



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REMOTE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 21, 2022

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on June 21, 2022 at 5 p.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee, email 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 D. O'Neill; Stephen Alkins; Brandon Cardet-Hernandez; Lorena Lopera; Rafaela Polanco Garcia; and Quoc Tran.

School Committee Member Absent: Student Representative Xyra Mercer.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Memo from Superintendent Search Committee Co-Chairs to School Committee Chair re: Superintendent Finalists, June 21, 2022

Memo from School Committee Chair to School Committee re: Recommendation for Acting Superintendent, June 21, 2022

Superintendent Search Process Diversity Presentation

In-Kind Donations with a Total Estimated Value of \$664,463

Grants for Approval Totaling \$47,320,114

United Steelworkers Local 8751 Letters of Agreement PowerPoint

Innovation Schools Renewals PowerPoint

Exam Schools Admissions Policy Implementation Update Presentation

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Exam Schools Admissions Policy Implementation Update Equity Impact Statement

Horace Mann In-District Charter Renewals Presentation

Boston Green Academy (BGA) Cover Memo

BGA BPS MOU

BTU Certification Letter BGA Amendments

BGA Equity Impact Statement

BGA 2021 Accountability Plan

Boston Day & Evening Academy (BDEA) Cover Memo

BDEA Equity Impact Statement

BDEA Charter Renewal Application

BDEA Application for Renewal 2022 Appendices | Spanish/español|

BDEA Application for Renewal 2022 Appendix A | Spanish/español|

Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Academy for Health Careers Cover Memo

EMK Equity Impact Statement

EMK Charter Renewal Application

UP Academy Dorchester (UAD) Cover Memo

UAD Equity Impact Statement

UAD Charter Renewal Application

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jeri Robinson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Ms. Mercer was absent. Mr. O’Neill joined the meeting shortly after roll call. 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 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). The interpreters introduced

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themselves and gave instructions in their native language on how to access simultaneous interpretation by changing the Zoom channel. Translated meeting documents were posted at www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee prior to the start of the meeting.

Chair Robinson announced that the Committee would defer the approval of minutes of the June 8, 2022 School Committee meeting until the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**As prepared for delivery.*

Thank you, Madame Chair, and thank you all for joining us tonight. I have a few updates that I want to share before we dive into this evening's presentations. Madame Chair Robinson will have additional updates to share with you tonight regarding the Superintendent Search and Dr. Drew Echelson in the role of Acting Superintendent.

BPS is a place full of talented students, incredible educators, and committed community members who are determined to see every child succeed. I have come to know Dr. Echelson as a highly capable and student-centered leader who brings an unparalleled work ethic that engenders trust, as the Deputy Superintendent of Academics. I know he will bring that same commitment and energy to his role as Acting Superintendent. We have laid a strong foundation over these past three years, and I am thrilled to know that the district will have Dr. Echelson's steady hand to guide it until the next Superintendent's first day. This will help set forward a smooth transition. I also want to congratulate Mary Skipper and Tommy Welch on being named finalists, and I wish them much success in their interviews and engagement with the community. It was my favorite part of the interview process when I first came to Boston. Our community is eager to be involved and connected to their superintendent and I am certain they will enjoy reconnecting within this new opportunity.

I am excited to share that we will be releasing an update this week of the Return, Recover, Reimagine 3-year plan for Greater Equity and Recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and exacerbated long standing inequities within our communities while posing new challenges. One of the tools we have to address these inequities is ESSER funding from the federal government. This one-time infusion of additional funding was designed to provide immediate relief to recover from the pandemic. BPS received \$431 million in total ESSER I, II, and III funds: an important investment in our work to accelerate learning and recovery, support the social and emotional well-being of students and staff, and address historic challenges in our school buildings. Check back for the report on bostonpublicschools.org.

Next, I want to give a huge shoutout and congratulations to Delmace Mayo of Boston Green Academy on the Brighton High track team. Delmace recently won the para 800 race with a time of 2:03! This time makes Delmace the best para 800 athlete in the entire state of Massachusetts. This is an incredible achievement for a ninth grader, and we are BPS-Proud of him! Delmace will also be competing on the national level as a para track athlete soon. Way to go Delmace!

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I also want to give a shoutout to some of our schools for the amazing work they've been doing. Recently, state environmental officials recognized students from 27 schools across the Commonwealth for outstanding environmental actions as members of the "Green Team", which is a statewide environmental education program sponsored by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. I am proud to share that the Chittick School was one of three schools to win a grand prize for recycling and composting. This year, Chittick students learned how to recycle correctly and consistently, prepare and plant raised bed gardens, and how to make compost using inside worm bins and outdoor composters. I am proud of the Chittick school and our students for this accomplishment and their work in making a greener environment for us all! Additionally, last week the Human Rights Campaign Foundation presented the Mozart Elementary School and the Haley Pilot School with its coveted Welcoming Schools Seal of Excellence. The Seal of Excellence is awarded to select schools across the country that meet HRC's benchmarks demonstrating a supportive school community in which LGBTQ+ students and families feel included, respected and valued. Congratulations again to these two school communities. Your work to create and maintain inclusive and welcoming school communities does not go unnoticed, and I am excited that you have been recognized by the educational arm of America's largest civil rights organization. Continue the great work!

As you all know, in April we made the decision to close the Mission Hill K8 School and began the process of identifying new school communities for all of the students, families and staff for next school year. I wanted to share a quick update with you, that all students have received their assignments to one of their top choices with nearly 80% receiving their first choice. Recently, we have received some great feedback from families around the special registration process. We know that this has been a difficult time for everyone at Mission Hill K8, and we did our very best to make the transition as smooth as possible. I am extremely proud of our BPS Welcome Services team, led by Denise Snyder, Acting Chief for Family and Community Advancement, for all of their hard work in this process. This team not only made sure that families received the necessary information about registration, but they also answered questions around the clock and held many information sessions to ensure that families felt heard, comfortable and ultimately received what they needed. We've heard from some families who were very grateful to the team for their effort to meet their needs. Overall, many families felt a collective sense of togetherness and relief, despite the unfortunate circumstances. I am thrilled to hear that so many of our families have had a positive experience, and I am looking forward to hearing more as they join their new school communities next year.

I wanted to quickly share an update around BPS' work to close the digital divide amongst our students and families. When the pandemic first started, we began a project with about a dozen districts around the country to measure our student's access to the Internet at home. This was a very technical project that used massive amounts of data from Zoom and Chromebook logs to measure the connection speed of our students when they were at home. The summary of this data was used to provide recommendations for Internet speed to the FCC and report back on which students meet our own recommendations. We've just completed gathering the findings from year 2, and I'm really excited to share them with you all tonight. These findings show the amount of progress that has been made to close the digital divide during the pandemic! In my Superintendent's Report presentation, you can see the graph that shows a comparison of school year 2020-21 to school year 2021-22. The blue bar represents the percentage of students that are

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exceeding the recommended speed of 25 megabits per second (mbps), green demonstrates students meeting the recommended speed, yellow is approaching, and red does not meet recommendations. It's amazing to see that we've grown to over 99% of our students meeting or exceeding the recommended speeds for home Internet access! Thank you to Mark Racine and our Office of Instructional and Information Technology for leading this incredible work. There is still a lot of work to continue unpacking this data, including a review of the racial and socio economic breakdown, but we should all be very excited about the growth that we've seen in just one year, and during a pandemic!

Today, I was thrilled to join Mayor Michelle Wu, leaders of BPS, the City's Public Facilities Department, and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) at the groundbreaking site of the new William E. Carter School. The Carter School serves students ages 12-22 with disabilities and complex learning needs. The new school building, which will be built on the existing site in the South End, will increase the number of classrooms, establish an early childhood program and a Pre-K-12 pathway, and add a new sensory garden and indoor spaces specially designed to advance the development of the Carter School's student population. The project is slated to cost \$92 million, and will include upwards of \$26 million in reimbursement to the City of Boston from the MSBA. Starting this summer, Public Facilities, in partnership with BPS and the MSBA, will begin demolition of the existing William E. Carter School, followed by construction of a new, 80,000+ sq/ft school building on the same site. The new building is scheduled to open in time for the 2024-25 school year. The temporary home of the Carter will be in a portion of the Lila Frederick School.

Summer is just around the corner! As everyone begins to get excited for summer break, beach days, and lots of quality time with friends and family, I want to remind everyone that it is not too late to sign up for some of the many summer programs, internships and job opportunities available on our website at bostonpublicschools.org/summer. Additionally, I wanted to remind you to check out our website for summer reading assignments and suggestions for your students. You can find a list of assignments and suggestions by grade level at bostonpublicschools.org/summerreading.

That concludes my Superintendent's Report.

Ms. Lopera asked how many BPS students are registered for summer learning opportunities. Deputy Superintendent of Academics Drew Echelson said that just under 15,000 students are registered for some type of summer program. The district has the capacity to serve 18,000. Deputy Superintendent of Operations Sam DePina said that BPS has expanded its hours of operation and transportation services at some sites. Students in grades 7-12 will receive free bus passes for the summer.

Mr. O'Neill requested clarity about summer learning opportunities for students with disabilities. Dr. Echelson said that between 4,000-4,500 special education students will receive services this summer through Extended School Year (ESY), in addition to compensatory services. Mr. O'Neill thanked Superintendent Cassellius for supporting the Carter School's renovation project and praised Carter Principal Mark O'Connor for including all students in the groundbreaking ceremony earlier that day.

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Mr. Cardet-Hernandez requested an update on the district's ongoing negotiations with the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The Superintendent said that BPS is close to finalizing an agreement and committed to providing an update at the June 29th School Committee meeting. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez spoke about the importance of data transparency and accountability. The Superintendent encouraged the Committee to ensure that the Risk Management Office gets up and running after her departure at the end of June.

Dr. Alkins asked for clarity about the DESE negotiation process. The Superintendent said that the city and state are negotiating, adding that she and Chair Robinson are included in those conversations.

Ms. Robinson asked about school safety. The Superintendent said that BPS has rescheduled the Charlestown High School's graduation ceremony after the previous ceremony was interrupted by violence in the neighborhood. Speaking about recent active shooter drills, Mr. DePina said that BPS was not aware of recent activity but is working to improve communication with the Boston Police Department.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked about using an external contractor to support data management. The Superintendent said that she is exploring using a third-party vendor to create a data dashboard.

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

REPORT

Superintendent Search Update - Superintendent Search Committee Co-Chair Dr. Pam Eddinger summarized the timeline for engagement and the search process, outlined the interview process that the Superintendent Search Committee has followed, and identified the recommended finalists that the Search Committee submits for public interview by the Boston School Committee.

The Superintendent search process began in March, when the nine-member Search Committee launched a series of public listening sessions and community stakeholder meetings. The community feedback voiced by students, families, educators, and other City partners was incorporated into the Superintendent's job description and informed the Search Committee members' interview questions. Beginning with a pool of 34 candidates, the Search Committee conducted private interviews throughout May and June.

In anticipation of the finalist list being determined, the Boston School Committee has already announced the public interview schedule. The remaining finalists will participate in a public interview process on Thursday, June 23 and Friday, June 24.

The schedule for each day will be:

- 10:30am-12:00pm: Community Partners

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- 1:30-3:00pm: Educators and School Leaders
- 3:30-5:00pm: Students and Families
- 5:30-7:30pm: Public interview with the Boston School Committee

Panel interviews will be conducted remotely via Zoom, with live interpretation in nine languages, including ASL, and members of the public are invited to join. The interviews will also be livestreamed on Boston City TV. Panel questions will remain the same all three days, will be provided to candidates in advance, and will be drawn from both the panelists and the previous public responses to the Superintendent Search Survey. Questions may also be chosen live from the Q&A function in each Zoom webinar.

On June 17th, the Search Committee conducted its final deliberations and voted to select a group of finalists for the Boston School Committee's consideration. Two candidates have since withdrawn from the process prior to the start of public interviews.

Listed alphabetically by last name, the remaining two finalists are:

- Mary Skipper, Superintendent, Somerville Public Schools
- Tommy Welch, Region 1 Superintendent, Boston Public Schools

With the identification of these finalist recommendations, the charge of the Superintendent Search Committee is complete, and the remaining components of the process rest with the School Committee.

Chair Robinson extended her appreciation to the Superintendent Search Committee for their thoughtful work, which yielded four final candidates who were diverse, both Black and Latinx, representing racial and ethnic backgrounds that were consistent with the district's demographics. She expressed disappointment that two of the four candidates withdrew their candidacy for personal reasons. She expressed confidence that the Search Committee has forwarded two qualified candidates who are deserving of going through this process and encouraged the BPS community to participate in the public sessions with an open mind.

Saying that she is mindful of the District's need for stability amidst the urgent work of transforming our school system into the foundation for healthy, thriving communities: the ongoing discussions with DESE to address the May 2022 District Review, negotiations with the Boston Teachers Union, and preparation for summer learning and the 2022-23 school year, Ms. Robinson recommended that the Committee appoint Deputy Superintendent of Academics Drew Echelon as Acting Superintendent effective June 30, 2022. Dr. Echelon has served as Deputy Superintendent in BPS since 2020 and has served as Superintendent of Schools in Waltham, MA. In his current role, Dr. Echelon serves as the Chief Academic Officer, overseeing, among others, the Office of Special Education and the Office of Multilingual Learners – two critical areas that require sustained, thoughtful reform to meet the needs of BPS students. In recent months, Dr. Echelon has played an integral role in the ongoing negotiations with DESE, as well as the BTU. Dr. Echelon was not a candidate for the Superintendent position, and he is well positioned to assist the District's next leader in their transition into the job. Dr. Echelon's appointment would cover the time period between Dr. Cassellius's planned departure and the start date of the new Superintendent. Ms. Robinson requested that the

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Committee take action on the acting superintendent recommendation at the next meeting on June 29th.

Mr. Tran asked if Committee members could receive the list of questions used by the Superintendent Search Committee in interviews with superintendent candidates held in executive session. Dr. Eddinger responded that the questions are available through Executive Secretary Liz Sullivan, adding that the majority of questions asked were uniform throughout the process.

Dr. Alkins requested that the Committee receive notes about the candidates' responses to questions to the Search Committee's questions. He suggested that School Committee members undergo implicit bias training similar to the training received by the Search Committee. Ms. Robinson said that Ms. Sullivan will reshare training opportunities for members. Dr. Eddinger encouraged members to ask Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Lopera, both of whom served on the Search Committee, for validation of the candidate's responses. Ms. Lopera said that there is value in being repetitive with important topics.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez expressed frustration with the superintendent search process, citing previously raised concerns about the timing of the appointment of an interim leader, clarity around the timeline, and the speed of the search. He said that he will not be able to meet the final candidates due to scheduling conflicts. He expressed concerns about the racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of the pool. Ms. Robinson spoke about the complexity of the process, and uncertainty when candidates are asked to go public. She said that the two remaining candidates meet much of the criteria set by the School Committee in collaboration with the community. She offered to read Mr. Cardet-Hernandez's questions at the public interviews, which will be recorded and posted online. She encouraged members to call the candidates and do their own research and vetting.

Dr. Alkins echoed Mr. Cardet-Hernandez's concerns about the accelerated timeline and lack of diversity in the final pool.

Mr. Tran shared his disappointment about the lack of diversity but encouraged the Committee to honor the process and keep an open mind.

Dr. Alkins emphasized the importance of Committee members having all the information necessary to make this critical decision. Ms. Robinson said that Committee members will receive packets of information about the candidates and encouraged members to call them directly.

Dr. Echelson said that he is honored to be nominated to serve as Acting Superintendent and pledged to help BPS deliver on its promise of providing all students with an equitable and excellent education.

Committee members took turns thanking Dr. Cassellius for her leadership over the past three years. The Superintendent thanked the Committee for its support.

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GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified in favor of the Committee's approval of UP Academy Dorchester's Charter Renewal:

- Albania Orozco, Roxbury resident and UP Academy Dorchester parent
- Caltor Mclean, Dorchester resident and UP Academy Dorchester parent
- LaShae Ridley, Roxbury resident and UP Academy Dorchester alumna

The following people testified with concerns about the proposed merger between the Clap and Russell elementary schools:

- Christopher Fung, Dorchester resident and Russell Elementary School parent
- Laoura Tabagoua, Dorchester resident and Russell Elementary School parent
- Dana Alas, Dorchester resident and Russell Elementary School parent
- Silvia DaRe, Dorchester resident and Russell Elementary School parent
- Dasan Harrington, Dorchester resident and Russell Elementary School parent
- Maria Flores, Dorchester resident and Russell Elementary School parent

Robert Jenkins, Mattapan resident and member of Friends of Madison Park, testified regarding school safety and family engagement

Sharon Hinton, Hyde Park resident and advocate, testified regarding the threat of state receivership and the superintendent search process.

Ruby Reyes, Dorchester resident and Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA) Executive Director, testified regarding the superintendent search process.

Krista Magnuson, Jamaica Plain resident and Bostonians for an Elected School Committee member, testified in favor of an elected School Committee.

Jonell Johnson, Randolph resident and BPS school nurse at Boston Community Leadership Academy-McCormack School, testified in support of settling the Boston Teachers Union contract.

Michael Heichman, Dorchester resident and BEJA member, testified regarding the superintendent search and the threat of state receivership.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved - On roll call, the Committee approved in-kind donations with a total estimated value of \$664,463. Ms. Lopera abstained. All other members voted yes.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee approved grants for approval grants totaling \$47,320,114. Dr. Alkins, Mr. Cardet-Hernandez; Ms. Lopera; and Ms. Polanco Garcia

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abstained. All other members voted yes. Ms. Sullivan announced that the Committee's parliamentarian, Robert Ritche, had confirmed that under Robert's Rules of Order, the motion was approved. Dr. Alkins and Mr. Cardet-Hernandez explained that they did not have the opportunity to adequately review the grants. Ms. Lopra said she is still catching up on School Committee business after her recent absence due to health reasons. Dr. Alkins requested that future grant renewal requests be accompanied by a grant outcomes report.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked a number of clarifying questions about the Letters of Agreement between the City, School Committee, and United SteelWorkers Local 8751. Director of Labor Relations Jeremiah Hasson and City of Boston Labor Relations Attorney Lou Mandarini explained the letters of agreement:

Letter of Agreement A:

- Contemplates scenario in which BPS retains different transportation vendor(s), but procurement documents specify that the current union would continue to be employed by the new vendor(s)
- The union agrees to no strikes, work stoppages, or slowdowns

Letter of Agreement B:

- Contemplates scenario in which the City or School Committee provides school bus services with its own employees, rather than through a vendor, and would obligate COB/BPS under the CBA to employ current union to perform services
- The union agrees to no strikes, work stoppages, or slowdowns

Deputy Superintendent of Operations Sam Depina confirmed for Mr. Cardet-Hernandez that the letters are unique, adding that it would be precedent-setting if the Committee did not approve them. Transportation Director Delavern Stanislaus and Mr. Hasson explained that the letters support the collective bargaining agreement between Transdex and the bus drivers union, which includes significant reforms. Mr. Mandarini compared the letters to a successorship clause, which is more common in the private sector. The letters are effective from 2021-2025.

Mr. O'Neill said that while is not a great supporter of the letters of agreement, he recognizes that these letters are part of collective bargaining negotiations.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee approved the Letters of Agreement A and B among the Boston School Committee, the Mayor of the City of Boston, and United Steelworkers Local 8751. Ms. Lopera abstained. All other members voted yes.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved an FY23 supplemental appropriation request to the Boston City Council in the amount of \$1,510,820 to support the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Transdev and United Steelworkers Local 8751. Ms. Lopera abstained. All other members voted yes.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a five-year innovation plan for the Jeremiah E. Burke High School.

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Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a five-year innovation plan for the Eliot K-8 School.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a five-year innovation plan for the Holmes Elementary School.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a five-year innovation plan for the Muniz Academy.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a five-year innovation plan for the Winthrop Elementary School.

REPORTS

Exam Schools Admissions Policy Implementation Update - Deputy Superintendent of Academics Drew Echelson presented a brief review of the Exam Schools Admissions policy, an analysis of SY22-23 implementation, an initial evaluation of the policy's impact, and an update on SY23-24 policy implementation.

The Exam Schools Admissions Policy, approved by the Boston School Committee on July 14, 2021, aims to create an admissions process for Boston's three exam schools that support student enrollment such that rigor is maintained, and all three student bodies better reflect the racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of all Boston students. The new policy was developed by the Committee's Exam Schools Admissions Task Force and was informed by public feedback, including during listening sessions held by the Task Force and the School Committee. For SY22-23 admissions, students were required to have a B average or higher during the first two terms of 6th and 8th grade of English language arts, math, science, and social studies. Given the data from admissions over the past two years, and current achievement data, the Policy is meeting its goal to support student enrollment such that rigor is maintained, and all three student bodies better reflect the racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of all Boston students.

Of the 2,267 eligible students entering 7th and 9th grade, 1,424 received invitations. Overall, the District's new exam school admissions policy increased the socioeconomic, geographic, and racial diversity of students who were invited to attend the district's exam schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

When compared to grade 7 invitations sent for SY20-21, historically underrepresented groups of students received an increased percentage of invitations:

- students experiencing housing insecurity, in the care of the Department of Children and Families or living in housing owned by the Boston Housing Authority (+6 percentage points);
- economically disadvantaged students (+10 percentage points);
- English learners (+5 percentage points);

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- Students with disabilities (+3 percentage points).
- Approximately 76% of invitations went to students of color, an increase of 16 percentage points from SY20-21 invitations.

Students attending a school with 40% or more economically disadvantaged students over the last five years received an additional 10 points on their composite score.

- 83 BPS Schools and 15 Non-BPS Schools qualified for an additional 10 points.
- 63% of 7th grade applicants received an additional 10 points.
- In 7th grade, all BPS schools that did not qualify for the 10 additional points had students invited to exam schools for SY22-23. Of the students who applied for Exam School Admissions at these schools, 38% to 80% received invitations.

Students experiencing homelessness, in the care of the Department of Children and Families or living in BHA housing received an additional 15 points on their composite score.

- 6% of 7th grade applicants received an additional 15 points.

Starting in August 2022, BPS will create a waitlist for the exam schools capped at 100 students per school. The waitlist will expire on November 30, 2022. BPS will publish an annual report in June to include disaggregated student outcomes and program evaluation, including disaggregated results of school climate surveys and other student outcome data as relevant to the implementation of the policy. BPS will partner with an external researcher to help us better understand student experience and outcomes at the exam schools. The purpose is to inform the district on how exam schools can best support students who are admitted under this new policy. Areas of study will include the student experience and policy implementation.

Dr. Echelson said that the school leaders of the three exam schools have expressed some concerns about the skill and knowledge of students in the area of mathematics, which the district is working to address. The Superintendent said that there is currently a lawsuit pending against the district regarding the new admissions policy. Senior Director of the Office of Data and Accountability Monica Hogan said MCAS and climate survey data will be available in the fall, providing additional information on the impact of the new policy. The Superintendent expressed concern about the impact of the use of standardized tests on the policy implementation as well as the equitable grading policy. She cautioned the Committee not to be eager to rescind the bonus points policy which provides marginalized students with a hand up.

Committee members asked clarifying questions about the report, all of which were answered by the presenters.

Horace Mann In-District Charter School Renewals - The Superintendent presented charter renewal and/or charter amendment requests for the following Horace Mann In-District Charter Schools: Boston Green Academy (Matt Holzer, School Leader); Boston Day & Evening Academy (Alison Hramiec, School Leader); Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (Caren Walker Gregory, School Leader); UP Academy Dorchester (Ariella Silverstein-Tapp, School Leader; Veronica Conforme, CEO, UP Education Network).

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Horace Mann Charter Schools are innovative, semi-autonomous schools that are approved by both the Boston School Committee and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and funded by Boston Public Schools. They are also called in-district charter schools. Pursuant to G.L. 71, § 89(dd), “a charter for a Horace Mann charter school shall not be renewed by the board without a majority vote of the school committee and local collective bargaining unit in the district where said charter school is located.”

Boston Day & Evening Academy, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, and UP Academy Dorchester are requesting charter renewals, while Boston Green Academy is requesting the following charter amendments: 1) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU-A, 2021-2026); and 2) Accountability Plan (2021-2026).

Dr. Alkins asked school leaders to identify a specific challenge facing their school. School leaders spoke about pandemic recovery, social emotional learning, and building relationships between teachers and students.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the charter renewals and amendments on July 13, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

Dimitra Minasidis, West Roxbury resident and Boston Latin School student, testified regarding the exam schools admissions policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Alkins requested that the Superintendent provide an update at the next meeting regarding the proposed merger between the Russell and Clap elementary schools. The Superintendent said that the proposal is in the early stages and pledged that the district will engage with the two school communities over the next several months before bringing a final recommendation to the School Committee.

ADJOURN

Approved - At approximately 10:33 p.m. the Committee unanimously approved a motion, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary