



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 28, 2015

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on January 28, 2015 at the Edward Winter Chambers, 26 Court Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Minutes: January 14, 2015 School Committee Meeting

Grants for Approval Totaling \$873,784

- Special Education – Program Improvement (Fund Code 274) - \$173,784
- Strategic Support to Specific Underperforming School Districts: Improvement Strategies in Level 3 and Level 4 Schools in Commissioner’s Districts (Fund Code 323-C) - \$100,000
- Partnership to Improve Community Health (PICH): Safe Routes to School - \$600,000

International Travel Request: Boston Green Academy: Dominican Republic, April 2-12, 2015

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School: China, March 21-30, 2015

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School: Italy, April 17-25, 2015

International Travel Request: Jeremiah E. Burke High School: Ecuador, April 15-23, 2015

International Travel Request: West Roxbury Academy: Italy, April 17-25, 2015

Draft Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee of the City of Boston and the Boston Teachers Union, AFT Massachusetts

Inclusion Task Force Recommendations

Superintendent’s Memo: Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statements of Interest for the Accelerated Repair Program

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Developing a Long-Term Strategic Vision for BPS

Developing a Strategic Vision for the Boston Public Schools

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O’Neill; Vice-Chair Dr. Hardin Coleman; Meg Campbell; Michael Loconto; Jeri Robinson; and Regina Robinson.

School Committee Members Absent: student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. O’Neill called the meeting to order and announced that the proceedings were being broadcast live by Boston City TV (Comcast Channel 24 and RCN Channel 13) 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 January 14, 2015 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

This week’s blizzard forced BPS to cancel school on January 27 and 28. Out of an abundance of caution, schools will also be closed on January 29. The Superintendent thanked school custodian and facilities teams who have worked around the clock to prepare BPS facilities for reopening after the storm. He also thanked the City’s Public Works department for their collaboration in ensuring that the City’s streets are accessible to students, families, and buses.

Due to the storm, BPS is extending the first registration period through Tuesday, February 3. Current BPS students waiting for grade 9 registration forms should receive those forms this week or early next week. There will be an additional extension for this group.

The annual release of graduation and drop-out data by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is very positive for the Boston Public Schools. The District’s four-year graduation rate has reached an all-time high of 66.7 percent, up from 65.9 percent in 2013 and up from 59.1 percent in 2006. The annual dropout rate for the Boston Public Schools is now at 3.8 percent. The following information is significant and worth underscoring:

- BPS has recorded the lowest dropout rate ever for African American students;
- BPS has recorded the lowest dropout rate ever for Hispanic students;
- BPS has recorded the lowest dropout rate ever for White students;
- BPS has recorded the lowest dropout rate ever for Asian students;

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- BPS has recorded the lowest dropout rate ever for English Language Learners;
- BPS has recorded the lowest dropout rate ever for students with disabilities;
- BPS has also recorded the lowest dropout rate ever for low-income students.

These results are an incredible testament to the BPS high school team, school leaders, educators, and school-based staff, families and students. The full data report is now available at www.bostonpublicschools.org.

Last week, the Boston Opportunity Agenda (BOA) released its fourth annual report card. The BOA has expanded its work and analysis to include not just Boston Public Schools, but also Catholic and charter schools in Boston. The report serves as an important guide in the District's work to ensure that students not only graduate high school, but also attend and attain a college degree. The analysis shows that 50 percent of BPS students who graduated in 2007 went on to enroll in a college program and completed their studies, earning a degree, within six years. This is positive news and represents another set of data that will inform the District's work moving forward.

BPS will begin moving central office staff to the Bruce Bolling Municipal Building in Dudley Square beginning the week of February 16. The building is beautiful and will be a source of pride for the Dudley neighborhood. The Superintendent will provide a more detailed update as the move date gets closer.

The Superintendent recognized UP Academy Dorchester 3rd grade teacher Nicole Bollerman. Last week, Nicole was a guest on the Ellen DeGeneres show. Ellen surprised Nicole with donations of backpacks for all of the students in the school as well as Target gift cards for the teachers at the school. Nicole continues to represent the Boston Public Schools, and the City of Boston beyond any reasonable measure.

Mr. O'Neill credited former Superintendent Dr. Carol Johnson and Interim Superintendent John McDonough with lowering the drop-out rate and raising the graduation rate.

The School Committee approved the Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Samuel Tyler, president, Boston Municipal Research Bureau, testified regarding the proposed Extended Learning Time Agreement between the School Committee and the Boston Teachers Union.

Kristin Johnson, parent, Mendell Elementary School, testified regarding the proposed ELT agreement and school start times.

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ACTION ITEMS

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students from Boston Green Academy to travel to Dominican Republic from April 2-12, 2015.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students from Boston Latin School to travel to China from March 21-30, 2015.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students from Boston Latin School to travel to Italy from April 17-25, 2015.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students from the Jeremiah E. Burke High School to travel to Ecuador from April 15-23, 2015.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students from West Roxbury Academy to travel to Italy from April 17-25, 2015.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee approved a Special Education – Program Improvement (Fund Code 274) grant in the amount of \$173,784 by the following vote:

Ms. Campbell: Yes

Mr. Loconto: Yes

Ms. Jeri Robinson: Yes

Ms. Regina Robinson: Yes

Dr. Coleman: Abstain

Mr. O'Neill: Yes

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee approved a Strategic Support to Specific Underperforming School Districts: Improvement Strategies in Level 3 and Level 4 Schools in Commissioner's Districts (Fund Code 323-C) grant in the amount of \$100,000 by the following vote:

Ms. Campbell: Yes

Mr. Loconto: Abstain

Ms. Jeri Robinson: Yes

Ms. Regina Robinson: Yes

Dr. Coleman: Yes

Mr. O'Neill: Yes

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Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Partnership to Improve Community Health (PICH): Safe Routes to School grant in the amount of \$600,000.

Ms. Campbell explained that she would not be supporting the proposed Extended Learning Time agreement due to concerns about financial implications. Mr. O’Neill expressed concerns about the impact that the agreement would have on school schedules, calling for the District to re-examine school start times.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee approved an amendment to the collective bargaining agreement between the Boston School Committee and the Boston Teachers Union regarding Extended Learning Time. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ms. Campbell: No

Mr. Loconto: Yes

Ms. Jeri Robinson: Yes

Ms. Regina Robinson: Yes

Dr. Coleman: Yes

Mr. O’Neill: Yes

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved the recommendations of the Committee’s Inclusion Task Force.

Approved – On roll, call the School Committee unanimously approved Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statements of Interest for the Accelerated Repair Program for Young Achievers Science & Math K-8 School; Community Academy of Science and Health; TechBoston Academy; David A. Ellis Elementary School; Donald McKay K-8 School; Curley K-8 School; Charles Sumner Elementary School.

REPORTS

Superintendent Search Committee Update – Dr. Coleman, co-chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, presented a brief oral report on the search process. The Search Committee is currently interviewing candidates and will then recommend three finalists to the School Committee. The Search Committee is committed to selecting candidates who have demonstrated reducing achievement gaps. Dr. Coleman stated that providing any additional information at this time could compromise the confidentiality of the process. Mr. Campbell asked the Search Committee to consider gender diversity as well as ethnic diversity.

Strategic Vision Update: John Kim and Nadine Abraham of the District Management Council (DMC), facilitators of the School Committee’s strategic planning process, presented a revised draft of the Committee’s strategic vision for the district. The Committee began the strategic planning process in 2013 and has engaged BPS stakeholders in a robust community process. The strategic vision consists of five aspirational goals which fit into the following broad thematic categories: improved student outcomes; improved school quality, strong district leadership/high-quality, action-oriented teachers and staff; effective resources allocation; and greater community

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engagement. The Committee has identified six priority areas, and, working collaboratively with the Superintendent's leadership team, drafted a corresponding set of measurable goals to help the District better understand the progress it is making.

School Committee members thanked the DMC team for their support throughout the process, and stated that the strategic vision will serve an important roadmap for the next superintendent who will implement it. Dr. Coleman made a number of suggestions relative to the priorities, which Mr. Kim agreed to incorporate into the vision. The School Committee is scheduled to vote on the strategic vision on February 4.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

Kenny Jervis, BPS parent, and member, Citywide Parents Council, testified regarding the ELT agreement and the strategic vision.

Megan Wolf, BPS parent and member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), testified regarding the strategic vision.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Loconto requested that the next wellness report presented to the Committee include an update on Title IX.

ADJOURN

At 8:02 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary