



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REMOTE
FY23 BUDGET HEARING AND BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 16, 2022

The Boston School Committee held an FY23 budget hearing and meeting on March 16, 2022 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 Jeri Robinson; Vice Chairperson Michael D. O'Neill; Stephen Alkins; Brandon Cardet-Hernandez; Lorena Lopera; Rafaela Polanco Garcia; Quoc Tran; and Student Representative Xyra Mercer.

School Committee Members Absent: None.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

FY23 Superintendent's Final Budget Letter To School Committee

Updated FY23 Budget Tables, March 16, 2022

FY23 Budget Recommendation Equity Impact Statement

Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2022

Grants for Approval Totaling \$707,759

Horace Mann In-District Charter Schools Extended Time Pay Memo

MSBA Accelerated Repair Projects Presentation

2022 MSBA ARP Statement Of Interest Equity Impact Statement

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CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jeri Robinson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Mr. O’Neill and Ms. Mercer were absent for roll call but joined the budget hearing in progress. All other members were present.

Ms. Robinson 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 in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cabo Verdean, 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. Translated meeting documents were posted at www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee prior to the start of the meeting.

FY23 BUDGET HEARING

Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder presented the Superintendent’s final FY23 general fund budget recommendation in the amount of \$1,334,845,508.

He summarized the changes reflected in this proposal versus the preliminary budget recommendation presented to the School Committee on February 2, 2022:

Changes to School Budgets

- Changes to school configurations - K-8s converting to K-6 (Trotter, King) and High Schools adding 7th and 8th grades (Burke and Brighton High): \$1,795,618
 - Trotter & King: Removed 7th and 8th grade classroom and specialist teaching positions, reduced WSF and Title I allocations, adjusted school psychologist FTE allocations. Held harmless for all other positions and non-personnel lines.
 - Burke & Brighton: Added Grade 7 and Grade 8 classroom and specialist teaching positions, increased WSF, Soft Landing, and Title I allocations, increased school psychologist FTE, added Librarian FTE, increased supply and substitute budgeted amounts.
 - P.A. Shaw: The Superintendent's team will also be working with the P.A. Shaw to add 4th grade for next school year. This is not yet reflected in the school’s budget; it is currently held in reserve while we work with the school leader to modify their program.
- Madison Park Technical Vocational High School: The school leader, in collaboration with the Chief of Schools and school superintendents, has decided to cap their enrollment. As a result, their WSF allocation decreased by \$586,965. Boston Public Schools Boston School Committee City of Boston Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent Jeri Robinson, Chairperson Michelle Wu, Mayor

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- Implementation of School Psychologists expansion, creating a district wide ratio of 1 psychologist for every 500 students, meeting national standards: \$2,334,556 for an additional 22 FTE across schools
- Implementation of Library and Librarian expansion: \$3,588,156 which represents 33.5 FTE to 38 schools
- School-based allocation decisions reviewed by the School Budget Review Committee: Increase individual school budgets by \$999,234.
 - The change affecting many schools related to lunch monitors: updated lunch monitor FTE formula to include Grade 6 projections. We added 15 new lunch monitors at a total cost of \$139,740.
- Finalizing School-based Soft Landing decisions: Increase individual school budgets by \$1,633,412
 - Maintained 30 lunch monitors at schools
 - Hold harmless for King, Trotter, Burke, and Brighton as part of grade 7-12 expansion
 - English Learner and Special Education compliance requirement increases

Across these three areas, school budgets have increased by a total of \$9,341,217 since the original proposal. Ninety-eight schools have seen increases in their individual budgets since February 2nd.

Changes to Central Budgets

There have been a number of small changes to the proposed budget for central departments. These are more limited in scope and represent transfers between central departments and between account types within a department. The only change to central budgets reflected in the tables involves the addition of central support staff for the library investment. 1 FTE was added centrally, an Assistant Director of Library Services. Funds were also added to the library services operating budget to cover library system fees across schools. These changes total \$346,087 added to the Academics department. Mr. Kuder has also directed the Finance team to make several changes to central budgets based on feedback received during the budget process. These changes are not reflected in the current budget, but will be incorporated once the Finance team has the opportunity to identify offsetting one-time costs that can be moved to another funding source.

These include:

- \$1M in additional funding for the Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity gaps to support the Anti-Racist Strategic Leadership Cohort, Targeted Innovative Programming, OAG Policy Consultation and Professional Development.

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- \$800K in additional funding for the Office of Recruitment, Cultivation, and Diversity to expand several initiatives and proactively prepare for the staffing shortages anticipated to impact the start of SY 22-23.
- \$500K for the Athletics Department to expand their central team to support and coordinate district wide athletic programs.

Mr. Kuder thanked the dedicated staff who helped develop this budget, including our school leaders, school site councils, finance team and department heads.

Ms. Robinson asked Mr. Kuder to explain the decision to cap enrollment at Madison Park. Mr. Kuder said that following several years of enrollment growth, school leadership, in partnership with district leadership, made the decision to stabilize enrollment at its current level in the short-term. He explained that while it's a reduction in what BPS had originally projected for the school, it is not a reduction in enrollment from this year's current level and essentially maintains the school's current level of enrollment.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez congratulated the Shaw School community for its advocacy. He asked about the district's plans for the school's future grade configuration. Mr. Kuder explained that due to space limitations, BPS leaders will need to have conversations with the Shaw community about the school's configuration. Conversations are set to begin in April.

Mr. Lopera spoke about the ripple-effects of decision making and the impact on other school communities. Mr. Kuder said that currently the Shaw has a guaranteed feeder pathway to the Mildred Avenue K-8 School. For next fall, BPS will adjust the projections of students at Mildred Avenue. Ms. Lopera asked about future engagement with the Shaw community and nearby schools. Mr. Kuder agreed that decisions cannot be made in silo. He said that district leaders will engage with the Shaw School community as well as other school communities. Ms. Lopera encouraged district leaders to examine the enrollment needs of the geographic area.

Dr. Alkins thanked district leaders for addressing the facilities concerns of the Boston Day and Evening Academy community.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked clarifying questions about enrollment projections as they related to the revised budget proposal, all of which were answered by staff. Mr. Kuder explained the district's strategy to hold school's harmless as district and school leaders start to have the difficult conversations about capacity. He explained how enrollment projections are calculated. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked about the district's strategies to increase enrollment. The Superintendent and Mr. Kuder spoke about the district's quality guarantee. Mr. O'Neill described the district's investments in facilities as a pro-enrollment strategy.

Dr. Alkins encouraged the district to communicate with families when this quality guarantee will be available. The Superintendent said some elements have already begun.

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The following people testified regarding the Superintendent's final FY23 budget recommendation:

- Shaw Elementary School students presented video testimony.
- District 5 Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, Hyde Park resident
- Armani Cruz Andujar, Dorchester resident and Shaw Elementary School student
- Maitte Paulino, Dorchester resident and Shaw Elementary School student
- Giovanni Christopher, Dorchester resident and Shaw Elementary School student
- Webens Fils, Mattapan resident and Shaw Elementary School student
- Sandora Whir, Dorchester resident and Shaw Elementary School student
- Carl Kirland, Mattapan resident and Shaw Elementary School student
- Zachary Whyte Corbett, Mattapan resident and Shaw Elementary School student
- Malik Carr, Dorchester resident, Boston Day and Evening Academy student and Digital Ready supporter
- Eric Rodriguez, Dorchester resident, English High School student, Digital Ready supporter
- Amaj Mays, Dorchester resident, Charlestown High School student, and Digital Ready supporter
- Zaria Alves, Dorchester resident, Community Academy for Science and Health (CASH) student, Digital Ready supporter
- Isaac Dias, Dorchester resident, CASH student, and Digital Ready supporter
- Yajaira Alvarenga East Boston resident, member of Sociedad Latina and restorative justice advocate
- Sarah Cherry Rice, Jamaica Plain resident and executive director of Digital Ready
- Sanika Forsythe, Texas resident and P. A. Shaw Elementary School supporter
- Mike Heichman, Dorchester resident and member of Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA)
- Tom McGuinness, Roslindale resident and P. A. Shaw Elementary School supporter
- Carla Johnson, Roxbury resident and P. A. Shaw Elementary School teacher
- Rev. Kevin Peterson, Dorchester resident and P. A. Shaw Elementary School supporter
- Sharon Hinton, Hyde Park resident and founder of Black Teachers Matter
- Edith Bazile, Hyde Park resident and McKinley School supporter
- Ruby Reyes, Dorchester resident an BEJA executive director

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the FY23 budget hearing and convene the regular School Committee meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the March 2, 2022 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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As prepared for delivery.

Thank you, Madame Chair, and thank you all for joining us tonight. Because we have such a robust agenda and various meeting sessions this evening, I will present an abbreviated version of my normal Superintendent's Report. I will only share key updates tonight and look forward to sharing our many district highlights during next week's meeting.

I want to start tonight's report with an update on the deeply troubling incident that happened at TechBoston last night. Last night, a group of students and staff were in a bus in the parking lot on TBA's campus, headed to a game to cheer on their peers. A suspect shot at the bus resulting in the injury of a student and a staff member. Schools must be safe places for our students and staff. I am heart broken that our students and staff have experienced such trauma and I am deeply committed to doing all that we can to support the TBA school community right now. I am grateful to report that both the student and staff member are recovering and suffered non-life threatening injuries. I joined Head of School Nora Vernazza and Mayor Wu for a meeting with TechBoston staff last night to begin to process the incident. Mayor Wu and I were also on the scene last night and with the staff again this morning. We shared that we are committing every resource needed from both the City and BPS to support TBA through this challenging time. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff is amongst our top priorities at BPS. There were no classes today and we had counselors and other mental health and emotional support staff at the school all day for students and staff as they process this incident. We will continue to monitor the well-being of the school community and partner with the Boston Police Department and counselors to provide support as needed. I want to thank the incredible staff at TBA. They are a strong and resilient community that have been through a lot this year. And they are still standing strong for our students ready to support them in any way needed. Mental health for our students is important and I reminded the TBA staff this morning that *their* mental health is just as important. We must take care of each other. I am grateful to them and to all of the BPS staff who have shown up during this difficult time. Please reach out if you need support. I will now transition to a few other quick updates for tonight.

Two items we've discussed are the future of the Shaw school and classroom space at the Timilty school for Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA). Yesterday, we sent letters to the families of BDEA and the Shaw School informing them of upcoming changes to their school community that I will share with you here tonight. We shared with the BDEA community BPS will engage with the community to determine long term use of the Timilty building. BDEA currently occupies four classrooms and a few other specialty offices at the school. BDEA will continue to use these spaces for the next school year as there are no plans for construction next year. However, the district is planning for the design and construction of the building for the following years after we complete our community engagement. In the coming weeks we will work with the school's leadership to reestablish the formal process to identify a new space for BDEA beginning in School year 2023-24 as we prepare the Timilty building for the construction needed. Yesterday we also shared with the Shaw school community that we are adding two 4th grade classrooms to their school as a one year decision, while we create a longer term plan. We recognize how challenging the past two years have been. We believe adding 4th grade next year will support our students' continuity of learning while providing us the time to discuss the longer term planning

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needed. We are planning a community meeting in April with the school community. I also wanted to share that we are in the final approval process for the EMK lease of the Roxbury Prep property in Roxbury. We hope to have it finalized in the next few weeks.

As you'll recall, at our January 26 meeting, I announced the formation of intervention teams for three of our schools: Charlestown High School, Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, and McKinley school. The teams were formed to address achievement gaps among students and to develop recommendations on improving teaching and learning and operations in the schools. The teams have three appointments each from BPS and the Boston Teachers Union as well as one joint appointment. The intervention teams will review data on student opportunities and outcomes and meet with students and staff as well as families. I am happy to report that we announced the members of the three teams earlier this week and they are ready to get to work. They will report back to me in the coming months with their recommendations on action plans to address ongoing challenges in each school. I am grateful to our partners at the BTU for working with us to develop the members of these intervention teams and for their ongoing partnership.

We are currently in the process of notifying families if their child meets the eligibility requirement of having a minimum of a B grade point average on grade level work in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies to be considered as a part of the applicant pool, as outlined in the Exam School Policy. We anticipate all families will be notified by mid-March. Exam School invitations will be mailed to families at the end of April or beginning of May. More information about the exam school assignment process and timeline, including recordings of information sessions and the session slide deck, can be found on our website, www.bostonpublicschools.org/exam.

Boston Public Schools has been working closely with the Boston Public Health Commission to review the ongoing COVID-19 data in our schools and across our City. The Health Commission met last week and shared their advice that BPS can consider lifting our mask mandate when the City achieves a seven-day average of close to 10 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. We are nearing that mark. The number has been dropping steadily; we will continue to require masks in our schools for the time being, though families and staff should expect us to lift the mask mandate in schools in the very near future given trends. We will of course communicate any updates to our community as soon as we decide to take action based on public health guidance. As a reminder, all students and staff who feel more comfortable wearing masks will still be welcomed to do so and we will work with our School Leaders to ensure we have learning environments that welcome the individual choices of our students and staff to continue or discontinue wearing masks WHEN we lift the mask mandate. There will still be expectations for masking in specific circumstances and as directed by public health officials. In the meantime, I want to thank everyone for their efforts over the past few months as Boston came together to slow the spread of COVID and to encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated and boosted.

We were excited to expand system-wide access to acceleration academies over the February vacation. Acceleration Academies are week-long academic programs outside of the traditional

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academic school year breaks. In order to accelerate our students' literacy skills, BPS offered 20 hours of an equitable literacy focused acceleration academy that drew on culturally relevant and affirming topics connected to the ELA standards and curriculum through the lens of improving the City of Boston. By engaging in collaborative, cross-content, project based learning projects, students conducted research through non-fiction text to investigate and answer an essential question with a written response and develop a visual or physical product to demonstrate mastery of their grade level skills and standards.

The theme for our February acceleration academies focused on *“How do I, as a student representative on Mayor Wu’s cabinet, make specific policy recommendations to improve our city?”* We are proud of the work of our students and educators as they engaged in complex culturally relevant grade level text and developed policy proposals as they simulated serving as the student representative on Mayor Wu’s cabinet. In exit surveys, our students expressed that the Acceleration Academies were beneficial to them in a variety of ways, including maintaining a regular routine during vacation week, learning about important issues and action areas in the City of Boston, and improving their resumes. A third grader shared, *“My experience with Acceleration Academy really helped me feel more confident about reading challenging text by myself and in front of people and to share my thoughts about that reading.”* In addition to student surveys, we also reviewed student work samples from the week. A 3rd grade student from the Roger Clap shared her thoughts on sea level change with Mayor Wu and Climate Ready Boston Team. Imagine having the ear of city officials in the third grade! In the next photo, you will see 3rd Graders at the Channing building seawall models. Our students are so talented.

In addition to the acceleration academies for students in grades 3-10, schools offered additional programming using funds identified for acceleration. For example, some schools offered

- Programming for students in Pre-K-2,
- others offered direct programming for seniors to support their college and FAFSA applications,
- while others provided direct tutoring and support in an effort to raise course grades.

In all, approximately 2900 students participated in acceleration academies and various academic programming across more than 65 schools. Almost 2000 of these students identified as a multilingual learner, student with disability or as both. BPS remains committed to providing an equitable education experience for all of our students. Our April Acceleration academies will look similar to the February academies, where students will engage in high-interest project-based learning, but will focus on the major work of the grade in math. I will share more information about this in an upcoming meeting. Finally, we are excited to share that we have even more schools and students slated to participate in the April acceleration academy and look forward to scaling and expanding our impact as we learn from our more recent implementation.

That is my Superintendent’s Report for this evening.

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Committee members asked clarifying questions about Acceleration Academies and COVID health and safety protocols, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and her team. Ms. Robinson encouraged the district to study the impact of Acceleration Academics on student achievement. The Superintendent said that she would ask the Office of Data and Accountability to study the impact, noting that it might be difficult to decipher.

Dr. Alkins asked about the district's safety plans for spring and summer. Deputy Superintendent of Operations Sam DePina spoke about targeted approaches and interventions at MBTA stations and at school start and dismissal times.

Ms. Lopera encouraged close and consistent communication and messaging among city, BPS, and community partners regarding masking policies. Ms. Robinson said that early childhood programs follow guidelines from the MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sharon Hinton, Hyde Park resident and founder of Black Teachers Matter, testified regarding the P.A. Shaw Elementary School and the Superintendent Search.
- Katie Hersey, West Roxbury resident and BPS parent, testified in favor of keeping the mask mandate.
- Christina Hefler, Milton resident and UP Academy Dorchester teacher testified in favor of the Horace Mann In-District Charter Schools extended pay proposal.
- Shery Keleher, Charlestown resident, testified regarding quality.
- Mary Lee Marra, Hyde Park resident and advocate, testified in support of Superintendent Cassellius.
- Edith Bazile, Hyde Park resident and advocate, testified in support of the P.A. Shaw Elementary School.

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Alkins asked for more details about the Social Emotional Learning in School and Out of School Setting Initiative Planning Grant, including the schools impacted and the sharing of best practices. The Superintendent said that Assistant Superintendent of Health and Wellness Jill Carter will follow up with more information.

Dr. McCrea clarified for Ms. Lopera that the grants are tied to the goals in the Strategic Vision. Mr. Kuder said that his team is working to create a grant outcomes report that will be shared with the Committee.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee approved the Superintendent's recommendation to provide extended time pay to staff at the following Horace Mann In-District Charter Schools:

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Boston Green Academy; Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School; UP Academy Boston; and UP Academy Dorchester. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez abstained. All other members voted yes.

REPORTS

Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair Projects - Deputy Chief Financial Officer David Bloom presented proposals for the following Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair Projects (ARP):

- Burke, Curley, Haley, Warren-Prescott boiler replacements
- Henderson Upper and Ohrenberger roof replacements
- English High School roof and window replacements

ARP projects address the repair or replacement of roofs, windows/doors, and boilers in an otherwise structurally sound facility. The MSBA requirements for submission of projects are that boilers and windows be minimum of 35 years old, and roofs be a minimum of 30 years old. The following buildings fall within the guidelines for ARP. To date, the BPS and PFD have partnered with the MSBA to complete 27 projects. There are currently three projects in construction and another two that are in the beginning stages of design.

Massachusetts School Building Authority Next Steps:

- City Council and School Committee vote to approve submission of Statement of Interest to MSBA
- ARP SOIs are submitted to MSBA by March 25th 2022
- Core SOIs are submitted to MSBA by April 28th 2022, we will be returning to the Council
- Summer-Fall 2022 MSBA reviews SOIs submitted from across the Commonwealth
- Late fall 2022/early winter 2023 MSBA will make decisions on both ARP and Core SOI submissions

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez requested a complete list of schools that are eligible for MSBA support. He encouraged the district to use the racial equity planning tool. Chief of Operations Indira Alvarez agreed to follow up, adding that the facilities team has secured a vendor to conduct a comprehensive facilities conditions assessment that will eventually be shared publicly.

Dr. Alkins asked about the process for schools to apply for repairs. Mr. Bloom spoke about the process of making facilities repairs using the BPS capital budget vs. MSBA projects.

Ms. Polanco Garcia requested information about school buildings that have been repaired through MSBA since 2015. Mr. Bloom agreed to follow up with the information. Mr. Bloom said that his team will return to the Committee with information on proposed MSBA Core Projects,

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which are projects that involve extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction.

Ms. Lopera asked clarifying questions about how the projects are selected and prioritized. She requested a list of schools that qualify for MSBA support. She emphasized the importance of long-term facilities planning. Understanding that there is just such widespread need in our facilities. Mr. Bloom responded, explaining that the MSBA requires a 20-year commitment to the building for reimbursements.

Mr. O'Neill detailed the four major ways in which BPS pays for facilities: the BPS maintenance budget, the City's capital budget; MSBA reimbursement for core projects (new builds and substantial renovations) and MSBA reimbursement for Accelerated repair projects. windows, roof boilers. He explained that the School Committee sets priorities for the district and delegates to the Superintendent the responsibility to make decisions about facilities improvements, then evaluates her on meeting those goals. Mr. O'Neill requested a list of pending MSBA projects. Mr. Bloom agreed to follow up with the information.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez spoke about facilities issues being interconnected. He asked when the facilities conditions assessment would be available. Ms. Alvarez estimated that it will take between 12-18 months to conduct the assessment. The Superintendent spoke about the challenges of maintaining the district's facilities, more than half of which were built before World War II. She urged the City to make a substantial investment in school facilities. She said that Mayor Wu has made a verbal commitment to address facilities needs.

Superintendent Search Committee Update - Ms. Lopera, who co-chairs the Superintendent Search Committee along with Dr. Pam Eddinger and Marcus McNeill, presented an update on the search process. Given the Search Committee's expedited timeline, the Committee plans to provide updates at each School Committee meeting until it completes its charge. These regular reports will include key updates on process, engagement, decisions made, and results.

On March 2, the School Committee approved the membership, charge, and timeline of the nine-member Superintendent Search Committee.

In addition to the above named co-chairs, Committee members include:

- Roxi Harvey, BPS parent and graduate and Chair of the Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPac)
- Michael O'Neill, BPS graduate and Vice Chair of the Boston School Committee
- Dr. Carlina Pignato, BPS graduate and Head of School at Channing Elementary School
- Gene Roundtree, Secondary School Superintendent at Boston Public Schools
- Jessica Tang, President of the Boston Teachers Union
- José Valenzuela, BPS parent, graduate and History teacher at Boston Latin Academy

Friday, March 18 at 12 noon is the deadline for the search firm RFP. The RFP Review Team will review and present recommendations to the School Committee for approval by early April. The

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team consists of Chief Human Capital Officer Al Taylor and two representatives from the Superintendent Search Committee, Michael O'Neill and Jose Valenzuela. BPS Business Manager Naveen Reddy and his team are providing project support and guidance to ensure the RFP review process is completed efficiently and in compliance.

The Search Committee has held two remote community listening sessions: one general session on March 9th and a Spanish speaking session yesterday, March 15th. There were 471 registrants for March 9, and 218 for March 15. The number of actual attendees was 352 for the 9th and 109 for the 15th. In total, the sessions drew more than 650 registrants and more than 450 attendees.

The guiding questions the Committee is asking people to respond to are:

- *What are the three most important qualities or experiences our next Superintendent should hold?*
- *What question would you most like a candidate for the position to answer?*
- *How can the next superintendent partner with the community to be successful?*

Videos and chats from these sessions are posted on the Superintendent Search webpage: bostonpublicschools.org/supt-search. As of this afternoon, the Committee has received 36 messages via its dedicated email: superintendentsearch@bostonpublicschools.org. An online survey that is translated into all of the major BPS languages is available at bostonpublicschools.org/supt-search. As of 1 p.m. today, 231 responses have been submitted.

The Search Committee will hold two additional remote listening sessions: a student forum on Thursday, March 24 from 6-8 p.m. and general listening session on Saturday, April 2 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. co-hosted by Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia, Chair of Council's Education Committee. Both sessions will feature live, simultaneous interpretation in all of the BPS languages. Registration is available at bostonpublicschools.org/supt-search.

The Committee will collect and synthesize all of the feedback, look for themes, and share it with the community in early April. This input will help inform the job description and ultimately the candidates that are considered.

On April 6, the School Committee will vote on the Superintendent's job description and issue a call for qualified applicants. In April and May, the search firm will complete initial vetting and background checks on candidates. The Search Committee will review applications and select candidates to interview in executive session, so as to preserve confidentiality of candidates. Following interview rounds, the Search Committee will select finalists for public presentation. In June, the School Committee will announce final candidates and hold public interviews. The School Committee will then vote on a candidate to offer the position of Superintendent. Ms. Lopera said that future Search Committee updates to the School Committee will include updates on decisions made and results. She thanked the Search Committee members and BPS staff for their work.

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Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked if additional listening sessions will be scheduled with partner organizations. Ms. Lopera encouraged partner organizations to hold their own sessions and share feedback with the Search Committee.

Dr. Alkins suggested that the School Committee's goals should be aligned with the community feedback.

Ms. Robinson asked how the community feedback will be used. Ms. Lopera spoke about the feedback providing an opportunity to not only to learn what the community wants in a leader but also where the district has room for improvement.

Mr. O'Neill reflected on some of the themes that have emerged from the first two listening sessions, such as the importance of selecting a superintendent who has experience in the classroom. He said that many parents in the Spanish-speaking session raised concerns about transportation, facilities conditions, and food services - conditions that put students in a position to learn.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approved - At approximately 9:25 p.m. the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn to an executive session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with the Boston Teachers Union. Ms. Robinson announced that the Committee would not return to public session.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary