



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 15, 2014

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on October 15, 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 October 1, 2014 School Committee Meeting

Grant for Approval Totaling \$3,539,242

- Academic Support (P.U.L.S.E.) – School Year - \$314,285
- Academic Support (P.U.L.S.E.) – Summer - \$117,715
- Strategic Support to Specific Underperforming School Districts: Supplementary Startup Support - \$496,000
- Title III: English Language Acquisition (Fund 180) - \$2,611,242

Madison Park Technical Vocational High School Update: Superintendent's Memo and Report

Adoption Status of Madison Park Intervention Team Recommendations, October 15, 2014

Private School Application: Northeastern University Vision School @ Boston Ballet, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115

Memo from HYA Executive Search to Boston Public Schools Superintendent Search Committee, October 3, 2014

School Choice Implementation Update: Superintendent's Memo and Report

October 15, 2014

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Vice-Chairperson Claudio Martinez; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover; Michael Loconto; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

School Committee Member Absent: Meg Campbell.

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.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

A dance ensemble from the Rafael Hernandez K-8 School, led by teacher Rosalba Solis, performed a traditional Myan dance in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the October 1, 2014 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Mather Elementary School in Dorchester is celebrating its 375th anniversary. Parents, teachers and alumni have planned a series of events to mark the occasion.

The Superintendent congratulated the recipients of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau's 2014 Shattuck Awards for Public Service, including Timothy Nagaoka, a Japanese language instructor who teaches at six BPS schools, and Barbara Teal, a crossing guard at the Lyndon K-8 School.

At last week's Superintendent's Learning Session, District leaders shared information about the PARCC recommendation and plans to work closely with school leaders on the transition. Discussion also focused on the new Quality Metrics recently adopted by the School Committee. Parents, teachers and students are urged to fill out School Climate Surveys this spring. Feedback contained in the surveys will help determine each school's metric.

District leaders have been working closely with the Boston Public Health Commission to educate schools and families about Enterovirus and Ebola, distributing fact sheets in multiple languages. The Superintendent thanked Dr. Linda Grant and Maureen Starck for spearheading the effort.

October 15, 2014

Boston Green Academy (BGA) has been placed on probation for the next year by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The main reasons, according to DESE, is that Green Academy did not submit all the reports that the state requires in a timely fashion, and there were concerns about a financial audit. The District has been working closely with BGA to support their development as a school. The Superintendent expressed confidence that the underlying issues have been resolved and that BGA is on the right path. The District will work with BGA and DESE to help the school successfully exit probationary status.

The U.S. Department of Education has selected Boston as one of three cities nationwide to host its first-ever “Teach to Lead” summit series. The first sessions will take place in December. *Teach to Lead* was created by the U.S Department of Education and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Its primary goal is to develop teachers as leaders while they are still in the classroom. During the summit, participants will share ideas, resources, and create an action plan to help establish teachers as leaders.

Today is the last day of Hispanic Heritage Month. The Superintendent thanked all schools for taking part and of course want to recognized the amazing performance by students from the Rafael Hernandez dual-language school at tonight’s Committee meeting.

Tonight’s report on school choice implementation provides insight into the first year of implementation. The new Home-Based student assignment system personalizes a child’s access to schools based on their home address. It will take several years of data to have a full picture of how the new assignment process is working, but already there are encouraging signs when it comes to access to quality.

Families are responding to the Tier ranking system, with more families selecting Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools than in the past. It’s important to note that these are MCAS Tiers, and the School Committee has recently adopted a new metric that is a better reflection of school quality that goes beyond assessments, which will be implemented next year. A very large number of families ranked Tier 3 or 4 schools very highly last year – another signal that families see value in many schools and not just the ones that demonstrate the highest MCAS scores. The Home-Based system is ultimately a reflection of the choices people are making, offering a better balance of choices, with greater access to quality, for those students who had the least access in the past.

The Boston Globe recently published an article about the history of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. The Superintendent expressed confidence that Madison is now on the right path. Teachers are teaching and students are learning. They are taking advantage of vocational opportunities. More than 100 students are participating in Career and Technical and Health-related partnerships. The Superintendent thanked Interim Headmaster Al Holland and the full Madison team, for their hard work and leadership. The school must now implement its Innovation plan with fidelity.

The Dearborn School stakeholder group met with DESE representatives on October 9th to discuss the search for an external operator. The District is currently working to:

October 15, 2014

1. Develop a process to generate a short-list of potential operators/receivers by the end of this month
2. Finalize outstanding issues with respect to the conditions that the Commissioner has identified must be in place at the school
3. Finalize an intervention plan to be submitted to the state on October 31

The next Dearborn stakeholder group meeting will take place on Thursday, October 23 from 6-8pm at the Dearborn School.

The Council of Great City School's annual conference will take place next week. The Council is using this opportunity to leverage the national effort on My Brother's Keeper and is requesting those school districts who signed on to the pledge to provide updates and evidence of their work. A team from BPS will participate in a pre-conference session devoted to discussions of race and sharing work across member districts focused on improving outcomes for males of color.

On October 20th, BPS will host an event with District partners to help maximize BPS' recruiting efforts. The goal is to have an excellent teacher in every classroom, in every school, every single day. One measure of success is to ensure that educators reflect the racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of students. Anything less is unacceptable.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding Madison Park Technical Vocational High School:

Boston City Councilor Tito Jackson
John Herald, teacher, Madison Park Technical Vocational High School

Sherman Zemler Wu, parent, Mather Elementary School, testified regarding the many upcoming events celebrating the Mather's 375th anniversary.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – The School Committee approved by unanimous consent grants totaling \$3,539,242.

REPORTS

Madison Park Technical Vocational High School Update – Interim Headmaster Albert Holland presented an update on the current status of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. A major challenge for the school has been the implementation of its Innovation Plan, which provides for school-based flexibilities similar to pilot schools. District and school leaders are committed to fully implementing the Innovation plan, as well as adopting many of the recommendations made by the Intervention Team. A search is underway for a permanent headmaster who will provide the school with strong leadership and stability. Mr. Holland was

October 15, 2014

joined by the following Madison Park students who spoke about their positive experiences in the school's vocational programs: Tamara Fils-Amie (senior, nursing); Jada Gattin (senior, cosmetology); Tory Muschetti (junior, TV production); and Eddie Barreto (junior, telecommunication).

School Committee members thanked Mr. Holland for his leadership and praised the students for their commitment to education. Committee members asked numerous questions about the status of Madison's partnership with Roxbury Community College, licensure opportunities and challenges moving forward. The Superintendent dismissed the notion of regionalization, reaffirming his commitment to seeing Madison succeed. Mr. Loconto requested attendance data. The Committee asked the Superintendent to provide another update on Madison Park in two or three months.

Private School Application: Northeastern University Vision School @ Boston Ballet – Peter Sloan, Manager of Strategic Planning, presented a private school application for the Northeastern University Vision School @ Boston Ballet, which will serve Boston Ballet students in grades 9-12. Committee members asked a few clarifying questions about the structure and mission of the school, all of which were answered by Mr. Sloan and school staff. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the application on November 5th.

Superintendent Search Update – Dr. Coleman, co-chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, presented an update on the status of the District's nationwide search for a permanent superintendent. To date, 41 people have submitted applications and several more are expected to apply before the December deadline. The Search Committee has asked the search firm HYA to strengthen its recruitment efforts to ensure a talented and diverse pool of candidates. The Search Committee will recommend three finalists for the School Committee's consideration in early February. The School Committee will then interview the candidates publicly before making a final selection. Dr. Coleman stated that a few members of the Search Committee may have to be replaced due to scheduling conflicts. Mr. O'Neill noted that the feedback presented by the community at the October 2nd Superintendent Search Committee meeting was overwhelmingly positive.

School Choice Implementation Update – Chief Operating Officer Kim Rice and Dr. Parag Pathak, professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who helped design the Home-Based plan, presented an analysis of the initial results for the first year of the new student assignment plan. The first year results show that families are prioritizing MCAS Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools more than previous years, an indication that the Home-Based system is assisting families in making more informed choices. Some neighborhoods and racial groups made choices that may have relied on other variables. The Quality Tier system, developed by the School Quality Working Group and recently approved by the School Committee, holds great promise as a better means of measuring school quality. BPS will spend the next year educating families about the new tier system before full implementation.

School Committee Meeting
Edward Winter Chambers

October 15, 2014

The Superintendent recommended that Clusters F and G in the English Language Learners (ELL) Overlay be merged to become identical to the Students with Disabilities (SWD) Overlay. The School Committee is scheduled to vote on this proposal on November 5th.

School Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions about the year-one results, most of which were answered by the presenters and Superintendent. Dr. Pathak explained that additional time will be needed to fully analyze the data. Mr. O'Neill commended Dr. Pathak for his groundbreaking work helping to redesign the BPS school choice system.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

John Mudd, education advocate, testified regarding the School Choice Implementation Report.

Stephanie Bode Ward, BPS parent, testified regarding the School Choice Implementation Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O'Neill suggested establishing a School Committee task force on hiring practices to support the District's efforts to strengthen and diversify its teaching workforce and maximize resources. Other Committee members applauded the idea. Mr. O'Neill pledged to return to the Committee in the near future with a draft charge for the task force.

ADJOURN

At 9:43 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary