



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 26, 2018

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on September 26, 2018 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 Dr. Hardin Coleman; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Michael O’Neill; Jeri Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Evelyn Reyes.

School Committee Member Absent: Regina Robinson.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Boston School Committee Meeting Minutes: September 12, 2018 and September 20, 2018
Retreat

Grants for Approval totaling \$7,750,943

- JROTC - East Boston, English, CASH, Excel, Burke, Madison Park, O’Bryant - \$686,000
- Perkins IV Secondary Allocation Grant – Districtwide - \$1,686,956
- Preschool Expansion Grant - 11 sites districtwide - \$3,877,987
- Social Emotional Learning in School and Out of School Setting Initiative Planning Grant - 14 sites districtwide - \$1,500,000

Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers Memorandum of Understanding PowerPoint

Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers Memorandum of Understanding Equity Impact Statement

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Memorandum of Understanding Type A: Agreement between the Boston Public Schools and the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, a Horace Mann Charter School

Student Activity Accounts PowerPoint

Student Activity Accounts Equity Impact Statement

Student Activity Accounts Policy

Memo from Michael D. O'Neill to Boston School Committee re: Internal Audit Task Force Proposed Charge and Membership, September 12, 2018

Internal Audit Task Force for Boston Public Schools Candidate Profiles, updated September 26, 2018

BuildBPS Update Power Point

BuildBPS Update Equity Impact Statement

BPS Community Engagement Advisory Council Confirmed Membership FY 2019 & 2020 (as of September 26, 2018)

Update on Central Office Priorities, Organization, and Learning Networks, School Year 2018-19

Operations Networks 2018-2019

Update on Central Office Redesign and School Support Equity Impact Statement

Memo from Chairperson Loconto to Boston School Committee re: 2018-2019 Superintendent Search Committee, September 26, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

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

The Committee held a moment of silence in memory of Karen Glasgow, former director of Labor Relations for the Boston Public Schools, who passed away unexpectedly last week.

Chairperson Loconto introduced Evelyn Reyes, a junior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science, who will serve as student representative on the Committee for the 2018-19 school year.

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Chairperson Loconto thanked Marsha Innis-Mitchell, director of Post-Secondary Partnerships and Initiatives, for decorating the panel table with posters depicting the alma maters of Committee members and the Interim Superintendent in celebration of College Month, which runs during the month of October.

Chairperson Loconto congratulated Ms. Jeri Robinson on her upcoming retirement as vice president of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Boston Children’s Museum where she has worked for 45 years. Mayor Walsh declared Monday, September 24, 2018 as “Jeri Robinson Day” in the City of Boston.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approved – The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the September 12, 2018 Boston School Committee meeting and the September 20, 2018 Boston School Committee retreat.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

I would like to provide a brief update to the School Committee and the public on the annual state accountability results for schools and school districts, which are being released publicly tomorrow by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We will post a press release and a link to the full list of accountability results on our district website www.bostonpublicschools.org.

School leaders have all been notified about the results from 2018, and are aware of the public release. I have been briefed on the results for BPS and all of our schools. I can’t share details at this time, but I am pleased to report that many schools are showing significant improvements. Simultaneously, several other schools have shown declines and are still in need of targeted supports. We continue to have work to do to combat some districtwide trends that have given us concern, and we will go into greater detail on how we will support our highest-need schools once the results are public. I anticipate the School Committee will receive a formal briefing of the accountability results at our October 10th meeting.

Last Thursday, Mayor Walsh, School Committee member Regina Robinson, and I joined students, staff, and families of the Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain to celebrate the grand re-opening of the school’s library, which was the result of two years of volunteer work and community fundraising of nearly \$100,000. The new library boasts an updated collection of books, technology and online resources. This allow students to research and collaborate in a manner that’s in line with digital expectations for 21st century learning. It was beyond uplifting to be at this ribbon-cutting. So many community members came together to create something wonderful that is student-focused and promotes learning. The Curley School community should

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be proud of all they have accomplished. I'd like to thank Principal Katherine Grassa, the Curley School Library Committee, and the countless volunteers and donors who made this new library possible.

On Tuesday, NFL Hall of Famer Andre Tippett, and four current New England Patriots players were on-hand to donate \$10,000 to the Haley Pilot School in Roslindale. The "hometown" grant is from the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation and the New England Dairy and Food Council. It will be used for health-focused initiatives and the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, an in-school nutrition and wellness initiative. It's the nation's largest in-school and student-driven wellness program, reaching nearly 74,000 schools. Patriots cheerleaders and the team's mascot, Pat the Patriot, were also at the student assembly when the check was presented. BPS Food and Nutrition Services executive director, Laura Benavidez, along with Chief of Staff Rob Consalvo, were at the event, joining Haley Principal Kathleen Sullivan. Thank you to the Dairy Council and the Patriots for their generous support of our students.

I would like to thank the Boston Teachers Union for holding a successful Back to School Fair for students and families last Saturday. About 200 volunteers worked to sort and give away more than 40,000 free books to 2,000 students, parents, and educators. The BTU works with [FirstBook](#) and the American Federation of Teachers, along with numerous community organizations, to put together this wonderful event, which also includes face painting, dancing, and other fun activities for families. I'd like to thank everyone at the BTU, including BTU President Jessica Tang, for putting hosting this wonderful event.

There was an interesting professional development and networking event for our social studies teachers last Friday. That's when 35 BPS educators, along with School Committee member Michael O'Neill, went to in U.S.S. Constitution in Charlestown, where they met with 200 Gold Star family members along with educators from local historical sites. Participants learned about history and social studies resources, new standards, and opportunities for students and teachers to engage with "Old Ironsides" and other iconic sites in Boston. Educators got to raise a flag; speak to U.S. Sailors stationed on the USS Constitution; observe naval procedures aboard a moving vessel, experience a 21 and 17 cannon salute, explore areas of the ship not usually open to the public, and interact with Gold Star families.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that October is College Month in the Boston Public Schools and the City of Boston. We are encouraging students and families at all grade levels to begin planning **now** for college and career. Friday, October 5th, is College Pride Day, when everyone is encouraged to wear clothing from their alma maters to promote a college-going culture for our students. I ask you all to join us for that! On Saturday, October 27th, BPS will hold the 7th annual Citywide College and Career Fair at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury. At the fair, BPS students can meet with representatives from various colleges and universities to learn about their options, along with how to gain access to assistance for financial aid and other resources. I strongly encourage all students to attend the fair on the 27th — and I'll be looking out for all those college sweatshirts next Friday!

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Committee members praised Ms. Jeri Robinson for her lifelong dedication to the children of Boston.

Mr. O'Neill spoke highly about his recent experience with BPS educators aboard the USS Constitution and emphasized the value of student visits to historical sites.

Dr. Uriarte requested an update transportation performance. Chief of Operations John Hanlon provided a brief update, noting the district's continuous improvement since the first week of school.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Syre Rivers Garcia, student, Boston Arts Academy, advocated for the Boston Public Schools to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day on the school calendar.

Jedidia Santana, Boston Arts Academy, advocated for Boston Public Schools to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day on the school calendar.

Tara Shea, parent, Boston Latin Academy, testified regarding concerns of overcrowding on buses 435 and 498.

Michael Heichman, community member, testified regarding the superintendent search process.

David Nave, BPS parent, testified regarding his son's experience as an off-track student.

Rev. Willie Bodrick II, Boston Network for Black Student Achievement, testified regarding the superintendent search.

Joel Wool, policy director, Office of Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards, testified regarding BuildBPS and the Stillman Tennis Center in Charlestown.

Jimmy Wyman, BPS parent, testified regarding transportation concerns.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Oliver-Dávila requested additional details about the Social Emotional Learning in School and Out of School Setting Initiative Planning Grant. BPS Grants Manager Bennett Griesmer agreed to follow up with more information.

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Mr. O'Neill stated for the record that he is a member of the executive board of the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS). He also noted that the Committee receives a high return on investment through its membership in CGCS.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$7,750,943.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent annual membership dues to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees in the amount of \$7,730.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee approved by unanimous consent annual membership dues to the Council of Great City Schools in the amount of \$44,428.

Chief of Staff Rob Consalvo read aloud section 10C of the BPS Memorandum of Understanding with the Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Academy for Health Careers pertaining to student discipline. The new language states that EMK shall adopt and will comply with BPS's Code of Conduct. The language was added at the suggestion of Mr. O'Neill at the September 12, 2018 Committee meeting.

Dr. Uriarte asked about EMK's accountability status. Ms. Perille explained that EMK is a Local Education(al) Agency.

Ms. Reyes asked about EMK's special education services and student representation on the school's governing structure. The district agreed to follow up.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding Type A between the Boston Public Schools and the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, as amended.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila requested that Student Activity Account expenses be posted annually on the BPS website. Chief Financial Officer Eleanor Laurans agreed.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the Student Activity Accounts policy as presented.

Mr. O'Neill provided a brief update on the proposed membership for the Committee's Internal Audit Task Force. Professor Joy Gray of Bentley University has confirmed her participation. Sharhea Wade of State Street is unable to serve, however, Natalie Velasquez, also of State Street, and a Boston Latin Academy graduate, has confirmed her participation. Mr. O'Neill provided Ms. Reyes with background information on the creation and goals of the Task Force.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the charge and membership of the Committee's Internal Audit Task Force as presented.

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REPORTS

Update on Central Office Priorities, Organization, and Learning Networks, School Year 2018-19 – Deputy Superintendent of Administration David Murphy, Interim Chief Academic Officer Dr. Charles Grandson and Associate Superintendent for Elementary and Middle Schools Mary Driscoll presented an update on the district’s leadership team, including a new organizational chart, and the Interim Superintendent’s top three priorities:

- 1) Improving opportunities for students by creating systemic conditions at all schools to narrow achievement gaps;
- 2) Position Central Office to provide differentiated supports for schools by prioritizing supports for schools with the highest levels of need; and
- 3) Align long-term planning of BuildBPS investments with decisions about grade configurations, program placements, reducing school transitions, and other factors.

These priorities have been informed by the goals and values articulated both by the School Committee and community members through existing work such as the Strategic Implementation Plan, the BPS Theory of Action and Problem of Practice, and the Essentials for Instructional Equity, as well as ongoing conversations. The district’s leadership team is committed to advancing these three priorities over the course the 2018 - 2019 school year.

Dr. Coleman requested regular reports about problem of practice and obstacles to success. He also encouraged the district to focus on accountability, Quality School Plans, and the relationship between Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Practices (CLSP) and the Essentials for Instructional Equity.

Ms. Jeri Robinson asked about the role of the Boston Teachers Union. Ms. Perille said that all adults must work together to help central office balance compliance with school support and build capacity.

Dr. Uriarte encouraged the district to hold school leaders accountable for creating safe, welcoming, and supportive schools that are affirming for students and families. She asked about recent changes in the Office of Social Emotional Learning and Wellness and encouraged the district to hire more Latinos in leadership positions. Ms. Perille said that Latinx recruitment is a high priority. Dr. Grandson said that district wants to deepen its SELWELL work with a focus on implementation and delivery.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila encouraged the district to provide schools in different learning networks with opportunities for cross-collaboration.

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Mr. Loconto noted that the Committee has tentatively scheduled a budget update and Academics and Student Supports for Equity Team (ASSET) update for December.

The Committee discussed reciprocal accountability among schools and central office.

BuildBPS Update – Chief of Staff Rob Consalvo, Chief Engagement Officer Monica Roberts, and Deputy Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder presented an overview of Phase 2 of the district’s citywide, multi-pronged BuildBPS community engagement plan. BuildBPS is the district’s long-term educational and facilities master plan. The district will put forth specific proposals for community members to react to at the October 17th School Committee meeting. Proposals may include renovations and upgrades, building new schools, and/or closing and merging schools that may no longer be viable. The Office of Engagement team will connect with community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, parent groups, and student groups, among others, beginning in mid-October and lasting through mid-December. Ms. Perille emphasized that the district will use a lens of equity in all decision-making, noting that the district’s internal BuildBPS team has created an equity subcommittee that includes members of the Office of Equity and the Office of Opportunity Gaps. Ms. Roberts presented an updated membership roster of the BPS Community Engagement Advisory Council, which will help BPS engage and leverage stakeholder voice to inform decision-making. Ms. Perille said that proposed configurations will not be one-size-fits-all and promised a thoughtful, data driven approach that includes multiple presentations to the School Committee and ongoing engagement.

Chairperson Loconto noted that meetings of the BPS Community Engagement Advisory Council will be open to the public and posted with the City Clerk.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila praised the district’s new engagement strategies. She expressed some concern about the district’s ability to balance BuildBPS engagement initiatives with engagement support to schools. Ms. Perille said that her team will monitor that issue.

Dr. Uriarte discussed the district’s equity focus and suggested that the district include representatives from the Office of English Language Learners and Office of Special Education on the BuildBPS planning team.

Mr. O’Neill lauded the Interim Superintendent’s blended approach to school configurations and the district’s commitment to equity. He encouraged the district to make climate control and energy efficiency part of its standard of planning for all future building renovations and new construction.

Dr. Coleman encouraged the district to place more focus on developing a vision for 21st century learning.

Superintendent Search Update – Chairperson Loconto provided an update on the Committee’s formation of superintendent search committee, announcing that Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, School

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Committee member and executive director of Sociedad Latina, and Dr. Keith Motley, former chancellor of UMass Boston, will serve as co-chairs. The full search committee representing various BPS stakeholders will be announced next week, and Chairperson Loconto will ask the Committee to take action on naming a search committee at the next Committee meeting on October 10th.

Once approved, the search committee will:

- Solicit and review potential search firms and other consultants that can provide recruiting and/or human resources administrative services to support the search.
- Select and present a search firm to the Boston School Committee for approval.
- Hold a series of public hearings throughout the city to solicit public feedback and input into desired candidate's qualities. Community and District partners will be invited to present, and the public at-large will have opportunities to comment.
- Draft a job description and present it to the Boston School Committee for approval by the end of November.
- Issue a call for candidates and actively work to create as wide a pool of potential candidates as possible.
- Conduct a round of interviews (in executive session to preserve candidate confidentiality at this level) and select an appropriate number of suitable final candidates for public presentation.

It is expected that the search committee will operate under a timeline that will allow for the presentation of final candidates in early 2019, with additional opportunities to solicit public input on the finalists at that time. Chairperson Loconto noted, however, that time frames can and will be adjusted if necessary (based upon the response to the call for candidates), in order to best ensure that Boston has obtained the highest caliber of candidates for consideration as our district's next permanent superintendent. He noted that BPS is well positioned to capitalize on its recent experiences with the 2014 superintendent search.

Consistent with past searches, several regional and city foundations are considering or have stepped forward to provide financial support for search expenses. More details will be announced as these commitments are finalized.

Committee members thanked Ms. Oliver-Dávila for taking on this important leadership role.

Mr. O'Neill said that he would like to see someone with experience as the district's next permanent superintendent, adding that the new superintendent should be in place prior to the start of the next school year.

Dr. Coleman initiated a discussion by the Committee about balance of confidentiality with a public process.

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PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

The following people testified regarding the superintendent search:

- Peggy Wiesenber, former BPS parent
- Jane Miller, BPS parent and co-founder, Start Smart BPS
- Megan Wolf, member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST)
- John Mudd, education advocate
- Rev. Willie Bodrick II, chairperson, Boston Network for Black Student Achievement

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O'Neill encouraged anyone who is interested in serving on the superintendent search committee to apply. Loconto said that people can email him directly.

Dr. Uriarte expressed support for BPS observance of Indigenous Peoples Day in lieu of Columbus Day. Chairperson Loconto asked district staff to explore the issue and report back to the Committee.

Chairperson Loconto announced that the bus drivers' union has ratified a collective bargaining agreement with Transdev and said that more details would be provided at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

ADJOURN

At approximately 10:58 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary