



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL  
BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE FY24 BUDGET HEARING AND MEETING**

**March 15, 2023**

The Boston School Committee held a virtual FY24 budget hearing and School Committee meeting on March 15, 2023 at 5 p.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee), 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 Jeri Robinson; Vice Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Dr. Stephen Alkins; Brandon Cardet-Hernandez; Rafaela Polanco Garcia; Quoc Tran; and Student Representative Diego Mehta.

School Committee Member Absent: Lorena Lopera.

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

Responses to School Committee Questions re: FY24 Budget Proposal | Spanish/español

Meeting Minutes: February 15, 2023; February 16, 2023; March 1, 2023

Grants for Approval Totaling \$710,670

FY24 Superintendent's Revised FY24 Budget Proposal Memo

FY24 Superintendent's Revised Budget Proposal Presentation

FY24 Superintendents Revised FY24 Budget Proposal Equity Impact Statement

Additional FY24 Budget Documents (including translations)

Yellow Bus Vendor Contract Memo

Transportation Vendor Contract Equity Impact Statement

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Transportation Yellow Bus Vendor Contract Presentation

Statement of Interest for the 2023 Massachusetts School Building Authority Core Program  
Memo (Shaw and Taylor Schools)

2023 MSBA Statement of Interest Equity Impact Statement

2023 MSBA Statement of Interest Presentation

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jeri Robinson called the hearing to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Ms. Lopera was absent. Mr. O’Neill joined the budget hearing immediately after the roll call. Mr. Mehta was absent for the budget hearing but joined the session at the start of the meeting at 6 p.m. All other members were present.

Ms. Robinson said that tonight’s meeting was being streamed live on Zoom. It will be rebroadcast on Boston City TV. It will also be posted at [bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](https://bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee) and on YouTube. She announced that simultaneous interpretation services were available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cabo Verdean, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin and American Sign Language (ASL) and provided instructions on how to access simultaneous interpretation by changing the Zoom channel. Translated meeting documents were posted at [www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee) prior to the start of the meeting.

## SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE ON FY24 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder presented a memo containing responses to questions raised by School Committee members during the FY24 budget hearings. The responses covered a variety of topics, including funding for multilingual learners, Title 1, special education, and new positions, as well as programming and strategies.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON FY24 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Destiny Williams, Roxbury resident, BPS student and Sociedad Latina member, testified regarding school safety.

Mary Tamer, West Roxbury resident and Massachusetts Executive Director of Democrats for Education Reform, testified regarding excess capacity and right-sizing the district.

John Mudd, Cambridge resident and English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force member, testified regarding the budget proposal for multilingual education and multilingual learners with disabilities.

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Robert Jenkins, Mattapan resident and community advocate, testified regarding the FY24 budget proposal and athletics.

Ruby Reyes, Dorchester resident and Boston Education Alliance (BEJA) Executive Director, testified regarding school budgets.

Suleika Soto, South End resident and BEJA member, testified regarding family engagement and the implementation of the LOOK Act.

Maria Serpa, Arlington resident and ELL Task Force member, testified regarding the FY24 budget proposal for multilingual and multicultural education.

Ayele Shakur, Mattapan resident, Redstone Family Foundation President and Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force Co-Chair, testified regarding increasing teacher diversity.

**ADJOURNMENT OF FY24 BUDGET HEARING**

**Approved** - At approximately 5:45 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the budget hearing and immediately convene the regularly scheduled School Committee meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the February 15, 2023 School Committee meeting, February 15, 2023 FY24 budget hearing, and March 1, 2023 FY24 budget hearing.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

*As prepared for delivery.*

Thank you Madam Chair. Good evening everyone. I want to begin by wishing everyone a Happy Women’s History Month. Throughout this month, we will celebrate the impact and contributions of women locally and throughout the world. We will be holding events throughout the month and amplifying leaders and visionaries through our Equity Warrior Series.

Yesterday I announced the leadership team and organizational chart for our district. I recently hit my five month mark and although there was so much familiarity coming back to BPS, there have been marked changes over the last seven years. I wanted to make sure to listen to our central and school based leaders and staff, our families, communities, and students to make sure that the structure we use addresses and supports the concerns and hopes I heard.

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There were several things I wanted to make sure we addressed in the org chart that we have struggled with in the past.

- Single point of failures- especially at the high levels of decision-making in the org
- Distributed leadership for efficiency and capacity building in key areas of work.
- Making the support of the regional networks and schools the priority as that ensures our time and resources go more directly to supporting our students and staff doing the work with our students.
- Sustainable amounts of work with clear lines of communication and accountability in the key areas of work.

The structure we have laid out aims to also address many of the central and systemic challenges that have been identified in the Council of Great City Schools and DESE reports by ensuring we have enough resources and that they are well organized.

Our leadership team represents the student's we're serving with 63% identifying as people of color and of that, 54% Black or Latinx. We are comprised of experienced and dedicated individuals, many of who have risen through the ranks or recently returned to BPS. We are all committed to helping our district reach its full potential. Some of our leaders are or were BPS parents, are BPS alumni, and most importantly share a deep pride and commitment to serving our BPS community.

I would also like to thank Mayor Michelle Wu for her vision and leadership. Her commitment to and her investment in our District has been instrumental in helping us take concrete steps to achieve our goals.

Equity is a throughline through our work and is at the heart of our mission. The diversity of the district's leadership team comprises many identities, cultures, and spoken languages representative of the district's demographics, including Spanish, Mandarin, Cape Verdean Creole, and Portuguese.

The organizational structure that I announced yesterday aligns with the key priorities that I outlined for the district last fall:

- prioritizing and accelerating academic performance and providing equitable access to quality education, particularly for those most historically underserved, including Black and Latino/a/x students, students with disabilities, and multilingual students;
- strengthening access to social-emotional learning; incredibly important post pandemic
- streamlining operations and ensuring student safety; This also means using technology and data and building enterprise systems that can support the amount of students and staff we have
- developing authentic and equitable family and community engagement practices;
- improving internal and external communication with families and staff;
- and increasing accountability for both the Central Office and our schools.

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There are three main areas of work each led by a Deputy :

- Senior Deputy Superintendent of Academics, led by Dr. Linda Chen
- Deputy Superintendent of Equity, Family, and Community Advancement, led by Dr. Ana Tavares
- Deputy Superintendent of Operations, led by Dr. Samuel DePina

Additionally, Rochelle Nwosu will be supporting the organization enhancing the role of Chief of Staff from how it has been used in the past. Rochelle will ensure that we use our organizational structures well and remove barriers for deputies and chiefs so that our critical work moves forward.

At the last meeting, we heard from each of the deputies about the scope of their work but I want to dive a little deeper into the org chart so I am going to ask each of them and Rochelle to briefly highlight their teams.

*[Senior Deputy Superintendent of Academics Dr. Linda Chen, Deputy Superintendent of Equity, Family, and Community Advancement Dr. Ana Tavares, Deputy Superintendent of Operations Dr. Samuel DePina, and Chief of Staff Rochelle Nwosu presented overviews of their work.]*

Thank you, Rochelle and team. I believe in shared and distributed leadership. One person can't do it all so I will rely heavily on this team and the Division Chiefs to drive the work. It is critical that we work as a team not as individuals so that we learn the work together, support one another and our areas of work, help identify and remove barriers connecting our work, and, most importantly, continue to build BPS as a district of all high-performing schools eliminating both the opportunity gap and achievement gap.

Often when there is a change of leadership - the instinct is to dismantle and rebuild and rename. I want to be clear we are not doing that. We are building on the things that are working and acknowledging those things with pride. We are also using all of the external and internal data and reports to identify the challenges we have and embracing the recommendations as opportunities to strengthen the systems that need to be strengthened and build the systems and structures that are missing. As a team, we feel a deep accountability and shared mission to make BPS the stable, high functioning District our students, families and staff need and deserve. I am proud of the team we have assembled and we will continue to recruit and welcome back to BPS those who share our mission.

I would now like to transition to just a few bright spots. We have a full agenda so I'll keep this brief and will highlight even more bright spots next week. Kicking off my bright spots, I want to shout out Antonelli Mejia, Principal of the Sarah Greenwood School, who was a featured speaker at South by Southwest in Austin speaking about equity in education.

I want to shout out our citywide champions across the district including:

- Co-ed Swimming- Latin Academy
- Boys Indoor Track & Field- O'Bryant
- Girls Indoor Track & Field- Latin Academy
- Boys Basketball- Jeremiah E. Burke High School

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- Girls Basketball- TechBoston Academy Bears, who were recognized at City Hall by City Councilor Brian Worrell for winning their first City League title
- Delmace Mayo made history today by becoming the FIRST wheelchair athlete to compete in the National Indoor Games. He also improved on his personal best by two seconds in the mile--he completed it in 4:30s.

We had the amazing opportunity to highlight the work with Special Olympics Massachusetts and celebrated BPS' commitment to offering inclusive and equitable education and programming to students across the district. We were able to watch Brighton High School students play an inclusive game and it was electrifying.

Our schools have had some amazing distinguished guests beginning with Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll who came to talk to students at the Hurley in honor of International Women's Day.

We also had the award winning actor Jared Howelton who plays Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson on Broadway in Boston's production of Hamilton, who stopped by Boston Arts Academy (BAA). He also played in Shrek the Musical. Students from BAA will be starring and producing their own version over the weekend. Thank you to Vice Chair O'Neill for making that happen.

Lastly, congratulations to Ms. Benadette Manning from Boston Day and Evening Academy who was selected by the Massachusetts selection committee for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching ([PAEMST](#)) as a Massachusetts-level finalist in the Mathematics award category. I had the pleasure of working with her as she was the math teacher at TechBoston Academy. She is nationally board certified and has been teaching for over 25 years. The mathematics category includes mathematics, technology, and computer science and the science category includes science and engineering. Massachusetts-level finalists will be honored at state ceremonies the evening of May 9th.

Thank you for your time.

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Ms. Polanco Garcia congratulated the Superintendent's leadership team. She encouraged the district to work closely in partnership with students and families and to listen to the community.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked the Superintendent to highlight significant changes to the org chart and explain her theory of change. The Superintendent spoke about her belief in distributive leadership, creating the three deputy chief structure, elevating OMME and specialized services to the chief level, creating a through-line of equity, and reimagining the role of the chief of staff. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked about the additional cost of the new leadership structure. The Superintendent said that her team would follow up with the information.

Dr. Alkins asked how the Superintendent will measure the success of the new leadership structure. The Superintendent spoke about the importance of team building, trust, accountability, communication, cross-collaboration, and unification around the mission. Dr. Alkins recommended more network mapping in the org chart to promote transparency.

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Mr. O'Neill applauded the regional network approach. At Mr. O'Neill's request, the Superintendent explained her belief in the distributed leadership model, which she said allows for better supervision, evaluation, and collective accountability, using metrics and breaking down silos.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked the Superintendent about her vision for early childhood education. The Superintendent spoke about the district's mixed-delivery model with the City of Boston, starting at birth.

Ms. Robinson asked about the anticipated timeline for hiring for major positions. The Superintendent said that BPS is well positioned to recruit and hire highly qualified candidates from now through April.

**Approved** - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the Superintendent's Report.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people testified regarding access to native language education:

- Zoe Garcia, Roslindale resident and student
- Maria Mejia, Roxbury resident, Blackstone Elementary School parent and member of St. Stephen's Youth Program
- Susan Gonzalez, Roxbury resident and Orchard Gardens K-8 School parent
- Sugely Rondon, Roslindale resident, BPS parent, and member of St. Stephen's Youth Program
- Alba Gonzalez, Back Bay resident and BPS parent
- Paula Ortiz, Dorchester resident and Fenway High School parent
- Amada Ravelo, South Boston resident and Hurley K-8 School parent

John Mudd, Cambridge resident and member of the Boston Network for Black Student Achievement, testified regarding increasing teacher diversity.

Michael Heichman, Dorchester and member of the Boston Education Justice Alliance, testified regarding a variety of educational issues.

Jessica Gonzalez, Roxbury resident, Blackstone Elementary School parent and member of St. Stephen's Youth Program, testified regarding bullying and safety concerns

The following people testified regarding inclusion, safety and leadership at the Henderson K-12 Inclusion School:

- Bethany Moffi, Dorchester resident and Henderson K-12 School parent
- Deirdre Manning, Dorchester resident and Henderson K-12 School parent
- Michelle Carmell, Dorchester resident and Henderson K-12 School parent
- Michelle Pang Dorchester resident and Henderson K-12 School parent

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- Courtney Feeley Karp, Roslindale resident and Henderson K-12 School parent

The following people testified regarding the proposed merger between the Sumner and Philbrick elementary schools:

- Rosy Hosking, Roslindale resident and Sumner School parent
- Elizabeth Ferrenz, Roslindale resident and Sumner School parent
- Jessica Manna, Roslindale resident and Sumner School parent

KD Emery, West Roxbury resident, Boston Latin Academy parent and Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council board member, testified regarding equity for students with disabilities supported by 504 Plans.

## ACTION ITEM

Dr. Alkins reiterated earlier requests for grant outcomes or dates by which grant outcomes are expected to be known.

**Approved** - On roll call, the Committee approved grants for approval totaling \$710,670. Dr. Alkins and Mr. Cardet-Hernandez abstained. All other members voted yes.

## REPORTS

**Superintendent's Final FY24 Budget Recommendation** - Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder presented the Superintendent's final Fiscal Year 2023 (FY24) general fund budget recommendation in the amount of \$1,445,729,446. He explained that FY24 serves as a critical transitional budget to address some immediate needs while we also begin to plan for FY25 and beyond. Linda Chen, Senior Deputy Superintendent of Academics, Sam DePina, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Ana Tavares, Deputy Superintendent of Equity, Community and Family Advancement, co-presented.

Through the FY24 proposed budget, BPS is investing in opportunities for quality, inclusive education, bilingual education, restorative justice practices and social-emotional support to ensure that young people have the tools they need to recover and heal from the pandemic and succeed in life. BPS is also deepening investments in equitable literacy and expanding Early College and Career Pathways programming to help students explore and gain valuable skills and experiences while also earning the college credits they need to graduate.

The proposed FY24 appropriation has increased by the following amounts for union contracts that were finalized after our initial budget submission.

- Safety Specialists: \$275,387
- Custodians: \$1,972,529
- Bus Monitors: \$3,221,985



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- Administrative Guild: \$1,228,880

Every year, the initial proposed budget contains a number of additional reserves that BPS intends to partially liquidate throughout the budget process. These reserves are held in the Budget Office and are eventually transferred to school budgets. Below is a summary of those changes for this year. While BPS is still holding some reserves that will be liquidated during the summer and fall, the following funds have moved from central reserves onto school budgets:

- Collaborated with schools to identify current, school-based ESSER investments aligned to our strategy; It is necessary to secure these positions beyond ESSER. This impacted a total of \$15M, including 69 FTE, at 114 schools. The changes aligned to the following key strategies and included positions such as:
  - Inclusion Strategy: inclusion coaches and specialists, inclusion paraprofessionals
  - Office of Multilingual and Multicultural Education Strategic Plan: supplemental SEI paraprofessionals and ESL teachers
  - Equitable Literacy: reading specialists, high quality and standard-aligned curriculum materials
- Shifted hold-harmless support from the general fund to ESSER. This approach means that schools will not be required to make cuts to services or support to students in FY24. This impacted a total of \$30.7M, including 253 FTE, at 95 schools. We had included an estimated \$27.9M in the original budget proposal, so this final budget includes a change of \$2.8M more moving from General Funds to ESSER.
- There were a number of changes to enrollment projections and Weighted Student Funding (WSF):
  - Inclusion Expansion:
    - Converted several general education classrooms to inclusion in order to serve an increased number of K1 inclusion students at the Dever, Harvard-Kent, Edison, East Boston EEC, Condon and Blackstone.
    - Added 9th grade inclusion to two schools: Fenway and the Muniz.
  - Additional changes related to special education capacity were made at the Channing, Eliot, East Boston EEC, and the Manning.
  - Added an additional SLIFE class to the Edison.
  - Increased projections at the Sumner and Mildred Ave to accommodate additional BLS students.

Across these three areas, school budgets have increased by a total of \$12,795,800 since the original proposal.

There have been a number of small changes to the proposed budget for central departments. These are more limited in scope and represent transfers between central departments and between account types within a department. The work BPS has continued to do since this budget process began is review and plan for what immediate work can begin as a result of the Systemic Improvement Plan, Council of Great City Schools reports on special education, transportation, and school safety and finally, the OMME strategic plan.

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Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked how many new full-time employees (FTEs) are included in the preliminary budget proposal vs. the revised proposal. Deputy Chief Financial Officer David Bloom said that both versions of the budget reflect 93.7 new full-time equivalent positions.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked about current vacancies. Interim Human Capital Chief Rae Catchings estimated that BPS currently has about 500 vacancies.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked how many positions are being moved from ESSER to the general fund, and vice versa, and how many of those positions are vacant. Mr. Kuder said that of the 255 positions being moved from the general fund to ESSER, an estimated 60 positions or 25 percent are currently vacant. He said that he would follow up with additional information on positions being moved from ESSER to the general fund. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez expressed concern about creating a fiscal cliff. The Superintendent explained her team's multi-year budget strategy.

Dr. Alkins expressed concern about the district's availability to fill new positions, given current vacancies. The Superintendent explained that the district's early budget process puts it in a good position for recruiting and hiring.

Ms. Polanco Garcia expressed concern about the timeline for hiring the OMME and specialized services chiefs. Dr. Chen explained the hiring timeline moving forward if the budget proposal should be approved, adding that the district may provide intermediary support through contractual services to ensure consistent support.

Mr. O'Neill said that the school leaders he has spoken with are pleased with the budget proposal. He said that he is concerned about future budgets given declining enrollment and the end of ESSER funding. He stated that if the Committee does not approve the revised budget, the Superintendent's preliminary budget is then forwarded to the Boston City Council. He asked the Superintendent if the budget proposal addresses key concerns outlined in four recent outside reports. The Superintendent affirmed that the budget proposal lays the key groundwork to address the recommendations in those reports. She said that the district is working to address those recommendations rapidly and thoughtfully, in a connected way. She said that BPS will need to take a multi-faceted approach to future budgets, including new investments and hard choices.

Dr. Alkins emphasized the importance of having strong data accountability and performance indicators.

Mr. Mehta asked about long-term strategies for equitable literacy funding. Mr. Kuder explained that the team has prioritized equitable literacy, among other strategies, on the general fund to ensure sustainable funding.

Mr. Tran asked about the implications if the School Committee does not approve the budget. Mr. Kuder explained that if the Committee fails to approve the revised budget, the Superintendent's preliminary budget recommendation as proposed on February 1, 2023 would be moved forward to the Boston City Council for its consideration.

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At Ms. Robinson's request, Mr. Kuder explained the difference between hold-harmless funding and soft landings. He said that soft landings have a planned sunset and are built into the budget as transition funds when schools experience enrollment declines. He said that hold-harmless is a practice that was put into place in the past two fiscal years that does not have schools adjust their budgets downward when enrollment declined. He noted that schools have closed 23 classrooms this year and were asked by the Superintendent to use those dollars more strategically.

Ms. Robinson expressed a sense of urgency for the Committee to receive the facilities conditions assessment in order to make the most informed decisions. Chief of Operations Indira Alvarez said that her team anticipated that the assessment will be completed by the end of August. Mr. Robinson expressed a desire for more detail. The Superintendent said that much of the planning is underway and she will present a plan to the Committee later this spring detailing how the district plans to respond to the recommendations in recent outside reports. She clarified that the revised budget proposal does not provide any funding for community connections positions, but instead provides funding for nine restorative justice counselors, one per region. Ms. Robinson requested that the Committee receive a full report on the regional support model in the near future.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the Superintendent's final FY24 budget recommendation on March 22, 2023.

***Transportation Yellow School Bus Contract*** - Executive Director of Transportation Dan Rosengard presented the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed yellow bus vendor contract between Boston Public Schools and Transdev Services Inc. for an initial five-year term commencing on July 1, 2023. Michael Miller, director of Strategic Procurement for the City of Boston, and Jacqueline Hayes, assistant director of Contract Operations and Fleet for BPS Transportation, co-presented.

This contract is offered on the terms bid by BPS in Invitation for Bid Event EV00011276. This contract establishes a newly structured relationship between BPS and its yellow bus contractor, focused on vendor accountability tied to financial incentives based on student outcomes, in order to ensure that yellow bus transportation services provided by the BPS to the students of the City of Boston are safe, reliable, and on time.

The proposed contract includes key changes from the prior transportation vendor contract to:

- Improve On-Time Performance through setting strict performance standards for on-time arrivals in line with the DESE SIP and tying financial incentives towards hitting these standards;
- Increase financial accountability by introducing liquidated damages for non-performance to ensure the District can seek compensation for such events;
- Limit costs and shift financial liability to the vendor, by limiting the costs that the vendor can pass through to the district for reimbursement.

The proposed contract is also a key component of BPS Transportation's planning for the future. This contract ensures the district will have continuation of yellow bus transportation

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services for the next five years, beginning in summer of 2023 and school year 2023-2024. This contract is an important piece of the consistent progress that will be required to address long-standing transportation challenges, implement the recommendations of the Council of Great City Schools report, and improve transportation services for students.

BPS developed the Invitation for Bids (IFB) in collaboration with two consulting firms with deep industry experience - Intueor Consulting and Transportation Advisory Services – that were selected through a competitive bid process. The consulting firms began working with BPS in the summer of 2021 to review BPS’ transportation needs and operations. This review included the identification and review of peer districts, interviews of the four largest vendors in the school transportation industry, and consultations with BPS families, BPS transportation department employees, and other BPS stakeholders. The bid specification development process was overseen by a cross-department/cross-city steering committee, including senior leadership from BPS Operations, BPS Finance, BPS Business Services, and City Procurement.

Given that school bus transportation must be procured using an IFB (OIG Procurement Bulletin, vol. 11, no. 2; June 2005) with the contract required to be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, BPS intentionally included transparent, carefully reasoned, and well structured bid specifications to ensure all bidders would meet minimum qualifications. Each bid specification that related to minimum qualifications was developed after an extensive needs analysis and market research in consultation with the consulting firms working with BPS. These requirements were tailored to address the complexity of the BPS transportation system, as well as to ensure that the lowest bidder was sufficiently experienced to meet contract requirements.

The IFB was released on September 9, 2022. All four of the largest vendors in the industry participated in the IFB process, including mandatory in-person yard walks and an extensive Q&A period with over 150 vendor questions. BPS received one bid from Transdev Services Inc. in the amount of approximately \$17.5 million per contract year with a 3% annual increase. This bid incorporates all costs that may no longer be passed through to the district under the new contract structure. This bid was on the low end of the anticipated bid spectrum of bids for this contract, which was estimated to come in between \$17.5 million to \$22.6 million per year. The Inspector General’s Office has conducted an extensive review of the bid process. The IGO’s recent letter to the School Committee on the matter, following their review, addresses future contract management recommendations that will be followed by the Department of Transportation as it manages this contract moving forward.

Next steps for implementation include approvals and signing of the integrated contract, development of a written contract administration plan, and addressing data quality issues integral to assessment of performance metrics under this contract related to GPS. The yellow bus vendor contract is a critical lever for improving student transportation services in accordance with the DESE SIP and the recommendations detailed in the report from the Council of Great City Schools on Transportation. BPS DOT will work to implement this contract to ensure vendor accountability for improved performance, while also working closely with community, District, and City partners to move forward all other recommendations for improvement identified by the

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Council of Great City Schools. The district will provide regular updates to the School Committee on its progress.

Ms. Polanco Garcia asked why the district believes that Transdev will improve. Mr. Rosengard said that the vendor contract is one piece of the district's overall transportation system, adding that BPS needs to address all of its systems in order to drive improvement. He said that Transdev has committed to improvement by setting performance targets tied to financial implications.

Mr. Rosengard confirmed for Ms. Polanco Garcia that families impacted by transportation delays can receive reimbursement for rideshares through the district.

Mr. O'Neill expressed support for the contract and its inclusion of fiscal controls. He asked about the reliability of data to enforce the contract provisions. Mr. Rosengard said that the district is laser-focused on improving data collection and technology and will continue to build on the progress that has been made over the past six months. Mr. O'Neill asked how the involvement of the Inspector General's Office (IGO) has changed the district's approach to the contract. Ms. Hayes explained that the IGO's expertise was helpful in developing an integrated contract that is robust and resilient. The team will also develop a written contract administration plan that will be a living document to guide current and future administrators of the school bus transportation contract.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked the thought behind a five-year contract. Mr. Rosengard explained that while all options were considered, a five-year contract made the most sense because the financial incentives and accountability measures paired with a shorter contract was unlikely to attract bidders. He said that a five-year contract also provides the district with stability. The Superintendent said that BPS needs a partner who can be fluid in adapting to change to maximize reliability. Mr. Rosengard confirmed for Mr. Cardet-Hernandez that BPS contracts for an estimated 620 daily routes. The Superintendent spoke about how the district's systems are interconnected and need for deeper, comprehensive changes.

Dr. Alkins encouraged BPS to enter a formal partnership with the rideshare company Lyft. The Superintendent said that the district's legal counsel is actively working on an agreement.

Ms. Robinson spoke about the complexity of multiple bell times and emphasized the importance of working with district partners to transport all students to school on time.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the transportation contract on March 22, 2023.

***Massachusetts School Building Authority Core Program Statement of Interest: Shaw and Taylor School Communities*** - Chief of Capital Planning Delavern Stanislaus presented the Superintendent's proposal to submit Statements of Interest (SOIs) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for the 2023 Core Program for the P.A. Shaw and Charles H. Taylor Elementary Schools. The MSBA is a state agency that offers competitive grants to municipalities to support school construction and renovation projects. The MSBA's Core Program addresses extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction.

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BPS has committed to constructing a new pre-K-6 elementary school in Mattapan/Dorchester. The 2017 SMMA enrollment and demographic analysis through BuildBPS showed that Dorchester and Mattapan are high-growth neighborhoods with a disproportionate number of Boston's school-aged children. Schools in Southern Dorchester (02124) and Mattapan (02126) have also seen disproportionately less capital investment: of 40 MSBA Accelerated Repair Program projects since 2015, only one has been in Mattapan, and four have been in Southern Dorchester.

Brian McLaughlin, project manager for the City's Public Facilities Department, explained the MSBA process and timeline. All MSBA Statements of Interest must be presented to and voted on by the City Council and the Boston School Committee. BPS will ask the City Council to hold a hearing this month or in early April before voting on the proposal. All votes and documentation from these activities will be provided as part of the submission to the MSBA.

If the SOI is approved by all parties, BPS would begin the process of building one new facility for the combined Shaw-Taylor school community. The Statements of Interest for the facilities listed above will describe deficiencies submitted under Priority #4: Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments; Priority #5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and Priority #7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. By submitting the SOI, the MSBA in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the MSBA, or commits the City of Boston to file an application for funding with the MSBA.

The SOI is an important step toward fulfilling a commitment through the Green New Deal for BPS to construct a new preK-6 elementary school in the Dorchester/Mattapan neighborhood. Later this spring, the Superintendent and her team will present the Committee with a more comprehensive update on the Green New Deal for BPS and the district's progress toward a long-term facilities action plan.

Ms. Stanislaus closed by addressing some of the concerns raised by Sumner Elementary School parents during public comment earlier in the evening. She affirmed her commitment to working closely with school communities throughout all capital projects, ensuring that historically marginalized voices are at the table.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez requested an update on the district's plan to find a permanent location for the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Ms. Stanislaus said that BPS is renovating the former Edwards Middle School building to serve as swing space while it works to identify a permanent location. She said that the district is committed to doing an analysis of the current Jackson Mann site as well as other sites in the Allston-Brighton area.

Mr. McLaughlin said that if approved, a new Shaw-Taylor school building could open in 2029 or 2030. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked about plans to renovate existing buildings. Ms. Stanislaus said that BPS is currently conducting a facilities condition assessment in addition to a design

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process through DLR Group. Those two processes will be used to develop a complete, long-term facilities master plan.

Mr. O'Neill encouraged the district to continue to seek MSBA funding for the Horace Mann School, which serves a special population of students. He also encouraged BPS to explore locations for the Horace Mann beyond the Allston-Brighton community. Mr. McLaughlin explained that the Horace Mann and Blackstone School applications do not fit with the MSBA's traditional criteria because those facilities are co-located with community centers or health centers. He said that BPS will encourage the MSBA to visit those schools to see current facilities conditions.

Ms. Polanco Gacria asked how a merger would impact the Shaw and Taylor school communities. Rebecca Grainger, the Mayor's Senior Advisor for Youth and Schools, explained the design process to thoughtfully combine the schools' inclusion and multilingual programming.

Ms. Robinson asked about the process for assigning students to the newly built Mildred Avenue School when it first opened in 2003.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the MSBA Core program Statement of Interest for the Shaw and Taylor school communities on March 22, 2023.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

None.

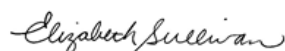
#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Robinson asked the Superintendent to follow up on Dr. Alkins' earlier request for additional information on grant outcomes. The Superintendent agreed to have the team follow up.

#### **ADJOURN**

**Approved** - At approximately 11:22 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn to the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan  
Executive Secretary