



## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**September 30, 2015**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on September 30, 2015 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](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org), 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 Michael O'Neill; Vice-Chair Dr. Hardin Coleman; Meg Campbell; Michael Loconto; Jeri Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Savina Tapia.

School Committee Member Absent: Regina Robinson.

### DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

School Committee Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2015

Grants for Approval Totaling \$1,113,433.

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (FC 647-A) - \$59,253.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (FC 647-B1 & B2) - \$243,496.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers Exemplary Grant (FC 647-B2) - \$199,600.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers Extended Learning Time (FC 647-B1) - \$175,000.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers Extended Learning Time (FC 647-B1) - \$427,584.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers Enhanced Programs for Students with Disabilities (FC 245A) - \$8,500.

Spring 2015 MCAS Results: Grade 10

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Boston Compact: Consideration of a New Compact, September 2015

Update on Schedule A Extended Learning Time

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. O'Neill led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order. In celebration of "College Knowledge Month," the Superintendent and Committee adorned the panel table with posters depicting the logos of their college alma maters.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the September 9, 2015 School Committee meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

This morning the Superintendent rode aboard one of the district's new eco-friendly, propane-fueled buses with first daughter and NBC correspondent Jenna Bush Hager. Ms. Bush Hager, a former middle school teacher, was in Boston to showcase the district's fleet of 86 brand new liquid propane-powered buses. The propane buses emit exhaust that is 80 percent cleaner than standard diesel buses, operate 25 to 30 decibels quieter, and are projected to save the district 20 to 30 percent in fuel costs per mile.

The Superintendent and Ms. Bush Hager rode to the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School in Dorchester, where they met Mayor Walsh and the Propane Education and Research Council presented a generous \$10,000 donation to the Frederick's teachers to help them buy school supplies.

On September 29th, Chairman O'Neill joined Mayor Walsh and the Superintendent at the McKay K-8 School in East Boston to officially launch "Build Boston: the 10-Year Educational and Facilities Master Plan." The plan will provide a strategic framework for investments in BPS school buildings and bring alignment between school facilities and the Superintendent's educational vision to prepare all youth in Boston for college, career and life. Sixty-five percent of BPS school buildings were built before World War II. This endeavor marks the first time in 20 years that the City has conducted a citywide school capital plan. When completed, it should help BPS schools meet the standards of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. The Superintendent praised McKay K-8 School Principal Jordan Weymer for working creatively to maximize the school's very limited space.

The Superintendent applauded the hard work of teachers district-wide whose consistent emphasis on building critical-thinking skills and developing more rigorous coursework has helped students outpace their peers statewide in making significant gains in MCAS scores. BPS has made particular strides in the ELA proficiency rates for all 10<sup>th</sup>-grade BPS students. Their scores climbed by 6 points from last year, to 82 percent – part of a promising 18-percentage-point

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increase since 2009 that has brought BPS within 9 percentage points of the 91 percent statewide results. Nowhere have the ELA gains been more striking than with African American and Latino students, whose improvements have helped close the persistent achievement gap in 10<sup>th</sup> grade for MCAS ELA by approximately 8 percentage points.

The Superintendent thanked the New Balance Foundation Billion Mile Race, along with Tufts University, for donating new sneakers to more than 250 students and staff this week at the Michael J. Perkins School in South Boston. The New Balance initiative aims to "spark the next generation's passion for movement and a relentless pursuit of lifelong health, well-being, and success." The Perkins is a BPS 2014 Excellence in School Wellness Innovation Award honoree. Last year, as a school, its students and staff walked nearly 4,000 miles combined – more than the distance from Boston to Los Angeles. The Superintendent praised Perkins School community and its partners for fighting childhood obesity through active movement.

Mr. O'Neill noted that he was impressed with the students who participated in a panel discussion held by Summer Search featuring the Superintendent earlier in the week.

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

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kathy Choi, parent, Boston Latin School, testified regarding transportation eligibility for high school students.

Martha Thompson, parent, Boston Latin School, testified regarding transportation for high school students.

Kim Janey, senior project director, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, testified regarding the unified enrollment proposal.

Kari Charles, parent, Boston Latin School, testified regarding transportation options for high school students.

Cassandra Cumberlander, parent, Neighborhood House Charter School, testified regarding the unified enrollment proposal.

Kalise Osula, BPS alumna, testified regarding the unified enrollment proposal. She then read a statement on the subject from BPS alum Marcus Wade.

Megan Wolf, BPS parent and member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), testified regarding the unified enrollment proposal.

Peggy Wiesenber, parent of three BPS graduates, testified regarding the unified enrollment proposal.

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Heshan Berents-Weeramuni, BPS parent, and co-chair, Citywide Parents Council, testified regarding open kindergarten seats and suggested that kindergarten students be administratively assigned.

Bette O’Gara, executive director, Key Steps, invited the Committee and public to attend a ceremony October 6.

Neil Sullivan, executive director, Boston Private Industry Council, testified regarding renewing the Boston Compact and unified enrollment proposal.

John St. Amand, vice-chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPac), testified regarding special education issue. He encouraged people to visit [www.bostonspedpac.org](http://www.bostonspedpac.org) and YouTube for more information on SpedPac.

## **ACTION ITEM**

**Approved** – The Committee approved by unanimous consent grants for approval totaling \$1,113,433.

## **REPORTS**

**Spring 2015 MCAS Results: Grade 10** – Dr. Donna Muncey, Deputy Superintendent of Strategy, presented the results of the spring MCAS for 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Tony King, headmaster of Boston International/Newcomers Academy, credited staffing flexibility, interventions and extended learning time with raising the school’s MCAS scores. Lindsa McIntyre, headmaster of the Jeremiah E. Burke High School, credited her school’s improvement with trauma-sensitive instructional strategies, scheduling, multiple research-based strategies, fostering a climate of trust, learning academies, tiered interventions based on data, common planning time for teachers, and a focus on attendance and discipline.

The Superintendent stated that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has suppressed The English High School’s math MCAS scores, adding that the district is working with DESE on the issue.

Ms. Campbell applauded the Muniz Academy’s student growth percentiles (SGP) in math and ELA and invited headmaster Dania Vasquez to a future Committee meeting to share her keys to success. She suggested a review of the district’s K-8 math curriculum. She encouraged district leaders to learn more about the Engage New York initiative, which is helping NY educators transition to Common Core testing.

Dr. Uriarte offered praise for the district’s MCAS results and thanked Dr. Muncey for presenting longitudinal data. She requested additional information disaggregating the data on English Language Learners, which the district agreed to provide.

Dr. Coleman requested additional data distinguishing proficient and advanced ratings.

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Mr. Loconto asked the district to examine schools with a composite performance index (CPI) gain of more than 2.5 point, find common threads and try to bring that success to scale.

Mr. O'Neill lauded schools that have made significant MCAS gains and asked Ms. McIntyre to share keys to leading the Burke out of Turnaround status. Ms. McIntyre explained that the Burke uses partnerships to pay for after school and summer programming. She also said that the Burke collaborates with charter and Catholic schools to share best practices.

***Update on Schedule A Extended Learning Time*** – Shandra Goldfinger, project manager, Office of Extended Learning Time presented an update in the Extended Learning Time (ELT) initiative, which adds 40 additional minutes of student learning to the school day and 75 minutes per week of additional planning time for teachers. School leaders have cited transportation problems as their greatest problem. The district will have more data on success and challenges later in the school year. The Superintendent said that coordinating afternoon transportation is challenging because schools end-times vary, adding that a creative solution is needed.

Ms. Jeri Robinson encouraged the district to study impact of a longer school day on families and community-based organizations.

Ms. Campbell requested that the Committee receive an update at its next meeting on afternoon transportation data. She also requested examples from principals about strong, self-directed professional development and more information about how schools are using the extra time.

Mr. O'Neill requested that the Committee receive regular ELT updates throughout the school year.

Mr. Loconto encouraged the district to collaborate with the City, cautioned about unintended consequences, and suggested that the district reexamine school start times.

Mr. O'Neill said that the district is examining the entire school calendar as well as start times, adding that the Superintendent has to make many based on transportation constraints.

***Boston Compact: Consideration of a New Compact*** –

*\*Ms. Campbell recused herself from the presentation and discussion to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.*

The Mayor's Education Chief Rahn Dorsey and Chief of Innovation Dr. Ross Wilson presented a proposal for a renewed Boston Compact. The 2011 Compact opened the lines of communication and collaboration among BPS, charter and Catholic schools with a shared commitment to creating equitable access to high performing schools and excellent instruction. The Compact is led by a 13 steering members. All members maintain their own governing bodies.

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Dorsey outlined the four shared goals and indicators of success, noting that the proposal is asking the Committee to recommit to new set of shared goals. A separate Committee vote on the unified enrollment proposal would come at a later time following a series of community meetings.

Dr. Uriarte questioned whether it's appropriate that that the Compact includes some types of schools and not others.

Mr. O'Neill requested data on the total school-age population in Boston by school type.

Ms. Tapia encouraged all members of the Compact to adopt the BPS Code of Conduct.

Mr. Loconto acknowledged inherent conflict among all parties, calling the Compact an opportunity for dialogue and collaboration to benefit all of the city's children. He noted that the Compact has already have saved transportation resources.

Dr. Coleman said he supports everyone sitting at table to do what's best for children.

O'Neill said that he supported the 2011 Compact. The Committee always measures against its strategic goals and the Compact shares many of the same goals. The district has adopted many best of the practices of charters, such as more autonomy for school leaders. He said that charters should consider adopting some BPS best practices such as code of conduct, and increased family engagement.

Dr. Uriarte expressed concern about implications for English Language Learners and students with special needs under the unified enrollment proposal.

Chief Dorsey explained that tonight is the start of a citywide dialogue and encouraged people to visit [www.bostoncompact.org](http://www.bostoncompact.org) to learn more and view a list a community meeting dates.

The Superintendent said that he likes that this Compact is guided by an equity lens, adding that everyone must collaborate to serve children well. He cited the Denver Compact as one example for Boston to study.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

John Mudd, education advocate, testified regarding the Boston Compact presentation.

Sholanda Ancrum, parent of seven, testified regarding the Boston Compact presentation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**School Committee Meeting**  
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building  
School Committee Chamber

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**ADJOURN**

At 9:19 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary