



## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 15, 2014**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on January 15, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the Edward Winter Chambers, 26 Court Street, and Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information about any of the items listed below, contact the office of the Boston School Committee: [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:feedback@bostonpublicschools.org) or 617-635-9014.

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Strategic Planning Workshop Minutes: December 18, 2013

School Committee Meeting Minutes: December 18, 2013 and January 6, 2014

Grants for Approval Totaling \$2,513,991

- @Scale Project Initiative: Mathematics and Science Achievement - \$2,928
- Innovation Enhancement Grant, FY2013 - \$30,000
- Quality Full Day Kindergarten - \$2,356,563
- SPED – Early Childhood, Program Improvement (#298) - \$5,500
- SPED – Program Improvement, Inclusion (#274) - \$119,000

International Travel Request: John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science: England and France – February 15-24, 2014

Superintendent’s Memo: Administrative Guild, SEIU Local 888

Letter to School Committee Chair Michael O’Neill from John J-H Kim, CEO, District Management Council, January 7, 2014

Draft: BPS School Committee Strategic Planning Website Content

Report: Innovation Plan Proposal: John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Report: Workforce Diversity

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## **ATTENDANCE**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Meg Campbell; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael Loconto; Margaret McKenna; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

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

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. O'Neill called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. He announced that the meeting was being broadcast live by Boston City TV (Comcast Channel 24 and RCN Channel 13) in cooperation with BNN-TV and would be rebroadcast at a later date.

## **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the December 18, 2014 School Committee strategic planning workshop, December 18, 2014 School Committee meeting and January 6, 2014 annual organizational meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The Superintendent congratulated Dr. Coleman and Mr. Loconto on their appointment to the School Committee. He also thanked former School Committee member Mary Tamer for her service, noting her contributions to expanding inclusion and her work on the Mayor's External Advisory Committee on School Choice.

On February 5, the Superintendent will present his preliminary Fiscal Year 2015 budget recommendation to the School Committee. Mayor Walsh expects to increase the City's funding by approximately \$36 million, bringing BPS's total to \$973.3 million in FY15. Rising costs and significant decreases in state and federal funding, however, will present the district with difficult budget challenges. In addition, the district must correct the imbalance of last year's enrollment projections.

The Superintendent has established a hiring freeze for non-teaching positions and is exploring significant reductions in central departments in order to minimize the impact on schools and school programs that directly benefit students.

On January 16 and 17, BPS will hold its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration with an arts showcase at Northeastern University's Blackman Auditorium and a concert at the House of Blues.

On January 18, the Office of Family and Student Engagement will host its Parent University Winter Session at the Curry Center at Northeastern University.

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BPS teachers Wai Chin Ng of the Josiah Quincy Elementary School and Angela Palo of the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing were recently awarded Raytheon's "Engineering is Elementary" Teaching scholarships.

Ninety percent of school leaders have completed their formative assessments, a substantial improvement over last year.

The Superintendent presented the following draft diversity mission and invited feedback: *Boston Public Schools is committed to achieving, developing and maintaining a workforce reflective of the rich diversity of our students, and is specifically focused on the recruitment, hiring and retention of teachers, administrators and district leadership representative of the diversity of our students.*

The Superintendent wished Victoria Mitchell, secretary to the School Committee, a happy birthday, and thanked his long-time staff assistant Mary Fitzgerald, who is retiring after 32 years of service.

Ms. Campbell welcomed Mr. Loconto and George Perry, advisor to Mayor Walsh. She also thanked Ms. Tamer for her service.

The Committee voted by unanimous consent to accept the Superintendent's Report.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

John St. Amand, vice chair, Boston Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SpedPac), testified regarding special education issues.

Gloria Wornum, student, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers and members, Boston Student Advisory Council, testified regarding the superintendent search process.

Carolyn Kain, chair, Boston Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SpedPac), testified regarding special education issues.

Fred Driscoll, Dean, College of Engineering and Technology, Wentworth Institute of Technology, testified regarding the John F. Kennedy Elementary School Innovation Plan.

Anita Cooper, parent, John F. Kennedy Elementary School, testified regarding the school's Innovation Plan.

Karen Shultz, teacher, John F. Kennedy Elementary School, testified regarding the school's Innovation Plan.

Hector Soto, teacher, John F. Kennedy Elementary School, testified regarding the school's Innovation Plan.

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Sabastian Downs, member, Boston Schoolyard Initiative Leadership Committee, testified regarding the accomplishments and future of the Boston Schoolyard Initiative.

Mary Pierce, parent, Boston Teachers Union K-8 Pilot School, testified reading the school's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Liz Anderson, program director, City Sprouts, testified regarding outdoor classrooms.

Cynthia Dantas, parent, Boston Teachers Union K-8 Pilot School, testified reading the school's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Karen Kast-McBride, parent, Washington Irving Middle School, testified regarding school budget projections.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent grants totaling \$2,513,991.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students from the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science to travel to England and France from February 15-24, 2014.

**Approved** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a collective bargaining agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Administrative Guild, SEIU Local 888, for the years 2011-2013.

**Approved** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a collective bargaining agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Administrative Guild, SEIU Local 888, for the years 2013-2016.

**Approved** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a supplemental appropriation request in the amount of \$300,530 to cover the cost of the collective bargaining agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Administrative Guild, SEIU Local 888.

## **REPORTS**

**School Committee Strategic Planning Update** – Mr. O'Neill presented a brief update on the Committee's strategic planning process. The Committee presented its draft aspirational goals and priorities on December 18, 2013. The goals fit into the following broad thematic categories: increased student outcomes; improved school quality, strong district leadership/high-quality, action-oriented teachers and staff; effective resources allocation; and greater community engagement. The Committee will solicit feedback on the strategic vision through a series of public roundtable discussions, each featuring a public comment period. More information about

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the strategic planning process will be posted on the School Committee's web page at [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org). Comments and suggestions can be emailed to [strategicvisionfeedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:strategicvisionfeedback@bostonpublicschools.org). Dr. Coleman and Mr. Loconto suggested creating thread discussions on social media, such as a Twitter hashtag.

**John F. Kennedy Elementary School Innovation Plan** – Jill Conrad, Senior Advisor for Human Capital Strategy, presented a brief overview of the Innovation Plan proposal for the John F. Kennedy Elementary School. Principal Waleska Landing-Rivera and teacher-leader Karen Scholz provided the Committee with details of the proposal.

School Committee members praised the work of the school's Innovation Committee and asked clarifying questions about the proposal. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the Innovation Plan proposal on January 29, 2014.

**Workforce Diversity** – Operating under the belief that diversity is crucial eliminating achievement gaps, Dr. Ross Wilson and Ceronne Daley of the Office of Human Capital (OHC) and Tanisha Sullivan, Chief Equity Officer, presented the Superintendent's plan to increase diversity in the BPS workforce. The Teacher Diversity Action Plan will attract and retain a highly qualified, diverse teaching force that better reflects the BPS student population. OHC will develop a three-year strategic plan focused in three distinct areas: workforce diversity, workforce inclusion and sustainability. As part of that strategy, BPS has launched an advertising campaign designed to attract a diverse group of highly qualified teachers from across the country. To provide accountability, performance evaluations will include an assessment of how school leaders are helping the district achieve its workforce diversity goals.

School Committee members praised the plan, calling it bold and long-overdue. Ms. Campbell suggested creating a program that provides novice teachers with housing opportunities. Mr. O'Neill noted that the Committee's draft strategic plan calls for a culturally competent workforce.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

John Mudd, education advocate, testified regarding workforce diversity.

Michael Curry, president, Boston NAACP, testified regarding workforce diversity.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. McKenna and Ms. Campbell praised the Boston Schoolyard Initiative for transforming numerous BPS school yards over the past several years.

Mr. O'Neill noted that while Mayor Walsh has increased City funding for education, decreases in federal and state aid, together with rising costs, will necessitate significant budget adjustments and both central office and schools.

**School Committee Meeting**  
Edward Winter Chambers

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The Superintendent thanked BPS staff for their hard work and commitment to students.

**ADJOURN**

At 8:46 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary