



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 1, 2014

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on October 1, 2014 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 of the September 17, 2014 School Committee Meeting

Grants for Approval Totaling \$174, 380

- 21st Century Community Learning Center Out-of-School Time Carryover Continuation Grant - \$3,512
- 21st Century Community Learning Center Out-of-School Time Continuation Grant - \$30,868
- Empowering Teens Through Health - \$80,000
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education - \$60,000

Superintendent's Memo: PARCC Recommendation

Superintendent's Memo: Recommendation on School Quality Framework

School Committee Memo: Membership of the School Committee Inclusion Task Force

Report: 2014 MCAS and Accountability Results

Report: Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks Implementation Update

ATTENDANCE

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

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

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 September 17, 2014 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BPS kicked off College Month by hosting a College and Career Fair at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School last weekend. The Superintendent thanked the Boston Scholar Athlete program for serving as the primary sponsor of the event. More than 600 students and 250 parents participated, in addition to 130 colleges, universities and community partners.

Every week this month, BPS will feature a "college knowledge" theme. This week it is *Empowering Students and Families through Financial Aid*. The District is partnering with uAspire to help students apply for and receive financial aid. Other themes include *Admissions Awareness*, *Alumni Engagement* and *Career Explorations*. BPS is also working with elementary and middle-grade students and families to ensure everyone knows how to get ready, get in, and get through college. The Superintendent thanked Mayor Walsh and the School Committee for their support, as well as key partners, including the Boston Foundation, UMass-Boston, Boston Private Industry Council, as well as staff Marsha Inniss, Catherine Chiu and Jana McCarthy.

Raul Garcia, a Humanities teacher at Boston Arts Academy (BAA), is being honored by President Obama as a Hispanic Heritage Month "featured educator." Last year, he was recognized as one of just ten "White House Champions of Change" and has been honored by President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Mr. Garcia has been part of the BPS team for 14 years and is in his 11th year at BAA.

On September 27th, BPS held its third annual "Green Apple Day of Service" featuring service and educational projects around the city.

Yesterday, the Superintendent and his executive team presented to the Boston City Council the District's Teacher Diversity Action Plan, which aims to recruit, retain and support an educator workforce that better reflects the diversity of the student population. The District's diversity recruitment efforts are yielding results and the Office of Equity and other departments are working to ensure that every educator, and every staff member, is well-supported.

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Tomorrow BPE will mark its 30th year working with the Boston Public Schools. Formerly “Boston Plan for Excellence,” BPE started as a local education foundation in 1984. Today, Jesse Solomon leads the organization with Chad Gifford as Chair of the Board. BPE operates the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School as well as the Boston Teacher Residency program, which has prepared more than 525 teachers since it launched in 2003. Forty-nine percent of those teachers are teachers of color.

The Superintendent is recommending that the Committee approve a proposal for the District to adopt the PARCC assessment, which will allow the District leaders to know whether students are mastering the academic standards set by the District. We need data that we can share in a useful way with parents and teachers. Tonight’s vote is not about high-stakes testing but whether to transition to a next-generation assessment that will do a better job measuring what our teachers are teaching. It will also help the District better integrate technology in the classroom. This decision is not about whether to transition to a new assessment; it is about whether to make the transition well.

At Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, students have received their schedules and teaching and learning is moving forward. The school can now focus on the mission of its innovation plan: establishing a culture that supports academics and technical/vocational experiences for all students. The District is working with the Madison community, including staff and families, to talk about the next steps.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is weighing whether to designate the Dearborn 6-12 STEM Academy as a Level 5 school. The District continues to hold discussions with Dearborn stakeholders and will work with DESE as well as school staff and the BTU to identify a clear, comprehensive school transformation strategy. The District is finalizing an approach that would put out a Request for Proposals for a school operator or receiver that has turnaround experience and can operate in a STEM capacity.

BPS is reaching out to families and school staff with information about Enterovirus, a respiratory illness that has garnered national attention recently. For more information, residents can call the multilingual Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050.

Mr. O’Neill requested an update on Innovation Schools, which the Superintendent agreed to provide in the near future.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding the Superintendent’s recommendation to adopt PARCC:

- Ian McSorley, student, Boston Youth Organizing Project
- Luis Navarro, student, Boston Youth Organizing Project
- Andy Jeurkhan, student, Boston Youth Organizing Project

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- Cassandra Wallace, teacher, Boston Arts Academy
- Wing Leung, teacher, Teach Plus
- Mary Jo Hetzel, community member and educator

The following people testified regarding the School Quality Framework:

- Dolores Rivas, member, Boston Parents Organizing Network
- Luz Carrasquillo, grandparent, Haley K-8 School
- Josh Weiss, parent and member, School Quality Working Group

C. Williams, member, Boston Parents Organizing Network, testified regarding the treatment of parents in BPS.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – The School Committee approved by unanimous consent grants in the amount of \$174,380.

Approved – Following extensive discussion, the Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, the Superintendent’s recommendation to adopt PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers).

Approved – Following extensive discussion, the Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, the Superintendent’s recommendation to adopt the School Quality Framework and Quality Tiers developed by the School Quality Working Group for implementation in School Year 2015-2016.

Approved – Following a brief presentation by Mr. Loconto, the Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, the addition of new members Marjorie Crosby, Aixa Borrero-Sanchez, and Jacquelyne Sedgwick to the Inclusion Task Force.

REPORTS

2014 MCAS and Accountability Results – Chief Data and Accountability Officer Dr. Kamal Chavda presented his analysis of the 2014 MCAS results and accountability designations by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. BPS students are outpacing the state in MCAS score growth across nearly every grade. English Language Learners and students with disabilities are also sustaining high levels of academic growth. Still, much work remains. In the majority of grades, achievement gaps across racial and ethnic groups for both proficiency and growth are largely unchanged.

School Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions about the data presented, all of which were answered by Dr. Chavda. Several Committee members praised the Burke High School for exiting Level 4 status and Boston International High School for jumping to Level 1. Mr. O’Neill requested that the Committee receive a report about improvement plans at Level 4 schools. Dr. Coleman requested an in-depth report on English High School.

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Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks Implementation Update – Deputy Superintendent for Academics Dr. Eileen de los Reyes and her Academics team presented their instructional plan of action for this school year as the District continues to implement the Massachusetts Curriculum Standards, which are aligned to the Common Core and ensure a high level of rigor in core instruction for all students. Kavita Venkatesh, Director of Instructional Research & Development, Catherine Carney, Director of Academic Transformation, and Margarita Ruiz, Network A Superintendent, co-presented with Dr. de los Reyes. The District’s academic priorities remain focused on three key areas: eliminating achievement gaps; implementing the Common Core and preparing for PARCC assessments; and expanding access to inclusive learning opportunities for students.

School Committee members asked numerous questions about the academic plan, academic response teams, and school autonomy, all of which were answered by the presenters. The Committee requested a comprehensive report detailing the work of each Network Superintendent.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

John Mudd, education advocate, testified regarding eliminating the achievement gap.

NEW BUSINESS

The Superintendent reaffirmed the District’s commitment to eliminating the achievement gap and pledged to address the issue more explicitly in his future presentations to the Committee.

Earlier in the evening, Mr. Olumuyiwa announced that the Boston Student Advisory Council is conducting a survey about student discipline at Forest Hills, Dudley and Ashmont MBTA stations on the afternoon of October 9th.

ADJOURN

At 9:27 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary