



Official Minutes of the Boston School Committee's Working Session: Boston Public Schools' Capital Facilities Master Plan

October 28, 2013

The Boston School Committee held a working session on the Capital Facilities Master Plan, *Grow with Boston*, on October 28, 2013 at 12 p.m. at 26 Court Street, Boston. For more information about any of the items listed below, contact the office of the Boston School Committee: feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or 617-635-9014.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

- Agenda
- Superintendent's Memo to the School Committee: Capital Facility Master Plan Update, October 16, 2013

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Meg Campbell (participated remotely via speaker phone); Dr. Hardin Coleman; and Mary Tamer.

School Committee Members Absent: Vice-Chairperson Claudio Martinez; and Rev. Gregory G. Groover.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

- I. **Welcome and Overview** – Mr. O'Neill welcomed attendees and briefly reviewed the agenda. Ms. Campbell encouraged the Superintendent and his facilities team to revisit the stated purpose of the facilities plan, suggesting that a statement be added emphasizing the importance of the equitable distribution of resources related to facilities. Carlton Jones, Executive Director of Capital & Facilities Management, announced that BPS will soon issue a Request for Proposals for a comprehensive district-wide facilities assessment, noting that the 2010 Needs Survey by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) provides only a high level view of BPS facilities. Mr. O'Neill requested that the Committee receive the facilities assessment conducted by Boston Public Schools (BPS) in 2005, as well as the 2010 MSBA Needs Survey.
- II. **District Enrollment Projections** – Peter Sloan, Manager of Strategic Planning, presented an overview of the process by which BPS calculates its enrollment projections. BPS collects and analyzes data from a variety of sources, including 2010 U.S. Census, when calculating its

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enrollment projections. Mr. O'Neill encouraged the BPS facilities management team to review City of Boston census data and consult the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians to help ensure accurate enrollment projections. He also requested data showing projected demographics by age. Ms. Tamer requested BPS attrition data for the 5th grade and beyond over the next five years. Superintendent McDonough stated that BPS must create more K-8 options to minimize student transitions, respond to parental demand, and give the district a competitive advantage.

III. K-8 Options – Ms. Tamer and Dr. Coleman, both of whom served on the Mayor's External Advisory Committee (EAC) on Improving School Choice, discussed the strong desire of families to have more K-8 opportunities. The Superintendent stated that the district is considering two different options to expand K-8s: (1) Create K-3 and 4-8 pathways or (2) create more K-8 schools by expanding existing schools and/or coupling schools. Ms. Tamer and Mr. O'Neill emphasized the need for programmatic continuity across the district. Mr. O'Neill requested data showing current programmatic gaps. Ms. Campbell called upon the district to create authentic K-8 schools wherever possible, stating that a K-8 school that's located in two buildings should be considered only as a last resort. The Superintendent noted that the district is also considering the expansion of grade 6-12 options as a way to minimize transitions and expand its diverse portfolio of schools.

IV. Individual Member Questions/Suggestions – Ms. Tamer asked the district to consider moving the Mission Hill K-8 School back to its former location in Mission Hill; expanding Fenway High School to grade 6-12 model and allowing the school to remain in its current location; and keeping Margarita Muniz Academy at its current location in Jamaica Plain with the option of housing a portion of the Joseph P. Manning School if that school expands to a K-8. Ms. Campbell echoed Ms. Tamer's request that the district consider reconfiguring Fenway High School to a grade 6-12 model. The Superintendent stated that the City will relocate non-BPS departments to 26 Court Street after BPS moves its central office to the Dudley Municipal Building in early 2015. Mr. O'Neill requested information outlining the process by which the City and BPS sell and rent property. Ms. Tamer encouraged the district to consider finding another use for excess space at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School other than using it for swing space for the Dearborn School.

ADJOURN

At 2:08 p.m., the School Committee adjourned the working session.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary