



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

**June 12, 2019**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on June 12, 2019 at 4:30 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](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org), email [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:feedback@bostonpublicschools.org) or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

### **ATTENDANCE PRIOR TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael Loconto; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; and Quoc Tran.

School Committee Members Absent: Vice Chairperson Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; and Michael O'Neill

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

International Travel Request: Boston Latin Academy – Italy – July 24-31, 2019

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School – Scotland – August 1-10, 2019

Maximum Age Enrollment Policy Revision Equity Impact Statement

Memo from Interim Superintendent Laura Perille to Boston School Committee Re: Maximum Age Assignment and Enrollment Policy

Revised Maximum Age Assignment Policy PowerPoint

Draft Superintendent's Circular AMT-5: Revised Maximum Age Assignment and Enrollment Policy

Superintendent's Circular AMT-5: Maximum Age Assignment and Enrollment Policy

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In-Kind Donations with a Total Estimated Value of \$500,564.42:

<b>Donor Name</b>	<b>Donated Item(s)</b>	<b>BPS Recipient (Site)</b>	<b>BPS Vendor (Y/N)</b>	<b>Estimated Value (provided by donor)</b>
Boston Calm	Weighted lap pads, interactive stuffed animals, fidget toys	Special Education dept	No	\$968.79
Lang Lang International Music Foundation	Roland Piano labs, including electric pianos, music curriculum, and teacher professional development	Edison K8 School; John F Kennedy School	No	\$100,000.00
Martellus Bennett & I Love Boston Sports Store	128 copies of Martellus Bennett's book <u>Dear Black Boy</u> in coordination with the author reading the book to 2nd & 3rd graders at the Mildred Ave. K-8 School	BPS Elementary and Middle Schools via Library Services	No	\$2,000.00
DonorsChoose.org*	Various School Projects, January to May	BPS Schools (see attached)	No	\$397,595.63

Grants for Approval Totaling \$1,203,144:

<b>Amount</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Sites</b>
\$10,000	2020	Career and Technical Education Partnership Planning Grant	New	Madison Park
\$40,000	2020	ESOL Culinary Training	New	Madison Park
\$7,164	2020	GED/HiSET Testing Program	New	Madison Park
\$673,750	2019	Higginson School Playground	New	Higginson
\$30,000	2020	i3 Scale Up Grant	New	Brighton and Excel
\$440,200	2019	Otis School Playground	New	Otis
\$2,000	2019	WGBH Ready To Learn Community Collaborative For Early Learning & Media	New	Madison Park

BPS District Wellness Policy Update: Comprehensive Health Education PowerPoint

District Wellness Policy: Recommended Changes to Comprehensive Health Ed Policy Section Equity Impact Statement

Memo from Interim Superintendent Laura Perille to Boston School Committee Re: Update on BuildBPS Progress and Upcoming Announcements, May 19, 2019

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McCormack and Boston Community Leadership Academy: Merger for a New 7-12 School and Associated K-6 Grade Reconfigurations PowerPoint

McCormack and Boston Community Leadership Academy Merger for a New 7-12 School and Associated K-6 Grade Reconfigurations Equity Impact Statement

BuildBPS K-6 Expansion for SY 2020-21 PowerPoint

BuildBPS Grade Reconfigurations Equity Impact Statement

Middle School Gen-Ed Pathways Map

Boston S Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) Annual Report

Boston Student Advisory Council End of Year Report Equity Impact Statement

Boston School Committee (BSC) - Boston Teachers Union (BTU) Tentative Agreement

Tentative Agreement with Boston Teachers Union Equity Impact Statement

Boston School Committee (BSC) – Department of Planning and Engineering, SEIU, Local 888 Tentative Agreement

Academics and Student Support Service for Equity Team (ASSET) 2018-2019 SY Review

ASSET Equity Impact Statement

UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester Presentation to the Boston School Committee

Extension Amendment between the Boston Public Schools and the UP Academy Charter School of Boston, A Horace Mann Charter School

UP Academy Charter School of Boston Charter School Accountability Plan

Extension Amendment between the Boston Public Schools and the UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester, A Horace Mann Charter School

UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester Charter School Accountability Plan

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Loconto called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

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## **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairperson Loconto announced that the Committee would immediately adjourn to executive session to discuss strategy related to negotiations with the Boston Teachers Union. To have such a discussion in an open session would have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position. The Committee will return to public session.

*Approved* – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn to executive session to conduct a strategy session related to negotiations with the Boston Teachers Union.

The Committee returned to public session at 5:20 p.m.

## **ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael Loconto; Vice Chairperson Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael O'Neill; Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; Quoc Tran; and student representative Evelyn Reyes.

School Committee Members Absent: None.

## **CITATIONS**

The Committee and Interim Superintendent presented citations to the following graduating seniors who are active members of the Boston Student Advisory Council, the primary vehicle for student voice and youth engagement in Boston Public Schools:

- Stanley Aneke, Boston Latin Academy
- Ebunoluwa Osinubi, New Mission High School
- Henry Swiman, Boston Latin Academy
- Adam Sazama, Boston Latin School
- Ahria Ilyas, Boston Latin Academy
- Jovan Johnson, Excel High School
- Jzantay Howard, New Mission High School
- Kevin Kiami, Boston Latin School
- Nashalie Johnson Pena, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers

Mr. Loconto congratulated to the following BSAC members who were unable to attend the meeting:

- Sophia Kenneally, Boston Latin Academy
- Julien Marouse, Mary Lyon Pilot School
- Delany Meehan, Mary Lyon Pilot School
- Jairam Rou, Boston Latin School

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- Shailany Ortega, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers
- Kendra Allen-Gerald, New Mission High School

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MAY 22, 2019**

**Approved** - The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the May 22, 2019 School Committee meeting.

### **INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*\*As prepared for delivery.*

Good evening. Thank you everyone for joining us tonight. I'm guessing the non-BPS staff in attendance are not big Bruins fans! That being said, LET'S GO Bruins! We have an early start to tonight's meeting because there is quite a bit on the agenda. With that, I'll touch on some recent district highlights.

This past Saturday, about 250 of us from the Boston Teachers Union and the Boston Public Schools marched together in the 49th Annual Boston Pride Parade to celebrate the diversity of our students and staff. The weather was gorgeous, the sun was shining strong, and the sense of community was even stronger. It was really wonderful to see the reaction that our students received as they marched through the city streets, joined by their friends, families, and fellow BPS community members. It was great to stand in solidarity with Dr. Cassellius our incoming superintendent, BTU President Jessica Tang, school leaders and BPS staff. Students were well represented too, from the Condon, the Guild, East Boston High, the Curley, Charlestown High, Snowden, TechBoston Academy, and others. I can't wait to see the turnout for next year's 50th anniversary of the Boston Pride Parade, as we continue to advocate for spaces that are safe, inclusive and welcoming to all.

Continuing with the theme of embracing our diversity, today Mayor Walsh, Dr. Cassellius and other district leaders and City officials joined me in celebrating the Guild Elementary School receiving the Welcoming Schools Seal of Excellence from the Human Rights Campaign. The Welcoming Schools program provides professional development and resources to help schools take a comprehensive approach to school climate by fostering inclusion, celebrating family diversity, and preventing bias-based bullying. The Guild is just the 16th school to receive the national honor, but the third in our district (and in the state). The Guild joins the Gardner in Allston, which received the award last year, and the JF Kennedy, which was the first BPS school to receive this honor in 2015. I want to applaud the great work of Guild Principal Karen McCarthy and her staff, including 2019 Educator of the Year and school psychologist Jillian Archer. I also have to thank the consistently great work of the BPS Office of Equity, particularly Assistant Superintendent Becky Shuster and Director of Training and Accommodations Steven Chen.

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Mr. Loconto congratulated all of the BPS graduating seniors and scholarship recipients.

Ms. Perille thanked Boston School Committee Executive Secretary Liz Sullivan for organizing the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual BPS Valedictorians Luncheon on May 28, 2019. The luncheon honored the top students from 35 BPS high schools.

Dr. Coleman asked the district to report back to the Committee how much Boston-based higher education institutions contributed to scholarships for BPS students this year, and to provide subsequent annual reports.

Mr. O'Neill noted that many of this year's valedictorians plan to attend Northeastern University as recipients of the Northeastern's BPS Valedictorian Scholarship.

**Approved** - The Committee approved the Interim Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Grace Plunkett, student, Kenny Elementary School, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 model.

Lily Dahlbeck, student, Kenny Elementary School, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 model.

Jaryn Le, student, Kenny Elementary School, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 model.

Mary Smoyer, board member, Friends of Boston Schoolyards, testified in favor of prioritizing outdoor learning experiences for students.

Alicia Zipp, board member, Friends of Boston Schoolyards, testified in favor of prioritizing outdoor learning experiences for students.

Sarah Gardner, board member, Friends of Boston Schoolyards, testified in favor of prioritizing outdoor learning experiences for students.

Mike Heichman, Boston resident and education advocate, testified regarding the Promise Act and grade configurations.

Bobby Jenkins, testified regarding grade configurations.

Mario Delci, Kenny School Parent Council Representative, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 model.

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Karen Plunkett, Kenny School Parent Council Representative, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 model.

Mimi Turchinez, Boston City Council candidate, testified regarding grade configurations.  
Peggy Wieseberg, education advocate, testified regarding feeder schools.

Alex Dahlbeck, parent, Kenny School, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 model.

Dr. Colles Price, parent, Kenny School, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 model.

Emma Pattan, teacher, Kenny School, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 model.

Mary Battenfeld, BPS parent, testified regarding grade configurations

Ruby Reyes, director, Boston Educational Justice Alliance, testified regarding grade configurations and the Promise Act.

Maria Christina Blanco, Boston Community Leadership Academy Governing Board member, testified regarding the proposed merger of BCLA with the McCormack Middle School.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Ms. Perille noted that two of the grants for approval before the Committee will support schoolyard renovations at the Higginson and Otis schools through the City's Community Preservation Act.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila suggested that the district explore the creation of a pathway for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) culinary program graduates to employment opportunities with the BPS Department of Food and Nutrition Services.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin Academy to travel to Italy from July 24-31, 2019.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to Scotland from August 1-10, 2019

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved in-kind donations with a total estimated value of \$500,564.42.

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**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$1,203,144.

Mr. O’Neill said that he supports the revised maximum age student assignment and enrollment policy. He expressed concern about funding, staffing and training implications for the Re-Engagement Center, which will take on additional responsibilities under the revised policy. He said that he will watch closely to make sure that the district provides adequate supports to implement the policy.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila expressed support for the revised policy. She echoed Mr. O’Neill’s concerns about proper staffing in the Re-Engagement Center. Mr. Welch said district is committed to supporting Re-Engagement Center in the next budget season.

Mr. Tran expressed support for the revised policy, saying it will benefit immigrant students.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the revised maximum age student assignment and enrollment policy.

Dr. Rivera and Dr. Coleman asked clarifying questions about grade configurations vote. Ms. Perille clarified that the grade configuration vote before the Committee this evening is a vote on a preferred strategy, and that decisions impacting individual schools would be made operationally.

Mr. Loconto read the motion aloud for the record: “Ordered, that the Boston School Committee hereby adopts a grade configuration strategy by which the Boston Public Schools is primarily a K-6/7-12 and K-8/9-12 system, offering BPS students educational experiences that require fewer transitions for most students, while still offering the choice of various options.”

Mr. O’Neill expressed support for the proposal, which promises to reduce transitions while preserving family choice. He said that the Committee has been discussing grade configurations for years and said that the issue is the chief complaint he hears from parents. He noted that Dr. Cassellius has expressed her commitment to preserving a strong middle school strategy to meet the unique needs of middle-school age students. He expressed concern about the impact the strategy could have on schools that remain K-5, and suggested accelerating conversations with the remaining K-5 schools. He encouraged the district to have a heightened sensitivity and more communication with those schools.

Ms. Perille said that the proposed strategy would minimize transitions for students which research demonstrates can be harmful. She noted that district has already been operating under an accelerated timeline to plan K-6 expansions.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that she supports the strategy, adding that she would like to the district be more explicit in communicating its strategy to support middle school age students.



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Ms. Robinson urged the district to be mindful of supporting impacted schools in the next budget cycle. Mr. Kuder explained that the district is already taking steps to support impacted schools so that their budget is not dependent on enrollment. He said that the district wants to be thoughtful and intentional in its planning in order to avoid unintended consequences.

Mr. Loconto expressed enthusiasm for the proposal, saying that it will benefit families by offering more predictability, and benefit schools by providing more consistent resources and enrollment. He described the proposal as a necessary and overdue adjustment to changes over time,

Mr. O'Neill said the grade configuration strategy will put BPS in a position to increase enrollment and grow its market share.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adopt a primarily K-6/7-12 and K-8/9-12 grade configuration strategy.

Ms. Perille said that a member of the Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) Governing Board will participate on the design team for the new 7-12 school. The Governing Board will have the opportunity to review the design proposal and express its opinion on it before the proposal is presented to the School Committee.

Ms. Reyes said that she is pleased that students will be part from the McCormack and BCLA will be part of the design team for the new 7-12 school.

Mr. O'Neill thanked McCormack teachers for their advocacy throughout the reconfiguration process. He said that he's pleased with the language in the motion stating that the district shall endeavor to consider the creation of a pathway for Columbia Point students.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila called for an inclusive design process that includes representation from ELL families and community partners. She asked the district to report back to the Committee with evidence of broad engagement. She expressed concern about McCormack students being given a priority feeder to BCLA during the planning process rather than a guarantee. Ms. Perille explained concerns about space limitations during the planning process. Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged the district to offer as close to a guarantee as possible, and to report back to the Committee. Ms. Driscoll offered to come before the Committee each fall with the language that BPS is presenting to families for the upcoming school choice season.

Mr. Loconto thanked Ms. Perille and her team for their hard work on the school pairing.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a merger of the McCormack Middle School and the Boston Community Leadership Academy to form a new 7-12 open-enrollment school to open on Columbia Point in the renovated McCormack Middle School building.

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Mr. Loconto thanked the McCormack and BCLA communities for their hard work planning the merger.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the revised BPS District Wellness Policy.

## **REPORTS**

***Boston Student Advisory Council Annual Report*** – Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) President Stanley Aneke, BSAC Vice President Ahria Ilyas, and BSAC School Committee Representative Evelyn Reyes presented the Committee with report on BSAC’s work during the 2018-19 School Year. They were supported by BPS Chief Engagement Officer Monica Roberts, BSAC Coordinator Abraham Osorio, and Youth on Board Executive Director Jenny Sazama. Student Engagement Manager Maria Estrada was unable to attend.

BSAC is a student advocacy group that empowers students to express their opinions in policy decisions that have an impact on their educational experiences. The students provided an overview of their work on several important issues this school year, including equity in state education funding, the BPS superintendent search, internet safety, climate change, and gun violence prevention.

Mr. O’Neill praised BSAC’s growth, and offered the Committee’s assistance to reaching out to schools that do not currently have BSAC representation. He praised BSAC member Elvis Rodriguez for his contributions as the only student member on the Superintendent Search Committee

Ms. Robinson praised the students’ efforts and encouraged more participation among high schools. She also encouraged BSAC to work more closely with elementary school students.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the adults who support BSAC, as well as the students. She asked about BSCA’s efforts to address bullying and increase civic engagement. She suggested using technology to increase student participation and encouraged BSAC to partner with BPS alumni.

Mr. Loconto thanked BSAC for its work on critical issues such as gun violence and education funding. He offered the Committee’s assistance reaching out to schools that do not currently have BSAC representation.

***Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Boston Teachers Union*** – Erika Giampietro, Managing Director of Long-term Planning, Emily Qazilbash, Chief Human Capital Officer, Dave Murphy, Deputy Superintendent of Administration, and Lisa Maki, Director of Labor Relations presented a tentative three-year agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) after

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more than 15 months of interest-based bargaining. The BTU ratified the contract with its membership earlier that evening.

The tentative agreement calls for a three-year collective bargaining agreement expiring on August 31, 2021. It includes an annual 2 percent wage increase, significant investments that will have a direct and positive impact on students - particularly in the areas of social and emotional wellness - and additional flexibilities for school leaders to staff and schedule their schools in accordance with their students' needs.

The tentative agreement increases guaranteed staffing ratios to one nurse, increases the number of licensed mental health professionals supporting schools, provides additional staffing supports for single teacher inclusion models, limits the total number of students with IEPs in a single classroom, and increases guaranteed staffing levels for K2 paraprofessionals. The agreement also includes a commitment to a joint working group to define and improve inclusion programming going forward

The total cost over the three-year contract term will be \$108,843,750. The Committee will be asked to approve two supplemental appropriation requests to cover the costs associated with the agreement: \$12,037,969 for FY19; and \$38,619,566 for FY20.

Committee members praised the contract for being student-centered, while maintaining fiscal discipline. They also thanked the BPS negotiating team for its tireless efforts.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the agreement and the supplemental appropriations on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

***Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Department of Planning and Engineering SEIU, Local 888*** - BPS Director of Labor Relations Lisa Maki presented a tentative collective bargaining agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Department of Planning and Engineering SEIU, Local 888. P&E is a union of about 30 licensed professionals who oversee facilities and repairs, review plans, hiring of contractors, and other duties. The four year contract includes an annual 2 percent wage increase and will require FY19 and FY20 supplemental appropriation requests totaling \$377,579.00. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the agreement and the supplemental appropriations on June 19.

***ASSET 2018-2019 SY Review*** – Chief Academic Officer Dr. Charles Grandson presented an update from the Academic and Student Support for Equity Team (ASSET) which includes the BPS Office of Academics, Office of Special Education, Office of Social and Emotional Learning and Wellness (SELWELL), Office of Opportunity Gaps, Office of Extended Learning Time, and Office of English Learners.

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This presentation summarized the following: 1) the review of ASSET and the state of Academics in the district by the CAO during the 2018/2019 school year, including insights from school leaders, key external partners, curriculum survey, and recent outside agency report; 2) actions taken this year by ASSET and the departments comprising ASSET to address opportunity and achievement gaps including school supports, BuildBPS support, development of a multi-tier system of supports, and building supports the Essentials for Instructional Equity; and, 3) recommendations for steps necessary to continue improving teaching and learning in BPS for all students including investments in curriculum, coaching, and a convening of a Special Education working group.

Dr. Rivera requested more information about schools that are doing effective work with the Seal of Bi-Literacy. The presenters agreed to follow up.

Mr. Tran asked about the professional development that the district provides to school leaders and staff on Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Practices. He also stressed the importance of equity training.

Ms. Robinson asked how the district works with autonomous schools to create fidelity. Dr. Grandson explained that the district works hard to provide support to all schools.

Dr. Coleman encouraged the ASSET team to construct a linear logic model to collect evidence that their efforts are making an impact.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila posed a number of questions for later follow up by the ASSET team: How do we know that the needle is moving? How can we partner on STEM? What is the long-term investment in curriculum? How does ASSET work with family and community engagement? She also encouraged ASSET to explore additional external partnerships.

Mr. Loconto praised ASSET's work as well as the expansion of 5<sup>th</sup> quarter summer learning. He said that he looks forward to learning more about planning for Hub community schools. He also praised Ms. Perille and the SELWELL team for significantly increasing student immunization rates over the past school year.

***UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester Memorandum of Understand Extensions and Accountability Plans*** – UP Education Network Chief Operating Officer Mike Bower and BPS Legal Advisory Cathy Lizotte presented charter amendment proposals for UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester, which are both Horace Mann Charter Schools. School Committee approval of both schools' updated accountability plans, as well as an extension of their current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), is needed to allow them access to public funds. The extension will provide BPS and the UP Network with additional time to finalize their MOU. The Boston Teachers Union has fully approved these amendments, while the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has provided preliminary approval.

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The amendments require School Committee approval before DESE Commissioner Jess Riley can give final approval.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked if UP Boston and UP Dorchester use the BPS Code of Conduct. Ms. Bower explained that UP uses its own Code of Conduct which is aligned with the Boston Public Schools'. Ms. Oliver-Dávila asked to see a summary of the differences in the two COCs, but agreed to put the request on hold at the suggestion of Mr. Loconto, who requested that the Committee allow the two parties to continue conversations about the MOU over the summer. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the MOUs and accountability plans on June 19.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Oliver-Dávila congratulated Dr. Lindsa McIntyre, headmaster of the Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Dorchester, for being named Principal of the Year by the Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA).

**ADJOURN**

At approximately 10:25 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan  
Executive Secretary