



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

July 2, 2018

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on July 2, 2018 at 5 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

Offer of Employment Letter to Laura Perille as Interim Superintendent - July 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Loconto led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order. He announced that the Committee would immediately adjourn to executive session to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel. To conduct this discussion in an open session could have a detrimental effect on the Committee's negotiating position, he explained. 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 in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Committee returned to public session at 5:57 p.m.

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Chairperson Loconto explained the Boston Public Schools is in a period of rapid transition and that with transition, come challenges. He stressed that this truly is an interim position and pledged that the Committee will engage in an open, authentic search process for a permanent superintendent. He said that the Committee would provide an update on the superintendent search process at the July 16th meeting, followed by regular updates. Mr. Loconto thanked Dr. Chang for laying the groundwork for promising teaching initiatives and for his resolute support of immigrant families, calling it untrue and unfortunate that some media reports are linking his departure to a lawsuit involving U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Committee members took turns individually thanking Dr. Chang for his service, praising his commitment to diversity and equity. Several members expressed regret at the circumstances surrounding his departure and expressed a desire to move forward positively as a team.

Mr. Loconto discussed the 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. He noted that July 13th will be Dr. Chang's last day with BPS and that he will be treated according to the terms of his employment contract.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George expressed support for Ms. Perille as Interim Superintendent. She read aloud her letter to the editor of *The Boston Globe*.

Carolyn Kain, chair, Boston Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SpedPAC), thanked Dr. Chang for her service and expressed support for Ms. Perille as interim superintendent.

Lindsa MacIntyre, headmaster, Jeremiah E. Burke High School, expressed support for Ms. Perille as interim superintendent.

Lisa Guisbond, executive director, Citizens for Public Schools, testified regarding the process for selecting a permanent superintendent, emphasizing the importance of experience.

Kayla Morse, manager of Teaching and Learning and Zeroing in on Math, EdVestors, and former BPS math teacher, expressed support for Ms. Perille as interim superintendent.

Klare Shaw, national director of programs, Liberty Mutual Foundation, expressed support for Ms. Perille as interim superintendent.

John Mudd, education advocate, expressed concerns about Dr. Chang's departure and the selection of a preferred candidate as interim superintendent.

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Celina Miranda, executive director, Hyde Square Task Force, expressed support for Ms. Perille as interim superintendent.

Helen Dajer, former BPS parent and former School Committee member, expressed support for Ms. Perille as interim superintendent.

Wendell Knox, board chair, EdVestors, expressed support for Ms. Perille as interim superintendent.

Dr. Paula Elliot, researcher, testified the superintendent search process.

Jose Lopez, chair, education committee, Boston Branch NAACP, expressed concerns about the process pertaining to the selection of a preferred candidate for the position of interim superintendent.

Christine Langhoff, former educator, expressed concerns regarding Ms. Perille's credentials.

Nora Toney, member, Black Educators of Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM), expressed concerns regarding Ms. Perille's credentials.

Nora McManus Vincent, BPS parent and member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), expressed concerns regarding Ms. Perille's credentials and the selection process.

Latarsha Williams, BPS parent, expressed concerns regarding Ms. Perille's credentials.

Rev. Willie Bodrick, Boston Network of Black Student Achievement, expressed concerns about the process pertaining to the selection of a preferred candidate for the position of interim superintendent.

Lisa Jeanne Graf, parent, Mission Hill K-8 School, expressed concerns about the process pertaining to the selection of a preferred candidate for the position of interim superintendent.

Danne Davis, former teacher, testified regarding the search process for a permanent superintendent.

Barbara Fields, member, Black Educators of Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM), expressed concerns regarding Ms. Perille's credentials and the selection process.

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Loconto read aloud for the record a letter from the Boston School Committee to Laura Perille offering her the position of interim superintendent.

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Committee members expressed support for Ms. Perille, praising her experience as a former BPS parent and valued partner. Members said they have heard the concerns raised by some members of the community and expressed their shared commitment to an authentic and transparent process moving forward.

Chairperson Loconto reiterated his earlier comments that the interim superintendent position is truly temporary and the Committee will provide regular updates on the search for a permanent superintendent beginning on July 16. He thanked Ms. Perille for her willingness to take on the enormous task of serving as interim superintendent.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved an offer of employment to Laura Perille to serve as Interim Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools.

Mr. Loconto invited Ms. Perille to say a few words. Ms. Perille spoke about the value of public education, calling it one of our last social contracts. She thanked Dr. Chang for his service, noting that she had served on the search committee that recommended Dr. Chang as a finalist for the position of BPS superintendent. She expressed deep appreciation for BPS staff, teachers and school leaders, saying she plans to reestablish trust among all stakeholders. Conveying a sense of urgency, she committed to a collaborative, transparent process to address the major challenges facing the district.

ADJOURN

At approximately 8:11 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary