



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

July 15, 2015

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on July 15, 2015 at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, second floor, 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 O’Neill; Vice-Chair Dr. Hardin Coleman; Meg Campbell; Michael Loconto; Regina Robinson; and Dr. Miren Uriarte.

School Committee Member Absent: Jeri Robinson.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

School Committee Meeting Minutes: June 24, 2015

Grants for Approval Totaling \$2,699,231

- 21ST Century Community Learning Center Out-of-School Time (OST) Grant (Fund 647-B1) - \$140,000
- BPS Department of Adult Education (Fund 345) - \$180,100
- BPS Department of Adult Education Adult Career Pathways - \$104,826
- Empowering Teens Through Health \$370,000
- ESOL Family Literacy Program - \$103,000
- Institute for Education Sciences (IES) BPS Expanded Learning Time (ELT) Research Collaborative - \$176,634
- Inclusive Preschool Learning Environments (Fund Code 391) - \$334,837
- Perkins IV Secondary Allocation Grant - \$1,272,956
- Title III Summer Grant - \$16,878

Memo from Dr. Tommy Chang, Superintendent to Boston School Committee Chair and Members Re: Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) – Annual Membership Renewal, July 10, 2015

July 15, 2015

Letter from Simon Hess, Designee, Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, Board of Trustees to Boston School Committee Re: permanent change to 8-hour school day, June 15, 2015

Educational Options Boston Alternative School Experience Sites (BASES)

Boston Public Schools Engagement Policy

Memo from Michael O'Neill, Chairperson, and Hardin Coleman Vice-Chairperson to Boston School Committee Members Re: Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force, July 15, 2015

The Path to Excellence: An Overview of the Transition Team's Work and the 100-Day Plan

100-Day Plan: A Report for the Boston School Committee by Dr. Tommy Chang, Superintendent of Schools

Boston Public Schools SY 2016 Organizational Chart (as of July 1, 2015)

Boston Public Schools Summer Learning Programming 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. O'Neill led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the June 24, 2015 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent and his team are keenly focused on preparations for the opening of school in September. Last week, members of Superintendent's leadership team and two principals joined representatives from 11 other school districts in attending the Public Education Leadership Project (PELP), a joint initiative of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Harvard Business School. Next week, the Superintendent and his cabinet will participate in a retreat focusing on ways to support principals.

The Superintendent presented a new organizational chart. He then asked his cabinet to please stand and introduced the following members of his executive cabinet:

- Dr. Donna Muncey, Deputy Superintendent of Strategy
- Dr. Doannie Tran, Assistant Superintendent of Professional Learning
- Dr. Barbara Deane-Williams, Senior Deputy Superintendent

July 15, 2015

- Dr. Makeeba McCreary, Chief of Staff
- Dr. Karla Estrada, Deputy Superintendent of Student Support Services
- Dr. Ross Wilson, Managing Partner of Innovation

Benjamin Helfat has been appointed headmaster of Boston Adult Technical Academy.

The BPS Summer Learning program, which began July 13th, is off to a smooth start.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyn Kain, chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPac), testified regarding special education issues.

John St. Amand, vice-chair, SpedPac, testified regarding special education issues.

Dottie Engler, board chair, Fenway High School, testified regarding facilities.

Heshan Berents-Weeramuni, co-chair, Citywide Parents Council, and member, Superintendent's transition team, testified regarding the proposed engagement policy and the Superintendent's 100-Day Plan.

Rozanne Longoria, coordinator, Boston Youth Service Network, testified regarding the Educational Options Boston Alternative School Experience Sites (BASES) proposal.

Roger Oser, principal, ABCD William Ostiguy High School, testified regarding the BASES proposal.

Adrienne Level, BPS teacher, and member, Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM), testified regarding the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force.

Maria Roges, BPS parent, testified regarding the BASES proposal.

Rebecca Dalmas, BPS teacher and parent, testified regarding the educational process.

Mary Battenfeld, BPS parent and member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), submitted a list of questions regarding the school choice process.

ACTION ITEMS

July 15, 2015

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$2,699,231.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a charter amendment proposal for the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School to permanently change the school’s schedule to an eight-hour school day.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the creation of a constellation campus called Boston Alternative School Experience Sites (BASES).

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the establishment of an Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force, as well as its charge, priority goals and leadership.

REPORTS

Superintendent Chang’s 100-Day Plan – Joined by members of his transition team and cabinet, the Superintendent presented his 100-Day Plan to the Committee. The Superintendent and his transition team recently wrapped up a “Listen and Learn Tour,” meeting with more than 1,500 community members at 40 events throughout the city. After listening to stakeholders and reviewing literature on BPS, the Superintendent drafted his 100-Day Plan, which begins on the September 8th (the first day of school). The plan is centered around five value statements:

1. All youth can and must achieve at high levels.
2. We innovate and transform teaching and learning to inspire excellence.
3. Those closest to students must be empowered and held accountable for making the most critical decisions that lead to student achievement.
4. Every child should have access to a high quality school of their choice close to home.
5. We must build a “Culture of We” that is embraced by students, staff, families and community.

Each value statement is linked with a one or more projects that will be completed by the end of January, 2016. Recognizing that some projects will take longer to complete, the Superintendent explained that he will release a more detailed three-year plan in September 2016.

Read the complete Superintendent’s 100-Day Plan at <http://bostonpublicschools.org/cms/lib07/MA01906464/Centricity/Domain/162/100DayPlanFinal.pdf>.

School Committee members praised the plan and asked a numerous questions about a variety of topics, including the Roxbury Massachusetts Advanced Polytechnic Pathway (RoxMAPP), high school redesign, multi-year budgeting, and school start times, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and his team. Mr. O’Neill emphasized that a smooth start to the new school year should be a key area of focus for the district.

Boston Public Schools Summer Learning Programming 2015 – Summer Learning Project Manager Arianna Miliotis presented an update on the district’s 2015 summer learning programs,

July 15, 2015

which serve about 8,000 students from mid-July to mid-August. BPS summer programming provides targeted services across grade levels, from pre-k to high school. Learning takes place in the classroom as well as a variety of community sites, including the Harbor Islands and Hale Reservation. BPS leaders are continuously evaluating the programs and seeking improvement.

Ms. Regina Robinson and Ms. Campbell requested data on summer programming for students with disabilities, which the Superintendent agreed to provide. Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Loconto encouraged district leaders to capture data on summer programming and employment opportunities that are not primarily sponsored by BPS but that serve BPS students.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

Peggy Wiesenberg, community advocate, testified regarding the Superintendent's 100-Day Plan.

John Mudd, education advocate, testified regarding the Superintendent's 100-Day Plan and the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force.

NEW BUSINESS

Citing a study out of Minnesota that links dual enrollment programs with college success, Ms. Campbell requested district data on dual enrollment so that the Committee can take a systemic look at the issue. Ms. Campbell also congratulated Northeastern University on the five-year anniversary of its Foundation Year program, which supports Boston youth during their first year in college.

Mr. O'Neill thanked Northeastern University and Boston University for their generosity in providing BPS students with scholarships and called on other colleges and universities to do the same.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. O'Neill announced that the Committee would be adjourning to executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy. He explained that having such discussion in an open meeting could have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining strategy.

At 8:54 p.m., the Committee unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn to executive session. The Committee did not return to public session.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary