



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 16, 2013

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on January 16, 2013 at 5 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 or 617-635-9014.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Grants for Approval totaling \$9,819,006.

- I-3 Turnaround with Increased Learning Time (TILT) - \$2,484,816
- Massachusetts 21st Century Community Learning Centers Supporting Additional Learning Time - \$264,000.
- Special Education – Program Improvement - \$255,960
- Title I, Part A (FY13 Carryover) - \$5,037,944
- Title II-A Improving Educator Quality (FY13 Carryover) - \$1,511,699
- Title III – English Language Acquisition (FY13 Carryover) - \$264,587

International Travel Request: John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science – Italy, Monaco and France – February 14-22, 2013

Superintendent’s Memo: Lunch Hour Monitors Association

Report – Expanding Early Childhood: Projected Enrollment Growth for School Year 2013-2014 and Proposal for the Lee Academy Pilot School and Early Childhood Center at the Fifield

Report – Superintendent’s Self-Assessment

Superintendent’s Memo: Responses to Questions on the Superintendent’s Evaluation

Superintendent’s Memo: Responses to Other Questions

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O’Neill; John Barros; Meg Campbell; Rev. Gregory G. Groover; Mary Tamer and student representative Dan Chu.
(*Note: Rev. Groover arrived after Executive Session roll call.*)

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School Committee Members Absent: Vice-Chairperson Alfreda Harris; Claudio Martinez.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. O'Neill called the meeting to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. O'Neill led the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining. Mr. O'Neill explained that having such discussion in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position. He announced that the Committee would return to public session at 6 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:08 p.m., Mr. O'Neill called the meeting to order and announced that the Committee had just returned from executive session to discuss collective bargaining. 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.

PRESENTATION OF CITATION

Mr. O'Neill presented Rev. Groover with a special citation in recognition of his leadership as Chair of the Committee from 2008-2012.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the December 19, 2012 and January 7, 2013 School Committee meetings.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Reports presented to the School Committee are now available the same evening at www.bostonpublicschools.org

The Superintendent thanked school nurses and the Health and Wellness Department for helping student and families protect themselves from the flu.

On January 15th, Governor Patrick announced his 2013 education agenda at the Orchard Gardens K-8 School. The Governor called for more funding for early education programs and an increase in local aid. Mayor Menino, Ms. Tamer and Mr. Barros joined the Superintendent at the announcement.

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This week, Mayor Menino filed his package of proposed 2013 legislation, which includes many new reforms for schools – including offering the same flexibilities around the length of the school day, as well as resources and staffing flexibility, for Level 3 schools. He is also proposing more in-district charter schools and the authority to better provide programming for English Language Learners and students with disabilities in charter and in-district charter schools.

Boston Public Schools will now guarantee K2 placement to families in round one of the school registration process.

The District will host its annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on January 18th, with performances at the House of Blues and Strand Theatre.

The Boston Latin School Big Band has been accepted to the finals of the 5th annual national high school competition and festival at the Charles Mingus Institute in New York City.

Tomorrow the Boston Foundation will release a report announcing that the number of BPS graduates enrolling in and completing higher education has risen sharply in recent years as a result of Success Boston, a college completion initiative, established by Mayor Menino in 2008.

The Superintendent congratulated Alex Montes McNeil, principal of the Mario Umana Academy on being named East Boston Woman of the Year by the *East Boston Times*. She also thanked Director of Transportation Carl Allen, his staff and bus drivers for ensuring that students arrived at school safely despite the morning snowfall.

Ms. Tamer said she was impressed with students she met at the Governor's announcement at the Orchard Gardens K-8 School.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patricia Kinsella, parent, Curley K-8 School and member of Quality Education for Students (QUEST), testified regarding the Improving School Choice Process.

John St. Amand, vice chair, Special Education Parents Advisory Committee (SpedPac), testified regarding transition services.

The following people testified regarding the Superintendent's proposal to merge Lee Academy Pilot School with the Early Childhood Center at the Fifield:

- Leslie Candy, parent, Early Childhood Center at the Fifield
- Ellen Frechette, Governing Board Chair, Lee Academy Pilot School
- Peggy Wiesenber, former BPS parent
- John Mudd, community advocate

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ACTION ITEMS

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent grants totaling \$9,819,006.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for 30 students and five chaperones from the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science to travel to Italy, Monaco and France from February 14-22, 2013.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved an agreement with the Lunch Hour Monitors Association for 2010-2013.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved an agreement with the Lunch Hour Monitors Association for 2013-2016.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Fiscal Year 2013 supplemental appropriation request (Lunch Hour Monitors Association) in the amount of \$91,825.

REPORTS

Expanding Early Childhood: Projected Enrollment Growth for School Year 2013-2014 and Proposal for the Lee Academy Pilot School and Early Childhood Center at the Fifield – Ann Waterman Roy, Director of Strategic Planning, presented a report detailing the district’s enrollment projections for the 2013-14 school year. Enrollment in K0 through grade 2 is expected to increase by nearly 1,000 students, with most of the increase expected in K2. The increase is due to a variety of reasons, including increased diagnoses of young students with disabilities, better outreach, improved retention of existing students and a change in the assignment procedures that allows incoming K2 students to request assignment in the closest available school. The district is responding to the enrollment growth in a variety of ways, such as reserving funds to provide staff and materials for new classrooms and exploring the reconfiguration of facilities where appropriate.

School Committee members asked questions about how enrollment projections are determined and how reconfiguring classrooms could impact student learning, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and Ms. Waterman Roy. Mr. Barros requested demographics on increased student enrollment. Ms. Tamer, Ms. Campbell and Mr. Barros requested that the School Committee review its 1997 policy on the operation of Early Education Centers.

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Joseph Shea, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, joined Ms. Waterman Roy to present the Superintendent's proposal to expand and improve early childhood options by relocating the Lee Academy Pilot School to the Fifield building. School leaders, staff and parents from Lee Academy, the Early Childhood Center (EEC) at the Fifield and the Joseph Lee School have worked together to develop the proposal which, if approved, would go into effect in the fall of 2013. The plan calls for Lee Academy to add the programming and students currently at the Fifield EE, while the Joseph Lee School will add capacity in the early childhood grades. Lee Academy and EEC at the Fifield students in the substantially separate autism strand will join a K0-8 autism strand located at the Lee School. If approved by the Committee, the proposal will allow the district to address its projected enrollment needs while expanding high quality and inclusive options for young students.

Ms. Tamer and Ms. Campbell urged that students at the reconfigured Lee School be placed in inclusive settings whenever possible.

The School Committee is expected to vote on the proposal at its January 30th meeting.

Superintendent's Performance Evaluation: Rubric Discussion and Feedback on Goals – The Committee continued its discussion on the Superintendent's performance evaluation, which was first presented at the November 28, 2012 School Committee meeting. Dr. Ross Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Dr. Kamal Chavda, Assistant Superintendent for Research, Assessment and Evaluation, answered questions from the Committee regarding the evaluation rubric. In response to earlier feedback from the Committee, the Superintendent revised her goals, adding student learning goals for English Language Learners and students with disabilities and creating a draft balanced scorecard for each central office department.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a motion to vote on Superintendent Johnson's goals as part of her 2012-2013 performance evaluation.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved Superintendent Johnson's 2012-2013 performance evaluation goals as presented.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved Superintendent Johnson's 2012-2013 performance evaluation timeline originally presented on November 28, 2012 and amended by the School Committee as follows: Self-Assessment, Analysis, Goal-Setting and Plan Development will take place from November 2012 – January 2013 (not December 2012 as originally presented).

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PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

Carolyn Kain, Chair, SpedPac, testified regarding the Superintendent's proposal to merge Lee Academy Pilot School with the Early Childhood Center at the Fifield.

John Mudd, community advocate, testified regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.

Peggy Wiesenberg, former BPS parent testified regarding the Superintendent's proposal to merge Lee Academy Pilot School with the Early Childhood Center at the Fifield.

NEW BUSINESS

The Superintendent announced that SpedPac is holding a workshop for parents at its next meeting on January 24th at 7 p.m. at English High School.

Ms. Tamer urged the district to create an inclusive pathway if the Lee Academy Pilot School is merged with the Early Childhood Center at the Fifield.

Mr. O'Neill explained that the newly mandated Superintendent's performance evaluation is a learning process for the School Committee and stated that the Committee will rate the Superintendent on all of the prescribed indicators.

ADJOURN

At 8:48 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary