



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 20, 2018

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on June 20, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, School Committee chamber, Roxbury, Massachusetts. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael Loconto; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Michael O'Neill; Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; and Dr. Miren Uriarte.

School Committee Member Absent: Vice Chairperson Hardin Coleman.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: June 6, 2018

In-Kind Donations Totaling \$80,780

- Boston Bruins - Boston Bruins Street Hockey Set – Districtwide - \$72,000
- PwC - Lego Mosaics - Mattapan Early Education School - \$7,200
- PwC - UBTECH Jimu Robot - Perkins Elementary School - \$1,580

Grants for Approval Totaling \$37,934,026

- Eos Foundation's Nourishing Kids Initiative (NKI) – Trotter- \$10,000
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program – Districtwide - \$1,794,000
- Puerto Rico Displaced Students – Districtwide - \$130,026
- School Lunch - Districtwide - \$36,000,000

International Travel Request: Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps – Ghana – July 10-22, 2018 (Group 1)

School Committee Meeting
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
School Committee Chamber

June 20, 2018

International Travel Request: Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps – Ghana – August 5-17, 2018 (Group 2)

Massachusetts Association of School Committees Annual Membership Dues, SY 2017-2018: \$7,575

Arts Education Policy Revision PowerPoint

Arts Education Policy Revision Vote Impact Statement

Boston Public Schools Arts Education Policy (Revision), May 2018

Arts in Education Policy Recommendations Boston Public Schools Executive Summary

Academic and Student Supports for Equity Team (ASSET) Update 2018 and Equity Impact Statement

Office of Engagement Reorganization Update and Equity Impact Statement

BPE Dearborn Memorandum of Understanding and Equity Impact Statement

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Loconto led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order. He thanked Madison Park Technical Vocational High School students Autasia Fuentes-Little; La Ryan Campbell; and Taya Henderson for providing snacks for the Committee. The students recently won the district's *Cooking Up Change* competition, which challenges high school culinary students to create healthy, great-tasting meals that meet the real-life requirements of the national school meal program.

CITATIONS

The Committee and Superintendent Chang presented citations to the following members of the Boston Debate League who recently won top honors for their skills in debate.

Falianne Forges, Boston Latin Academy
Adna Mohamed, Boston Latin Academy

Urban Debate National Championships - Boston Qualifiers
Urban Debate National Championships – Semi-finalists (Placed 3rd in country)
Boston Debate League 2017-2018 Season - 1st Place Finish

June 20, 2018

Jakhi Dean, New Mission High School
Denzer Jean Francois, New Mission High School

Urban Debate National Championships - Boston Qualifiers
Boston Debate League 2017-2018 Season - 2nd Place Finish

Chairperson Loconto also congratulated McCormack Middle School students Carina Spinola and Sammi Nguyen, winners of the Boston Debate League City Championships.

The Committee and Superintendent presented citations to the following winners of the 2018 Rodman's Ride Essay Competition:

- Adjany Brutus
- Albert Deblas
- Andrew Ho
- Angela Cao
- Bryana Cueto
- Donell Rankins
- Helen Adeyemo
- Ngan Vo
- Shanakay Gillespie
- Tania Alvarado
- Teyah Davis
- Thens Duviella

MEETING MINUTES

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the June 6, 2018 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening everyone. As tonight is the last School Committee meeting of the 2018-2019 school year, I would like to take a few minutes to recap some of the major developments in the district over the past 10 months. While there is always a lot more work we can and must do, I'm proud that we've accomplished quite a bit this year. Here are some of the highlights from this school year:

In September, we partnered with Revolution Foods to help us ensure that our students are fed with healthy and appetizing food to fuel their learning throughout the day. All of Revolution Foods' meals are freshly prepared, allowing us for the first time to virtually eliminate the use of frozen food in those of our schools that do not have full-service kitchens. This new partnership essentially eliminated the district's reliance on frozen food for school meals. Revolution Foods is

June 20, 2018

deepening its commitment to making nutritious meals available to students in Boston by expanding production at a new, 27,000-square-foot culinary center in Newmarket Square. Since it opened operation here, Rev Foods has:

- Created over 80 new jobs in the Boston community.
- Served over 5.3 million meals across 84 schools in Boston, featuring chef-crafted and kid-inspired menu items, including mini cheese omelets with whole grain French toast sticks, chicken drumsticks with rice and collard greens, veggie chef salad, and BBQ-rubbed chicken breast sandwiches served on whole wheat buns.

In April, we celebrated the expansion of the Hub and Spoke program, announcing funding for the construction of kitchens in 30 district schools, increasing the number of students who have access to fresh, healthy meals cooked on-site by BPS. The Hub and Spoke kitchen model began at 4 schools in East Boston last spring. This program is the result of a partnership between the Shah Family Foundation and BPS Food and Nutrition Services Department, with design and construction work facilitated by the City of Boston Public Facilities Department. Not only are we providing better access to healthy food, but more students are eating the food because it's delicious and they have a choice.

In October, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released its 2017 MCAS results and the data showed that the number of 10th-grade students scoring proficient or advanced in MCAS mathematics tests reached an all-time high. The proportion of BPS 10th-graders scoring proficient or advanced in math climbed to 67 percent — a 1 percentage point over the previous year and 8 percentage points since 2009. The district also saw gains in the scores of several student subgroups. The proportion of Black students achieving proficient or advanced in 10th-grade math rose by 3 points, from 58 percent in 2016 to 61 percent in 2017. Meanwhile, the number of students with disabilities who scored proficient or advanced increased by 2 percentage points, from 27 percent in 2016 to 29 percent in 2017, as did the rate for economically disadvantaged students, which rose from 59 percent in 2016 to 61 percent in 2017.

In January, BPS released an important study showing that Extended Learning Time (ELT) *has had* a significant impact on improving student achievement for BPS students. The study used a decade's worth of MCAS test score data, from the 2005-06 school year through the 2015-16 school years, and found the most pronounced gains in academic achievement were for the district's most traditionally marginalized students. Black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students in ELT schools saw the largest gains in Math and ELA MCAS scores compared with their peers in non-ELT schools, with CPI scores increasing between 2.9 and 7.7 points on a 100-point scale. English Language Learners also outperformed their peers in Math by an average of 7.2 points according to the study, which was conducted by BPS in partnership with the American Institutes for Research. The City of Boston invested \$14 million this year to expand the school day to an additional 39 schools, allowing more than 15,000 students to benefit from extended learning time. With the added investment, BPS has now implemented extended learning time in 57 schools, serving over 23,000 students in only three years as a part of Mayor Walsh's initiative to expand the day in all traditional elementary, middle, and K-8 schools — an effort that is proven to close opportunity and achievement gaps for students.

June 20, 2018

In February, the state released data that showed our 4-year graduation rate for the 2016-17 school year climbed to 72.7 percent, a 14.8 point increase since the 2006-2007 school year. BPS also significantly increased the graduation rate of students who earned a diploma within five years. Altogether, 78.4 percent of all students who entered high school as freshmen in 2012 graduated within 5 years of entering high school, up from 76 percent the year before. This means that an additional 251 students, after receiving an extra year of high school, received diplomas in 2017. In addition to improving the graduation rate, BPS has made considerable gains in reducing its annual dropout rate, which fell districtwide by nearly 1 percentage point from 2016 to 2017. The dropout rate also declined for all major racial subgroups.

In April, BPS was one of two large school districts nationwide to make a significant gain in eighth-grade reading, according to the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as “The Nation’s Report Card.” Additionally, BPS is 1 of only 6 districts to make significant gains since 2015 on NAEP, out of a total of 27 participating large public school districts. BPS was also 1 of 8 districts to make significant gains over the past decade.

In November, EdVestors, a school improvement organization in Boston, awarded its \$100,000 Thomas W. Payzant School on the Move Prize to the Mildred Avenue K-8 School in Mattapan for its tremendous achievement in improved school performance. Fellow finalist schools, the PJ Kennedy Elementary and the McKay K-8 School, both in East Boston, each received \$10,000 prizes. The School on the Move Prize spotlights the daunting, yet less publicized, achievements of individual Boston Public Schools making significant strides in improving educational outcomes for students. All three schools have shown tremendous progress and provide a model for schools across the city.

Earlier this spring, BPS received an award for being one of the most proactive districts in the state when it comes to testing drinking water in schools. In a ceremony at the Massachusetts State House, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded BPS and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission the Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead Award “for taking steps to reduce lead in school drinking water and to do so with extremely encouraging results.”

In March, the School Committee passed the \$1.109 billion BPS budget, marking the largest in City history, and a \$48 million increase over last year’s budget. The BPS budget has increased by \$170 million, or 18 percent, over the past 5 years. During the same time, BPS has continued to achieve its highest 4-year high-school graduation rate and more high-ranking Level 1 and 2 schools than ever before.

The FY 18-19 Budget features investments in:

- individual school budgets
- extended learning time
- hiring effective teachers
- supports for students experiencing homelessness
- an empowerment program for young men of color, among other vital supports.

June 20, 2018

Just a few weeks ago, the Mattahunt Elementary School in Mattapan celebrated the restoration of the school building's original name after a months-long community process. After nearly 100 suggestions for school names were solicited from community members, the Boston School Committee voted to name the school the Mattahunt once again, honoring the Native American tribe that once inhabited Mattapan. Additionally, the school's first-in-the-nation Haitian-Creole pre-K dual language program that we launched last September was officially named the Toussaint L'Ouverture Academy — after the leader of the Haitian Revolution.

Now onto some recent bright spots from across the district. I want to congratulate all of our student athletes who find the time to balance the demands of their academics and their sports. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge some championship teams who make us proud:

- The Condon K-8 School girls track team won the 2018 Girls Middle School Outdoor Track & Field City League Championship, in the school's first year participating in the middle school track and field program.
- The Boston Latin School baseball team is headed to the state semifinals for the first time ever and the game is tonight! The Wolfpack won the D1 North championship on Sunday, coming from behind to beat Lowell on that team's home field. They'll be playing the D1 South champions, Needham, tonight in Brockton. The winner of the game will play in the state finals on Sunday. Good luck to BLS tonight!

On Thursday, June 7 we held our final assembly of the year for our Stay in School program, a partnership with the Boston Celtics and the Arbella Insurance Foundation.

- Founded during the 1990-91 school year/NBA season, this is the longest-running community initiative in all of American professional sports.
- We celebrated over 700 middle school students with perfect attendance records this school year, as well as members of the “3 Year Club” - those students with perfect attendance from 6th through 8th grade.
- Congrats to these students for being so dedicated to their education.

June is Pride Month and the city and district have been celebrating all month long. It was great to see many of our community members take to the streets to show their support for the LGBTQ community. The United States Conference of Mayors also happened to be convening in Boston that weekend, and dozens of mayors from across the country marched alongside Mayor Walsh, which was wonderful for our country and city to see. We've also celebrated Pride Month in our schools, with the Gardner Pilot Academy holding its first Pride Day on June 11. Coinciding with Pride Day, the school was awarded the Seal of Excellence by the Human Rights Campaign for its inclusive practices. Only 12 schools in the country have received the Human Rights Campaign's Seal of Excellence Award. During the Pride Day, students, staff, and parents arranged themselves into a rainbow flag, with students dressing in a different color that day, depending on their grade.

In the span of five hours, volunteers from AbbVie, a global biopharma company with a research facility in Cambridge, completely transformed the library at the Holmes School into a “makerspace” on June 12. A “makerspace” is a modern area or workspace for computer and

June 20, 2018

technology exploration and sharing of ideas and knowledge. The renovated library will now feature a large mural in celebration of STEM learning, materials for robotics challenges and creative projects, new tables, iPads, a mobile touch-screen television, a mobile cart for a 3D printer, and of course new books! The effort was organized by the Heart of America Foundation, which connects schools with corporate volunteers.

Another contest we held recently was to select the artwork for the cover of the 2018-2019 Guide to BPS for Students & Families. Last year we featured student artwork on the cover of the guidebook for the first time, at least in recent history. This year our Communications Office, which produces the guidebook, decided to get input from members of the entire BPS community as to which artwork they'd like to see grace the cover of the guide. We extended an invitation to all of our schools to submit student-produced works of art for consideration, then had a selection committee narrow the more than 50 submissions down to five. The five entries were part of an online contest that generated hundreds of votes. The winner was this colorful, collaborative work by 23 students at the Clap School! We're hoping to get some of those students here for a future School Committee meeting. (They were not able to make it here tonight.) We look forward to seeing this beautiful work of art displayed on the guidebook when it's distributed to our families come September.

The district held its second annual Excellence for All (EFA) Capstone Showcase last Friday, June 15, at the Reggie Lewis Center. Excellence for All is an initiative I am particularly passionate about, as it stems from my initial 100 Day Plan when I became superintendent of this district. This program expands access to rigorous curriculum and enriching learning opportunities to a wider, more diverse segment of the student population. The showcase featured projects from 4th and 5th grade students at 13 schools in the district - projects ranging from students researching their ancestry to students applying their Mandarin language coursework to creating food menus. EFA in September will expand into the 6th grade for the 5th grade students in the program now. We see this program having positive impacts for our students through high school and beyond.

In closing, I want to remind all of our students to stay healthy, safe and engaged this summer. I want to wish all of our graduates a successful journey as you transition into college, careers and the next chapters of your life. For those students who will be returning to BPS next year, have fun over the summer, and enjoy your youth. But don't forget to be productive and enrich your minds, to prevent the summer slide. We want you to be ready and excited to learn when you return in September. That concludes my report tonight.

Ms. Regina Robinson said that she recently attended the BPS Middle School track competition, the Robotics Olympics and a meeting of women educators of color, praising all of the participants and organizers.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila congratulated all of the 2018 BPS graduates and encouraged them to join the BPS alumni network. She also thanked Suffolk University for recently hosting a sleepover for the Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSBOC) asked to hear feedback about the experience.

June 20, 2018

Dr. Uriarte thanked the Madison Park students for providing food samples.

Chairperson Loconto congratulated the Gardner Pilot Elementary School for recently earning the Welcoming Schools' Seal of Excellence from the Human Rights Campaign. The John F. Kennedy Elementary School became the first school in Massachusetts to earn the Seal in 2015. Mr. Loconto also praised the Holmes Elementary School library makeover, which was designed by a senior at TechBoston Academy.

The School Committee approved the Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Christine Adreani, Boston resident, testified regarding her experience with the home-based student assignment system.

Jamari Searcy, student, McCormack Middle School, testified regarding the potential redevelopment of the Columbia Point School Properties parcel.

Odie Calhoun, Dorchester resident, testified regarding the potential redevelopment of the Columbia Point School Properties parcel and Build BPS.

Megan Wolf, member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), testified regarding Build BPS and community engagement.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Loconto announced that Ms. Oliver-Dávila would be abstaining from the grant for Displaced Students from Puerto Rico to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest with her employer, Sociedad Latina.

Committee members praised the international trips to Ghana and thanked BPS Global Education Director Brittany Wheaton Calloway for her service as she transitions out of BPS.

Ms. Regina Robinson asked BPS Food Services Director Laura Benavidez about the fresh fruits and vegetables grant. Mr. O'Neill asked Ms. Benavidez to discuss the benefits and challenges of incorporating breakfast in the classroom.

Approved – The Committee approved, by roll call, a grant for Displaced Students from Puerto Rico in the amount of \$130,206. Ms. Oliver-Davila abstained. All other members voted in favor.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved in kind donations with a total estimated value of \$80,780.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$37,804,000.

June 20, 2018

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request from the BPS Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps for students and chaperones to travel to Ghana from July 10-22, 2018 (Group 1).

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request from the BPS Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps for students and chaperones to travel to Ghana from August 5-17, 2018 (Group 2).

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved the payment of annual membership dues to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees in the amount of \$7,575.

Approved – The Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, a revised Arts Education Policy.

REPORTS

ASSET Update – Leaders of the district’s Academic and Student Supports for Equity Team (ASSET) presented an update on their collective work. Dr. Doannie Tran, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Academics and Professional Learning, Priya Tahiliani, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of English Language Learners, Dr. Colin Rose, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps, Cindie Neilson, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Special Education co-presented. Assistant Superintendent of Social Emotional Learning & Wellness Amalio Nieves, who is also part of the ASSET team, was unable to attend.

The BPS instructional vision – the Essentials for Instructional Equity (EIE) – is grounded in the work of Culturally and Linguistically Sustainable Practice (CLSP), with the aim of closing opportunity and achievement gaps. The ASSET team presented updates on four key projects that are leading the district’s adoption and implementation of the Essentials for Instructional Equity. The projects, which include development of Essentials courses and resources, Principal professional learning communities, a pilot of the CLASS evaluation tool, and development of a multi-tiered systems of support have been executed with the goal of improving the strength and quality of our system.

Committee members applauded the collaboration among BPS departments and asked questions about accountability, school supports, and lessons learned, all of which were answered by the presenters. Ms. Oliver-Davila and Ms. Regina Robinson encouraged more focus on family engagement. Dr. Uriarte thanked former Deputy Superintendent Karla Estrada for creating the ASSET team.

Office of Engagement Reorganization Update – Monica Roberts, assistant superintendent for the Office of Engagement (OoE), presented an update on the reorganization of her office. The comprehensive restructuring is designed to enhance how it develops and implements community engagement strategies in order to better utilize the capacity of all stakeholders and the district to

June 20, 2018

provide more equitable outcomes for students and families. As part of her presentation, Ms. Roberts presented a revised organization chart of the OoE.

OoE recently launched the BPS Community Engagement Advisory Council to focus on three areas of work: Build BPS, the Opportunity Index, and School Start Times. The Council is comprised of a broad range of key stakeholders who will co-design and lead an authentic community engagement process for each initiative. To date, 24 organizations have confirmed their participation, with more expected. The first meeting of the Council is scheduled for July 17th. Meeting notes will be publicly available within three business days of each meeting, with a quarterly report out. Ms. Roberts asked the community to be open to the process and work with district to address challenges.

Mr. O'Neill asked questions about OoE staffing and representation on the Citywide Parents Council (CPC) before suggesting that OoE assign a staff person to coordinate with the CPC. He also encouraged OoE to increase its social media presence and learn from best practices outside of Boston.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the OoE team for their work and said that all BPS staff in all departments must take ownership of engagement work. She requested a list of engagement touch points at schools and asked for greater representation of Latino and community-based organizations on the Community Engagement Advisory Council. Ms. Oliver-Davila suggested that the district consider hiring someone with experience in planning processes. She thanked Sonia Gomez-Banrey for the leading district's efforts to support displaced students from Puerto Rico.

Ms. Jeri Robinson asked the district to ensure that parents are well represented on the Community Engagement Advisory Council.

Ms. Regina Robinson encouraged OoE to build upon the expertise and leadership of parents. She also asked the Superintendent to consider making the Council meetings open to the public. She cited the Otis Elementary School as an example of a school that does family engagement well.

Dr. Uriarte expressed concern about the impact of the reduction in OoE budget and staffing over the years. She noted the difference between family engagement and community engagement, and emphasized the importance of building trust.

Chairperson Loconto encouraged the district to narrow its focus for the scope and charge of the Council, suggesting the creation of a unified and simple narrative for the group's shared goals.

BPE Dearborn Memorandum of Understanding – Dan Anderson, executive director of Strategy, and Jesse Solomon, executive director of BPE, provided an overview of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the organization's continued operation of the Dearborn STEM Academy. As part of this two-year agreement, the Dearborn will be more closely monitored and supported by BPS, including school leader supervision and professional

June 20, 2018

development. The MOU also emphasizes a focus on BPE completing the design of a STEM plan that will include diverse and rigorous experiences, with BPS supporting BPE's efforts.

Committee members asked a number of questions about challenges, engagement, enrollment, curriculum, and support for the Cape Verdean community, all of which were answered by Mr. Solomon.

Mr. O'Neill encouraged the school to offer more project-based learning, consider expanding to a STEAM focus, and to be a good neighbor.

Chairperson Loconto said that the Dearborn has more work to do in terms of raising MCAS scores and strengthening its STEM curriculum. He thanked Mr. Solomon for having the Dearborn adopt the BPS Code of Conduct.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the MOU at its July 16th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

John Mudd, advocate, testified regarding opportunity and achievement gaps.

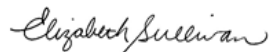
NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

At approximately 11 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary