



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

**February 6, 2013**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on February 6, 2013 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, visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org), email [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:feedback@bostonpublicschools.org) or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School – China, April 11-April 19, 2013

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School – Spain, April 14-April 21, 2013

International Travel Request: The English High School – Belize, April 14-April 22, 2013

International Travel Request: TechBoston Academy – Europe, April 9-April 22, 2013

International Travel Request: Young Achievers Science and Math K-8 Pilot School – Costa Rica, April 10-April 18, 2013

Superintendent's Memo: Revised FY 2013 Supplemental Appropriation Request (Boston School Police Patrolmen Association)

Superintendent's Memo: Expanding Early Childhood: Proposal for the Lee Academy Pilot School and Early Childhood Center (ECC) at the Fifield

Superintendent's Memo: Early Learning Centers (ELCS) and Early Education Centers (EECs)

Superintendent's Memo: Innovation School Plan: William Blackstone Elementary School

Superintendent's Memo: Innovation School Plan: William Monroe Trotter Elementary School

Superintendent's Memo: Responses to Members' Questions, February 1, 2013

Report – Fiscal Year 2014 Preliminary Budget Recommendation

Boston Public Schools FY 2014 Budget: Weighted Student Funding (WSF) Analysis

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## **ATTENDANCE**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O’Neill; Vice-Chairperson Alfreda Harris; John Barros; Meg Campbell; Claudio Martinez; Mary Tamer and student representative Dan Chu.

School Committee Member Absent: Rev. Gregory G. Groover.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. O’Neill called the meeting to order and 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. Students from Boston University also recorded the meeting.

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

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the January 30, 2013 School Committee meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

February is Digital Learning Month in the Boston Public Schools, and the Office of Instructional and Information Technology has been leading the effort to help schools celebrate. Later this month, BPS is organizing a screening for high school students of the documentary “Abolitionists” at WGBH that incorporates digital learning.

Michele Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Family & Student Engagement, was featured in the Feb. 12th edition of Education Week as a "Leader to Learn From."

Urban Science Academy students Heaven Reda and James MacGlashing qualified for the 2013 National Forensic League Championships, the most prestigious debate tournament in the nation. This is the second year that teams from BPS have qualified. The Superintendent thanked the Boston Debate League, which organizes 17 high school and middle school debate teams in BPS.

Mayor Menino has asked the External Advisory Committee on School Choice to continue its work throughout the month of February to provide the Committee and families with more time to study the final three proposals.

The Mayor has provided BPS with \$30 million in Quality Improvement Funds, allowing the district to sustain the successful work already underway in turnaround schools and invest in interventions elsewhere that will improve school quality.

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The Superintendent announced the following personnel changes as part of her new organizational structure:

**Margarita Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent of Networks**

Ms. Ruiz is the current principal at the Samuel Adams Elementary School.

**Cheryl Watson-Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Networks**

Ms. Watson-Harris is the current principal at the Tobin K-8 School.

**Drew Echelson, Assistant Superintendents of Networks**

Mr. Echelson most recently served as the interim chief talent officer of the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan.

**Nadia Cyprien, Principal, Harbor Middle School.**

Ms. Cyprien currently serves as Assistant Director for Middle/K-8 Special Education. Leah Blake, the current Harbor Middle School principal, will take on a different administrative role in BPS.

**Isabel DePina, Headmaster, Harbor High School.**

Ms. DePina is a special education clinical teacher educator.

The Superintendent has asked Joseph Shea, Deputy Superintendent for Operations, to review the district's current policies and procedures regarding background checks for BPS personnel and recommend changes.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people testified regarding the Superintendent's proposal for Early Learning Centers and Early Education Centers:

Linda Deas

Melissa Gerome, parent, Ellison/Parks Early Education School

Ella Newton, parent, Ellison/Parks Early Education School

Nora Toney, President, Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts

Crystal Huggins-Robinson, parent, Ellison/Parks Early Education School

Carolyn Kain, chair, Special Education Parents Advisory Committee

Corif Rudolph, student, UP Academy of Boston

Sam Poole, student

Ivaniel Gonzalez Morales, student, Harbor Middle School

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

Leslie Candy, parent, EEC Fifield

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Linda Barros, parent and member of the Governing Board, Lee Academy Pilot School

## **ACTION ITEMS**

***Approved*** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for 20 students and two chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to China from April 11-April 19, 2013.

***Approved*** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for 39 students and five chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to Spain from April 14-April 21, 2013.

***Approved*** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for 10 students and three chaperones from The English High School to travel to Belize from April 14-April 22, 2013.

***Approved*** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for 20 students and four chaperones from TechBoston Academy to travel to Germany, Poland, Belgium, the Czech Republic and France from April 9-April 22, 2013.

***Approved*** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for 15 students and three chaperones from Young Achievers Science and Mathematics K-8 Pilot School to travel to Costa Rica from April 10-April 18, 2013.

***Approved*** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a revised Fiscal Year 2013 supplemental appropriation request (Boston School Police Patrolmen Association) in the amount of \$58,010.

***Approved*** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a motion to close the Early Childhood Center at the Fifield, relocate the Lee Academy Pilot School to the Fifield building and expand a K0-8 autism strand at the Joseph Lee School.

***Approved*** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a motion to remove the limit of four students with disabilities per classroom in Early Learning Centers and Early Education Centers as outlined in the Committee's policy on Early Education Centers approved on December 17, 1997.

***Approved*** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved an Innovation Plan for the William Blackstone Elementary School.

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**Approved** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved an Innovation Plan for the William Monroe Trotter Elementary School.

## REPORT

***Fiscal Year 2014 Preliminary Budget Recommendation*** – BPS Chief Financial Officer John McDonough presented the Committee with a preliminary Fiscal Year 2014 budget proposal of \$934,360,000, representing a 6.9% increase from the FY13 appropriation. The budget provides a financial blueprint for carrying out the district’s Acceleration Agenda, which is designed to close access and achievement gaps and raise academic performance in every classroom of every school. Mayor Menino increased the city’s appropriation by \$30 million, supporting the district’s work around extended learning opportunities, school partnerships, teaching and leadership development and technology and facilities upgrades. The fully balanced budget successfully closes a projected funding shortfall of nearly \$80 million through the intentional realignment of resources and by achieving operational efficiencies. Following a series of budget hearings, the School Committee will vote on the Superintendent’s final budget recommendation on March 27<sup>th</sup>. <http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/budget>

School Committee members asked questions about changes to the Weighted Student Funding (WSF) formula, how budget decisions are made, and the district’s efforts to expand staff diversity, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and her executive team.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORT

Sherman Zemler Wu, parent, Mather Elementary School, testified regarding the Superintendent’s FY14 preliminary budget recommendation.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Superintendent announced that Ann Chan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, received the Human Resources Directors Award from the Council of the Great City Schools.

## ADJOURN

At 9:03 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary