



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

September 11, 2019

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on September 11, 2019 at 6 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; Vice Chairperson Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael O’Neill; Dr. Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; and student representative Evelyn Reyes.

School Committee Member Absent: Quoc Tran.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: July 17, 2019 and August 28, 2019

Grants for Approval Totaling \$96,314,968:

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$15,000,000	2020 - 2024	Boston Quality Pre-K Fund	New	Early Childhood	Districtwide
\$291,481	2020	Comprehensive Behavioral Health Model	New	Health and Wellness	~75 sites districtwide
\$625,000	2020	Comprehensive Preschool Partnership Initiative	New	Early Childhood	Districtwide

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
 2300 Washington Street
 School Committee Chamber
 Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

\$600,000	2020	East Boston Early Childhood Playground Grant	New	N/A	East Boston EEC
\$18,525	2020	Emergency Impact Aid Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth	New	At Risk	Districtwide
\$24,000	2020	English for New Bostonians	New	Adult Education	Madison Park Adult Education
\$17,562,190	2020	IDEA	New	Special Education	Districtwide
\$30,000	2020	Innovation Pathway Planning Grant	New	College and Career Readiness	Dearborn STEM Academy
\$850,000	2020	Lee School Playground Grant	New	N/A	Lee
\$1,500,230	2020	Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time	New	Extended Learning Time	BAA, Dever, Young Achievers
\$115,000	2020	McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant	New	At Risk	Districtwide
\$1,575,684	2020	Perkins	New	College and Career Readiness	Districtwide
\$39,350	2020	School Redesign Grant: Grew	New	Turnaround	Grew
\$1,365,000	2020	Social Emotional Learning in School and Out-of-School Setting Initiative Planning Grant	New	Health and Wellness	~14 sites districtwide
\$479,221	2020	Special Education Early Childhood Entitlement Grant	New	Special Education	Districtwide
\$7,000	2020	STEM-focused Teacher Externships	New	College and Career Readiness	Dearborn STEM Academy
\$39,353,184	2020	Title I	New	Opportunity Gap	Districtwide
\$3,476,535	2020	Title IIA – Improving Educator Quality	New	Educator Effectiveness	Districtwide
\$2,263,279	2020	Title III	New	English Language Acquisition	Districtwide

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

\$2,688,070	2020	Title IV	New	Opportunity Gap	Districtwide
\$720,019	2020	21 st Century Community Learning Centers – Continuation	New	Extended Learning Time	Eliot, Edison, Gardner, Kenny, BiNCA
\$112,200	2020	21 st Century Community Learning Centers – Exemplary	New	Extended Learning Time	Hennigan
\$119,000	2020	21 st Century Community Learning Centers – New Site	New	Extended Learning Time	Frederick

BPS Drinking Water Access Policy – Request to Update Equity Impact Statement

BPS Drinking Water Access: Policy Update PowerPoint

Draft Superintendent’s Circular School Year 2019-2020: Drinking Water Access Policy

BPS Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Membership

Athletics: MIAA Membership Application Equity Impact Statement

Public Engagement for Strategic and Implementation Planning PowerPoint

Public Engagement for Strategic and Implementation Planning Equity Impact Statement

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Loconto called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. He called for a moment of silence for in remembrance of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. He announced that Spanish interpretation services were available, and would be a permanent feature of Committee meetings going forward. Interpretation services in other languages will be made available upon request.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The Superintendent addressed the following topics in her oral report:

- September 11th Remembrance
- First day of school visits to the Burke, Conley, Lyndon, Snowden, Shaw, and Taylor schools with Mayor Walsh, Chairperson Loconto, Dr. Rivera, Boston Teachers Union President Jessica Tang and American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten
- First day of kindergarten visit to the Roosevelt Lower School with Mayor Walsh and Chairperson Loconto
- Unacceptable transportation delays and efforts to improve performance

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

- Back to school media interviews with Matty in the Morning, and Karson and Kennedy
- Door Knocking as part of the BPS Re-Engagement effort
- Attendance rates
- Enrollment
- State accountability results will be released on September 24th
- My Way Café expansion
- Custodial efforts and building improvements this summer
- Elementary Science - GE partnership
- Increased student support staff - nurses, mental health professionals, social workers
- Increasing technology access: Comcast provided 50 laptops and six months of complimentary Internet Essentials service to all King K-8 eighth-grade students and their families.
- BSAC Safety Banners: Orchard Gardens K-8, Mason Elementary, Hurley K-8 and the Quincy Elementary
- Strong district leadership/high-quality, action-oriented teachers and staff
- Hiring Update
 - 273 external hires, 36.26% of which are people of color
 - Diversity Focus Schools have made 159 hires, 51.57% of which identify as people of color.
 - 79 teachers in roles of Suitable Professional Capacity (SPC).
 - Teachers in roles of SPC are teaching in their content, in their licensing area, and are integrated into their school schedules.
- Transportation Update: Additional drivers and standby hired, additional support in dispatch and phone lines; no reported issues with MBTA
- School visits to date and to come
- Mayor Walsh announced the citywide expansion of [Boston Saves](#), the City of Boston's children's savings account program that helps families of BPS students save and plan for their children's college or career training from K2 onward.

The Superintendent introduced the following new school leaders:

Harriet A. Baldwin Early Learning Pilot Academy

Min-Jen Taylor, Principal

Ms. Taylor has been an extraordinary instructional leader in the Brookline early education program. She has led a pre-K classroom at the Heath School for the past 14 years, mentored teachers in early education instruction, and also served as director of LAUNCH, a summer program which supports the transition to kindergarten for children entering Brookline Public Schools.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

William Blackstone Elementary School**Shammah Daniels, Principal**

Ms. Daniels has been an educator in North Carolina for nearly 25 years and is excited to relocate to Boston. She most recently served as the K-8 Administrator of the Alternative Learning Program in Pitt County Schools in Greenville, N.C.

Boston Teachers Union K-8 Pilot School**Kristen Leathers, Interim Co-Lead Teacher**

Ms. Leathers has over a decade of experience in the BPS as a teacher and teacher leader. For many years, Ms. Leathers taught English Language Arts and English as a Second Language at Brighton High School in addition to a variety of leadership roles. Ms. Leathers was also the Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Director at Brighton High last school year.

Jeremiah E. Burke High School**Amilcar Silva, Interim Headmaster**

Mr. Silva has been a BPS educator for over 25 years, all of them at the Burke. Fluent and literate in five languages, Mr. Silva began his career at the Burke as an English as a Second Language teacher.

Sarah Greenwood K-8 School**Camila Hernandez, Interim Principal**

Ms. Hernández de Obi-Tabot, born in Bogotá, Colombia, joined the Greenwood community as a first-grade teacher in 2010. As an immigrant and English learner, she is passionate about establishing supports and access to learning for all students.

James W. Hennigan K-8 School**Tanya Woodard, Interim Principal**

Ms. Woodard is a BPS graduate whose professional journey brought her to BPS and the Hennigan in September 2003. Over the past 16 years, Ms. Woodard has served the Hennigan community as a fifth-grade teacher, acting assistant principal, and most recently the director of instruction.

Rafael Hernández K-8 School**Carolina Brito, Interim Principal**

Last year, Ms. Brito has served as principal of Boston Preparatory Charter School in Hyde Park, strategically staffing and monitoring progress for school-wide systems. Prior to her time at Boston Prep, Ms. Brito spent eight years at Cristo Rey Boston High School in Dorchester, the last four as Dean of Humanities.

Oliver W. Holmes Innovation School**Edverette Brewster, Principal**

Mr. Brewster spent eight years teaching humanities at the Frederick Pilot Middle School. While at the Frederick, Mr. Brewster also served as a teacher leader on the instructional leadership

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

team. At the Hurley last year, Mr. Brewster has supported the school leader in developing, implementing and monitoring the school's strategic plan

Joseph J. Hurley K-8 School**Bethy Verano, Interim Principal**

Ms. Verano has worked for BPS since 2013. For the last three years, Ms. Verano served as assistant headmaster at Boston Latin School, leading the implementation of equity-related policies while serving as the primary administrator for students in grades 9-12, overseeing discipline, student support, and family engagement.

Mission Hill K-8**Geralynn Bywater McLaughlin, Co-Teacher Leader**

Ms. McLaughlin was one of the founding teachers of the Mission Hill K-8 and has mentored teachers in early education instruction throughout that time. Ms. McLaughlin has led a pre-kindergarten classroom at the Mission Hill K-8 for the past seven years.

Mission Hill K-8**Jenerra Williams, Co-Teacher Leader**

Ms. Williams was most recently a third and fourth grade teacher at Mission Hill. Ms. Williams has had a long and successful career in elementary education, having taught for the past 17 years.

New Mission High School**Andrew Bott, Interim Headmaster**

Mr. Bott has over 20 years of experience in public education, most recently serving as Superintendent of the Brookline Public Schools. Mr. Bott has extensive experience working in BPS, including school leader at three schools. As Principal of Orchard Gardens, Mr. Bott envisioned and built a comprehensive K-8 arts program including music, visual arts, theater, dance, and media arts.

William H. Ohrenberger School**John Travis, Principal**

Mr. Travis was previously an award winning math teacher in Woodbury, N.J., before beginning his tenure with BPS in the 2017-2018 school year as Director of Human Capital Strategy. Mr. Travis then pursued enrollment in the Lynch Leadership Academy, and was most recently a leadership fellow at the Harvard-Kent Elementary School in Charlestown.

Michael J. Perkins Elementary School**Maisha Rounds, Principal**

Ms. Rounds began her career teaching at the elementary level in her native South Carolina. During her time in the classroom, she attained National Board Certification and was named South Carolina Teacher of the Year.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

Pauline A. Shaw Elementary**Ashley Davis, Principal**

Since the spring of 2019, Ms. Davis has led the P.A. Shaw as interim principal. A lifelong learner, Ms. Davis has been the principal fellow through the Lynch Leadership Academy at the P.A. Shaw Elementary School.

James P. Timilty Middle School**Jason Meland, Interim Principal**

Mr. Meland has spent the last eight years as an educator, most recently serving as acting middle school principal at Prospect Hill Academy Charter School in Cambridge. Mr. Meland is bilingual and previously worked as a Spanish teacher in Indianapolis Public Schools, before serving as both the Spanish Coordinator and World Languages Coordinator at Prospect Hill Academy Charter School.

West Zone Early Learning Center**Stacia LeMond, Interim Principal**

Ms. LeMond is a Massachusetts native and has been a BPS educator for the past 25 years. Ms. LeMond has taught a variety of academic subjects in grades levels 1-8, including visual arts. Most recently she was a grade 1 inclusion teacher at the West Zone ELC.

Dr. Coleman thanked the Superintendent for her pledge to organize her reports around the strategic plan.

Ms. Robinson thanked the Superintendent and BPS transportation team for their efforts to improve need to improve on-time performance. She said that more must be done to improve transportation performance and ease the student transfer process. She noted that she recently volunteered in the district's reengagement door knocking campaign and answering calls for the transportation hotline.

Mr. O'Neill welcomed the new school leaders, adding that he is pleased to see that so many of the leaders already have knowledge of the district. He thanked City Year Boston for volunteering to assist with the reengagement door knocking effort. He thanked the Superintendent for her strong focus on transportation and her commitment to driving improvement.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the Superintendent for personally participating in the district's door knocking campaign to reengage chronically absent students. She said that her daughter transferred to a BPS school this year and has felt very welcomed.

Mr. Loconto noted that School Committee's membership is now comprised of a majority of BPS parents. He said that during the summer, the Committee participated in a professional development training organized by the Council of Great City Schools entitled Accelerated Board Capacity. The Committee also held a retreat on August 28th which was open to the public. At the retreat, members discussed their desire to refresh the district's strategic plan and the

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

Superintendent presented her 100-day community engagement plan. Going forward, the Committee plans to hold retreats on a quarterly basis. Mr. Loconto has tasked Mr. Tran with developing a written protocol for nominations to the School Committee Task Forces. The Committee's parliamentarian is now telecommuting and serving on an as-needed basis. The Committee plans to redirect those savings into the compilation of an online policy manual in collaboration with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. The Committee is considering the formation of new task forces, perhaps in the area partnerships and/or college and career readiness. He thanked the BPS facilities team for its responsiveness in rebuilding the Sumner Elementary School playground. He thanked students from the Roger Clap Innovation School for making paper flower bouquets for the Superintendent, which arrived just in time for her birthday. Mr. O'Neill noted that Committee retreats are open to the public and that public comment was entertained on August 28.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JULY 17, 2019 AND AUGUST 28, 2019

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the July 17, 2019 School Committee meeting and August 28, 2019 retreat.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyn Kain, BPS parent and chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council, welcome Superintendent Cassellius and invited parents and caregivers to attend the next SpedPAC meeting at the Bolling Building on October 7th at 5:30 p.m. The Superintendent will also attend.

Allison Friedman, parent, Sumner Elementary School, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-6 configuration.

Takeya Anthony-Price, parent, testified regarding transportation concerns.

Raina Aronowitz, Interim Executive Director, Educators for Excellence, testified regarding the importance of restorative practices.

David Martinez, Outreach Director, Educators for Excellence, read a statement on behalf of Latisha Waiters, BPS paraprofessional and former BPS parent, regarding the importance of restorative practices.

Stephanie Gaston, parent, UP Academy Dorchester, shared her concerns about the school's disciplinary practices.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Coleman suggested that the SMART goals for grants should be more focused on outcomes, rather participation rates, for example. He also suggested adding an explicit Latinx goal to Goal 4 for the Title II-A Improving Educator Quality grant. Anu Jayanth, Director of Grants and External Funding, said that the Office of Human Capital could review his suggestion for that specific grant, adding that her office is working to strengthen SMART goals overall.

Dr. Rivera asked clarifying questions about the small donation grant and expressed transparency concerns about the district's potential acceptance of donations from anonymous donors. Ms. Jayanth said that her office will be more explicit when communicating about small donation grants, which track donations of less than \$10,000 from funders for an unrestricted purpose.

Mr. O'Neill acknowledged the concerns raised during public comment regarding grade configurations, restorative justice practices, and transportation, saying he looks forward to the district's response. He praised work of the BPS Comprehensive Behavioral Health Model (CBHM). Senior Director of Behavioral Health Services said that she would share the most recent CBHM report with the Committee.

Ms. Robinson commented on the district's use of grant funding to fund some services and supplement others.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila said that she is pleased that some of the grants for approval have a focus on Cultural and Linguistically Sustaining Practices (CLSP). She requested more information about the out-of-school supports for the Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time grant. She said that she supports the idea of schools sharing their fundraising dollars, and looks forward to discussing the issue further this school year.

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$96,314,968.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the Updated BPS Drinking Water Access Policy.

REPORTS

BPS Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Membership - BPS Athletics Director Avery Esdaile presented the Superintendent's recommendation seeking School Committee approval for new MIAA Membership for the Dearborn STEM Academy, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, and the BPS Alternative Schools Network. MIAA membership provides access to interscholastic athletic participation opportunities, and enables schools to participate as cooperative teams if a school does not offer that sport. BPS is required to have an official School Committee vote to seek membership for additional schools. Adding

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

the proposed schools provides greater access and opportunity for students to participate in athletics. The new memberships will ensure that all BPS high schools are MIAA-affiliated, and have access to athletics and MIAA governance.

Mr. O'Neill asked for an update on the district's partnership with Play Ball! Foundation and Boston Scholar Athletes. Mr. Esdaile said that Play Ball! is currently active in about 32 schools and hopes to expand. Boston Scholar Athletes operates 17 high school zones in BPS. Mr. Esdaile said that he will follow up with high schools that do not have a BSA zone. Mr. O'Neill encouraged the district to seek greater representation from large urban districts on the MIAA governing board.

The Superintendent said that she will be discussing athletics and the arts, among other topics of importance, during her community engagement tour. She is also exploring how the district can raise expectations for student athletes.

The Committee will take action on the MIAA membership request at its September 25th meeting. ***Public Engagement for Strategic and Implementation Planning*** – Chief Engagement Officer Monica Roberts presented an overview of the Superintendent's 100-Day Community Engagement Tour, which is designed to ensure that the district's strategic and implementation plans are inclusive of and guided by stakeholder voice. The Superintendent will engage BPS' diverse community of students, families, school and central staff, partners and community members to:

- Gather to review the current goals and priorities in the district strategic plan
- Collect feedback to develop our shared values, goals and priorities
- Affirm our collective voices in the district strategic plan and FY21 budget process

Focus areas for public input include:

- Current strategic aspirations and priorities
- The opportunities, programs and supports we envision for our scholars
- Becoming parents' first choice
- Meaningful engagement and effective communications at the classroom, school and district levels
- Securing the trust of Boston parents

The complete schedule for the Superintendent's Community Engagement Tour is available at www.bostonpublicschools.org/engagementtour.

Mr. Loconto recognized Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George, chair of the Council's Education Committee, who was seated in the audience.

Boston School Committee Meeting

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
2300 Washington Street
School Committee Chamber
Roxbury, MA 02119

September 11, 2019

Ms. Oliver-Dávila praised the Superintendent’s engagement plan and asked about staff support beyond the BPS Office of Engagement. The Superintendent said that the engagement tour is a cross-departmental effort, and that many of the forums are being cohosted by community partners.

Ms. Robinson asked how the tour is being advertised to BPS families who may not already be engaged. The Superintendent responded that the district is conducting outreach to faith-based communities, ethnic media outlets and school parent councils, among others.

Mr. O’Neill requested that the Committee receive the link to the engagement tour schedule, which Ms. Sullivan will provide.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Rivera inquired when nominations to the English Language Learners Task Force would be brought before the Committee. Mr. Loconto said October.

Ms. Robinson encouraged members to accept an invitation for educators and educational leaders to sail aboard the USS Constitution.

Mr. O’Neill asked the Superintendent and her team to follow up issues raised during the meeting related to discipline and transportation.

ADJOURN

At approximately 8:10 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary