



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

**April 15, 2015**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on April 15, 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](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**

School Committee Meeting Minutes: March 25, 2015

International Travel Request: Charlestown High School: Denmark, May 29-June 3, 2015

Superintendent's Memo: Interim Salary Payment Order for External Funds

Superintendent's Memo: Naming Madison Park/O'Bryant Building 4 after Nelson Mandela

Boston Public Schools Principal/Headmaster Compensation System

Annual Report on Implementation of BPS District Wellness Policy in 2013-14

### **ATTENDANCE**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Meg Campbell; Michael Loconto; Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

School Committee Member Absent: Vice-Chair Dr. Hardin Coleman.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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## CITATIONS

The School Committee and Superintendent joined Boston Teachers Union President Richard Stutman and Kisha Davis-Caldwell, Director of Outreach and Engagement for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, in presenting citations and pins to the following BPS teachers who earned or renewed National Board Certification in 2014:

Heather Andrews, Young Achievers Math & Science School - English Language Arts/Early Adolescence

Yarima Ariza, Mario Umana Barnes Academy - Art/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood (*renewal*)

Jessica Baldi, Murphy School - Generalist/Middle Childhood

Michael Baulier, Edward M. Kennedy Health Careers Academy - English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Joanne Carlisle, Tynan Elementary School - Generalist/Middle Childhood

Angela Capucci, Edward M. Kennedy Health Careers Academy - World Languages Other than English/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

Katherine Fogarty, Boston Latin Academy - Science/Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Lee Franty, Murphy School - English Language Arts/Early Adolescence

Rebecca Lewis, O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science - Science/Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Kellyanne Ruth Mahoney, Boston Latin Academy - English Language Arts/Early Adolescence

Catherine O'Flaherty, Boston Latin Academy - English Language Arts/Early Adolescence (*renewal*)

Suzanne Roddy, Clap Innovation School - Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood

Jaime Marie Staraitis, East Boston HS - English as a New Language/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

Elizabeth Zajac, O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science - World Languages Other than English/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood

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## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The Superintendent requested a moment of silence in honor of Facile Adugna, a student at the Carter Development Center, who passed away earlier in the week.

Last week, Mayor Walsh hosted a dedication ceremony for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) new headquarters, the Bruce C. Bolling building in Dudley Square. The late Mr. Bolling was the first African American to serve as President of the Boston City Council. He was a businessman, advocate, and leader, who understood the value of education and the important role it plays in economic empowerment. The Bolling Family, Governor Baker, School Committee members and Superintendent attended. On April 25th at 12:30 p.m., Mayor Walsh will officially open the Bolling Building during a ribbon cutting event.

Also last week, BPS released the second phase of its critical study on Black and Latino Male achievement. The report, "Promising Practices and Unfinished Business: Fostering Equity and Excellence for Black and Latino Males," offers detailed case studies that suggest a more intentional approach to supporting Black and Latino male students could significantly strengthen academic outcomes. The study provides an enormous opportunity for BPS, and for school districts across America, to ensure that all students receive the support and access they need for academic achievement. The District is learning from the first phase of the report and making progress that can be scaled and replicated throughout the system. The report is available at [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org).

Today is One Boston Day, a new tradition that celebrates the resiliency, generosity and strength of the residents of Boston by encouraging acts of kindness and the spreading goodwill. While the city marked the day with a moment of silence at 2:49 p.m., schools honored this day in a myriad of ways, from a free book distribution at the Perry K-8 School to partnering with Boston Water and Sewer on a volunteer project at Orchard Gardens K-8 School. The Superintendent thanked first responders and civilians who help others through acts of kindness.

On April 16th, in recognition of winning the Alpha Omega essay contest, five Timilty Middle School students will be honored with miniature gold wreaths that are replicas of those awarded to actual marathon winners, as part of the official kick-off of the 2015 Boston Marathon activities. A chorus of Timilty students will perform the national anthem at the proceedings.

Charlotte Corbett, Instructional Technologist at the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Brighton, has been selected by the PBS television network to serve as a 2015 Learning Media Digital Innovator. Charlotte is one of just 100 educators across America selected to participate. Each of the participants is recognized as leaders in the education technology space and incorporating digital media into instruction. As part of the program, Charlotte will receive year-long professional development opportunities that include virtual trainings, access to premium and exclusive resources, and invitations to special events.

The Superintendent congratulated the National Society of Black Engineers Junior Chapter at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School. They were recently awarded the Region 1 Chapter of the Year

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award at the NSBE's national convention in Anaheim, California. The award is given annually to a junior chapter that has participated and implemented programs related to NSBE's core mission.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the English High School marching band was featured on NECN. The segment, which you can find on the BPS Facebook page, profiled the reemergence of this high school's marching band.

The Superintendent congratulated Ericardo Edwards of Hyde Park, who was accepted to all 14 colleges he applied to and who will attend Harvard University this fall. Ericardo is a Boston Latin School senior who has spent his entire educational career in BPS. Similarly, Fatah Adan of Roxbury, who attended BPS since grade 1, and is now a senior at New Mission High School, has been accepted to Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Stanford. These are just two stories -- and they join many others among the class of 2015.

Round One school assignments for kindergarten and 6th grade students are now available; 9th grade assignments will be released next week. The District was delayed in releasing assignments for next year, first by school closures and then by the transition to a new student information system. The Superintendent apologized for the inconvenience caused by the delay. Families are encouraged to call or visit our welcome centers for assistance if they have questions about their assignment, or when to expect it.

District leaders have spent nearly a year working to identify potential options to find a permanent home for Another Course to College that did not include co-location with another school. At the same time, Boston Green Academy will soon need full use of the Taft building so that they can realize full expression of their charter to grow into a 6-12 school. These goals remain unchanged. However, these issues will not be resolved in the near future and both schools will continue to be located at the Taft Building for the 2015-2016 school year. The Superintendent expects that the District will find a permanent home for ACC for the 2016-2017 School Year and will provide regular updates.

Richard Weir has joined BPS as Chief Communications Officer, filling the position left vacant by Lee McGuire earlier this year. Mr. Weir will lead the Communications team that includes Denise Snyder as media relations director. Rich is a career journalist who most recently worked as a reporter for the Boston Herald. He previously worked for the New York Daily News and the New York Times.

Mr. O'Neill congratulated Mr. Olumuyiwa on his many college acceptances.

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

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Molly Lewis, librarian, Boston Latin Academy, testified regarding funding for the BPS library system.

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Andrea Doremus, parent, Boston Latin Academy, testified regarding restorative justice practices in Oakland, CA.

Tony Van Der Meer, parent, Another Course to College, testified regarding obtaining a permanent location for the school.

## **ACTION ITEM**

**Approved** – The Committee approved by unanimous consent an international travel request for students and chaperones from Charlestown High School to travel to Denmark from May 29 - June 3, 2015.

## **REPORTS**

**Interim Salary Payment Order for External Funds** – The Superintendent requested that the School Committee approve an interim salary payment order for personnel who are paid through external funds. This order is requested annually due to the delay in receiving external fund award letters and finalized budgets from various funding sources. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the request on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Building Name Change Proposal: Building #4 at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School** – Fran Smith, grants manager for Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, and Nicole Gittens, headmaster of John D. O’Bryant School of Math and Science, presented a proposal to rename Building #4 on their shared campus “The Nelson Mandela Physical Education Complex.” The schools held joint public hearing on the proposal in accordance with the School Committee’s building renaming policy. The school site councils of both schools approved the proposal. The renaming would commemorate Mandela’s 1990 visit to Boston and his legacy of justice, democracy and liberation for all. The Committee is scheduled to vote on proposal on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Olumuyiwa suggested the complex feature student artwork. Mr. O’Neill suggested that quotes from Mr. Mandela be incorporated in the artwork.

**Principal and Headmaster Compensation System** – Chief of Staff Dr. Ross Wilson presented an overview of the Superintendent’s redesign of the District’s compensation and incentive system that aims to attract, grow, support and retain a diverse pool of high quality school leaders. Dr. Wilson explained that school leader compensation has not kept pace with employee bargaining unit agreements and principal salaries in neighboring districts, adding that some teachers are earning more than school leaders. The new structure raises starting salaries and maintains a compensation space between schools leaders and other school-based administrators through an annual performance-based salary increase. The Superintendent’s redesigned compensation structure does not need to go before the Committee for approval.

School Committee members asked questions about teacher diversity and student feedback, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and Dr. Wilson. Ms. Campbell proposed that

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network superintendents who fail to complete evaluations of school leaders should face consequences. Mr. O'Neill suggested adding a sunset provision to revisit the fiscal implications of the performance-based salary increase.

***Annual Report on Implementation of BPS District Wellness Policy*** – Jill Carter, Executive Director of Health and Wellness, and Sam Depina, Chief of Student Support, presented an update on the implementation of the District's wellness policy, which was approved by the Committee in 2013. The policy, which has become a national model, aims to promote student health and readiness to learn through seven key areas: cultural proficiency; food and nutrition; physical activity and physical education; comprehensive health education; healthy school environments; safe and supportive schools; and health services. School-based Wellness Councils write and implement Wellness Action Plans as part of the school's Quality School Plan. The District has seen significant declines in risky behaviors among students in recent years.

Ms. Campbell requested a list of schools that do not have wellness councils and/or have not submitted wellness reports, suggesting that they should face consequences for failing to do so. Mr. Loconto urged the District to provide more schools with cultural competency training, suggesting that BPS partner with external partners. Ms. Regina Robinson encouraged the District to track parental engagement at the school level. Dr. Uriarte and Ms. Campbell strongly urged the District to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide student health surveys in languages other than English to reach a larger portion of the student population.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

Kenny Jervis, BPS parent, testified regarding the principal and headmaster compensation report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Uriarte asked the District to provide ACC parents with regular updates on efforts to find a permanent location for the school.

Ms. Regina Robinson requested an update on school climate and inclusion concerns raised by parents at the Henderson K-12 Inclusion School. The Superintendent responded that he has asked special education experts Dr. William Henderson and Dr. Tom Heir to conduct an assessment of the Henderson Upper School and present recommendations. He reaffirmed the District's commitment to maintaining the school's inclusion focus.

Mr. O'Neill announced that tonight's meeting could be the last one held in the Winter Chambers at 26 Court Street, as the School Committee prepares to join other BPS departments at the District's new headquarters at the Bruce Bolling Municipal Building in Dudley Square. He thanked the late Edward Winters for his service as Executive Secretary to the School Committee for more than two decades.

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**ADJOURN**

At 8:52 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary