



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 24, 2013

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on April 24, 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, contact the office of the Boston School Committee: feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or 617-635-9014.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Superintendent's Memo: Grants for Approval Totaling \$1,630,314:

- 262 Early Childhood Special Education Grant - \$485,389.
- 298 Early Childhood Special Education Grant - \$5,750.
- Academic Support Services – Summer Program - \$289,436.
- MassGrad Implementation (Boston Adult Technical Academy) - \$100,000.
- MassGrad Implementation (Charlestown High School) - \$100,000.
- MassGrad Implementation (Community Academy of Science and Health) - \$100,000.
- Quality Full-Day Kindergarten - \$504,739.
- School Improvement Grant – Bridge Funds - \$30,000.
- Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant - \$15,000.

Superintendent's Memo: National School Boards Association – Membership Dues for SY 2013-2014

Superintendent's Memo: International Travel Request – Another Course to College – Guatemala

Superintendent's Memo: International Travel Request – Boston Latin School – Canada

Superintendent's Memo: International Travel Request – West Roxbury Academy – Costa Rica

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

Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest: Boston Arts Academy

Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest: William Blackstone Elementary School

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Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest: Mario Umana Academy
Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest: Urban Science Academy
Report: CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) Update
Report – BPS Five-Year Capital Facilities Master Plan, Phase 1

ATTENDANCE

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

School Committee Members Absent: None.

CALL TO ORDER

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. O’Neill called for a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings and the events leading up to the capture of the suspects.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. O’Neill announced that John Barros has stepped down from the School Committee after three and half years of service. He thanked Mr. Barros for his commitment to improving educational opportunities for children in Boston.

CITATION

The School Committee and Superintendent presented a citation to the Boston Debate League for qualifying to participate in three national debate competitions. Executive Director Steve Stein accepted the citation on behalf of the BDL.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Johnson announced that she plans to step down at the end of this school year. http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/files/2013-4-24_family_staff_letter.pdf. She highlighted the successes of her six year tenure, including record high graduate rates and the expansion of arts and athletic programming. She also thanked Mayor Menino, School Committee and her staff for their support and hard work.

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The Superintendent presented a brief overview of the support services that BPS provided for students and staff following the Boston Marathon bombings.

Jennifer Corish White, BPS School Psychologist, was named School Psychologist of the Year by the Massachusetts School Psychology Association for her exemplary professionalism and her commitment to meeting the needs of the students of the Boston Public Schools.

Liz Byron, a special education teacher at Gardner Pilot Academy, recently ran the six-day Sultan Marathon des Sables, the most grueling footrace on the planet. She ran to raise \$50,000 for laptops for GPA's sixth graders.

John F. Kennedy Elementary School was recently accredited by the National Association for the Accreditation of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC has withdrawn accreditation from Ellison/Parks Early Education School. BPS has appealed the decision.

English High and E. Greenwood Leadership Academy are among nine underperforming Massachusetts schools named by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for further interventions by the state. Despite an infusion of extra resources, the schools have not met performance targets established by the state. In response, BPS is working to bring in a nonprofit partner, Blueprint Schools Network of Newton, to help the schools implement practices that have succeeded in other large districts. Blueprint would not run the schools but would work in partnership with the district to implement high-impact strategies to help the schools more rapidly improve outcomes for students. Assistant Superintendent Ligia Noriega-Murphy will work alongside the school's next headmaster Ligia to begin a transition toward the long-term stable leadership necessary for success. Noriega-Murphy will return to BPS central office to work with High School Network Superintendent Mary Skipper once the transition is complete.

Andre Ward, a co-principal at the Lyndon K-8 School and has the number one contemporary Jazz album in the nation according to Billboard.

Today Representative Michael Moran of Brighton welcomed the Brighton High School Boys Basketball team to the State House to celebrate their recent state championship.

Christopher Alloways-Ramsey, a dance teacher at Boston Arts Academy, is one of only 20 outstanding art teachers nationwide to receive a fellowship from the National Artist Teacher Fellowship program. Awardees will receive a \$5,500 fellowship, and their school will also be awarded a complementary grant of \$1,500 to support the teachers' post-fellowship activities in the school.

Dr. Rasheed Meadows, former headmaster of Urban Science Academy, successfully completed the requirements for a Doctorate degree at Harvard University's Educational Leadership Program. Dr. Meadows was selected to be in the inaugural class for this program in 2010.

The Superintendent announced that the following acting school leaders are now permanent:

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- Leah Blake, Winthrop Elementary School
- Nadia Cyprien, Harbor Middle School
- Isabel DePina, Harbor High School
- Keith Love and Nora Vernazza, Tech Boston Academy
- Ana Tavarez, Hernández K-8 School

In addition to these changes, the district anticipates a number of openings this school year for the role of principal. The district will select new principals who will be appointed to lead the following schools for the fall:

- Adams Elementary: former principal Margarita Ruiz is now a Supt. of Networks
- Boston Green Academy: headmaster Jeff Liberty is leaving to spend more time with his family
- Curley K-8: principal Jeff Slater has relocated to San Francisco
- Ellison/Parks EES: principal Nora Toney retired in the fall; Maria Buendia is acting principal
- King K-8: principal Jessica Bolt is retiring
- Lee Academy: principal Genteen Lacet Jean-Michel is moving to the Mattahunt as Lee Academy and the Fifield merge
- Madison Park High School: headmaster Charles McAfee retired last June
- O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science: we are conducting a national search for a headmaster with STEM experience
- Perkins Elementary: principal Barney Brawer is retiring
- Roosevelt K-8: principal Emily Glasgow is relocating to Portland, Oregon to be with her family
- Taylor Elementary: former principal Marice Edouard-Vincent is now a Supt. of Networks
- Tobin K-8: former principal Cheryl Watson-Harris is now a Supt. of Networks
- Holmes Elementary: Dr. Catherine Constant was appointed Executive Director of Special Education. She will lead our work to increase inclusive opportunities for students.

Appreciation Week begins Monday, May 6th; May is “Bus Driver Appreciation Month.”

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

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the April 3, 2013 School Committee meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Irizarry, parent and member of the Dennis C. Haley Pilot School Governing Board, testified in favor of expanding to a full inclusion K-8 school.

Richard Rudman, Chair, Boston Arts Academy Facilities Committee, testified in favor of the Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest for Boston Arts Academy.

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Ginny Brennan, parent, Boston Arts Academy, testified in favor of the Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest for Boston Arts Academy.

Kim Masterson, BPS parent, testified regarding special education services.

Karen Kast-McBride, parent, Irving Middle School, testified regarding special education services.

Carolyn Kain, Chair of the Special Education Parents Advisory Council, and John St. Amand, Vice Chair of SpedPAC, testified regarding inclusion.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee unanimously approved by grants totaling \$1,630,314.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved membership dues to the National School Boards Association in the amount of \$14,425.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request for students and chaperones from Another Course to College to travel to Guatemala from June 22-30, 2013.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to Canada from May 24-27, 2013.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international travel request for students and chaperones from West Roxbury Academy to travel to Costa Rica from June 25 - July3, 2013.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved an Interim Salary Payment Order for External Funds.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for Boston Arts Academy.

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Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for Mario Umana Academy.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for Blackstone Elementary School.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for Urban Science Academy.

REPORTS

CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) Update – Deputy Superintendent of Operations Joe Shea and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Ann Chan presented an update on the state’s new CORI law, which requires a fingerprint-based state and federal background check for all employees, annual renewal of the employee’s CORI authorization form, and increases the penalty for civil offenses. BPS has increased the membership of its CORI review panel, which is meeting more frequently in order to address these new requirements. The Superintendent presented the Committee with a draft revised CORI policy that would give the CORI panel more discretion in determining if a person is suitable for a position. She invited the School Committee to provide feedback on the draft policy.

Committee members asked questions about the CORI review process, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and the presenters. Mr. O’Neill noted that the Superintendent will formally submit the revised CORI policy to the Committee on a future date after the incorporating the Committee’s feedback.

BPS Five-Year Capital Facilities Master Plan, Phase 1 – Carleton Jones, Executive Director of Capital and Facilities Management, presented a draft of the BPS Five-Year Capital Facilities Master Plan from Fiscal Year 2014 to Fiscal Year 2018.

www.bostonpublicschools.org/facilitiesplan. Mr. Jones explained the process for prioritizing capital projects and how funding decisions are made, emphasizing that BPS is continuously working to improve school buildings.

Committee members asked questions about the process for prioritizing projects and the utilization rate of school facilities, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and her staff. Ms. Campbell suggested that all BPS buildings be included in the assessment along with a greater level of detail about the size, condition and amenities of the facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

No speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Groover offered a reminder that there will be many opportunities to say goodbye to Superintendent Johnson before she retires in July.

School Committee Meeting
Edward Winter Chambers

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ADJOURN

At 9:09 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

Elizabeth Sullivan

Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary