



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

April 6, 2022

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on April 6, 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; and Student Representative Xyra Mercer.

School Committee Members Absent: Quoc Tran

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Meeting Minutes: March 23, 2022

Award Recommendation for Executive Search Firm for Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools

Superintendent Job Description Recommendation Cover Memo

Superintendent Job Description

Grants for Approval Totaling \$115,174

Award Recommendation for Executive Search Firm for Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools Memo

Interim Salary and Non-Personnel Payments on External Funds Memo

MSBA Presentation Core Programs

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Transdev Renewal Presentation

Transdev Contract Extension Equity Impact Statement

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jeri Robinson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Mr. Tran was absent. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez arrived shortly after roll call. 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

Announcement: Chair Robinson announced that the Equitable Grading Policy presentation scheduled for this meeting was postponed to provide the Superintendent and her team with more time to refine the proposal and engage with stakeholders. A presentation is planned for later this spring.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the March 23, 2022 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

Thank you, Madame Chair, and thank you all for joining us tonight. I have a few updates that I want to share before we dive into this evening's presentations.

Firstly, April is Autism Acceptance Month. This designation used to be called Autism Awareness Month, but in 2021 was changed to "Acceptance" by the Autism Society of America. Though this revision seems simple, it is crucial in order to help ignite change in the lives of those with autism and their families. Awareness is knowing that someone has autism while acceptance shows inclusion. During the month of April let us all take the time to celebrate the uniqueness each child brings to our community, and recognize the families and school communities who support them.

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Happy Paraprofessional Day and happy Assistant Principal Appreciation Week!

I'd also like to take the time to recognize today as National Student Athlete Day. Today, we recognize and honor all BPS athletes for their hard work and outstanding accomplishments as student athletes. They have achieved excellence in academics and athletics, while also making significant contributions to each of their own schools and communities. I am BPS Proud of your dedication and commitment — keep up the great work!

As you have likely seen in the news, there has been a concerning increase in incidents of violence in our neighborhoods over the past few weeks. History tells us that as the weather gets warmer and there is more opportunity to get outside, we will experience these kinds of surges. BPS and our Office of Safety Services remain in close contact on a regular basis with the Boston Police Department and the Mayor's Office of Public Safety.

We have been briefed by both agencies and have shared information with our School Leaders. We remain in daily contact with our partners and are working on a continuing strategy to ensure that our schools are safe for our students and staff. With increased access to counseling and social workers and the expanded role of our Safety Specialists, BPS is working to provide access to support services for students, and lines of communication among staff members. We have also ensured every classroom and all of our schools have safety plans that direct them how to best respond to any incident. We are also working on preventative measures such as reviewing all equipment, including cameras and metal detectors. I have appointed a Safety Committee composed of leadership from multiple departments that are meeting regularly to review data and talk to School Leaders. The committee then brings to me recommendations on adjustments or additions to our safety plans. We are one part of a larger, coordinated city-wide response and will provide updates throughout the rest of the school year as we can.

I've mentioned these updates at previous meetings, but I want to share the very latest as BPS considers a switch to a mask-optional policy in our schools. As you'll recall, the Boston Public Health Commission announced at their March 9th public meeting that their recommendation for BPS is to consider shifting to mask-optional once the City of Boston hit a seven-day average rate near 10 new positive cases per 100,000 residents. They recommended this number based on the review of data, and continue to provide that recommendation as the marker of when BPS should consider making the shift. As of today, the City is averaging 28.8 new positive cases per 100,000 residents. This is more than double the city rate of new positive cases that were recorded in early March — so we have not yet made the progress as a City in order to meet the threshold. We are still in daily conversations with the Boston Public Health Commission and are reviewing all other health and safety protocols as well. We also know that with warmer weather we can begin to open more windows and start to shift activities outside. One area where we all agree we should see progress is in our vaccination rates for students. BPS continues to run free vaccine clinics in our schools and encourages all who are eligible to get vaccinated and boosted. We will continue to keep our families informed as we consider the recommendations from BPHC. For more information on vaccines and a list of upcoming vaccine clinics in BPS schools, please visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/vaccines.

Last week, the State department of elementary and secondary education (DESE) completed a follow-up district review of BPS. I want to first give a huge shoutout and share a moment of gratitude for all of Team BPS for the thorough and speedy work to prepare for last week's visit.

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To prepare for the follow-up review, our team pulled together and submitted more than 500 documents, including a 40-page summary of our progress since the last district review report in 2020. We also submitted a closing document that summarized what the review team saw during their classroom observations and interviews with staff members, families, students, and community stakeholders. All of these materials provided yet another reminder of the incredible progress BPS has made since the initial review in 2020. We not only stayed the course amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing recovery efforts, but also made significant and strategic progress.

Thank you to the State review team for the time taken to learn about our progress over the last two years. We believe that the state will see progress in our instructional focus on equitable literacy, a focus on Multi Tier Systems of Support as a key anchor for the district a clear and focused strategic plan that serves as the district's north star, progress toward a more linguistic and racial and ethnically diverse faculty, a deep commitment to equity and family engagement, equitable policy development with the school committee and significant supports for our students, and key district investments through the Quality Guarantee. We anticipate receiving the report mid-May. I will continue to keep you updated.

Just a quick update on union negotiations as I know the community is watching closely. We are committed to reaching agreements that work well for our staff members as the ones who work most closely with our students. My team and I have continued conversations with both the Boston Teachers Union and the Bus Drivers Union pursuing the priorities we have discussed as a School Committee. We will continue to keep the Committee and the public updated on our negotiations as we continue to strategize with our partners in the Mayor's Office and at City Hall to reach agreement on our union contracts.

As we look to implement the Quality Guarantee framework, we continue to hear from staff and families about the need to more directly address ongoing and long-term needs in facilities. A cross-functional team of BPS departments in Operations and Finance are meeting regularly to review the needs in our school buildings and advise on the best path forward. We are also in close contact with the team at City Hall as we look at BPS buildings in the context of all City buildings and how we can allocate resources to address immediate challenges while also working to enact our vision for all BPS school buildings. We are in the process of providing updates to families and staff from the Sumner, Mendell, and Blackstone schools. I know several Sumner families are here today to speak about the potential of using the Irving School instead of the BCYF spaces as not to displace important community programming at the community center in Roslindale. We are continuing these conversations with the city and our Operations team to ensure the best space for the Sumner 6th grade. There were no good options last fall for an expansion and the team was asked to make it work. Because we thought the Irving was not an option due to construction, that was off the table. The operations team recently informed us that renovations at the Irving will include mostly design, making the school available for use, which then would mean that we would not have to displace the broader community programs at the Roslindale Community Center. We will continue to engage with the school leader and the Sumner community as we move forward with 6th grade expansion. I will bring additional updates to the Committee in the coming week

I wanted to give you all an update about assignment notifications and registration for the

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2022-2023 school year. The first round of assignment notifications were sent out via email on Thursday, March 31. These notifications are for any students who registered between January 5 and February 7, 2022 and will be entering grades K0, K1, 6, and 9 in September. Assignment notification letters were sent out by email and by postal mail. If you do not have an email address on file, did not receive the email, or did not receive the paper letter, please call the BPS Welcome Center at 617-635-9010 to find out your school assignment. You can also confirm your student's seat for next year by calling the BPS Welcome Center at 617-635-9010 or by visiting www.bostonpublicschools.org/rsvp. You will need your student ID number and your RSVP code, both of which can be found on your assignment notification letter.

I know Committee members are curious about the results of the round and what we are learning about families' choices. Since the round was just processed, the team has not had a lot of time to crunch all the numbers, but I can share a few early data points and provide more comprehensive information in a follow up. Not including special education assignments, which follows a different process, 96% of K1 applicants received one of their top three choices, including more than 80% receiving their first choice school. Note, K0, which had an increase in applicants and has far fewer seats, looks a lot different: only about 40% of applicants received one of their top three choices, and only 33% received their top choice. However, at 6th grade, 91% of applicants received one of their top three choices, with 70% receiving their first choice.

Speaking of which, exam school invitations for grade 7 and grade 9 applicants will be sent out in late April or early May. All other grade 7 assignments will be sent out at the end of May, after exam school invitations are finalized. This is due to the high number of students transitioning into a new school at grade 7, both to exam and non-exam schools. We want to ensure that all families have the opportunity to secure a seat in one of their preferred schools. Grade 9 assignments to non-exam schools for the 2022-2023 school year have been sent out as well. Please note that these assignments will have no impact on exam school admissions or invitations. Students who are in the exam school eligibility pool, will still be considered for an invitation even if they have received or accepted an assignment for another BPS school. Additional details will be provided in June, including transportation eligibility, the timeline for families receiving bus assignments (for bus-eligible students), and how to opt-out of bus transportation if you don't need it. For information on BPS Transportation eligibility, please visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/transportation or call the Transportation Hotline at 617-635-9520.

Though it only feels like the beginning of Spring, Summer is just around the corner, and the time to start planning for your students' summer learning, enrichment and job or internship opportunities is now. This Summer, BPS will again provide a series of programs for students to access support services, academic recovery and acceleration initiatives, and other enrichment activities. These programs will be school-based, partner-based, and activity-based while serving all neighborhoods and offering a mix of in-person and remote opportunities. Aside from summer learning programs that BPS is offering, we also have our "Summer Stuff" publication in an online format on our website. "Summer Stuff" outlines all of the potential opportunities for students in three main areas including: school and partner-based programming, camps and recreational activities, and employment, internships and volunteer opportunities. You can find more information and a full list of all of the summer opportunities available to your students on our website at www.bostonpublicschools.org/summer. On the website you will also find a few

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example videos outlining what a summer with BPS could look like for your student. Start planning for your child's summer, today!

Lastly, as a quick reminder, April 19 - 22 is Spring Recess for Boston Public Schools. Take this time to enjoy the incoming spring weather, relax, reset and prepare to return to school and finish the rest of the school year strong!

If you are looking for any enrichment activities for your students to take part in during Spring Recess, please visit the BPS website at www.bostonpublicschools.org/April. For additional information about any of the programs we have listed on our site, please reach out to the program coordinators. Enjoy your time off! As another quick update, the BPS calendar for school year 2022-23 is now available on the BPS website at www.bostonpublicschools.org/calendar.

That is my Superintendent's Report for this evening.

Acting Chief of Family and Community Advancement Denise Syder clarified for Ms. Lopera that the K0 and K1 enrollment numbers presented do not include the district's partnerships with community-based organizations. Ms. Lopera asked how decisions were made regarding summer learning opportunities. The Superintendent cited a number of driving factors, including extended year for special needs students and facilities considerations. Ms Lopera asked about the target of students served. Ms. Snyder said that BPS is prepared to serve up to 15,000 students this summer. The Superintendent and her team will provide the Committee with a full report on summer learning later this spring. The district has already started its outreach efforts.

Dr. Alkins asked if the school safety team will meet over the summer. The Superintendent said she will make that recommendation. Dr. Alkins requested clarification about the student assignment process. Ms. Snyder explained that an algorithm assigns random numbers and family choice is considered. He asked about plans for April Acceleration Academies. Dr. Echelson said that the April session will focus on math and noted that enrollment for the April session is up from February, with more than 70 schools participating.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked whether BPS has seen an increase in the number of safety incidents at schools. The Superintendent said that the data shows that the number of incidents is similar to a normal year. She said that schools are safe and emphasized the importance of partnerships with the City, Boston Police Department, and MBTA.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked if there is any effort by the district to universalize the enrollment application process for families. Supt spoke about the importance of coordinated efforts and offering a mixed delivery system to ensure that kids get a great start.

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Mr. O'Neill noted a discrepancy between the Supt's verbal remarks and the chart displayed on screen illustrating school assignment notifications for grades 6, 7, and 9. Ms. Snyder confirmed that exam school invitations for grade 7 and grade 9 applicants will be sent out in late April or early May. All other grade 7 assignments will be sent out at the end of May, after exam school invitations are finalized. This is due to the high number of students transitioning into a new school at grade 7, both to exam and non-exam schools. We want to ensure that all families have the opportunity to secure a seat in one of their preferred schools. Grade 9 assignments to non-exam schools for the 2022-2023 school year have been sent out as well. Ms. Snyder said that she would correct the slide and repost it on the BPS website. Mr. O'Neill reiterated his previous request for the district to release exam school invitations as quickly as possible to increase trust and transparency with families.

Ms. Polanco Garcia said that she has heard from families who are concerned about the threat of state receivership. The Superintendent that she said anticipates receiving a preliminary report from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in early to mid-May. BPS staff will then correct any factual errors before the final report is released in late May.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked about the capacity of early education programs. He asked about the status of exam school applications and high school registration. The Superintendent said that she anticipates a "right-sizing" in exam school enrollment as BPS expands school quality across all high schools. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez suggested that the Committee examine school demand data. The Superintendent said that she is bringing a full exam school policy implementation report to the School Committee in June, and will ask her team to show enrollment patterns around other high schools. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez requested that the Committee receive demand data for non-exam schools, including early education and special education programs. Ms. Snyder agreed to follow up.

Dr. Alkins suggested that the Committee examine the student assignment system and look for areas of increased segregation. The Superintendent said that an analysis of the student assignment system will be important work for the next superintendent.

Ms. Robinson spoke about school safety and asked what mechanisms the district has in place to keep students in buildings during the school day. The Superintendent said that each school has an individual safety plan. She offered to have staff follow up with more information. Interim Chief of Student Support Neva Coakley Grice said that if students leave school grounds without authorization, the Code of Conduct will be used.

Ms. Robinson asked if every student will have a summer plan. The Superintendent responded that it is an aspirational goal to ensure that every student is aware of summer learning opportunities.

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

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REPORT

Superintendent Search Process Update - Ms. Lopera, who serves as co-chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, shared an update on the superintendent search process and presented a recommendation for the selection of an executive search firm and the superintendent's job description.

Executive Search Firm Recommendation:

The Committee received seven responses to the RFP for an executive search firm. An RFP evaluation committee reviewed the proposals and found three of the seven to be highly advantageous. Of the three firms that were interviewed, the committee determined that one offers the most advantageous solution that meets and exceeds the Boston Public School's objectives: One-Fourth Consulting LLC/JG Consulting. The Evaluation Team was impressed with JG's experience in doing superintendent searches, particularly of districts similar to Boston, such as their search for the head of the Austin Independent School District. One-Fourth Consulting LLC/JG Consulting total pricing proposal was \$75,000, not including travel for superintendent candidates, etc., which was comparable with the other two finalists. Following a vote by the School Committee, if BPS is authorized by the School Committee to enter into a contract with JG, then all proposals will be publicly available, as required by RFP procedure.

Superintendent's Job Description:

Ms. Lopera presented for the Committee's consideration the Superintendent's Job Description. The Search Committee unanimously approved the job description on April 5th, with the understanding that the School Committee and/or the search firm may choose to make surface edits to polish the document before it is posted and circulated widely.

Key updates include:

- Greater emphasis on advancing equity, eliminating opportunity and achievement gaps, meeting the needs of multilingual learners and students with disabilities, and having a proven track record or achieving strong outcomes for all students
- A focus on authentic family and community engagement grounded in transparent communication
- Highlighting specific topics that were surfaced during public Listening sessions, such as: recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; reliable and fiscally-sound transportation services; facilities planning that expands access to quality; staff diversity; safe and welcoming school environments; and equitable literacy instruction
- Listing Preferred Experience, such as experience serving as a district leader for a comparable district; experience partnering with the community during the COVID-19 pandemic; familiarity with the Boston area; and multilingualism with a preference for fluency in one or more of the 9 major languages of the District

Engagement:

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The Search Committee has held four remote community listening sessions: Two general sessions, a Spanish-speaking session and a student-focused session. In total, more than 1300 registrants and more than 770 attendees participated in the four sessions. Videos from these sessions, as well as the chats, are posted on the Superintendent Search webpage bostonpublicschools.org/supt-search. Video testimony and text submissions are also being accepted via the search webpage. As of 12 p.m. today, the Committee has received 473 survey responses. The survey will remain open until April 15th. Input can be emailed to superintendentsearch@bostonpublicschools.org.

Community feedback will help inform the interview questions and ultimately the candidates that are considered. Ms. Lopera welcomed continuous feedback and input from the community.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked if JG Consulting has conducted any searches in New England or in the region similar to BPS. Mr. O'Neill said that JG has done two previous searches for the Boston Public School and was a semifinalist for the last BPS superintendent search. JG also conducted a superintendent search for Austin, TX which is a district similar in size to BPS.

Mr. O'Neill stated that through his work as chair of the executive board of the Council of Great City Schools, as well as a Boston School Committee member who has served on three superintendent search committees, he has had interactions with most of the search firms who replied to the RFP for an executive search firm, including the three finalists. He shared that he has a professional friendship with Richard Carranza, former chair of the executive board of the CGCS and current faculty member of JG Consulting. Mr. O'Neill said that while there is no conflict of interest, he wanted to make the Committee and the public aware of the relationship.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez stated that he previously worked with Mr. Carranza at the New York City Public Schools and has had no recent communication with him.

Ms. Lopera clarified for Ms. Robinson that the School Committee is being asked to vote on the final superintendent's job description with the understanding that the search firm may make surface edits to polish the document.

Mr. O'Neill thanked everyone who participated in listening sessions, noting community feedback was incorporated into the revised job description.

Ms. Lopera summarized for Dr. Alkins the updates that the Search Committee made to the 2018 job description, including a greater emphasis on equity, becoming an anti-racist district, experience with serving multilingual learners, students with special needs, multilingual learners with special needs, moving the district towards more native language instruction, and bilingualism, eliminating opportunity and achievement gaps, and COVID recovery. Mr. O'Neill added that the community has expressed a preference for someone with experience as an educator and with familiarity with Boston.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez said that the district must create the conditions for the next superintendent to be successful.

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GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding collective bargaining negotiations between the Boston Public Schools/Boston School Committee and the Boston Teachers Union (BTU):

- Jessica Tang, Dorchester resident and president, Boston Teachers Union, submitted a petition: The Schools and Contract Boston Students Deserve
- Thy Nguyen, Dorchester resident and Excel High School student
- Kayla Quinlan, Dorchester resident and Boston Day & Evening Academy student
- Pamela Rose, Dorchester resident and BPS parent
- Michael Maguire, West Roxbury resident and Boston Latin Academy teacher
- Chantei Alves, Roslindale resident and BPS teacher
- Anne Mosley, Jamaica Plain resident and Young Achievers Math and Science School parent
- Bonnie McBride, Jamaica Plain resident and Fenway High School teacher
- Melanie Miranda, Dorchester resident and Eliot K-8 Innovation School paraprofessional
- Toni Robinson, Roslindale resident and BPS teacher

The following people testified in support of Mission Hill K-8 School:

- Nathaniel Iliff, Jamaica Plain resident, Mission Hill K-8 School alumnus
- Violet Kaney, Jamaica Plain resident
- Jessica Berwick, Jamaica Plain resident and Mission Hill K-8 School parent
- Allison Cox, Jamaica Plain resident and Mission Hill K-8 School parent
- Virginie Esain, Jamaica Plain resident and Mission Hill K-8 School parent
- Lonn Drucker, Jamaica Plain resident and Mission Hill K-8 School parent
- Ashley Hannah, Mattapan resident and Mission Hill K-8 School parent
- Andy Crowe, West Roxbury resident and Mission Hill K-8 School parent
- Peggy Wiesenber, Jamaica Plain resident and former BPS parent

The following people testified regarding the district's plans to add a 6th grade to the Sumner Elementary School:

- Rachel Young, Roslindale resident and Sumner Elementary School parent
- Allison Friedmann, Roslindale resident and Sumner Elementary School parent
- Lauren Peter, Roslindale resident and Sumner Elementary School parent
- Elizabeth Ferrenz, Roslindale resident and Sumner Elementary School parent

The following people testified regarding the long-term facilities plan for the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HMS):

- Charlie Kim, North End resident and HMS parent
- Roseanna Jones, Holliston resident and HMS teacher
- Mary Simmons, Belmont resident and HMS teacher
- Karina Gonzales, Roxbury resident and member of Sociedad Latina, testified in support of restorative justice practices.
- Brithany Quinonez, East Boston resident and member of Sociedad Latina, testified in support of ethnic studies.

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- O’Ryan Gomez, Dorchester resident and member of Sociedad Latina, testified in support of restorative justice practices.
- Jahira Taveras, Hyde Park resident and member of Sociedad Latina, testified in support of ethnic studies.
- Mike Heichman, Dorchester resident and member of the Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA) testified regarding the superintendent search.
- John Mudd, Cambridge resident and advocate, testified regarding the superintendent’s job description.
- Edith Bazile, Hyde Park resident and advocate, testified regarding the superintendent search.
- Jules DeVasto, Dorchester resident and UP Academy Dorchester, testified in support of Schedule A Pay.
- Sharon Hinton, Hyde Park resident and advocate, testified regarding state intervention and the superintendent search.
- Gordania Cundiff, Charlestown resident and Warren-Prescott K-8 School parent, testified regarding school safety.
- Teresa Castro Pregizer, Roxbury resident and Nathan Hale Elementary School parent, testified in support of teacher Aaliyah Turner.
- Ruby Reyes, Dorchester resident and Boston Education Justice Alliance executive director, testified against state receivership.

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Alkins asked about the MassStep Planning Grant and the relationship between potential employers and the adult learners they mentor. Director of Grants and External Funds Yvonne Macrae said that she would ask the Senior Director of Adult Education Kristen D’Avolio to follow up.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved Grants for Approval Totaling \$115,174.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee approved the selection of One-Fourth Consulting/JG Consulting to serve as the Executive Search Firm for Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools. Mr. Cardet Hernandez and Mr. O’Neill both abstained to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, as they have both previously worked with Richard Carranza, who is a faculty member with JG Consulting. All other members voted yes.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved Superintendent’s Job Description, as approved by the Superintendent Search Committee.

REPORTS

Interim Salary and Non-Personnel Payments on External Funds - Dr. Yvonne Macrae, director of Grants and External Funds, presented the Superintendent's request for the approval of an interim salary payment order for personnel paid from external funds, as well as encumbrances for non-personnel. These grants are projected to be awarded for FY23 and

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will be submitted for approval at future School Committee meetings, as they are awarded. This order has been requested annually at this time due to the delay in receiving external fund award letters and finalized budgets from the various funding sources. The order will authorize the district, in cases judged to be of no risk, to request the City Auditor to approve the interim salary payments to district personnel and allow for non-personnel encumbrances, pending receipt of the external funds. In the event a grant does not get awarded any expenditures incurred will be covered from the general fund. The Committee had no questions. An April 27, 2022 vote is scheduled.

Massachusetts School Building Authority Core and Revised Accelerated Repair Projects - Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder presented Statements of Interest (SOIs) for the 2022 Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Core program, which provides state reimbursement for school building projects covering extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction. The Superintendent is recommending the submission of SOIs for the Blackstone and Otis schools (Paris St Parcel). She is also recommending the resubmission of SOIs for the following Accelerated Repair Program (ARP): Projects, which cover the repair or replacement of roofs, windows/doors, and boilers in an otherwise structurally sound facility:

- Burke, Curley, Haley - Boilers
- Henderson Upper and Ohrenberger - Roof Replacements
- English High School - Roof and Window Replacements

If the SOIs are approved by the Boston School Committee and Boston City Council, the MSBA will review the submissions in Summer-Fall 2022 before making a decision on both ARP and Core SOI submissions in the late fall 2022/early winter 2023. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the recommendations on April 27.

At Ms. Lopera's request, Mr. Kuder explained that the average timeframe for the completion of an MSBA Core project is 5-7 years.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked about the status of Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Mr. Kuder said that because the Horace Mann School proposal was not accepted by the MSBA, BPS is working with the City to support the project using capital funding.

Dr. Alkins how BPS manages parallel projects. Chief of Operations Indy Alvarez spoke about how BPS manages multiple projects of various scales.

Ms. Lopera asked how enrollment projections impact facilities planning. Mr. Kuder spoke about the widespread need for building upgrades across the district. Senior Advisor Megan Costello spoke about the facilities conditions assessment work that is underway.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez spoke about the importance of having a comprehensive, long-term facilities plan and engaging in data driven decision making. Mr. O'Neill echoed the importance of a facilities master plan.

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Ms. Robinson asked about the facilities plan for the McKinley Schools. The Superintendent said that the McKinley Schools and Madison Park Technical Vocational High School will be prioritized in the forthcoming capital budget.

Renewal of Transdev Transportation Contract - Director of Transportation Delavern Stanislaus presented the Superintendent's recommendation to grant a one-year contract extension to BPS transportation provider Transdev. The extension would run from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. BPS has been in a five-year contract with Transdev since July 2013. The contract comes with five one-year options for renewal. Ms. Stanislaus explained that switching bus operators during an ongoing pandemic, a national labor shortage, and a superintendent transition would not be in the best interest of students and families. BPS continues to prioritize stability and reliability with Transdev this summer and fall. The Superintendent recommends bidding out the contract for FY24.

Ms. Lopera asked about pain points for reaching on-time performance early in the school year. Ms. Stanislaus spoke about the district's cross collaborative work to improve on-time performance. Dr. Cassellius spoke about the complexities of the district's transportation challenges and expressed optimism that the next superintendent will be able to address those issues.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez requested data on the district's afternoon on-time performance. Ms. Stanislaus agreed to follow up. The Superintendent said that there is an opportunity for students who graduate from BPS career and technical programs to fill the district's driver shortages.

Dr. Alkins asked about the process for seeking a new transportation vendor. Ms. Stanislaus said that the district anticipates releasing an Invitation for Bid (IFB) by late summer, adding that community voices will be incorporated.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

- Edith Bazile, advocate, spoke about the importance of having a strong academic plan for next school year and racial equity justice.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O'Neill said that he looks forward to learning about Ms. Mercer's college plans.

ADJOURN

Approved - At approximately 10:15 p.m. the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn to the meeting.

Attest:

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Sullivan".

Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary