement for Students with Disabilities
4. Critical Thinking with Math, Science, and Literacy, and
5. Career & College Readiness.

Guardrails represent the community's values and are non-negotiable expectations that must be honored in all of the school system's work. The Committee selected guardrails that focus on:

1. Student Voice & Family Engagement
2. Community Partnerships
3. Equity & Opportunity Gaps
4. Diverse & Effective Staffing, and
5. Social, Emotional, & Physical Supports.

When these guardrails are honored, they help create the conditions for student success system-wide.

The Committee will hold a series of community stakeholder listening sessions to receive input from the community on the draft goals and guardrails, including a student session co-hosted by the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC). Each session will be co-facilitated by two Committee members and interpretation will be provided. The complete schedule is posted on the Committee's webpage [bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](https://bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee).

Ms. Oliver-Dávila made brief comments about February being Black History Month. She said that the celebration of Black history should not be limited to a single month.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 27, 2021**

*Approved* – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the January 27, 2021 School Committee meeting.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*As prepared for delivery.*

Tonight we have one of our most important presentations of the school year, so I would like to get right into my Superintendent's Report. Once again, I'd like to start off with some data highlights.

We've talked in recent weeks about our efforts to improve our systems and better coordinate supports for students, families, and one other. We are actively implementing Panorama Student Success. Panorama Student Success is a unified system that allows us to: analyze individual student data, collaborate and problem-solve remotely, monitor our interventions to determine their effectiveness, and assess issues of equity. Here you will see two graphs. On the left, you'll see that the percentage of school staff who logged into Panorama steadily increased from 38% in September to 50% in January. Panorama allows multiple data points to be viewed side-by-side and has success plan capabilities. It offers better opportunities for collaboration in pursuit of equitable outcomes for each student. On the graph on the right, you will see the percentage of students on-track in attendance by grade level, as of February 1 (school year-to-date). On-track means students whose average daily attendance is greater than 90%. This data demonstrates the trend of student attendance being highest in grades 2-5, and lower in the early education grades and middle and high school level. Educators can use panorama to create plans and supports for students with low attendance. The management software affords us an opportunity to be more systemic and coordinated in our efforts to improve student outcomes.

Here you will see a quote from a BPS educator about using Panorama:

*"Panorama allowed me to quickly learn more about students and the culture of the school. Historical attendance reports, coupled with family survey results, allowed me to plan over the*

*summer versus needing to start fresh. The “support notes” function also promotes a collaborative culture around staff.”*

Thank you to our Office of Data and Accountability for moving this important work forward.

This month, we celebrate Black History Month! I mentioned in my check-in to staff this morning, that this year, things are different. We are coming off of a challenging year that saw a renewed social justice movement and long overdue racial reckoning that sadly had to come after the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, and numerous egregious injustices against Black people. This month we celebrate Black excellence, teach and appreciate Black history, and continue working towards a more just future. I want to thank the Division of Academics and the Division of Equity, Strategy and Opportunity Gaps for partnering to create a calendar of resources and events for a year-long celebration of Blackness. We encouraged staff to submit school and community events, resources for educators, and student work on an internal website. We’ve also created a [Black History Month page](#) on the BPS website with additional resources and events for the public, available at [bostonpublicschools.org/BHM](https://bostonpublicschools.org/BHM).

Next week we also kick off the 3rd Annual “24/7 Respect Week.” This year, all BPS students in grades 6 through 12 will watch and discuss the BPS Office of Equity’s video, “[24/7 Respect](#),” produced in partnership with Boston Arts Academy and the Boston Student Advisory Council. Middle and high school students across the district will learn how to prevent and address bias-based incidents and sexual misconduct, whether in person, during Zoom instruction, by text, or on social media. Yesterday evening I shared a letter with families of students in grades 6-12 with information about the week’s programming. The 24/7 Respect program gives students a chance to become active participants in shaping their school culture and environment, so that all students feel seen, heard, and valued, and have the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. We are proud that the 24/7 Respect video won two national awards, including a prestigious Telly Award. This BPS program has had a significant impact on our school communities, and now school districts across the country are using it. We played a clip of the English version of the video during our annual Equity Update to the Committee a few weeks ago, and I know that it resonated with members. The video is available in English and Spanish, and you can find much more information about this program at [bostonpublicschools.org/247respect](https://bostonpublicschools.org/247respect). I’m so grateful to Assistant Superintendent Becky Shuster and the BPS Office of Equity for consistently teaching our students -- and all of our community members -- the importance of respectful communication. Thank you to the Boston Arts Academy and BSAC students for taking a leadership position for their peers and continuing to communicate student rights and responsibilities.

Last week we shared information about our Posse Scholars. This week I’d like to mention another BPS senior heading to college next year. Our Student Representative, Khymani James,

shared these photos with me. He recently visited Columbia University, where he will be a freshman next year. And look who he's with - our previous Student Representative, Evelyn Reyes, is currently in her first year at Columbia! I'm so happy for both Khymani and Evelyn and it warms my heart to know that they will both attend the same university next year. We've seen Evelyn pass the torch to Khymani in more ways than one. I'm so proud of both of you!

Finally, I'd like to speak a bit about school safety. Last week, we had the opportunity to discuss the department's ongoing work as part of the reopening update, with a presentation from Chief Neva Coakley-Grice. I appreciate the conversation that the presentation generated with the Committee and I know that Chief Coakley and her team continue to deepen their relationships in schools, with our staff, our students and our overall community, which is going to be critical as we welcome students to in-person learning starting tomorrow. Under Chief Coakely, Boston Public Schools is working toward a reimagined School Safety Team, starting with changes to the name of the department and updates to their uniforms, adopting more restorative justice practices, and implementing new professional development training for officers. I know from many stories I have heard recently that they sense a renewed collaborative spirit throughout this pandemic and under Chief Coakley Grice's leadership - and that our School Safety Officers are integral members of school communities, many of them graduates of BPS and so many of them have years at their schools and deep relationships with families and community. They often coach sports teams, serve as mentors, and focus on getting to know the students, teachers, and staff who report to schools every day.

Chief Coakely and her team are at the forefront of implementing the new student privacy policy that this Committee adopted, a role that I know Chief Coakley has prioritized. I am happy to report that the policy is working and we have trained our safety team and we are complying with it. Additionally, I want to thank our School Safety Officers who have been active since March 2020 supporting Food Services staff on access to meals for our students, including participating in deliveries to families and who have helped to deliver Chromebooks and PPE to students and families. Our priority is to create joyful, welcoming learning environments for our students and staff in every school. Our School Safety team members will continue to contribute to that work by building and deepening relationships, listening and learning, and taking a students-first approach to their work all while being trained to keep us safe.

In related news, last week I promised to announce the members of the School Safety Working Group, charged with further discussing issues related to the Policy Regarding Preparing and Sharing Student Incident Reports and Other Student Information with the Boston Police Department.

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting**

**Zoom**

**February 3, 2021**

- Devren Edouard is a student at Boston Green Academy, a student athlete, and BSAC representative. He is a member of the BSAC school climate, culture, and improvement subcommittee.
- Josie Colon is a New Mission High School student who is participating in this working group to become more aware and active surrounding the policy work surrounding incident reports. She is a debate captain at New Mission High School and a BSAC student representative.
- Suleika Soto is the mother of two BPS Students, one at TechBoston Academy, and one at the Blackstone Elementary. Suleika was enrolled in Boston Public Schools at Sumner Elementary when first arriving in Boston from the Dominican Republic at the Age of 7.
- Elizabeth McIntyre is a senior attorney in Greater Boston Legal Services' School to Prison Pipeline Intervention Project. Ms. McIntyre provides legal support and representation to student organizers, and collaborates with organizations across the state to engage in systemic education policy advocacy and litigation.
- Nora Paul-Schultz is a physics teacher at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science. In addition to teaching Physics and AP Physics C, she is the club advisor for the Student Immigrant Movement Chapter at the O'Bryant, the Muslim Students and Allies Association and the FIRST Robotics team. She is also one the leaders of Unafraid Educators, BTU's immigrant rights organizing committee.
- Terrance Johnson was born and raised in Boston. He is a proud product of the Boston Public Schools, is a graduate of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and is now the Assistant Principal. Throughout his 26 years at BPS, he has always pushed for safe, equitable and sustainable urban schooling by knocking down systems of inequality in education. He is interested in this particular working group because he knows that tangible outcomes occur through policy change.
- Javier F. Flores is an attorney, interested in participating in the Working Group to ensure the effective implementation of the Information Sharing Policy and ensure that all Boston students, irrespective of citizenship status, feel safe pursuing their education within our school system.
- Dacia Campbell is currently Assistant Superintendent in the BPS Division of Accountability. Dacia is committed to ensuring that BPS is implementing the policy correctly and supports our students by protecting their privacy and not supporting the

school to prison pipeline.

- Harold Miller, Jr. is currently Interim Assistant Superintendent in the Office of Opportunity Gaps and has served Boston Public Schools (BPS) since 2001. Mr. Miller has worked in the Office of Opportunity Gaps since 2016 and has made notable contributions to the entire district throughout his career. Mr. Miller is currently responsible for developing and implementing system level policy, professional learning and coaching, and innovative programming.
- Jack Sinnott is a past chair and current board member of SPEDPAC. He also served on Mayor Menino's Autism Policy Taskforce. The father of three children with IEPs (one autistic and two with ADHD), his personal experiences of the critical role abstract institutional policy plays for good or ill in the day-to-day life of a child has been central to his life and work ever since.
- Neva Coakley-Grice, is currently BPS Chief of Safety Services. Chief Coakley-Grice has spent her entire professional career working in Boston, starting as a Boston Police Officer in South Boston where she cherished her time working with students at the former Gavin Middle School and Tynan Elementary School, and has been a leader in community relations.
- Angelica Martinez, from the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council, and Valeria Do Vale, Lead Coordinator of the Student Immigrant Movement, complete the working group.

We have our first meeting scheduled for the evening of March 3rd. In addition, we will have two orientation sessions next week for Working Group members to introduce the members, review the policy and the charge of the working group, cover the future meeting schedule and answer any questions they may have. That concludes my report.

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Ms. Robinson expressed concern about the attendance data presented. The Superintendent spoke about some of the district's preventative measures to combat absenteeism as well as the work of attendance officers. The Superintendent confirmed for Ms. Robinson that the 24/7 Respect video is translated. Ms. Robinson suggested that the signage on school safety vehicles be updated to reflect the recent changes to the department.

Dr. Coleman requested that the Committee receive yearly trend data on student outcomes.

Dr. Rivera asked if the School Safety Working Group will explore the use of metal detectors. The Superintendent explained that metal detector usage is not part of the charge of the Working Group. She said that she will convene another working group to examine safety reforms. Dr. Rivera asked if the data dashboard will include Panorama. The Superintendent confirmed that eventually all schools will use Panorama and the dashboard will expand accordingly.

Mr. O'Neill expressed concern about attendance rates among high school students. He asked the district to track student interactions with guidance counselors. The Superintendent agreed, adding that it can be difficult to track those interactions because different schools use different systems. She said that she will take a deeper dive into attendance and student support in her next Superintendent's report.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila echoed the concerns about attendance. She suggested that the district partner with out-of-school-time providers to address the issue and invited BSAC to suggest possible strategies.

The Superintendent said that she meets often with her Youth Cabinet, as well as BSAC, and has received the following feedback:

High School students prefer a later start to the school day.  
They prefer learning in small groups and peer-led groups.  
They would like more flexible schedules and more frequent breaks.  
They would like for homework to be meaningful, and for grading and attendance policies to be fair.

The Superintendent said there is no parent-facing side to Panorama but added that family liaisons provide families with support.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

*As prepared for delivery.*

### Subcommittee Updates

#### Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Overview: Improving our environment, taking on climate change

- Climate Education Team
  - This team is planning to meet with Katherine Walsh in order to plan for Earth Week within the District. They are planning to see if more teachers could implement the climate curriculum into their classes in that week of April. They are trying to find a way to incentivize teachers to attend a workshop in which young people would explain how to implement climate change education within English, Math, Social Studies, and Science classrooms using fun virtual climate change resources that this team, in partnership with Katherine Walsh, put together. This 'Climate Change in all Classrooms' workshop has already been created and given to a couple of teachers. They just need help getting more BPS teachers to take it and use the proposed ideas.
- CCE/Solar/Transit Team

- Has been in contact with the MBTA Board to advocate putting money from COVID relief into the budget cuts that made the fares higher, so that people won't have to pay more than they have been recently.
- MA Renews/Green New Deal Team
  - The policy relating to Massachusetts Renews (an environmental justice bill) is being filed in February. This team is involved in planning the launch event (which is on February 11th), and continues to educate other young people on how that policy will positively impact our communities. Two members of this team are involved in the Social Media promotion team, two other youth will be speaking, and one member will co-host the event virtually.

### School Climate, Culture and Improvement

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

- Held our first restorative justice circle with several Boston School Police officers and a number of students from SCCI. In the process of planning a second restorative justice circle for the month of February, as the first one went very well. The students appreciated having a space to feel heard and the opportunity to build trust with the school resource officers. The first session was primarily focused on relationship building and getting to know one another, and we are excited to have more difficult conversations on important issues surrounding school policing at future sessions.
- Prepared a training to educate BSAC on the progress of a "Fund our Future" campaign, think about how we can best engage with/support efforts to secure the full funding of the Student Opportunity Act.
- Onboarded a student for participation on the Library Services Strategic Planning Committee.

### Student Rights and Student Voice (SRSV)

Overview: Building opportunities and increasing student voice in decision making

- 1/28 BSAC and Youth on Board hosted a town hall in collaboration with the Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA). 200 people registered for the Town Hall, at its peak we had 153 participants that included students, parents, teachers and community members. The Town Hall also had ASL and Spanish interpretation.
  - The town hall was centered around 5 categories pertaining to school safety: Mental Health, School Reopening - Safety Concerns and Recommendations, Virtual Learning - Experiences and Best Practices, Access to Technology, and School Discipline
  - Our Panel featured: Mr. Cecil Carey from Charlestown High, Joshua Quincy Senior and BSAC Vice President Anna Zhao, and BEJA member & BPS parent Juana Valdez

- SRSV will begin to prepare for a City Council hearing on BSAC's Policy Agenda which will include Student Vote on the School Committee. At this hearing we will present our projects as BSAC and discuss the Home Rule Petition. It is important that the public knows who we are and all the amazing work we do so they can support the petition.
- SRSV went through a "train the trainer" to learn how to give the student rights training to our partners in the future. Students should know their rights and they should be trained by other peers because the Code of Conduct affects them!

#### Mayoral Race

- BSAC students care very much who the next Mayor of Boston will be. In previous election years, BSAC hosted ice cream socials to meet the candidates and share their priorities. We hope to use a similar strategy this year keeping in mind the social distancing guidelines so maybe we are meeting in a park instead. BSAC is currently finalizing a list of priorities that BSAC members would want in the next Boston Mayor in order to move our projects along.

#### Brief Community Ed Town Hall #2 with City Councilor at Large Julia Mejia Monday, January 25th 6-7pm

- We had our second Education Conversation town hall in collaboration with City Councilor Meia's office and are building the infrastructure to regularly create authentic space where community members from all over can engage in transparent, honest conversations while exploring solutions. Many of us met this past Monday, February 1, to create a detailed list of demands of the School Committee regarding best practices to engage community members. Our next meeting is Monday, February 8th and we look forward to continuing these conversations and mobilizing people to push for structural change. In other words, the work is ongoing and expanding. Change is coming.

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Mr. O'Neill said that he is looking forward to co-hosting the School Committee's student-centered community listening session with Mr. James next Tuesday, February 9th at 3:30 p.m. He requested a brief update on BSAC's membership and activity. Mr. James said that BSAC has greatly improved its remote meeting activity since last spring, adding that BSAC now has representation from every BPS high school.

Ms. Robinson asked about the BSAC subcommittee structure. Mr. James explained that BSAC members comprise the subcommittees. She expressed support for BSAC's desire for meaningful tasks.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked BSAC for its advocacy. She said that going forward, the Committee will have two student members on each of its Task Forces.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- John Travis, principal, Ohrenberger School, testified in support of proposed AWC admissions changes.
- Willow Noordzij, student, Ohrenberger School, testified in support of proposed AWC admissions changes.
- Fiona Jewell, student, Ohrenberger School, testified in support of proposed AWC admissions changes.
- Samah Marei, BPS student, and member, Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP), testified in support of hiring more counselors.
- Robyn Gomez, student, Boston Arts Academy, testified in favor of student voting rights.
- Ajanee Igharo, student, Boston Latin Academy, testified regarding transparency and inclusivity.
- Simon Chernow, student, Boston Latin Academy, testified in favor of student voting rights.
- Cady Malkemes, student, Boston Arts Academy, testified regarding community engagement.
- Maya Blanco, student, Boston Latin Academy, testified in favor of student voting rights.
- Dejonae Gayle, BPS student, testified in favor of a more diverse teaching staff.
- Tanakeiba Campbell, BPS student, and member, Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP), testified in support of hiring more counselors.
- Charlie Adames, BPS student, testified regarding snow days.
- Jada Saint Louis, BPS student, testified in favor of student voting rights.
- Jess Madden-Fuoco, English High Instructional Coach and Hernandez parent, testified regarding restorative justice practices.
- Mike Heichman, member, Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA), testified regarding the budget.
- Ruby Reyes, executive director, BEJA, testified regarding the budget.
- Roxi Harvey, parent, Murphy K-8 School, testified regarding Excellence for All.
- Edith Bazile, BPS grandparent, testified regarding school policing and curriculum.
- Carla Mendoza, paraprofessional, East Boston Early Education Center, testified in support of hiring more counselors.
- Erica Kouka, teacher, Holmes Innovation School, testified regarding the budget.
- Betsy Bowman, teacher, Dearborn STEM Academy, testified regarding restorative justice practices.
- Sharon Hinton, member, Black Teachers Matter, testified regarding the structure of the Boston School Committee.
- Jahnelle Fenton, member, Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP), testified in support of hiring more counselors.
- Kim Bisset, parent, Beethoven/Ohrenberger School, testified regarding proposed changes to AWC admissions.

## **ACTION ITEM**

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Superintendent for her approach to Advanced Work Class (AWC). He urged the Superintendent to closely examine Excellence for All, saying that all students should have the opportunity for rigor.

*Approved* - On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved the Superintendent's request for flexibilities on the following BPS Policies due to COVID for SY 2020-2021: Promotion/Retention; Graduation; and Advanced Work Class (AWC) Testing.

## **REPORT**

***Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Preliminary Budget Recommendation*** - Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder and BPS Budget Director Miriam Rubin presented the Superintendent's preliminary Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) operating budget recommendation in the amount of \$1.3 billion. The proposed budget is framed with the guiding principles of *Return, Recover, and Reimagine*. The recovery budget is heavily focused on improving student outcomes, advancing equitable recovery, and promoting the whole school community's health and wellness amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FY22 budget, the largest appropriation to BPS ever made by the City of Boston, features targeted investments in academic, health and wellness, and community supports. These investments align with the five-year BPS Strategic Plan. The proposed funding remains focused on prioritizing the lowest-performing schools while directing funds to strategies with a demonstrated ability to improve outcomes for the district's highest-need students.

BPS is fortunate to have the steadfast commitment from the City of Boston to maintain the \$80M investment in BPS for this fiscal year. BPS projects to receive \$36M, which represents a 7% increase over last year's allocation, at a time when many other interstate and national districts are facing budget cuts. Per-pupil funding will increase by almost \$1,700 per pupil, from approximately \$21,800 in FY21 to \$23,500 in FY22. BPS intends to repair the damage inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic by working to understand better where students are, assess their learning, target interventions, add support, and align expectations with outcomes.

Initial investments will support a successful reopening of schools and promote a restart of initiatives and projects paused due to the COVID-19 emergency. Investments for equitable recovery will directly support students who have been most impacted by the pandemic. Finally, federal funding will vastly bolster our future reimagining of BPS, guide implementation of the Strategic Plan, support our commitment to being an antiracist district, and advance equitable outcomes for all students, particularly students of color, English learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing poverty.

BPS received \$32.3M in supplemental funding as part of the CARES Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. This funding provides local districts with emergency relief funds to address the impact of COVID-19. We expect to allocate approximately

\$5M to private and parochial schools based in Boston per federal requirements. Additionally, we will utilize CARES Act funding for summer learning opportunities, personal protective gear, and health equipment. In addition, BPS will receive approximately \$123M of funding from the ESSER II Fund due to the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA). BPS plans to use these additional funds to address critical needs within the community due to the pandemic.

Key investments in the proposed FY22 budget include:

- \$1.4M for additional daytime custodial staff, investing in building condition and cleanliness
- \$18.5M to support schools experiencing enrollment declines;
- \$10M to elementary social workers for a multi-tiered system of support for students;
- \$6.8M to multilingual family liaisons.

The recovery budget proposal includes an expansion of the FY21 investment in social workers and family liaisons. Seventy-eight percent of social workers hired in FY21 were persons of color and coordinated services and support staff to serve students more effectively. Social workers also contributed to developing a whole-school approach to ensure all of the adults work together to remove barriers to student success, identify struggling students early, and intervene quickly.

Family liaisons help to build relationships with students, families, and school communities. Ninety-eight percent of the family liaisons hired in FY21 were persons of color, who reflect the cultures and speak the languages of the communities they serve. Throughout this challenging period, family liaisons supported outreach to families and students with inconsistent or low online attendance rates to identify the barriers to participation and connected families with community resources for needs like housing, food access, counseling, and more.

The \$36 million increase in this year's proposed budget includes the second year allocation committed by Mayor Walsh last year. This \$100M commitment is being phased in over three years to reach an annual investment of \$100 million for direct classroom funding, which is over and above cost increases. By allocating this direct investment in our school systems, Boston students will experience expedited benefits once the Student Opportunity Act goes into full effect (in the next seven years). Once fully implemented, the Student Opportunity Act will benefit Boston's students with \$100 million in additional funding per year.

The preliminary budget recommendation marks the start of a dynamic, two-month budget process. The Committee will host [three remote budget hearings prior](#) to voting on the Superintendent's final FY22 budget recommendation on March 24th. All FY22 budget documents are posted online at [bostonpublicschools.org/budget](https://bostonpublicschools.org/budget).

Dr. Rivera asked how ethnic studies will be funded. Mr. Kuder said that some aspects of ethnic studies, such as curriculum, will be funded through the central office academics budget, while staffing positions will be funded at school budget level.

Mr. James asked for more details on potential budget reductions. Mr. Kuder explained that the district has stabilized the student experience by providing schools experiencing enrollment

declines with soft landings. He cited as an example Brighton High School, which is experiencing a significant enrollment decline. Budget staff are working with the school leader, however, to adjust staffing positions and mitigate the impact on students.

Ms. Robinson asked for more information about ESSER funding. Mr. Kuder said that FY22 is the second of three fiscal years in which BPS will receive ESSER funding. He explained that BPS is making investments now that will lead to future efficiency in operations and lower costs. Ms. Robinson asked about the district's efforts to prevent opportunity and achievement gaps and guarantee a foundation for quality. Mr. Kuder spoke about offering more AP courses and athletic opportunities for high school students, as well as the importance of early childhood investments and expanding Excellence For All. The Superintendent spoke about the district's efforts to address sub-separate special education programs and expand inclusion opportunities and dual language programs.

Mr. O'Neill cautioned the district about spending federal funding on positions that might have to be eliminated after three years. He asked how the district can provide a budget that captures the needs of all students. Mr. Kuder spoke about the importance of partnering with school leaders to build school budgets and investing in foundation for quality. Mr. O'Neill said he would have to leave the meeting a few minutes early.

Mr. James asked about funding to support incoming students at the district's three exam schools. Mr. Kuder spoke about financial reserves that can be utilized.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked Mayor Walsh for his financial commitment to BPS. She praised the budget team for building the student-centered budget and the trauma team for supporting students. She spoke about times in the past when family engagement liaisons were charged with a variety of tasks. She said that it is everyone's responsibility to support family engagement.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Reflecting on some of the testimony delivered earlier in the meeting, Dr. Rivera expressed support for the student representative to the School Committee having voting rights. She acknowledged that the final decision lies with the state legislature. Ms. Robinson agreed with Dr. Rivera. Mr. James encouraged the Committee to advocate for student voting rights. Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that she will discuss the issue with the Vice Chair and report back to the Committee.

Mr. James requested an update from the academics department on grading. The Superintendent agreed to follow up.

#### **ADJOURN**

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting**  
**Zoom**  
**February 3, 2021**

At approximately 8:45 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Sullivan". The signature is contained within a rectangular box.

Elizabeth Sullivan  
Executive Secretary