



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

**February 27, 2019**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on February 27, 2019 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](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org), 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 Michael Loconto; Vice Chairperson Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael O’Neill; Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; Quoc Tran; and student representative Evelyn Reyes.

School Committee Members Absent: None.

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: February 6, 2019

International Travel Request: Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School – Costa Rica –  
March 27-April 4, 2019

Memo from Chairperson Loconto to Boston School Committee re: Opportunity and  
Achievement Gaps Task Force Nominations, February 27, 2019

Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA) A Horace Mann Charter School: Amendment  
Requests PowerPoint

Boston Day and Evening Academy Equity Impact Statement

Boston Day and Evening Academy Enrollment Policy

Boston Day and Evening Academy Application

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Charter Amendment  
Request

**Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

Grants for Approval Totaling \$794,297:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$9,689	2019	CBHM Implementation & Research/Evaluation	Increase	Health and Wellness	Districtwide
\$175,787	2019	Children’s Pilot Funds	New	Health and Wellness	Districtwide
\$413,409	2019	Comprehensive Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI)	New	Early Childhood	Districtwide
\$20,140	2019	Emergency Impact and Assistance Aid for Homeless Children and Youth	New	At Risk	Districtwide
\$10,000	2019	Massachusetts 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers	New	Extended Learning Time	Gardner
\$90,000	2019	STARTALK Arabic Summer Academy	New	Foreign Language	Charlestown
\$75,272	2019	Summer Food Service Program: Expansion, Access, Training, and Start-Up (SFSP EATS)	New	Food and Nutrition Services	Districtwide

OAG Policy Implementation Update PowerPoint

OAG Policy Implementation Plan Update Equity Impact Statement

BuildBPS Phase II Update PowerPoint

BuildBPS Update Equity Impact Statement

Memo from Chairperson Loconto to Boston School Committee re: English Language Learners Task Force Nomination: Lorna Rivera, February 27, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

*\*As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening, everyone. I hope those who were able to enjoy some time off last week are feeling rested and relaxed. We have some more winter weather ahead of us. The weather forecast calls for snow to begin falling later this evening, accumulating overnight, with some lingering snow showers tomorrow morning. The City of Boston Public Works Department and BPS

**Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

Facilities will be working hard tonight and early tomorrow morning to make sure roads, parking lots, and sidewalks are clear and accessible. Unlike previous weather systems this season, this storm will be an all-snow event. Forecasters say this dry snow will be much more manageable than the mixed precipitation we've seen in recent weeks. All Boston Public Schools will be open tomorrow, Thursday, February 28th. For winter weather tips and resources, please visit [boston.gov/winter](http://boston.gov/winter).

Before I get into a few district highlights, I'd like to provide a brief update on our Fiscal Year 2020 budgeting process. As we sit at the end of February, we are right in the middle of our budget process with schools. We continue to do our work with individual schools and problem solve with schools going through enrollment shifts. In fact, even this week we are distributing additional soft landings, based on discussions with school communities, the academic superintendents who support schools and our Finance team. You have heard me say this before, but for anyone who has concerns about budget changes at a specific school, I encourage you to please reach out to our CFO, Eleanor Laurans. We're also holding two additional budget hearings in the coming weeks: Next Thursday, March 7th, 6:00 p.m., at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, 885 Washington Street in Chinatown; and another hearing at Bolling, in this very room on Wednesday, March 20th, at 5:30 p.m. I also encourage community members to visit [bostonpublicschools.org/budget](http://bostonpublicschools.org/budget) to peruse our new online budget tool, receive answers to frequently asked questions and to find other helpful budget resources.

On February 11th, we kicked off the Boston Public Schools' first-ever "24/7 Respect Week" at a launch event at Boston Latin Academy. 24/7 Respect Week is an in-school campaign to promote social responsibility, respect, and safe behavior in-person, online, and on social media. During the week, all BPS students in grades 6-12 watched a video called "Stay Out of the Box," co-produced by students in the Boston Student Advisory Council and the BPS Office of Equity. Students then participated in classroom discussions to better understand how bias-based conduct can be harmful to others. The goal was to educate students on inappropriate behavior, such as cyberbullying, using of racist or threatening messages, or sending sexually explicit images. 24/7 Respect Week also included educational guides for teachers and the launch of a new web page with tips for students and families on how to stay safe on social media. You can find this information at [bostonpublicschools.org/internetsafety](http://bostonpublicschools.org/internetsafety). 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. And thank you to BSAC for once again taking a leadership position for their peers and continuing to communicate student rights and responsibilities.

On Wednesday, February 13, the Josiah Quincy Elementary School hosted their annual Lunar New Year celebration at their school in Chinatown. This year's Year of the Pig celebration featured performances ranging from string ensemble to dance, song, gymnastics, chants, and martial arts. The school also received a new lion's head from the Josiah Quincy School Association (JQSA) for the ceremonial lion dance. I was honored to join Principal Cynthia Soo Hoo to "awaken the lion" for its first performance. This year we also honored Ms. Susan Chen, a

**Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

Quincy School teacher who has coordinated this event for many years and is retiring this year. Thank you to Ms. Chen, Principal Soo Hoo, Mayor Walsh, Councilors Wu, Flynn, and Essaibi-George, and the entire Josiah Quincy school community for hosting such a vibrant, festive tradition for our community.

I also want to share a unique and thoughtful Valentine’s Day celebration observed in the district this year. To show love and support for students experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, the Edison K-8 in Brighton held a “Celebration of Champions” on February 14th. During the event, students received free New Balance sweatpants, sweatshirts, socks and sneakers, all thanks to a \$10,000 donation by Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia. Around 50 students, from age 5 to 13, received the gift bags. While still maintaining the surprise, Edison staff spent the weeks prior determining the students’ clothing and shoe sizes to make the presents seem tailor-made for the kids. The mission statement of the Edison School is “Everyone belongs. Everyone achieves,” and this celebration certainly demonstrates the Edison’s values.

Earlier I mentioned the leadership of our BSAC members, and tomorrow evening they will guide a discussion about state education funding inequity, and the proposed Education PROMISE Act. I will join the bill’s lead sponsor Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Councilor Kim Janey, City of Boston Budget Director Justin Sterritt, and Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance Executive Director Charlotte Kelly, among others, to discuss the proposed legislation with the youth of our City. The Massachusetts education funding formula is not correctly accounting for many of the unique costs that districts like ours face -- particularly when it comes to meeting the needs of our English learner and special education students. Students and their families are invited to attend to gather information and ask questions. I encourage all BPS community members to also get involved and join us in advocating for this much-needed change in legislation, which will help us in our overarching goal of closing the achievement gap.

Dr. Coleman thanked Ms. Perille and Ms. Oliver-Dávila for presenting on behalf of the district at the release of the report *An Uneven Path: Student Achievement in the Boston Public Schools, 2007-2017* at The Boston Foundation earlier this week.

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

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards testified regarding transportation concerns.

Carolyn Kain, chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPAC), testified in favor of expanding the Manning Elementary School to a K-6 model next school year.

Dr. Gary Bailey, chair, Fenway Pilot High School Governing Board, testified regarding the planned addition of an autism program at the school.

### **Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

Mike Heichman, education advocate and former BPS parent, testified regarding the FY20 budget proposal.

David Weinstein, teacher, Boston Teachers Union Pilot School, testified regarding the FY20 budget proposal.

Heidi Winston, school nurse, Boston Teachers Union Pilot School, testified regarding the FY20 budget proposal.

Rich Rogers, executive secretary-treasurer, Greater Boston Labor Council, testified regarding collective bargaining negotiations between the district and the Boston Teachers Union.

Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding the FY20 budget proposal.

Jacqueline Rodriguez, BPS school psychologist, testified regarding the FY20 budget proposal.

Arianna Rodriguez and Nate Rosa, BPS students and members, Sociedad Latina, testified regarding a survey by Sociedad Latina on the BPS College, Career, and Life Readiness framework.

Tara Shea, parent, Boston Latin Academy, testified in favor of adding a bus to the school from the North End area.

Mary Delgado, BPS parent and paraprofessional, Boston Teachers Union Pilot School, testified regarding the FY20 budget proposal.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. O'Neill asked for more details about the STARTALK Arabic Summer Academy, which is based at Charlestown High School, but open to BPS students districtwide.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$794,297.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School to travel to Costa Rica from March 27-April 4, 2019.

Ms. Oliver Dávila said that she was impressed by the credentials of the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force nominees and thanked them for their willingness to serve. Mr. Loconto invited people who may be interested in participating in the public interview panels for

## **Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

the superintendent finalists to please email him or the Superintendent Search Committee Co-Chairs.

Mr. O'Neill requested a copy of Dr. Gonsalves's book *New Hope for Urban Schools*. He applauded all of the OAG Task Force nominees.

**Approved** – The Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, the following additions to the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force: Rev. Willie Bodrick II, chairperson, Boston Network for Black Student Achievement; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves, Associate Professor, College of Education and Human Development, UMass Boston; and Dr. James Jennings, Professor Emeritus, Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning, Tufts University.

Mr. O'Neill said he remains concerned about approving an enrollment expansion for Boston Day and Evening Academy when the district has yet to identify a permanent location that can accommodate the larger school. Ms. Oliver-Dávila echoed Mr. O'Neill's concerns. Ms. Robinson talked about the pressing need for the expansion of quality programs serving off-track youth.

The Committee debated whether to table the vote or to amend the motion, ultimately agreeing to amend the motion by adding the sentence, "*This approval for increased actual enrollment is contingent upon the identification and provision of sufficient space to accommodate increased enrollment.*"

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved, as amended, the following charter amendment requests for Boston Day and Evening Academy, a Horace Mann Charter School: Updated Enrollment Policy and Application in accordance with guidelines set by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE); and Increased Enrollment Capacity from 405 to 505 students between School Year 2019-2020 and School Year 2021-2022. This approval for increased actual enrollment is contingent upon the identification and provision of sufficient space to accommodate increased enrollment.

## **REPORTS**

**Build BPS Phase II Update** – Chief Engagement Officer Monica Roberts, Chief of Staff Rob Consalvo, Chief of Operations John Hanlon and Associate Superintendent for Elementary and Middle Schools Mary Driscoll presented an update on Phase II of BuildBPS, the district's 10-year educational and facilities master plan.

The district continues to provide supports for students and employees impacted by the closure of West Roxbury Academy and Urban Science Academy, including targeted supports for off-track youth, English Language Learners and students with special needs. Boston Collaborative High School will be relocated to the Gavin building in South Boston. Several high schools submitted statements of interest to partner with McCormack Middle School to expand to a 7-12 school. Each potential partner school will host a community meeting facilitated by the Office of

**Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

Engagement in March. Interim Superintendent Perille plans to make a recommendation to the School Committee about the McCormack School reconfiguration in late April. District leaders are working closely elementary schools to explore K-6 expansion options, both for the McCormack feeder schools and for other neighborhoods in the city. She plans to make recommendations to the Committee about the reconfiguration of McCormack school ecosystem and any other K6 expansions for School Year 2020 -2021 in late May or early June.

Explaining that the vacant Rogers building in Hyde Park is greatly deteriorated and is not fit to be used as swing space, the district requested that the School Committee vote to surplus the Rogers Middle School building and land to the City of Boston. This divestment would allow the property to then be placed under the care and custody of the City of Boston to help meet the needs of other City of Boston priorities. The district will work together with the City of Boston to identify another parcel to meet the student need in Hyde Park.

Ms. Robinson discussed the need for consistent district support to schools despite enrollment fluctuations.

Mr. Consalvo told Dr. Coleman that the district guarantees that it will work with the City of Boston to identify space in Hyde Park for a new school.

Mr. O'Neill praised the district's work on the McCormack expansion process. He asked about K-8 schools that might want to convert to K-6 models. Ms. Perille said that the district is supportive of having a mix of K-6/7-12 and K-8/9-12 models. Mr. O'Neill expressed concern about the possibility of the City leasing the Rogers property to a charter school. Mr. Consalvo stated that the property would not be leased to a charter school. Mr. O'Neill suggested asking the City to identify a location for a new school in Hyde Park now and put it on hold, noting the high demand for Boston real estate.

Mr. Loconto questioned the need for a land trade, but expressed support for the idea of BPS working with the City to explore available properties in Hyde Park.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged district leaders to better communicate with families about its expansion plans. She asked the district to continue supporting the unique needs of middle school students even as the district moves away from the traditional 6-8 middle school configuration. She echoed Mr. O'Neill's concern about the possibility of the City leasing the Rogers property to a charter school.

Mr. Tran expressed support for Mr. O'Neill's suggestion of reciprocity regarding property in Hyde Park.

Mr. Loconto said that the Committee has the option of placing guardrails on the disposition of the Rogers property, adding that it would not be in the best interest of BPS to lease the land to a charter school. The Committee's vote on the Rogers property for March 27.

**Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

***Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Policy Implementation Update*** – Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Opportunity Gaps Dr. Colin Rose and Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force Co-Chair Ayele Shakur presented an update on the district’s implementation of the OAG Policy, which was recommended by the OAG Task Force and approved by the School Committee in 2016. Dr. Rose detailed the district’s progress made towards the goals of the implementation plan including accomplishments, challenges, and next steps in the work.

The OAG Policy calls for improvements in the system to create equity for historically marginalized populations (Black, Latinx, English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities, and economically disadvantaged). The implementation plan takes on targeted strategies to help drive BPS in becoming a more equitable educational system, particularly in developing culturally and linguistically sustaining practices. The Office of Opportunity Gaps collaborates with multiple departments to eliminate the cultural and structural barriers that exist for marginalized students. The district has made strides in areas such as professional development, supporting culturally and linguistically sustaining practices, accountability, data collection and measurement, funding, engagement activities, recruitment, hiring, and the retention staff of color.

The Office of Opportunity Gaps is actively working on a number of strategic priorities, including Curriculum for Boys & Young Men of Color: An updated 10-Boys and new 10-Girls program; Excellence for All (EFA): Increasing rigor for all students (currently available in 16 schools in 4th-6th grades); expanding the Exam School Initiative and ISSE Access; and the Early Warning Indicator Systems. Dr. Rose explained that the district is now tracking student ethnicity in an effort to better understand who BPS students are and how they self-identify, allowing the district to focus supports and opportunities for students. The Office of Opportunity Gaps has developed an online tool ([www.bostonpublicschools.org/domain/2218](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/domain/2218)) to track the goals of the OAG Policy. Currently, 70 percent of the goals are fully achieved or on target. Dr. Rose also reviewed adjustments that the district has made to the Opportunity Index (OI), a pioneering tool designed to measure and quantify schools that serve the highest concentrations of students in need. The OI incorporates a range of data representing factors that are outside of the schools’ control but are also predictive of students’ academic outcomes.

Ms. Shakur provided an update on the work of the OAG Task Force, which serves as a monitoring body for the district. The OAG Task Force is advocating for the Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps to have a direct reporting line to the Superintendent. Sup. The position currently has dotted line reporting to the Superintendent. The Task Force also looks forward to seeing stronger OAG policy implementation by the departments of Academic & Professional Learning (APL) and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Focus areas for the Task Force include BuildBPS, the FY20 budget; high school parity in rigor, grading, and graduation requirements; and the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the OAG policy.

**Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

Dr. Rivera applauded the district's ethnicity data collection. She requested OI data on ELL students and its impact on individual schools.

Dr. Coleman encouraged the district to gather feedback from a broader range of stakeholders. Ms. Shakur said that many in the community feel that the incremental progress being made by the district is not sufficient and that district should be bold in its efforts to close opportunity and achievement gaps.

Mr. O'Neill applauded the work of the Office of Opportunity Gaps and the OAG Task Force, calling it critical. He asked what areas of expertise are needed on the OAG Task Force. Ms. Shakur responded that members with expertise in teacher diversity and students with special needs are needed.

Ms. Perille said that the district will provide more information on the Opportunity Index at the FY20 budget hearing on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila praised the OAG work and suggested adding more parents and families to the OAG Task Force. She encouraged the district to ensure that Partnership Funding matches the cultural and linguistic needs of students. She said she supports elevating Dr. Rose's position to have a direct reporting line to the Superintendent. Ms. Perille explained that Dr. Rose reports to her directly regarding policy implementation, while programmatic work continues to lie in ASSET with reporting to Chief Academic Officer Dr. Charles Grandson.

Mr. Loconto said that the district's work in the area of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps is being recognized by other districts across the nation, adding that closing the gaps is the true measure of the effectiveness of the work.

***English Language Learners Task Force Nomination Dr. Lorna Rivera*** – Chairperson Loconto nominated Dr. Lorna Rivera to serve as co-chair of Committee's English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force. If approved, Dr. Rivera will fill the leadership role formerly held by Dr. Miren Uriarte, who stepped down from the Committee last December.

Dr. Rivera is the director of the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development & Public Policy, and an Associate Professor of Women's & Gender Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. She is also a Boston Public Schools parent. Currently, Dr. Rivera is working on the Latinx Student Success Initiative, a partnership with Bunker Hill Community College, to improve retention and graduation rates for Latinx college students. The School Committee is scheduled to take action on this matter on March 20.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

John Mudd, advocate, testified regarding the OAG policy implementation update.

**Boston School Committee Meeting**

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

**February 27, 2019**

Peggy Wiesenberg, advocate, testified regarding the Build BPS Phase II Update.

Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding the Build BPS Phase II Update.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURN**

At approximately 10:20 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan  
Executive Secretary