



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

**June 16, 2021**

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on June 16, 2021 at 5 p.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee), email [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:feedback@bostonpublicschools.org) or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

**ATTENDANCE**

School Committee Members Present: Vice Chairperson and Acting Chairperson Michael O’Neill; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Ernani DeAraujo; Jeri Robinson; Quoc Tran; and Alternate Student Representative Tiffany Luo.

School Committee Member Absent: Student Representative Xyra Mercer.

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

Minutes: May 26, 2021 School Committee Meeting

In-Kind Donation with a Total Estimated Value of up to \$10,000 - Wayfair Professional Dream Classroom Giveaway - Lyndon K-8 Pilot School

Grants for Approval Totaling \$45,578,367:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Representative Title	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$78,367	2022	DLCS Professional Development and Devices	New	Solimar Cruzado and Rhianon Gutierrez	Manager of Technology Business Operations/ Program Director for Computer Science	Career and Technical Education	Districtwide

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\$42,000,000	2022	National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program	New	Laura Benavidez	Executive Director of Food and Nutrition Services	Food and Nutrition	Districtwide
\$3,500,000	2022	Summer Food Services Program	New	Laura Benavidez	Executive Director of Food and Nutrition Services	Food and Nutrition	Districtwide

Renewal of Transdev Transportation Contract PowerPoint

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Update: Potential Areas for Consideration PowerPoint

Superintendent’s Composite Performance Evaluation, School Year 2020-2021 PowerPoint

Superintendent's Self-Evaluation, SY 2020-21

Superintendent's Self-Evaluation Memo

SY 2020-21 Highlights

Superintendent's SY20-21 Evaluation - Hardin Coleman

Superintendent's SY20-21 Evaluation - Ernani DeAraujo

Superintendent's SY20-21 Evaluation - Michael O'Neill

Superintendent's SY20-21 Evaluation - Jeri Robinson

Superintendent's SY20-21 Evaluation - Quoc Tran

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chairperson Michael O’Neill called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Ms. Mercer was absent. All other members were present.

Mr. O’Neill said that tonight’s meeting was being streamed live on Zoom. It will be rebroadcast on Boston City TV. It will also be posted at [bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee) and on YouTube. He announced that simultaneous interpretation services were available 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. Meeting documents

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were translated into all of the official BPS languages and publicly posted at [www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee) prior to the start of the meeting.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Mr. O'Neill made comments about the recent resignations of former School Committee Chairperson Alexandra Oliver-Davila and member Lorna Rivera, saying that their comments came from pain and caused pain. He thanked them for their contributions to the Committee and offered special thanks to Ms. Oliver-Davila for expanding language access at Committee meetings. Dr. Coleman said that the resignations do not model the restorative justice practices valued within the BPS community. Mr. Tran and Ms. Luo expressed disappointment about the recent resignations. Mr. DeAraujo spoke about the need for fair representation for all and impartiality.

Mr. O'Neill issued a call for nominations for the office of chairperson. Dr. Coleman nominated Ms. Robinson. Mr. Tran seconded the nomination.

*Approved* – On roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to close the nominations for chairperson.

*Approved* – On roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to elect Ms. Robinson chairperson of the Boston School Committee for the remainder of calendar year 2021.

Ms. Robinson made comments thanking her colleagues for entrusting her with the privilege of leading the Committee. She said that she was saddened by the resignations of both Alex Oliver-Davila and Dr. Lorna Rivera, and the loss felt by the Latinx community. She acknowledged that their remarks caused pain for members of the community. Mayor Janey has prioritized the recruitment of Latinx members to ensure the Latinx community is well represented on the Committee and she looks forward to welcoming the new members.

## **CITATIONS**

Ms. Robinson announced that the Committee would be unable to present citations to student leaders this evening as planned due to scheduling conflicts but that citations would be mailed to students' homes. The School Committee and Superintendent congratulated the following youth leaders from the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) and Superintendent's Youth Cabinet:

Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC):

- Kayla Arreaga, Boston Latin Academy
- Katio Barbosa, BSAC President, Jeremiah E. Burke High School
- Graciela Berman-Reinhardt, BSAC Secretary, Boston Latin School (*Superintendent's Youth Cabinet*)
- Arianna Callendar, Boston Community Leadership Academy
- Simon Chernow, BSAC social media director, Boston Latin Academy
- Sam Draisen, Boston Latin Academy

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- Daniel Duarte, East Boston High School
- Yenifer Lemus, East Boston High School
- Sofia Liang, John D. O’Bryant School of Math and Science
- Gui Ying Liu, Josiah Quincy Upper School
- Cady Malkemes, Boston Arts Academy
- Phebean Ogunsanwo, BSAC writer, Brighton High School (*Superintendent’s Youth Cabinet*)
- Joshua Ramgeet, Jeremiah E. Burke High School (*Superintendent’s Youth Cabinet*)
- Anna Zhao, BSAC Vice President, Josiah Quincy Upper School (*Superintendent’s Youth Cabinet*)

Superintendent’s Youth Cabinet:

- Graciela Berman-Reinhardt, BSAC Secretary, Boston Latin School (*BSAC*)
- Christian Gonzalez, O’Bryant
- Wellington Matos (Vice Chairperson), Fenway High School
- Marcus Isaiah McNeil (Chairperson)
- Phebean Ogunsanwo, BSAC writer, Brighton High School (*BSAC*)
- Joshua Ramgeet, Jeremiah E. Burke High School (*BSAC*)
- Kate Richard, O’Bryant
- Alexis Sumner, New Mission
- An Hoai Tran, Boston Latin School
- Calvin Tran, Dearborn STEM Academy
- Chris Vizcaino, Boston Day and Evening Academy
- Nivea Sanai Williams, O’Bryant
- Jasmine Wong, Boston Latin School
- Anna Zhao, BSAC Vice President, Josiah Quincy Upper School (*BSAC*)
- Iris Zhang, Boston Latin School

Ms. Robinson congratulated the Class of 2021 high school valedictorians. The Committee was able to raise funds to provide each valedictorian with a \$400 Amazon gift card to help with any expenses they may need as they make that transition to college. She thanked the Shah Family Foundation and higher education partners for supporting the valedictorians. The BPS Communications team has put together a video showcasing a few of this year’s valedictorians at [bostonpublicschools.org/graduations](https://bostonpublicschools.org/graduations).

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the May 26, 2021 meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

*As prepared for delivery.*

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Thank you, Chair, and thank you all for joining us this evening for the last School Committee meeting of the school year. This has been a painful few weeks for BPS -- on top of a painful year -- in which racial reckoning and urgent calls for justice were at the center of every discussion and decision. I concur with so much of all that you have shared regarding our former school committee members. And what we have learned these past few weeks is that racial reckoning is complicated. As a nation and as a city we've only just begun to surface the deep wounds and hurt we must confront in order to create a community and a district that truly welcomes all voices, is inclusive, and authentically connects with people who unfortunately, have more often felt disconnected when it comes to BPS.

My life's work has been built on pushing for equity and fairness in opportunity... and I feel personally responsible for working with our entire BPS team to build a district that actively and respectfully combats racism and discrimination so we become stronger than ever, even when that work becomes disruptive and uncomfortable. This is not the time to let up on our commitment to high quality academic opportunities and meaningful social and emotional support for every student and staff within our classrooms, schools and district. Nor can we lose sight of our moral imperative for equity and justice that drives those of us who do this work each and every day for our kids. I want to affirm my pledge to work alongside this School Committee in our pursuit to dismantle systemic barriers to opportunity and open up access for our students and their families. Many of our school leaders and central office staff have been meeting in affinity groups to discuss and work through and find support for talking about race and culture. This is voluntary and used as a way for our team members to learn and grow. More recently several school leaders met to discuss the resignations on the school committee and the broader purpose of racial reckoning and their commitment to standing together and standing up as school and leaders to combat racism and stand in the gap for our students so that they have every opportunity and access in an environment that values their identities, their personal stories and histories, and their heritage. They asked me to share that they stand by our work to be an anti-racist school district and to urgently address any and all barriers to our children's success. Together, we will continue leading with our guiding values of affirming and welcoming all students, cultivating trust with our families, and building an excellent and equitable school district that is second to none.

In that vein, I want to again express my deepest gratitude to the students, former and current, involved with BSAC who have spoken up, who have taken a chance on sharing their stories, and who have come forward with solutions. The work we have been engaged in together to build a better BSAC will lead to meaningful change for next year and years to come. For the Committee, I would report that we have moved swiftly to respond to the claims shared by students, beginning with suspending and then ending the relationship with Youth on Board, meeting weekly with the students who remained involved, offering support to those students, and providing regular updates to families. I have directed that any use or reference to RC be fully discontinued, and we have instructed that all counseling provided by our schools or partners be only offered by licensed professionals. We have also launched a review of the programming offered by all partners to ensure alignment and add oversight. I have ordered a second and more thorough investigation as additional claims have been shared. To the students, I want to say again: I hear you. I see you. I am here to *work alongside you* on solutions. We continue internal conversations about how to better listen to our students and create ways to more quickly hear and respond to their feedback.

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We all work in education to create opportunities for our students to shine and we know that cannot occur if students do not feel heard. I again thank the students, their families, and all who have shared their experiences with BSAC and I look forward to providing additional updates at future meetings.

The Summer season officially begins next week. For many of us, we hope it will be a time of relaxation and reflection after the past year. However, for our students, this is probably the most important summer that we can recall for students to remain engaged in their learning. BPS is offering a variety of opportunities for students to access support services, academic recovery and acceleration initiatives, and other skill-focused enrichment activities over the summer. These programs will take place at schools and community organizations, and feature a variety of academic and enrichment activities, both in-person and remote, serving all neighborhoods. Here you will see the historical enrollment of students in our summer learning programs, as well as the current number of available seats by program and the number of seats filled as of yesterday, June 15. You'll see that we are currently at 11,627 seats filled. That number does not account for Private Industry Council summer jobs, the Learn and Earn initiative, or Boston After School & Beyond programming. Our partners at Boston After School & Beyond and the PIC will provide updated enrollment information for their programs as we get closer to summer.

For BPS led programs, we're currently at 73% enrollment, with additional enrollment expected through the end of June and beginning of July. We saw low enrollment when we launched our application process, so we diversified our outreach efforts. Our school-based Family Liaisons, the English Learner Parent Team and Office of Special Education have been conducting outreach to families that support summer enrollment. We have also taken additional measures to amplify our summer programming, including: billboard advertising, robocalls and texts sent to families, posts in social media and in our newsletters, and more. We also shifted OEL family support to individual family outreach and sent individual email RSVPs to ESY participants, as well as phone call follow-ups to families who have not responded. In addition, we held a training for 50 Family Liaisons so that they could do individual sign-ups with families at schools. We also have had phone and email support from Welcome Services, the Family Helpline staff and the Office of Expanded Learning Opportunities to support families in completing applications. This is in addition to school-based follow-up with every family to know what students are doing for the summer. Within the past two weeks, we saw an additional 1,000 applications each week and are working to place families in their selected programs. Families can learn more about these opportunities by visiting [bostonpublicschools.org/summerlearning](https://bostonpublicschools.org/summerlearning). You can register at [summer.bostonpublicschools.org](https://summer.bostonpublicschools.org). Here you will see the number of positions needed vs. those that have been filled. We are still looking for some site directors, site coordinators, and CFCs. We're seeking a larger number of teachers, paraprofessionals, ABA specialists, nurses, and social workers. We're actively hiring and interviewing staff for the summer programs. We're also offering an additional incentive for classroom staff working in the summer to increase our numbers and ensure that students are able to receive the services they need this summer. If you're interested or know someone who could be a fit, please visit our website [bostonpublicschools.org/OHC](https://bostonpublicschools.org/OHC) then click on "Find a Job" and search "Summer."

It has been incredible to see our graduating seniors receive their diplomas at in-person ceremonies over the last couple of weeks. I've tried to make it to as many graduations as I can, and many of my colleagues from the Central Office and from the School Committee also joined

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in cheering our seniors on to the next phase of their lives. I would like to thank our partners: the Boston Red Sox, ICA, Greenough House, and others who recognized our seniors in celebratory fashion with graduations to commemorate their BPS careers. To the Class of 2021: You have continually demonstrated your strength throughout this pandemic and I am so happy to have witnessed your commitment to your education. You all represent a beautiful melting pot of potential. I wish you the best of luck in your postsecondary pursuits - whether that includes college, trade school, joining the workforce or the armed forces, or taking some time off to determine what is best for you. You all have left an indelible mark on the Boston Public Schools and you now join the ranks of BPS alumni who make our city and our country a better place to live.

Last Friday, June 11, I joined Chair Robinson and the Nathan Hale School Community to remember the life of an extraordinary educator, mentor, volunteer and trailblazer, Mr. George Cox, who worked in the Boston Public Schools for more than 40 years. We were so happy to also be joined by members of Mr. Cox's family at a library dedication ceremony at the Nathan Hale School. After his retirement, Mr. Cox went on to volunteer at the Hale School 5 days a week! That is how committed he was to our students and the mission of Boston Public Schools. He was relentless in his efforts to educate our young people. Although his passing occurred more than a year ago now, his loss continues to reverberate throughout our community. We miss him daily. However, his memory is forever etched in our hearts. The Hale School celebrated his life by naming and dedicating their library in his honor. My hope is that the library will house as many amazing memories as George created in his lifetime for all of us. We will continue to memorialize his indelible legacy and contribution to our BPS children and educators, the City of Boston and the many lives he touched in Boston Public Schools.

Yesterday, I joined Mayor Janey and many members of the BPS community for a groundbreaking event to celebrate the start of construction for the brand new Josiah Quincy Upper School building in Chinatown. It was wonderful to be at such a boisterous, in-person event, joined by students from both the Josiah Quincy Upper and Elementary Schools. The students of the Josiah Quincy Upper School, and all Boston Public Schools, deserve access to 21st century learning environments that will foster their intellect and talents. The new JQUS building will further support our high school redesign work to increase rigor, close opportunity gaps, and advance equitable learning experiences for all of our students, from preschool to career. The Quincy School will participate in the International Baccalaureate Program, which provides an English bi-literacy curriculum and inclusive programming for our students who speak multiple languages. Many of our students who attend the Quincy School are of Asian descent and are bilingual. I am so excited for the members of the Chinatown community who have advocated for a beautiful new facility for many years. I look forward to seeing this

On June 2nd BPS held its 14th Annual Wellness Summit, hosted by the Office of Health and Wellness. A highlight of the Summit is a special awards ceremony to honor schools' excellence in school wellness. The awards celebrate innovative, collaborative and shared leadership approaches to create sustainable, healthy, whole-school environments that advance students' healthy development and readiness to learn. I was pleased to be able to attend the event and honor 9 schools with an Excellence in School Wellness Award. These schools demonstrated a laser focus on uplifting and supporting school wellness in various areas of the policy. Congratulations to these schools and thank you for your work this year! We also awarded five

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schools with a Certificate of Recognition. Individual awards recognize the varied work that occurs throughout the district to support the District Wellness Policy. The awards recognize schools that found creative ways to adapt to the challenges of this year and to attend to the health and well being of students, staff, and families. We also celebrated the *Food and Nutrition Services Super Sites* for their outstanding work during this school year. The Food & Nutrition Services staff at these schools distributed over 6 million meals. They went above and beyond their usual duties to ensure that students and families received the nourishment they needed through a yearlong public health crisis. Congratulations to all these schools for your work this year! Thank you also to the Office of Health and Wellness for honoring these schools. We will receive an update from the Office of Health and Wellness during our next meeting.

We continue to engage with the community to discuss our incoming federal relief funding. We've met with parent groups, students, school leaders, families, and various partner organizations to discuss how to approach this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We've held multiple community meetings, including one last night and will host a few more on June 23rd, June 29th, and July 6th, leading up to our 30-day public review and comment period. School leaders are also engaging with their educators, staff, families, students and equity roundtables to discuss their ESSER allocations and begin their planning for their return this fall, a strong recovery for students, and a reimagining of more equitable and excellent programming at their schools. We also continue to meet with the ESSER Commission, convening internal and external stakeholders to leverage the support of our partners and involve them in the discussions to help us sustain these critical investments. We are excited for this historic opportunity and my team and I are committed to ensuring the federal funding is leveraged to directly support our students, from improvements in our facilities, to mental health supports for students, to professional development and support for our school teams. Information on our upcoming community meetings and Commission meetings is available at [bostonpublicschools.org/FederalReliefFunds21](https://bostonpublicschools.org/FederalReliefFunds21).

One other update on a topic I have discussed several times with the Committee. As you'll recall, I have prioritized student safety in our schools since I became Superintendent. From the work we did to alter the student information sharing policy to ensure we limit the types of reports that are written and how they are shared, to the hiring of Neva Coakely-Grice as the new Chief of Safety Services, this Committee and my team have been engaged in an ongoing process. Since Governor Baker signed legislation in January and the state released guidelines in late March, we have worked with city, state and local agencies that have been impacted by the law changes. We continue to communicate with BPS stakeholders, as well as community partners on strategies to redefine the role of our school safety officers. I want to commend all of our officers for their commitment to our students and schools. Many of them are graduates of our schools and have dedicated their careers to their work. They are mentors to students, coach sports teams, and contribute in many ways to school communities. With the new legislation taking effect on July 1, Deputy Superintendent DePina and Chief Coakely-Grice have been working with our officers and the union on a transition plan to ensure we are able to keep our team in place as a resource in schools while in compliance with the new state law. I will present an update on this at the meeting on June 30th, but wanted to note today that the partnership to enact this law, in a way that represents the important role of our School Safety team, remains a top priority for me and my team.



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I'd like to provide an update on our learning model options for next year. BPS remains focused on bringing the current school year to a close and launching a successful summer of learning, enrichment and engagement. We are also simultaneously planning for the 2021- 2022 school year. The current planning includes a return to full time in-person learning for all students and staff with the plan of bringing back our students in grades 1-12 on Thursday, September 9 and students in pre-K and Kindergarten on Monday, September 13. On May 27th, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) issued the following update to COVID-19 Guidance for Fall 2021 school reopening: "For the fall, all districts and schools will be required to be in-person, full-time, five days a week, and all DESE health and safety requirements will be lifted. This includes all physical distancing requirements. We will collaborate with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue any additional health and safety recommendations over the summer." Given that federal, state, and city guidance continue to evolve, it is too early to definitively confirm the health and safety measures that will be in place around mask wearing and COVID-19 testing. For now, the goal is to work with our families, educators, and School Leaders to ensure we are ready for the new school year in September 2021.

Boston Public Schools submitted a letter of interest to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to pursue an option for a virtual school after reviewing feedback from a family survey where interest was expressed. Given the short nature of the timeline that was set by the state and the need to focus on this school year and the next one, BPS is going to take additional time to determine next steps in pursuing a virtual option for students. We want to take the time to fully develop a proposal with our students, families, and educators and will work on those next steps. In the meantime, we will communicate with families to review feedback on the request for a virtual school option for the fall.

Finally, as mentioned, this is our final School Committee meeting of the school year. It has been one of, if not the most, challenging year in many of our professional careers and personal lives. I mentioned in my check-in with staff on Monday that I am in awe of all that we've accomplished this year. The Communications team put together a year in review video that I would like to show you now to close out my report.

That is my Superintendent's Report for this evening.

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Mr. DeAraujo asked why so few students have signed up for summer learning opportunities. The Superintendent cited transportation and scheduling concerns, noting that summer learning is not a full day program. She added that the district is working to address summer staffing gaps. She said that she plans to hire a principal to offer virtual learning opportunities for students but that the district will not be offering a virtual school this fall.

Dr. Coleman asked about the Campus Without Walls initiative. The Superintendent said that she plans to expand it.

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Ms. Luo asked what support the district will offer for students who do not feel safe returning to in-person learning. The Superintendent said that the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary education (DESE) is requiring students to return to in-person learning five days a week.

Mr. O'Neill said that he is providing assistance to BSAC with its revision of bylaws. He said that the Council of Great City Schools is offering guidance for school districts on spending ESSER funding. He recently attended several BPS high School graduation ceremonies, including Boston International Newcomers Academy (BINCA) and Boston Latin School (BLS). He congratulated School Committee administrative assistant Lena Parvex on son's graduation from BLS.

Ms. Robinson asked what changes are coming for the BPS school police. The Superintendent explained that school police will no longer have policing powers. The team will change its name, be trained in restorative justice practices, practice de-escalation and will likely be ununiformed. Ms. Robinson asked about summer transportation concerns. The Superintendent said that transportation will be provided for students with disabilities. School leaders will conduct outreach to families to ensure that all students have a summer plan.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Jessica Tang, president, Boston Teachers Union (BTU), testified regarding the BTU contact, heat, pilot schools, BSAC, and exam schools.
- Keysha Garcia, alumnus, Henderson Inclusion School and Sociedad Latina, testified in support of former School Committee Chair Alexandra Oliver-Davila.
- David Weaver, student, Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA), testified regarding BCLA's merger with the McCormack School.
- Lillianys Dejesus, student, Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA), testified regarding BCLA's merger with the McCormack School.
- Khasim Saeed, student, Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA), testified regarding BCLA's merger with the McCormack School.
- Amy Eneh, student, Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA), testified regarding BCLA's merger with the McCormack School.
- Mariaisabel Rojas, student, Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA), testified regarding BCLA's merger with the McCormack School.
- Jialin Chen, student, Boston Latin School, testified regarding exam schools admissions criteria.
- Shanti Deen, student, Boston Latin Academy, testified regarding the resignations of former School Committee members Alexandra Oliver-Davila and Dr. Lorna Rivera.
- Sean Ryan, testified regarding exam schools admissions criteria.
- Andrea Howard, community advocate, West End House Boys & Girls Club, testified regarding the resignations of former School Committee members Alexandra Oliver-Davila and Dr. Lorna Rivera.
- Tanya Nixon-Silberg, parent, SchoolFacts Boston, testified regarding Covid re-entry and

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success for all students.

- Michael Heichman, member, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding the resignations of former School Committee members Alexandra Oliver-Davila and Dr. Lorna Rivera.
- Abobomi Docanto, community advocate, SchoolFacts Boston, testified regarding Covid re-entry and success for all students.
- Vernee Wilkinson, community advocate, SchoolFacts Boston, testified regarding Covid re-entry and success for all students.
- Jimmy Wyman, parent, testified regarding the School Committee.
- Sharon Hinton, founder, Black Teachers Matter Inc. testified regarding School Committee vacancies and exam schools admissions.
- Ruby Reyes, executive director, Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding school police.
- Lucia Colombaro, parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Rachel Miselman, alumna, Boston Latin School, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Khymani James, youth advocate, testified regarding the resignations of former School Committee members Alexandra Oliver-Davila and Dr. Lorna Rivera.
- Lauren Margarita, Boston Coalition for Education Equity, testified in support of the work of the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force.
- Derun Li, parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Steve Yang, parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Yufang Rong, parent, Boston Latin School, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Lingsheng Dong, parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Sharon Kunz, parent, Hernandez K-8 School, testified in support of the work of the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force.
- Karyn Aiello, Boston Latin School alumna, testified in favor of exam schools admission reform.
- Stuart Wanfg, parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Peggy Wiesenber, community advocate, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Tom Song, parent, testified regarding education issues.
- Yuhong, Jia, parent, Kilmer K-8 School, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Rachel Young, parent, Sumner Elementary School, testified regarding before/after school care.
- Sarah Grandfield, parent, Boston Latin School, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Ayomide Olumuyiwa, BPS alumnus, testified regarding education issues.
- Shirley Chenweng, parent, Josiah Quincy Elementary School, testified regarding exam schools admissions.

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## **ACTION ITEMS**

Dr. Coleman requested that the district conduct an equity analysis of grants and in-kind donations.

**Approved** - On roll call, the Boston School Committee unanimously approved an in-kind donation of classroom furniture from Wayfair with a total estimated value of up to \$10,000 to the Lyndon Pilot K-8 School.

**Approved** - On roll call, the Boston School Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$45,578,367.

## **REPORTS**

***Renewal of Transdev Transportation Contract*** - Transportation Director Delavern Stanislaus

Known as Veolia at the time, Transdev began a five-year contract with BPS on July 1, 2013. The contract included five 1-year options for renewal, exercised at the City's discretion. BPS executed the 3rd option last year. The 4th of those options would be for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The current contract value is \$95 million.

BPS Transportation plans to go out to bid for the next Bus Operator contract early this winter and potentially switch vendors for School Year (SY) 2022-23 in an effort to create positive long-term change for our students. BPS is in the process of procuring an external vendor to support research into how to best structure and draft the contract for bid. In the interim, the Superintendent is seeking approval to extend the current contract with Transdev for one year. Switching bus operators when the public health pandemic is just starting to resolve would not be in the best interest of students and families. BPS wants to prioritize stability and reliability with its current contractor this summer and fall rather than create another change in an already unprecedented situation. In the meantime, BPS will continue to work closely with Transdev to ensure that students receive safe and reliable yellow bus operations under the existing contract.

Dr. Coleman expressed appreciation for the district's thoughtful plan for next steps. Mr. O'Neill spoke about the high cost of transportation. He applauded the transportation department for its efforts to support the district's return to in-person learning. He praised the thoughtful process that went into the recommendation and said that he is supportive of a one-year renewal. Ms. Stanislaus thanked her team for their work. The School Committee will take action on the recommendation at the June 30th meeting.

***Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Update: Potential Areas for Consideration*** - Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Co-Chairs Tanisha Sullivan and Michael Contompasis presented an update on potential areas for consideration.

Building upon the work initiated by the Superintendent's Exam Schools Admissions Criteria Working Group, the Boston School Committee Exam Schools Admissions Task Force is charged with developing a set of recommendations for the admissions policy for Boston Public Schools exam schools. The desired outcome is to expand the applicant pool and create an admissions

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process that will support student enrollment at each of the exam schools such that rigor is maintained and the student body better reflects the racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of all students (K-12) in the city of Boston. The Task Force shall consider use of the new NWEA assessment and other factors, and leverage learning from a full review of the implementation of the SY 2021-22 admissions criteria, as well as a thorough review of practices in other districts.

To date, the Task Force has held 19 public meetings and two public listening sessions, including a student-led session. All meetings featured interpreters and documents were translated into the district's major languages. The Task Force engaged with six experts to understand best practices and how other cities have handled selective schools admissions. A roster of members and all meeting documents are publicly posted at [bostonpublicschools.org/esataskforce](https://bostonpublicschools.org/esataskforce).

The goal of the Task Force is to develop a recommendation for the exam school admissions process that maintains rigor and increases geographical, socioeconomic, and racial diversity. To achieve this, the Task Force is examining two buckets of work: eligibility and invitations. With regards to eligibility, the Task Force is considering a number of options, including assessment, grades, educator validation, student portfolio, and high poverty indicator. With regards to invitations, the Task Force is considering a number of options, including straight rank, qualified lottery, zip codes and census tract tiers. The Task Force is considering a phased recommendation: Phase 1 for SY22-23 admissions cycle due to the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic and Phase 2 for SY23-24 admissions cycle and beyond.

Moving forward, the Task Force is considering the following recommendations, among others:

- Annual Report: An annual report should be made to the School Committee to assess student admissions data.
- Policy Review: After 3 to 5 years, there should be a full policy review.
- Investments: We are recommending the school district understand more about the types of financial investments that may be needed to support rigor across all schools and provide support for admitted students.

The next Task Force meeting will take place on June 17. The School Committee and Task Force will co-host listening sessions on Tuesday, June 22 from 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday, June 23 4-6 p.m. The Task Force is scheduled to present its final recommendation to the Committee on June 30, followed by a vote of the School Committee in July.

Mr. DeAraujo offered words of support for people who attend and work at the exam schools. He said that he has heard concerns from immigrant families about engagement and translation, adding that he hopes that BPS can serve all students. Ms. Sullivan spoke about the importance of creating equal opportunities and access. Task Force member Matt Cregor spoke about the importance of expanding the socioeconomic and geographic diversity of the student body.

Ms. Luo asked about the use of zip codes. Mr. Contompasis spoke about using a separate zip code for homeless students and students in the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). He said that the Task Force is also considering ways to address the issue of families who are low income. Ms. Luo asked if a waiting list could be considered to fill the seats of students

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who drop out. Mr. Contompasis explained that school leaders over-invite because some students decline, adding that it is a topic of discussion among the Task Force. Ms. Luo advocated for the full funding of schools.

Dr. Coleman spoke about the importance of increasing rigor at the elementary school level. He asked for more clarity about how the impact of an academically qualified and diverse student body will be measured. Mr. Cregor that the Task Force would like the policy to be the subject of periodic review. He suggested measuring the benefits of racial, socioeconomic and geographic diversity through school climate surveys and wellness surveys.

Mr. Tran asked about the difference between an achievement measure and growth measure. Mr. Contompasis explained that the MAP test can be used for growth purposes by administering the test at two different points in time to measure growth. Ms. Sullivan said that the Task Force is discussing using an absolute score vs. growth score.

Mr. O'Neill spoke about the challenges of reaching consensus. He expressed concern about the process being too complicated for families to understand and encouraged the Task Force to keep families in mind when developing a final recommendation. He thanked the Task Force for emphasizing grades 4-6 preparedness. He asked about the timing of the recommendation and decision making process. Mr. Contompasis said that the process should move forward in order to provide families with stability, adding that delay would cause greater angst. Mr. O'Neill agreed that school leaders, teachers, families, and students need to know what the admissions process will be. Mr. O'Neill cautioned the Task Force to consider unintended consequences of any recommendation.

Ms. Robinson echoed Mr. O'Neill's comments about the importance of simplicity. She suggested that the district explore adding another exam school or providing each exam school with a second building to expand opportunities for those who want a rigorous experience.

Mr. DeAraujo spoke about the district's high school redesign work. He expressed support for expanding the exam schools.

***Superintendent's Composite Performance Evaluation, School Year 2020-2021*** - Dr. Coleman presented a report on the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation process for School Year 2020-21, an effort he has led on behalf of the Committee. Conducting an annual review of the Superintendent is among the chief duties of the School Committee. At the start of the fiscal year, the Committee and Superintendent Cassellius agreed on the Superintendent's Professional and System Goals. Starting in March, the Superintendent prepared a self-evaluation for the Committee to review. Each member reviewed that self-evaluation and completed an individual evaluation of her performance. Dr. Coleman prepared a composite summary of members' responses for presentation tonight and a subsequent vote at the June 30th Committee meeting.

Dr. Coleman set the context for this unusual pandemic year. He then reviewed the ratings for each domain and provided the Superintendent with the opportunity to provide feedback.

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**8 Domains and Rating:**

- Understands role and responsibilities as Superintendent - Effective (4)
- Commitment to Academic Excellence and Innovation – Effective (4)
- Productivity, Organizing, and Planning - Effective (3.6)
- Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Controls – Effective (4.4)
- Judgment and Decision Making – Developing (3.2)
- Collaboration/Teamwork – Effective (4)
- Focus on Equity and Excellent – Highly Effective (4.6 )
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills – Effective (4.2)
  
- Summary
  - Average of Domains - Effective (4)
  - Overall Rating – Effective (4.2)

**4 Standards and Ratings**

- Instructional Leadership – Proficient (2.75)
- Management and Operations – Proficient (2.75)
- Family and Community Engagement – Exemplary (3.75)
- Professional Culture – Proficient (3.25)
  
- Overall – Proficient (3)

Mr. DeAraujo praised the Superintendent for her successes and said he looks forward to continuing to work with her. Mr. O’Neill expressed concern about burnout, which is common among large district superintendents, especially in light of this pandemic year. Ms. Robinson thanked the Superintendent for tackling difficult issues. Mr. Tran explained that he feels that a rating of highly effective is deserving of someone who goes beyond what is expected of them.

Dr. Coleman discussed next steps. On June 30th, the Committee will vote on the Superintendent's final evaluation rating and consider a proposal to extend her contract for two years. He suggested that the Committee consider conducting a 360-evaluation for next year.

Mr. O’Neill clarified the terms of Superintendent Cassellius’ 2019 employment contract, which is a three-year contract with a two-year option to extend at the Committee's discretion with the

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Superintendent's approval. That option must be exercised in June of 2021 and can only be exercised if the Superintendent achieves a rating of proficient, or better, in her performance evaluation. If the Committee should choose no to exercise that option, the contract calls for an automatic 12-month notice to the superintendent of non-renewal. Mr. O'Neill said that he believes a non-renewal would do a disservice to the city and place BPS in a period of uncertainty. He praised the Superintendent for performing admirably under extremely difficult circumstances.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURN**

At approximately 11:10 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan  
Executive Secretary