



## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REMOTE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

July 14, 2021

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on July 14, 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: Chairperson Jeri Robinson; Vice Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Ernani DeAraujo; Quoc Tran; and Student Representative Xyra Mercer (joined the meeting after roll call).

School Committee Member Absent: None.

### Agenda

Meeting Minutes June 30, 2021 Boston School Committee Meeting; and July 7, 2021 Boston School Committee Exam Schools Admissions Listening Session

Final Exam Schools Admissions Policy Recommendation PowerPoint

Draft Exam Schools Admissions Policy

Exam Schools Admissions Policy Recommendation Equity Impact Statement

Grants for Approval Totaling \$209,271

Horace Mann In-District Charter Renewal: Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School (DSNCS)

DSNCS Charter Renewal Application

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting  
Zoom**

**July 14, 2021**

DSNCS Charter Renewal Equity Impact Statement

Memo from Superintendent to Boston School Committee re: Recommendation Regarding Charter Renewal Application - Dudley Street

Exam Schools Admissions Policy

UP Academy Boston Charter Amendments

Memo from Legal Advisor Cathy Lizotte to Boston School Committee re: UP Academy Request for Approval of MOU and Management Contract

UP Academy Charter Amendments

Draft Agreement Between the Boston Public Schools and the UP Academy Charter School of Boston, a Horace Mann Charter School

UP Academy Boston Equity Impact Statement

Academic and Business Services Agreement by and between UP Education Network Inc. and the Board of Trustees of the UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester and the UP Academy Charter School of Boston

Boston Teachers Union Horace Mann Charter School Certification Statement: UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jeri Robinson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Ms. Mercer, who joined the meeting after roll call.

Ms. Robinson said that tonight's meeting was being streamed live on Zoom. It will be rebroadcast on Boston City TV. It will also be posted at [bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee) and on YouTube. She 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 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.

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

***Approved*** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the June 30, 2021 Boston School Committee meeting.

**July 14, 2021**

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the July 7, 2021 Boston School Committee exam schools admissions listening session.

## SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

*As prepared for delivery.*

Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you all for joining us this evening. I’d like to start off my report with a brief summary of a recent study by the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS). The Council recently released the results of a study named “Mirrors or Windows: How Well Do Large City Public Schools Overcome the Effects of Poverty and Other Barriers?” The research is based on data from the 4th and 8th grade administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (or NAEP), using math and reading scores between the years 2009-2019. The results showed a lot of positive news for Boston Public Schools! Boston had statistically significant positive district effects in 2019 across all areas (reading and math) and grade levels (fourth and eighth). That means that Boston performed higher in 2019 than what was expected given demographic characteristics. In fact, Boston had the highest ranking in district effects in 2019 eighth-grade mathematics and reading of the districts included in the analysis.

In reviewing the data, we found that:

- Boston ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in *fourth- grade mathematics* scaled NAEP scores and 5<sup>th</sup> in district effects in 2019.
- Boston ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in *eighth- grade mathematics* scaled NAEP scores and first in district effects in 2019.
- Boston ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in *fourth- grade reading* scaled NAEP scores and 3<sup>rd</sup> in district effects in 2019.
- Boston ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in *eighth- grade reading* scale NAEP scores and first in district effects in 2019.

This confirms what we all know, that our students and their teachers are achieving excellence in our classrooms every day. We are grateful to the Council for conducting this analysis and sharing the results broadly, and we congratulate our fellow urban public school districts for their accomplishments.

BPS summer learning programs began last Tuesday, July 6th. It is so important that we keep our students engaged in their learning this summer, following two consecutive school years disrupted by the pandemic. This summer more than 12,000 Boston students are being served in summer learning programs at BPS schools and other community locations throughout the city. In the first week of summer programming, we have seen approximately 90% attendance based on preliminary data shared by programs across the city. Dozens of our schools are hosting their own summer learning programs, and we continue our amazing relationship with Boston After School

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting  
Zoom**

**July 14, 2021**

& Beyond, with whom we partner for our 5th Quarter programs and other city as a classroom opportunities like Courageous Sailing, Harlem Lacrosse and Thompson Island. In addition to academic programs, many of our older students are employed this summer through our partnership with the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC). The PIC is projecting that more than 2,000 BPS students are placed in jobs and leadership opportunities this summer. It's so wonderful to see our students out and about this summer, learning, earning, and connecting with their peers and the larger community. For more information on all things summer, including our summer reading lists in multiple languages across all grade levels, please visit [bostonpublicschools.org/summer](https://bostonpublicschools.org/summer).

While we're on the topic of Summer Learning experiences, I wanted to share that BPS is completing an order to bring 6,000 Air Conditioners to our school buildings. We started this process a few weeks ago with the City of Boston and are working through the steps. As you can imagine there is a high demand for AC units right now so our timeline for delivery and installation is still under development. A more definitive timeline of when we may receive them will be shared when it is available.

We released the first draft of the ESSER funding plan last Friday, after engaging more than 1,200 stakeholders over the past few weeks. This is the preliminary draft based on what we've heard from students, families, educators, school leaders, staff, and community members.

Our engagement included:

- A WikiWisdom page that provided opportunity for all BPS educators and staff to submit their ideas
- 33 community meetings with public comment and interpretation services provided, engaging more than 1,200 stakeholders
- 6 Commission meetings with experienced civic leaders and partners who collaborated with our parent associations, school leader representatives and BTU
- Reports from local and national organizations

The funding, approximately \$400 million over the next three years, will provide opportunities to support the Return, Recover, and Reimagine agenda to return students safely to classrooms; recover from the pandemic and create the conditions for reimagining BPS; and reimagine a sustained, successful and equitable district. The one-time funding will also further support the district's implementation of the five-year strategic plan. The plan outlines how 100% of funding will be utilized to support stronger student outcomes. The plan ensures that the first 50% of funding is invested directly to schools; the next 30% will go to schools via school department investments; and the final 20% will be allocated to fund districtwide innovation, collaboration and community partnerships.

The funding is expected in three rounds and BPS has allocated funds under the guiding principles of Return, Recover and Reimagine:

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting  
Zoom**

**July 14, 2021**

- ESSER I - Return safely to in-person learning: \$32 million +23M City of Boston Cares funding
- ESSER II - Recover lost learning and wellness: \$123 million
- ESSER III - Reimagine BPS for a sustained strong and equitable system: \$276 million

The report will be available for public comment until July 30th at which time BPS will make final revisions based on feedback before submitting the plan to the state. Community members can read the plan and provide feedback on our website at [bostonpublicschools.org/FederalReliefFunds21](https://bostonpublicschools.org/FederalReliefFunds21).

Last week, I notified staff of some key appointments to Executive Team positions as part of the organizational restructuring that I outlined during our April 7th meeting. The restructuring followed several months of analysis to determine how to best position the leadership team to support all staff as we fully execute our strategic plan in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

The new appointments are:

- Sam DePina as Deputy Superintendent of Operations
- Drew Echelson as Deputy Superintendent of Academics; and
- Neva Coakley Grice as Interim Chief of Student Support

A graduate of the Jeremiah E. Burke High School and a BPS employee for over 20 years, Sam has served as an Interim Deputy Superintendent since April and will continue in the role of Deputy Superintendent of Operations following a competitive hiring process.

Neva joined the BPS team in June 2020 as the Chief of Safety Services and brings decades of experience forging relationships and cultivating trust within the Boston community. Neva is stepping into the Interim Chief of Student Support position that was recently created. Neva was also a BPS student at the Umana in East Boston.

In April, we also announced the process to hire a leader for Academics to sharpen the focus on students with disabilities and provide rigorous and culturally and linguistically sustaining instruction for all students. I am so happy to welcome Drew as our new Deputy Superintendent of Academics. Drew is the former Superintendent of Waltham Public Schools and previously oversaw 16 schools as a BPS Network Superintendent. Drew will bring his extensive background and experience to the role of Deputy Superintendent of Academics to drive the implementation of our overall district academic vision.

I again want to thank Committee members for their feedback during my public evaluation, as these strategic moves are in pursuit of one of my key goals -- to structure the organization and the leadership team to equitably advance student outcomes. They join an already strong executive team and a wonderful Team BPS staff who work so hard every day on behalf of our students and their families. Sam, Neva, and Drew started in their new roles in the past week. Please join me in welcoming all of them in these new roles!

I'd like to give a brief update on our Safety Services department. As the Committee knows, I have prioritized student safety in our schools since I became Superintendent, from the work we

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting  
Zoom**

**July 14, 2021**

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 Coakley Grice to lead the department during this critical transition year. I mentioned in a recent meeting that since Governor Baker signed legislation in January and the state released updated guidelines in late March, BPS has worked with city, state and local agencies that have been impacted by the law changes. The state law signed by Governor Baker established new guidelines for public safety officers that took effect on July 1st.

The Boston Police Department announced that they will not renew the licenses for Safety Services officers, which removed the authority of officers to make arrests and write or access police reports. Throughout the spring we worked closely with union leadership to develop a plan for the department that reflects the desire of the community for supportive relationships based in the community. This new law changes a lot about how we interact with these important members of our community. The changes taking place include a new name for the office -- the Office of Safety Services. We also have new titles for our team members that reflect the continued valuable role they play in schools and the community. In addition, new uniforms provide a visual reminder of the team's work while ensuring they are identifiable as a resource for students and staff. Our Safety Services team members are on site for our summer learning programs and we continue to talk with our team members, their union representatives, and our partners at City Hall and the Boston Police Department. We will provide additional updates in August as we ramp up preparation for the new school year. Our Safety Services team represents a committed group of professionals who show up every day in service of our students, families, staff, and schools. The team remain integral members of our community and will continue to serve our City with the grace and honor they have demonstrated over their many years of work in our schools.

We have been planning for the launch of the new school year in September. As a reminder, the first day of school for students in grades 1-12 is Thursday, September 9th. The first day of school for students in pre-K and Kindergarten is Monday, September 13th. The full calendar for the 2021-22 school year is available at [bostonpublicschools.org/calendar](https://bostonpublicschools.org/calendar). We are monitoring updates from the CDC and public health officials and awaiting additional guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on expectations for health and safety protocols. Our internal team, comprised of representatives from multiple departments, continues to meet weekly to identify priorities and plan for the rest of the summer. The CDC released new guidelines late last week, which our Facilities, Health Services, and other departments are reviewing. We will share a comprehensive update to families shortly and will remain in steady contact through July and August with reports to the school committee as we continue our summer programs and prepare for September.

Finally, as of today, July 14th, 609 of 762 teacher and guidance counselor positions have been filled with an additional 46 hires in process. 60% of all hires identify as educators of color compared to 51% of hires at this point last year.

For educator of color hires this year:

- 35% identify as Black/African American
- 18% identify as Latinx
- 7% identify as Asian

**July 14, 2021**

182 hires are external candidates and nearly 60% of external hires identify as educators of color, compared to 45% of external hires last year. 107 positions remain to be filled for the 2021-2022 school year and we will continue working to fill those roles throughout the summer. And that is my Superintendent's Report for this evening.

---

Dr. Coleman congratulated the Superintendent and the Office of Human Capital on the remarkable increase in the cultural and linguistic diversity of the district's leadership. He requested clarification on the roles and responsibilities of the Superintendent's recent personnel appointments. The Superintendent explained that the Deputy Superintendent handles the day-to-day management of the district and reports directly to the Superintendent. The Deputy Superintendent of Academics coordinates the offices of the Chief of Schools, Accountability, and Student Supports.

Mr. DeAraujo applauded the district's NAEP progress and ESSER public engagement process.

Mr. O'Neill, who recently concluded his term as Chair of the Board of the Council of Great City Schools, thanked the Council for its thorough report on NAEP results. He asked that the link to the full report be posted on the [Committee's webpage](#).

Ms. Robinson asked about student participation in summer learning and enrichment opportunities. The Superintendent said that some parents may be hesitant to send their children to summer learning programs because they are unvaccinated. She said that families have also expressed concerns about transportation and before/after care, which the district is looking to address. Ms. Robinson asked about the district's plans for the use of metal detectors. The Superintendent said that the use of metal detectors is made at the school level, adding that Interim Chief of Student Support Neva Coakley-Rice will have discussions with school leaders about the issue. The Superintendent said that she will present the Committee with a report on school safety when she presents her update on the Code of Conduct.

## REPORT

***Superintendent's Final Exam Schools Admissions Policy Recommendation*** - The Superintendent presented her final exam schools admissions policy recommendation.

The Exam Schools Admissions Policy Recommendation is intended to create an admissions process for Boston's three exam schools that will support student enrollment such that rigor is maintained and all three student bodies better reflect the racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of all students (K-12) in the city of Boston. An initial set of recommendations was developed by the Boston School Committee's Exam Schools Admissions Task Force, and presented to the School Committee on June 30, 2021 for consideration. The Superintendent's proposed policy was informed by the work of the Task Force, as well as public feedback to the interim admissions policy and during the listening sessions held by the Task Force and the School Committee. The proposal seeks to center public voice while putting equity at the center.

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting  
Zoom**

**July 14, 2021**

Students need a minimum B GPA to be considered part of the applicant pool. No assessment will be required for the School Year (SY) 2022-23 admissions cycle due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Starting in SY 2023-24, eligible students will receive a composite score based on assessment (30%) and GPA (70%). Students can receive either 10 additional points if they attend school where 40% or more of the students enrolled are from economically disadvantaged families, or 15 additional points if they are in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), reside in Boston Housing Authority (BHA) housing, or are experiencing homelessness.

100% of invitations are distributed using straight rank within 8 socioeconomic tiers. Each tier receives approximately the same number of invitations. The Superintendent explained that several factors were considered when determining her final recommendation with regards to the shift from the 20%/80% to 100% assignment of invitations:

- The goal is a simplified process that is easy to understand and ensures more students - especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds - have access to the exam schools.
- The proposed policy increases equitable opportunity while maintaining academic rigor.
- A review of data and simulations showed minor differences between the 20%/80% and 100% proposals.
- This policy addresses the perception that reserving seats for the highest performing students goes against our desire to be an equitable anti-racist district.
- BPS must restore the trust and confidence in our process with our community which supported the 100% approach.

The Superintendent made the following additional recommendations made by the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force:

<b>Student Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide appropriate support – both before and during the school year - for admittees who, while academically prepared for exam school content, may require more time to get acclimated to the pace of exam school study.</li> <li>● Expand the Exam School Initiative (ESI), beginning as early as 4th grade and running through October of the 6th grade year, focused on academic acceleration in both ELA and math.</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct annual monitoring of applicants, invitees and enrollees to the exam schools, disaggregated by student group and school.</li> <li>● An annual report should be made to the School Committee to assess the wellness of the school community and student admissions data.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Review and Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Require a full policy review at least every 5 years, ensuring there is student and teacher voice represented in the review process.</li> <li>● Work with an external researcher to evaluate and understand the impact of policy changes for multiple cohorts of students, starting with the SY20-21 admissions cycle.</li> </ul>
<b>Investments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The school district will fund a summer academic orientation, academic interventions, acceleration and rigor for elementary grades.</li> <li>● Secure the additional funds required for implementation from the city, not from the existing budget.</li> </ul>

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting  
Zoom**

*July 14, 2021*

<b>Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide information about the application process in native language online, in print and at community centers</li></ul>
<b>Grading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommend changing the 5th grade grading system from standards-based to A-F grading scale.</li></ul>

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Co-Chair Tanisha Sullivan thanked the Task Force members for their service and district and Committee staff for their support.

Monica Roberts, Chief of Student, Family and Community Advancement, reviewed details of the proposal. She explained that the recommendation is consistent with the federal definition of high poverty schools. The Superintendent explained that concentrated poverty is often synonymous with hard to staff schools while other schools may have more experienced teachers.

Dr. Coleman asked whether a cut off score or a continuous score will be used for the assessment. Senior Executive Director of the Office of Data and Accountability Monica Hogan said a continuous score will be used.

Ms. Mercer asked which type of assessment will be used. Ms. Hogan said that the district's new vendor is NWEA, which offers an assessment that is aligned to the MA Curriculum Framework. The test will be administered twice and the student's best score will be considered.

Mr. DeAraujo asked about the district's communication plan for the new exam schools admissions policy. The Superintendent said that BPS will use Chicago's communications plan as a guide. The Deputy Superintendent of Academics is communicating with 6th grade teachers about the changes. Ms. Roberts said that her team will create a multilingual and graphic communications plan this summer and leverage family liaisons for school-based outreach. BPS will partner with the Boston Compact, the City of Boston, and ethnic media to communicate the new policy.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the Superintendent for incorporating public feedback into the proposal and for taking an evidence-based approach. He expressed concern about the potential unintended consequences of students selecting elementary schools based on those schools providing additional points. The Superintendent said that she will present the Committee with an evaluation of the policy's implementation in June 2022 and will include information on school transfers.

Mr. Tran thanked everyone who provided testimony throughout the process.

Mr. DeAraujo echoed Mr. O'Neill's concerns about unintended consequences regarding enrollment shifts. He requested that the Committee receive an implementation update early in the new school year.

Ms. Robinson asked about school preview opportunities for 6th graders. Ms. Roberts spoke about the BPS School Showcase held annually in the fall/winter and school-based school preview times. Additional outreach is being planned for this year. Ms. Robinson asked if there will be an opportunity for students to take an NWEA practice test Ms. Hogan said that the

**July 14, 2021**

district already uses NWEA's MAP Growth as a formative assessment during the school year so students will be familiar with the test.

## GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia, Mattapan resident, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, Hyde Park resident, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- State Representative Russell Holmes, District 6th Suffolk, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Jessica Tang, Dorchester resident, Boston Teachers Union President, testified regarding exam schools admissions and collective bargaining negotiations.
- Rosann Tung, Jamaica Plain resident, Exam Schools Admissions Task Force member, testified regarding the exam schools admissions policy.
- Xyra Mercer read a statement on behalf of Simon Chernow, Jamaica Plain resident, Exam Schools Task Force member, regarding the exam schools admissions policy.
- Jadon Berkson, South End resident, Boston Latin School alumni, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Shirley Chen Weng, Brighton resident, Josiah Quincy Elementary School parent, testified in favor of keeping an exam as part of the exam schools admissions policy.
- Jenny Xie, Brighton resident, testified regarding the exam schools admissions policy.
- Ruthzee Louijeune, Hyde Park resident, Boston City Council candidate, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Jess Madden-Fuoco, Hyde Park resident, Hernandez K-8 parent, English High School instructional coach, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Fran Smith Brangman, Dorchester resident, testified regarding the exam schools admissions policy.
- Sunny Pai, Jamaica Plain resident, Curley K-8 parent, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Lisa Green, North End resident, Boston Coalition for Education Equity member, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Krista Magnuson, Jamaica Plain resident, Boston Coalition for Education Equity member, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Lisa Graf, Fenway resident, Mission Hill K-8 parent, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Jeremy Nesoff, Jamaica Plain resident, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting  
Zoom**

**July 14, 2021**

- Sharon Hinton, Hyde Park resident, Black Teachers Matter Founder, testified regarding the exam schools admissions policy and the School Committee Nominating Panel.
- Ruby Reyes, Dorchester resident, Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA) Executive Director, testified regarding exam schools admissions and BuildBPS.
- Edith Bazile, Dorchester resident, testified regarding special education and ESSER.
- Elena White, Jamaica Plain resident, Curley K-8 parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Jeremy Thompson, Jamaica Plain resident, Hernandez K-8 School and Boston Latin Academy parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Sharon Kunz, Roslindale resident, Hernandez K-8 School, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Mike Heichman, Dorchester resident, BEJA member, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Heshan Berents-Weeramuni, Jamaica Plain resident, Boston Latin Academy and Curley K-8 parent, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Stephanie Ward, Jamaica Plain resident, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Nancy Minucci, South Boston resident and parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions and the future of BPS.
- Shery Keleher, Charlestown resident and BPS parent, testified regarding learning loss.
- Christine Langhoff, Dorchester resident, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Darragh Murphy, Dorchester resident, testified in favor of delaying the exam schools admissions vote.
- Therese Fleisher, Jamaica Plain resident, Mendell Elementary School parent, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Stephanie Shapiro Berkson, South End resident, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Mike Szkolka, Dorchester resident, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Jingsong Cao, West Roxbury resident, BPS parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Gabriella Finocchio, Fenway resident, Boston Coalition for Education Equity member, Boston Latin School alumna, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Nora McManus Vincent, West Roxbury resident, Bates Elementary School parent, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Steve Yang, West Roxbury resident, St. Mary's School parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Priscilla Rojas, Mattapan resident, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Marie Mercurio, Jamaica Plain resident, Boston Latin School and Curley K-8 parent,

**Boston School Committee Remote Meeting  
Zoom**

**July 14, 2021**

testified in favor of delaying the exam schools admissions vote.

- Peter Piazza, Somerville resident, Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Andrea Doremus Cuetara, West Roxbury resident, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Rachel Miselman, Boston resident, testified regarding exam schools admissions.
- Judith Nee, Winthrop resident, testified against the exam schools admissions recommendation.
- Raul Uppot, Chinatown resident, testified in favor of using a merit-based exam schools admissions policy.
- Sherry Yu, Boston resident, testified in favor of assigning 100% of exam school seats by rank in socioeconomic tiers.
- Eric Esteves, Roxbury resident, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers parent, testified regarding exam schools admissions and school quality.

## ACTION ITEMS

**Approved** - On roll call, the Boston School Committee unanimously approved grants for approval totaling \$209,271.

Dr. Coleman and Mr. O'Neill praised the Dudley Street Charter School as a model.

**Approved** - On roll call, the Boston School Committee unanimously approved the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter Schools' application for renewal of its charter from 2022-2027.

Committee members made final comments about the Superintendent's final exam schools admissions policy recommendation, for which they offered support. Dr. Coleman said that the policy is aligned with the district's strategic plan and was developed using substantive community input. He suggested that the district replicate the exam schools admissions policy development process to address other high level concerns in the district, such as the graduation rate. Ms. Mercer expressed support for the proposal and asked why BPS uses a vendor to administer the test. The Superintendent said procurement laws require the district to seek a vendor. Mr. Tran thanked everyone from the community who shared their views. Mr. DeAraujo spoke about his own experience as a former BPS student and requested that the Committee receive an update on the policy in September. Mr. O'Neill called the proposal a compromise and thanked everyone who shared public comment. He said that the recommendation meets the charge of the Task Force to increase equity and maintain rigor. Ms. Robinson spoke about the importance of strengthening rigor in grades pre-K-6.

**Approved** - On roll call, the Boston School Committee unanimously approved the exam schools admissions policy as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

July 14, 2021

## REPORT

***UP Academy Charter Amendments*** - UP Academy Boston (UAB) and UP Academy Dorchester (UAD), are two Horace Mann charter schools operated by the UP Education Network. Michael Bower, Chief Operating Officer, UP Education Network, presented a request for School Committee approval of the following two charter amendments, which have been provisionally approved by DESE and approved by the Boston Teachers Union:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for UP Academy Boston
- Management contract between UP Academy and UP Education Network

Pursuant to 603 CMR 1.10(4), amendments to a Horace Mann's charter require the approval of the local school committee and the local collective bargaining unit prior to submission to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Mr. DeAraujo praised UP Education Network for its work.

Mr. O'Neill spoke about the balance between school autonomy and a centralized approach. He asked Mr. Bower for his perspective on this topic in terms of preparing students for exam school admissions. Mr. Bower said that UP Education Network is committed to partnering with the district to set students up for success.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the charter amendments on August 4.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

None

## ADJOURN

At approximately 10:18 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan  
Executive Secretary