



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 3, 2015

The Boston School Committee held a special meeting at 6 p.m. on March 3 , 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

None.

ATTENDANCE

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

School Committee Members Absent: None.

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.

Mr. O’Neill announced that less than an hour ago, Dr. Dana Bedden withdrew his name from consideration as a candidate for BPS superintendent. Mr. O’Neill thanked Dr. Bedden for participating in the process. The three final candidates are Dr. Tommy Chang, Deputy Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero and Superintendent-in-Residence Pedro Martinez.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding the final candidates for superintendent of BPS:

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State Representative Russell Holmes
Boston City Councilor Tito Jackson
Michael Heichman, former BPS parent
Gloria Wornum, student, Kennedy Academy for Health Careers and member, Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC)
Savina Tapiah, student, Boston Latin Academy, and member, BSAC
Rebecca Holland, student, Boston Latin Academy and member, BSAC
Kalise Oस्क, student, Boston Community Leadership Academy
Carolyn Kain, chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPac)
Juma Crawford, executive director, Grand Circle Foundation
Jack Miller, student, Boston Latin Academy
Claudia Osorio, BPS parent and member, South Boston en Accion
Matteo Koka, student, Boston Community Leadership Academy
Samuel Hurtado, BPS parent and organizer, South Boston en Accion
Kenny Jervis, BPS parent, Clap Innovation School and Perry K-8 School
Peggy Wiesenberg, former BPS parent
John Mudd, education advocate
Craig Lankhorst, former BPS principal
John St. Amand, vice-chair, SpedPac

Misael Martinez, parent, West Roxbury Academy, testified against the school's proposed closure.

Edwin Cruz-Perez, BPS parent, requested addition support for his two sons.

ACTION ITEM

Superintendent of Schools: Discussion, Selection and Processes Related to Contracting

Approved – By roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into discussion about the final three candidates for superintendent.

The Committee engaged in a lengthily, passionate, respectful conversation about the final candidates for the position of superintendent, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate. The Committee felt that Dr. Guerrero's experience as a school leader and his commitment to closing the achievement gap enriched the search process. Several members thanked Mr. Martinez for his passion and for pointing out some of the difficult challenges facing the district, saying the District needs to have a courageous conversation. Several members expressed enthusiasm for Dr. Chang, describing him as a thoughtful, creative leader who can bring transformational change to BPS.

Mr. O'Neill, Dr. Coleman, Me. Campbell, Ms. Jeri Robinson and Mr. Loconto expressed their support for Dr. Chang, calling him a quiet visionary who will use innovation to drive student achievement. Dr. Uriarte and Ms. Regina Robinson expressed support for Mr. Martinez, saying

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that he would be a role model for the district's Latino students, who comprise 40 percent of the student population.

Approved – By a ballot vote of 5-2, the Committee selected Dr. Tommy Chang as the next superintendent of Boston Public Schools, pending the successful negotiation of an employment contract. The vote was as follows:

Ms. Campbell: Dr. Tommy Chang

Mr. Loconto: Dr. Tommy Chang

Ms. Jeri Robinson: Dr. Tommy Chang

Ms. Regina Robinson: Mr. Pedro Martinez

Dr. Miren Uriarte: Mr. Pedro Martinez

Dr. Coleman: Dr. Tommy Chang

Mr. O'Neill: Dr. Tommy Chang

Approved – By roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into employment contract negotiations with Dr. Chang.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approved – By roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to enter immediately into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with the superintendent-designate, a non-union employee. Mr. O'Neill announced that the Committee would not return to public session.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary