



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

**March 27, 2013**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on March 27, 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](mailto:feedback@bostonpublicschools.org) or 617-635-9014.

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Grants for Approval totaling \$1,830,602.

- Arabic Summer Academy - \$100,000
- Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Carry-forward - \$1,730,602.

International Travel Request: Charlestown High School – England and France – June 1-8, 2013

International Travel Request: John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science – Costa Rica – April 13-22, 2013

Superintendent’s Memo: Boston Public Schools Student Transportation Contract

Superintendent’s Memo: Fiscal Year 2014 Recommended Budget

Report – Boston Day and Evening Academy Charter Amendment – Mission and Vision

### **ATTENDANCE**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O’Neill; Vice-Chairperson Alfreda Harris; John Barros; and Meg Campbell.

School Committee Members Absent: Rev. Gregory G. Groover; Claudio Martinez; Mary Tamer; and student representative Dan Chu.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. O’Neill called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

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## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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.

## **ATTENDANCE**

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

School Committee Members Absent: Rev. Gregory G. Groover; and Mary Tamer.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:17 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.

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

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the March 13, 2013 School Committee meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The Superintendent thanked everyone for their support following the loss of her husband of 40 years, Matthew. She also thanked the School Committee for taking action two weeks ago on the school choice recommendation. She expressed gratitude to Chief Financial Officer John McDonough for serving as Acting Superintendent while she was on bereavement leave.

The Superintendent and Mr. O'Neill had a productive meeting with the Charlestown Mothers Association earlier in the day regarding school choice. She thanked Mr. Barros for raising valid concerns about capacity and equity issues around access, which the district will continue to explore.

On Monday, Mayor Menino announced the two co-chairs of the Quality Advisory Panel: Dean Harden Coleman of the Boston University School of Education and Meg Campbell. Already a diverse range of people— from educators, to parents, to community leaders and data experts — have expressed interest in serving on the panel. The Superintendent thanked Mayor Menino for committing \$30 million in Quality Improvement Funds and increasing the City's target appropriation to compensate for a significant loss in federal and state funding. She also noted

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that BPS enrollment this fall is expected to reach its highest in eight years, at approximately 58,000 students.

Last week, Mayor Menino announced plans for the City to purchase a new building located at 585 Commercial Street that would house a downtown school. It would begin as swing space to serve the Eliot K-8 upper grades while the North Bennet Street building is renovated. Then, in the fall of 2016, pending School Committee approval, it would become a new school to serve approximately 500 students.

The Superintendent has assembled a cross-departmental team to develop a new tool for staff to submit their CORI authorization forms online. A policy proposal will be brought before the School Committee on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the district plans to present the Committee with Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to fund renovations to Boston Arts Academy and the Carter School after an earlier proposal was denied by the MSBA.

Nominations are being accepted for BPS Educator of the Year Awards. Visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org) for more information.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Achly Esparra, student, Greater Egleston High School, and member, Sociedad Latina, testified regarding cultural proficiency for BPS teachers and staff.

Marianne Duddy-Burke, parent, Haley Elementary School, testified in favor of expanding the school to a K-8.

The following people testified regarding Improving School Choice:

Jennifer Herlihy, parent, Warren-Prescott K-8 School  
Carol Ridge, parent, Mary Lyon School and member, QUEST

The following people testified regarding the Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2014 budget recommendation:

Sam Tyler, president, Boston Municipal Research Bureau  
Kenny Jervis, parent, Roger Clap Innovation School  
Peggy Wiesenber, former BPS parent  
Naeema Hernandez, advocate, Massachusetts Advocates for Children

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The following people testified regarding renovations to Boston Arts Academy (BAA):

Lauren Gileau, BAA Student Body President  
Ginny Brennan, parent, BAA  
Shannel Resto, BAA Student Body Vice President  
Lisa Link, parent, BAA  
Olivia Link, student, BAA  
Councilor John Connolly, Boston City Council

The following people testified in favor of keeping the Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH) at its current location:

Diana Pomales, parent, CASH  
James Kelly, teacher, CASH  
Linda Freeman, parent, CASH  
Awan Freeman, student, CASH  
Aidir Francois, student, CASH  
Carlos Acosta, student, CASH  
Shamara Bodder, student, CASH  
Tshianza Leabengele, student, CASH

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent grants totaling \$1,830,602.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for eight students and two chaperones from Charlestown High School to travel to England and France from June 1-8, 2013.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for nine students and two chaperones from the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science to travel to Costa Rica from April 13-22, 2013.

**Approved** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved the Superintendent's recommendation to award the Boston Public Schools Student Transportation Contract to Veolia Transportation, Inc. **Note: Ms. Campbell recused herself from the discussion and the vote.**

Mr. McDonough reviewed the changes the Superintendent has made to her Fiscal Year 2014 budget proposal since her initial recommendation in February. School Committee members asked questions about funding for diversity recruitment and dual language programs, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and Mr. McDonough. Mr. Martinez stated that the English Language Learners Task Force would further explore the issue of funding and class-size for dual language learners at its April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Ms. Campbell requested information on BPS schools that have their own non-profit organizations to assist with fundraising.

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**Approved** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved the Superintendent’s Fiscal Year 2014 Recommended Budget in the amount of \$934,649,500.

## REPORT

***Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA) Charter Amendment: Mission and Vision*** – Toni Elka, member of the BDEA Board of Trustees, and Alison Hramiec, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at BDEA, presented the Superintendent’s recommendation to amend the school’s charter by updating and clarifying its mission and vision statements. The new statements reflect the school’s mission more concisely without fundamentally altering its mission, organizational structure, or educational program.

Committee members praised the revised mission and vision statements for their simplicity, clarity and student-centered approach. Mr. Martinez requested a full presentation from BDEA at a future School Committee meeting.

The School Committee is scheduled to vote on the charter amendment on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. If approved, the proposal would then be brought to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for final approval.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORT

There were no speakers for public comment on the report.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O’Neill congratulated Mr. Barros and Mr. Martinez who were cited in *Boston Magazine* as being among the most influential people in Boston philanthropy.

## ADJOURN

At 8:47 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary