



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION

June 27, 2018

The Boston School Committee held an executive session on June 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, room 5-43, 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

Tommy Chang's employment contract

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Chairperson Loconto called the executive session to order. He discussed the recent mutual decision by Mayor Walsh and Superintendent Chang to part ways and asked the Committee to empower him to reach a separation agreement with Dr. Chang. Members agreed. Chairperson Loconto noted that Dr. Chang's current salary is \$267,000 and that the agreement would align with the terms of his employment contract. He explained that he had vetted the matter carefully with the Office of the Legal Advisor, which determined that upon acceptance of former Superintendent Chang's resignation, the body had the authority to negotiate his separation agreement. The Legal Advisor determined that there was no requirement for the Committee to vote on the matter in an open meeting since it did not involve the hiring, terminating or reviewing of a superintendent, nor involve the approval of a policy or a budget. Several members expressed a desire to treat Dr. Chang consistent with the separation terms in his employment agreement; Chairperson Loconto concurred.

Boston School Committee Executive Session

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
Room 5-43
Roxbury, MA 02119

June 27, 2018

Members expressed sadness and frustration that some media reports have unfairly linked Dr. Chang's departure to a lawsuit involving U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), noting Dr. Chang's steadfast commitment to immigrant families. They agreed that the Chairperson would issue a public statement to clarify the issue. Committee members praised Dr. Chang's focus on instruction, diversity, and equity, and expressed a desire to move forward positively as a team with a focus on students.

Chairperson Loconto shifted the conversation to the position of Interim Superintendent, who must provide short-term stability for the district. The Committee discussed and agreed upon three major priorities for the Interim Superintendent: opening the new school year smoothly in September; leading authentic engagement in three major project areas: off track youth, home based equity assignment, and Build BPS; and building on the district's work in key areas such as Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Practices, Social Emotional Learning and Wellness, and closing opportunity and achievement gaps.

Members agreed that there is no clear internal candidate for the position. Chairperson Loconto said that he and Mayor Walsh recommend for the position Laura Perille, a former BPS parent and executive director of EdVestors, the non-profit school improvement organization. He noted that Ms. Perille has deep experience as a BPS parent and partner, and knows BPS schools and school leaders well. The Committee discussed setting benchmarks for the interim superintendent and offering coaching. Chairperson Loconto recommended scheduling a School Committee meeting for Monday, July 2nd, at which time the Committee would vote to offer the position of interim superintendent to Ms. Perille. He proposed holding an executive session immediately before the meeting to discuss the terms of a contract.

Members discussed the search for a permanent superintendent and their collective desire for an expedited process. The most recent search that brought Dr. Chang to BPS will serve as a roadmap for the upcoming search process. Chairperson Loconto affirmed his faith in the Committee as a dedicated team that is committed to serving students. Committee members expressed a desire for an authentic, transparent search process.

ADJOURN

At approximately 7:55 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the executive session. The Committee did not return to public session.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary