



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL
BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 26, 2022

The Boston School Committee held a remote meeting on October 26, 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; Quoc Tran; and student representative Diego Meta.

School Committee Member Absent: None.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2022 meeting; October 13, 2022 retreat

Memo SY 20-21 Wellness Policy Annual Report

SY20-21 Wellness Policy Annual Report

Grant for Approval Totaling \$440,800

Green New Deal Memo

Green New Deal Equity Impact Statement

Green New Deal Presentation

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CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jeri Robinson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Mr. O’Neill, who arrived at the beginning of the executive session, and Mr. Mehta, who arrived at the beginning of the regular meeting.

Ms. Robinson announced that the Committee would immediately adjourn to an executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL CIO Council 93, and Affiliate Local 230 (Cafeteria Workers). To have this discussion in an open meeting could have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position. She said that the Committee would return to public session at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn to an executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with AFSCME, AFL CIO Council 93, and Affiliate Local 230 (Cafeteria Workers).

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Robinson reconvened the meeting in public session at approximately 5:50 p.m. All members were present. She announced that the Committee has just returned from an executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with AFSCME, AFL CIO Council 93, and Affiliate Local 230 (Cafeteria Workers).

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) and provided instructions 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.

Ms. Robinson announced that the Committee is postponing the presentation on the district’s tentative collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME, AFL CIO Council 93, and Affiliate Local 230 (Cafeteria Workers) until a future meeting.

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APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the October 12, 2022 School Committee meeting and October 13, 2022 School Committee retreat.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

As prepared for delivery.

Thank you, Madame Chair. It’s good to be here with all of you this evening. Today marks my one month anniversary and I am hopeful and amazed at some of the great work I see happening around the district. It was a pleasure to see all of you at the Boston School Committee Retreat a few weeks ago. I really enjoyed the conversation and seeing everyone in person and I look forward to the next steps with all of it. I appreciated the space and opportunity to frame out the priorities we are working toward. We will be looking at how these priorities map onto our strategic plan and the SC’s current goals.

My areas of focus are:

- Prioritizing and accelerating academic performance;
 - Through our equitable literacy strategy, where all students actively engage in culturally and linguistically responsive, standards-aligned grade-level tasks and texts every day, in every class.
- Strengthening access to social-emotional learning;
 - I will work to ensure we can continue to prioritize giving students not only the support, but the resources they need like counselors, social workers, and student support teams that have all been invested in over the past couple of years.
- Streamlining operations and ensuring student safety;
- Developing authentic family and community engagement practices;
 - This is an area that is especially important to me. It's about engaging in conversations, not just sharing out what we're doing TO our community.
- Streamlining operations and ensuring student safety;
 - We have work to do in regard to re-establishing protocols and procedures. Our schools are safe, but there are always outside threats that we can’t control.
- Improving internal and external communication with families and staff;
 - I think this work is very much related to the work of engaging our families and communities.
- And increasing accountability for both the central office and our schools
 - We must have our schools hold ourselves accountable, both at the central office and at the school level.

At every School Committee meeting, I want to share some of our good news. There are so many positive things happening across our schools and classrooms every day!

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We had an awesome STEM Week. Thank you to all of the schools that hosted family nights throughout the district. We had over 400 families attend and participate in STEM activities. We also had over 500 families culminating in the STEM College Career Fair at Reggie Lewis Center. Thank you to Marsha Inniss-Mitchell and Elizabeth Milewski for leading the charge on these efforts. Our BPS students got to visit Suffolk Construction and meet Lt. Governor Polito and hear from professionals in STEM careers.

The City Council recognized the work of Hatim Jean-Louis, coach of the BPS Citywide Cross Country Program, at its weekly meeting last week. Councilor Mejia honored the coach's work with students with a City Council resolution. Hatim has led BPS students to achieve many accomplishments including producing 60 citywide championships and three undefeated track and field seasons.

Last week, I had the opportunity to speak at the dinner for the candidates for the Edvestors School on the Move award recipients, The Taylor School, The Channing and the Gardner Pilot Academy. I wish you could have heard the speeches of our three amazing school leaders. I want to thank all of the leaders who were in the running for the prize. Hearing them talk about their schools with so much pride brought me joy. I was present today to see the top prize today go to The Gardner Pilot Academy. The \$100,000 prize is given to a school who spotlights the most notable school wide improvement efforts happening across Boston Public Schools. Congratulations to Principal Herman and the entire Gardner Pilot Academy community, who took home the top prize of \$100,000.

I want to also acknowledge the exciting work that was done to create a new creative space at Boston Green Academy (BGA). This innovative classroom, three years in the planning, was renovated this past summer and now houses a beautiful new recording studio, 3D printers, video editing equipment, and amazing new creative technology for our students to use. It is already the most popular space at BGA school and has opened the door to new electives, after school programs, and showcases for the talents of our students. This project was a partnership between BPS Facilities, BGA, Turner Construction and Gensler Architects, who adopted our school to do this amazing pro bono project- we are deeply grateful for their generosity.

On our athletics scene, champions were crowned at the 2022 Boston Middle School Cross Country Championships. Hosted by the Boston Athletic Association at Franklin Park, more than 300 middle school student-athletes from 15 City of Boston schools competed over a 1.1-mile course on a picture-perfect fall day for racing.

Congratulations to the following students who placed in their races:

- For the Boys competition, John D. O'Bryant's Brandon Spiess
- Daniel Lee, Eliot School
- Josiah Bowen, Edison School
- Tyler Greene, Eliot School
- Messiah Bowen, Edison School
- For the girls, it was an Eliot sweep at the top of the podium.
 - Emery Deroeve
 - Gabrielle Dagdidgiane

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- Adele Shepherd finished a close one-two-three ahead of the field
- Nya Long, John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
- Daniella Munera, Eliot School

Finally, I had the opportunity to travel with several of our School Committee members to the Council of Great City Schools last week. I appreciated the opportunity to hear from other large urban districts around the country and to learn of their best practices in academics, student support, family engagement, school safety, etc. I also appreciated the time to dialogue with our Committee chair and other members about what we heard and saw and how it related to what we are experiencing here in Boston and BPS.

I would like to provide an update on our Wellness Policy Report which is included in your packets. The BPS District Wellness Council has submitted their required Annual District Wellness Policy Report for SY20-21. This report documents the goals and activities of the District Wellness Council and recommendations shared to improve the implementation of the wellness policy.

The BPS Wellness Policy provides the roadmap for creating a safe, healthy, and sustaining school environment. It is aligned with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and ASCD's Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model and aims to actively promote the social, emotional and physical health and wellness of all students to advance both their healthy development and readiness to learn. This report also shares success stories from schools across the district that have been doing excellent work caring for the health and wellbeing of their school communities, particularly during one of the most difficult school years during the pandemic. Their efforts include: developing outstanding wellness councils that support the whole child approach; creating a community of care for their students, families, and staff during the pandemic, providing social, emotional, and mental health supports; establishing a sustainable school-wide plan for social-emotional learning to support and foster identity, belonging, and agency; providing innovative and personalized Comprehensive Health Education for their students and virtual opportunities for physical activity and high-quality physical education; and helping staff foster and sustain close relationships, manage and reduce stress, and take care of their physical and mental health. These stories stand as inspiration for how we can persevere through difficult times and care for the social, emotional, mental, and physical health and wellbeing of our learning communities so we can achieve our mission of making sure every child in every classroom has what they need to succeed in their education. We look forward to the in-depth presentation of the quantitative wellness policy implementation report for school year 21-22 that they will give us later in this school year.

I'd like to follow up on last week's request for an update on our enrollment. As of October 15 the Boston Public Schools has enrolled 48,734 students. This represents a continued decline for our district, not unlike other urban centers in the state and across the country. The decline of another 587 students this year, and the overall decline in student enrollment over the past decade requires us to structure our schools and programs to deliver high quality for the students who are in our schools today and those coming in the future. Our goal is to create a district where all families and students feel excited and confident to enroll in BPS and stay here. We want all students,

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especially our traditionally marginalized students - our Black and Brown students, special education students, and English language learners - to know they have a place at BPS. And, families want their students to access college and career pathways, strong, rigorous academic programs, facilities that support the education of the whole child, and out-of-school opportunities to enrich their students' experiences and for their kids to graduate on time. Our focus needs to be on the whole child: their physical, emotional, social, and academic well-being and success. Our enrollment rate has declined but that does not change our core focus. In reality, it is our focus on delivering on high quality experiences that will help us retain and attract students and families. We are resolute in our mission and we are committed to addressing our structural issues, including the quality of our school buildings through the Green New Deal initiatives, and offering equitable access to opportunities for all of our students. Decreased enrollment certainly impacts funding for this work, which ultimately will require changes to how we deliver on our mission but we are here for it. It's the work the District and the City are committed to do together.

Before moving on from enrollment, I also want to share that the School Choice season is rapidly approaching! Starting in early November, families will be able to access www.DiscoverBPS.org to learn more about their school options. School Preview Sessions - when families can tour schools - will also kick-off next month. And, I hope you'll all mark your calendars for this, the Annual Showcase of Schools will be back in person! We hope you'll join us on Saturday, December 10, from 9am to 1pm at Boston Latin Academy, where you can visit many schools all under one roof, to learn more about their offerings. More to come on this special day as the date approaches.

I want to give a brief update on transportation for students with disabilities, in particular regarding communication with Mass Advocates for Children, or MAC. MAC submitted a formal complaint through DESE's Problem Resolution System. Our transportation Department head Del Stanislaus met with MAC after receiving a letter and then I along with some of our team met with Mac and several special education parents on Monday of this week. We take every transportation issue involving one of our students and especially our special education students with gravity. We had a productive meeting and are moving towards resolution on a number of systemic issues. Some of these issues are technical and more straightforward to implement. Others will require cross-sector collaboration to resolve with our charter and private schools, and we are beginning to have those critical conversations in partnership with DESE.

Every day, our team also works to address any student-specific transportation issues and communicates with families to provide a timely resolution. We know how difficult these transportation issues are for our families and are committed to resolving each and every one. We appreciate our partnership with DESE and will continue to work to identify areas to improve our transportation system for all students, particularly for our students with disabilities. In addition, we are looking forward to receiving formal recommendations from the Council of Great City Schools in December, which will help inform our policy decisions moving forward for the District and this Committee.

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Boston Public Schools is a committed partner with the City of Boston in the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal initiative will build upon the Quality Guarantee Framework that BPS has been advancing for the past few years and is included in this budget. We are so fortunate to have a Mayor and City government willing to provide this level of financial support for our school buildings. The Quality Guarantee is our promise to our students and families that one day, every school in every neighborhood will provide a standard of excellence and high quality. This baseline of services across all schools is nothing less than what parents expect and our students deserve. This investment will create classrooms that promote learning, support our vision and plan for grade reconfigurations, establish more predictable pathways for families and students and ensure these projects are equitably distributed through a transparent process. It's a vision to leverage Boston residents' creativity and passion to reimagine our schools as full-service community hubs that can adapt to meet the evolving needs of our students and our City. It's also a commitment to safeguarding the climate resilience of our school buildings, which make up nearly half of City building emissions. And it's a pledge to listen to and rebuild trust with our communities—BPS students and families who have been calling for change for decades. You will hear later tonight about our work in this space and how we will move forward in the coming months.

In partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), the Boston Public Schools (BPS) continues to monitor COVID-19 community metrics and school data very closely. As we enter the fall and winter seasons, we expect that the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, such as the flu will likely increase. We continue to stress the need to be vigilant with hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and staying home if you are feeling sick. It's important to note that if you're experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms, a negative COVID test does not eliminate the possibility of flu, RSV or other respiratory infections. Please follow up with your health provider. While masking is not mandatory, BPS and BPHC continue to strongly encourage students and staff to wear a mask indoors. Wearing a mask helps slow the spread of many other illnesses, including Influenza (FLU), and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Schools have masks available in both adult and child sizes. We are also encouraging families to test Sunday night or Monday morning before they go to school. BPS will continue to follow COVID-19 guidance from the Boston Public Health Commission, and we remain committed to making data-driven decisions and adjusting policies in response to any changes in the status of the pandemic.

On Monday of this week, results from the 2022 National Assessment of Education Progress, also known as NAEP or the nation's report card, were released. NAEP is a nationwide reading, and math assessment, and was administered to a representative sample of fourth and eighth grade students across the nation, states and 26 participating large urban districts in spring 2022. This marks the first administration of the assessment since 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. In Boston, around 3,600 students participated in the 2022 NAEP assessment. Since 2019, the BPS' results in reading have remained steady, which differs from the statistically significant declines experienced at both the state and national levels. In math, on a scale of 0 to 500, the district experienced significant declines of 7 and 9 scale score points in 4th and 8th grade, respectively. This is consistent with significant declines seen at the state and national levels in math. While the

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pandemic has had its impact on students' academic performance and social emotional well-being, our opportunity gap has been widening for our Black and Brown students, students with disabilities, and our multilingual students, compared to their peers for many, many years now. Achievement gaps have almost doubled for Black students in 4th grade reading and math and for Hispanic students in 8th grade reading and math. Achievement gaps for students with disabilities and multilingual learners also persist. The gaps we see for all of these groups are similar to what is seen across the nation and within Massachusetts. However, these results are a reminder that there is still much work to be done to address the learning needs of all BPS students.

Our work implementing the Systemic Improvement Plan continues. Earlier in October, we posted two senior leadership positions in special education, the Chief of Special Education and Special Advisor for Special Education. The two positions will work in partnership with each other and be part of my executive team. The Special Advisor will be focused on implementing the recommendations from the Council of Great City Schools report, which will be presented to the School Committee at the November 16th meeting. The Chief of Special Education will lead the Office of Special Education and work on implementing operational improvements. We are working to ensure we have a strong candidate pool for these two critical positions, and encourage anyone interested to submit their application online at bostonpublicschools.org/ohc. Next week, we will present our first quarterly update on transformation schools at next Wednesday's School Committee meeting.

That is my Superintendent's Report for this evening.

Ms. Robinson said that last week, she, Mr. O'Neill, and Ms. Polanco Garcia attended the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS) Annual Fall Conference in Orlando, FL where they shared best practices with leaders from other large, urban school districts. Ms. Robinson said that she intends to restructure School Committee meetings to devote more focus on student outcomes.

Ms. Polanco Garcia spoke about the importance of increasing graduation rates for English learners and students with disabilities. She shared her experience as the only non-fluent English speaker to attend the CGCS conference and stressed the importance of providing interpretation services at board meetings. She asked about the district's strategies to improve NAEP scores. Senior Deputy Superintendent of Academics Dr. Linda Chen spoke about the targeted interventions and home language support provided by the district.

Dr. Alkins requested an update on school communities impacted by violence. Superintendent Skipper said that she and Mayor Wu held a meeting yesterday with leaders from city agencies and faith based organizations to address recent violence. Chief of Student Support Jillian Kelton described the community crisis response process.

Dr. Alkins asked for more information about the Problem Resolution Center (PRS). Chief of Staff Rochelle Nwosu explained how the district's PRS coordinator and paralegal work with DESE to resolve complaints from families. She said that the BPS Helpline is also available to serve students and families at (617) 635-8873.

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Dr. Alkins requested that the district provide school communities impacted by the Green New Deal with a clear timeline. He asked how the BPS is using the racial equity planning tool to inform its work. Chief Equity and Strategy Officer Dr. Charles Grandson explained how the tool is aligned with the Superintendent's priorities and is being used as an accountability tool. BPS will soon publish a racial equity planning tool dashboard.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez suggested that the district consider partnering with organizations besides the Council of Great City Schools, noting that there are many organizations doing good work. He asked how enrollment will shape the budget planning process, which he described as both a budget exercise and an instructional planning tool. Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder spoke about the complexities of budget planning as it relates to enrollment. He explained the relationship among enrollment projections, actual enrollment, and weighted student funding. He said that the district's enrollment projects have a margin of error of plus or minus three percent. Mr. Kuder said that while total enrollment may peak in October, enrollment for any given student subgroup may change throughout the year, citing as an example childhood special education. He noted that the total school-age population in Boston is decreasing. The Superintendent affirmed her commitment to reengaging dropouts.

Ms. Lopera shared her positive experience attending the BPS College & Career and STEM last weekend. She requested trends on late buses by neighborhood as well as clarification about parental notification.. Transportation Director Delavern Stanislaus said that the 8:30 a.m. tier buses struggle the most with on-time performance due to traffic congestion. Areas of South Boston, Hyde Park, and Jackson Square are most impacted. She said that the district does not send notifications to families of students who are picked up on-time but whose buses end up arriving late, however, school leaders report route problems to the transportation department.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked what kind of innovative practices the BPS is exploring to improve transportation. Ms. Stanislaus said that BPS is exploring a partnership with rideshare company Lyft. Mr. Cardet-Hernandez requested that the BPS highlight schools that are successfully narrowing achievement gaps and share best practices.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peiggy Chen, Chinatown resident and Josiah Quincy Elementary School parent, testified regarding transportation concerns.

Michael Heichman, Dorchester resident and Boston Education Justice Alliance member, testified regarding staff diversity.

Robert Jenkins, Mattapan resident and Madison Park Alumni Association member, testified regarding athletics, safety, and the Madison Park visionary study.

Charyl Buckman, South Boston resident and advocate, testified regarding transportation and safety concerns.

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Sharon Hinton, Hyde Park resident and advocate, testified regarding staff diversity.

Sarah Horsley, Jamaica Plain resident and BPS Families for COVID Safety member, testified regarding COVID safety protocols.

Ruby Reyes, Dorchester resident and Boston Education Justice Alliance executive director, testified regarding the Green New Deal.

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

- Mimi Lai, Roslindale resident and Sumner parent
- Allison Friedman, Roslindale resident and Sumner parent
- Rachel Young, Roslindale resident and Sumner parent
- Jessica Manna, Roslindale resident and Sumner parent

ACTION ITEM

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time - Young Achievers Academy grant for FY23 in the amount of \$440,800.

REPORTS

Green New Deal Updates - A cross-functional team representing the City's Operations team, Boston Public Facilities Department, and BPS Keystakeholders including Academics, Family Advancement, Finance and Planning and Analysis, the Capital Planning department presented updates regarding projects and strategies for BPS district facilities. The City's Chief of Operations Dion Irish and BPS Chief of Operations Indy Alvarez co-led the presentation. The City's Green New Deal Director, Oliver Sellers-Garcia, provided introductory remarks.

In order to deliver on the district's promise to provide a quality guarantee to the families in Boston, the facilities focus centers around four areas:

- **Build New:** Constructing new buildings that have enough space for school communities and meet modern educational needs
- **Renovate:** Relatedly, renovating existing buildings to meet modern education needs
- **Solidify Pathways:** Aligned with the district policy of reducing transitions, reconfiguring schools to the PreK-6 / 7-12 model
- **Combine School Communities:** Lastly, upgrading buildings and combining resources for expanded opportunities.

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In order to move forward, BPS and the City of Boston have identified specific tools to aid in creating clear plans for School Year 2023-2024 and beyond. The Facilities Condition Assessment Project and School Design Studies.

- **Facilities Condition Assessment**

- The Operations division is conducting a Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA). The FCA will be a critical component in capital and deferred maintenance planning as well as a transparent communication tool for the BPS community. The result of this project will also inform work prioritization and support future capital planning strategy. The project has three reporting components. The FCA component focuses on the conditions of the space, the ADA component focuses on the current conditions of spaces to be compliant with American with Disabilities Act and the 3D Scan component will allow the district to more accurately determine space components and plan for capacity more efficiently. The field reviews are on track and we are confident it is on track for its deadline of Summer 2023.

- **School Design Studies**

- PreK-6 and 7-12 schools: Boston Public Facilities Department is working with DLR Group, Inc. to complete a School Design Study, a set of programming and design recommendations for schools to guide future renovations and construction, informed by authentic engagement with Boston community members over the next year. The
- Madison Park Technical Vocational High School: Public Facilities Department hosted meetings with the Madison Park Community announcing the study on September 27th and October 17th and are excited to move forward with visioning sessions with the community.
- McKinley Schools: Public Facilities Department is identifying an architect to perform a study identifying space configuration that will best support the school community needs.
- White Stadium: Public Facilities Department has assigned a Project Manager and is sourcing a designer to begin this study.
- Former Jackson Mann and current Horace Mann Complex.

The presenters also shared updates on current projects.

- **MSBA Core Projects:**

- Boston Arts Academy: Public Facilities Department is finalizing the last punch list items and the school has welcomed students into its new space.
- Josiah Quincy Upper School: is in the construction phase and reviewing technology packages, FFNE (furniture) and paint colors for building exterior.
- Carter School: has completed abatement of the building and is moving into demolition phase.
- Blackstone School is currently awaiting an update on status from MSBA.
- Paris St Lot: is currently awaiting update on status from MSBA.

- **Renovations and Reconfigurations:**

- Former Edwards Middle School: The project to renovate the space to be used as a swing space for the Horace Mann Community has experienced delays due to lack of

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- qualified bids, however we are working closely with the City's Public Facilities Department to keep you and the school community informed on the status of this project.
- *Patrick John Kennedy School*: Replacing the school's boilers prompted further work needed for ADA compliance. \$16 million in FY23 for a large-scale renovation to ensure compliance and upgrades, this phase is currently in design mode.
 - *Frederick Middle School*: Renovation to support swing space for the Carter School has been completed.
 - *Charlestown High School*: Building improvements to facilitate 7-12 conversions has been completed.
 - *East Boston High School*: Building Improvements to facilitate 7-12 conversions has been completed.

The district also has a series of facilities initiatives that are ongoing:

- *Water Fountain Installation*
- *Security Improvements*
- *Radiator Covers*
- *AC installations*
- *School Yard improvements*
- *Exterior Grounds Improvements*
- *Bathroom Renovations*
- *Accessibility Improvements*
- *Entryway Improvements*
- *Energy & Water Efficiency Upgrades*
- *Specialized Space Improvements*
- *Libraries*
- *Auditoriums*
- *Art Rooms*
- *Science Rooms*

The Green New Deal/Capital Planning department under the Operations Division expressed excitement, dedication and commitment to this work. Delivering on these and many other district initiatives will improve the student experience and deliver on the promise of a quality guarantee.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez asked about the master facilities planning process, use of data, goals, and timeline. Deputy Chief of Operations Teresa Neff-Webster explained that the facilities condition assessment and the design studies are parallel processes that will help guide the prioritization of projects. CFO Nate Kuder explained how the Planning and Analysis team studies and predicts enrollment and capacity across neighborhoods.

Dr. Alkins asked about community engagement strategy for the Green New Deal. Mr. Irish said that a robust community engagement strategy is being planned, with sessions to be held in every neighborhood. BPS Director of Capital Planning Keyla Jackson said that the team will hold focus groups with young people and use the Racial Equity Planning Tool.

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Mr. Kuder explained for Ms. Lopera how BPS is working with the City to analyze population and demographic trends. He cited Denver Public Schools as a district to learn from when it comes to enrollment projections. Mr. Irish said that Washington DC is doing master facilities planning well. Director of the City's Public Facilities Department Kerrie Griffin spoke about the nationally recognized team that is working on the grade configuration design study.

Ms. Lopera asked how the design studies timeline aligns with school choice season. Chief of Operations Sam DePina said that the long-term goal is to have decisions in place by summer so that families can consider their school choice options in the fall for the following school year. Until then, BPS will communicate regularly with families regarding any pending changes that are made during the school year. Additional School Preview Times may be planned. Ms. Lopera said that until BPS reaches its goal with the timeline, the school choice process may be challenging for families. The Superintendent spoke about the importance of using data to make informed decisions. Deputy Superintendent of Family and Community Advancement Ana Tavares spoke about the district's commitment to providing robust, authentic communication engagement. Chief of Family and Community Advancement Denise Snyder described how the Office of Welcome Services supports families through the school choice process.

Mr. Mehta requested information on minor facilities repair projects. Ms. Neff-Webster agreed to follow up with more details.

Ms. Polanco Garcia said that changes are being made and families are being heard. Ms. Jackson said that BPS will include families in the design process to ensure a collaborative, transparent process.

Mr. Cardet-Hernandez said that it is important to connect planning and decision making to the master plan.

Ms. Robinson requested that future conversations about the Green New Deal include more details on the broader vision, timeline, and struggle to balance current demands with future needs. She requested a clear definition of a 21st century school and clarity on how mergers will achieve that vision. Superintendent Skipper said that she and her team will provide the Committee with more regular updates on the Green New Deal. She said that while there is a sense of urgency to the work due to declining enrollment and inadequate facilities conditions, she is committed to engaging with the community to make informed and thoughtful decisions.

Office of Human Capital Office of Recruitment, Cultivation, and Diversity Annual Hiring and Workforce Diversity Update - Ms. Robinson announced that due to the late hour, the Committee would defer the presentation until the next meeting, scheduled for November 2. Members agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Approved - At approximately 9:43 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn to the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary